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NEWS Pelahatchie

Good News You Can Use

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Daughtry named Pelahatchie Police Chief

By Susie A. Wolfe

Joseph Daughtry wanted to be a policeman since he was two years old in New Orleans. He started his law enforcement career in 1995 there before moving to Mississippi, where he served as sergeant with the Jackson Police Department from 2001-2011, and captain with the Hinds County Sheriff's Office prior to joining the Rankin County Sheriff's Office four years ago.

Daughtry believes in community policing, and it is his goal to bridge that gap.

He served as the crime prevention specialist for Rankin County Sheriff Bryan Bailey, who "gave him the lee-way to get out in the community, because the only way to learn about the community is to be involved in the community."

He set up and trained neighborhood



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Mayor Ryshonda Beechem is shown swearing in new Police Chief Joseph Daughtry, Sr., at the Knox Ross Community Center on December 28. Pictured (l to r) are: Dr. Cara Morgan, his wife, a Pearl family physician; Daughtry; Lovie L. Sanders, his mother; and the mayor. Aldermen Michael Adams, Frank Boyd, and James Harrell attended as did many police officers and local residents.

watch groups as well as business and church watch groups in Rankin County. Albert Brock from Star was com-

plimentary of Daughtry's commitment to getting that community's Neighborhood Watch started, which allowed them to help stall drug trafficking in the area.

"Joseph will be a great asset to the Pelahatchie community," said Brock. "We will miss him."

According to Barbara Rush of the Castlewoods' Neighborhood Watch, "Joseph taught our groups safety tips and provided training to keep us safe.

He cares about people and loves kids. He makes an extra effort, and Pelahatchie is lucky to have him."

Daughtry holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in theology with a minor in Christian counseling from New Foundation Theological Seminary. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity and is a thirty-second degree Mason. He has served as an active shooter instructor for Homeland Security in the State Law Enforcement Training Academy and Jackson Police Department Training Academy.

Daughtry's family includes his wife of a year and a half, Cara Morgan, a Pearl family physician, and a blended family of six children. Joseph, Jr. is 26; Diamond Cassidy, 25; Jules Daughtry, 23; Malcolm Smith, 19; Jolijah Daughtry, 17; and Maason Smith, 16. His daughter, Jnae, died in 2007.

JP signs with MSU

By Susie A. Wolfe

Javeious Purvis, better known as JP, signed to play football next year at Mississippi State University (MSU) on December 19 at Pelahatchie High School (PHS). The 6-2, 190-pound quarterback/safety had already committed his junior year, but this was the official signing. He will report to State in June.

JP had a busy week already playing in the Mississippi - Alabama game that Monday in Montgomery, Alabama. In addition to many honors received this season, JP was also named the WAPT Blitz

continued on page 2



Special to Pelahatchie News

ERA's Reeves named semifinalist in Coca-Cola Scholars Program



Special to Pelahatchie News

Claire Reeves, an East Rankin Academy senior, has been named a semifinalist for the 2019 class of the Coca-Cola Scholars Program, moving to the next round of the selection process to become a Coca-Cola Scholar and receive a \$20,000 college scholarship. A joint effort of Coca-Cola bottlers across the United States and The Coca-Cola Company, the Coca-Cola Scholars Program is one of the largest corporate-sponsored, achievement-based scholarship programs of its kind. This year, 1,896 high school seniors were selected as semifinalist from a pool of 95,715 applications from across the country based on their academic excellence, leadership and service demonstrated in school and community activities. The class of 2019 Coca-Cola Scholars will be named in March 2019.

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continued from page 1

JP signs with MSU

Player of the Year, which is basically the Jackson Metro Player of the Year. With this honor, he received his second brick at the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. He was also named first team All-State and Region 6-2A MVP as he led the Chiefs to an 11-2 season.

He said that beating the undefeated Scott Central 21-20 was a highlight of the season as was going out of state to play in Alabama. Though the team lost, it was memorable for JP who had not been out of Mississippi before nor had he ever been to the beach.

Asked if he wants to play professional football, JP said, "I plan on making it all the way." He said his favorite professional team is the Carolina Panthers.

What stands out in his mind is all the



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Javeious Purvis (JP) signed his national letter of intent to play football at Mississippi State University on a full scholarship. His career stats include 1,025 yards and 125 touchdowns. Pictured (l to r) are: Tim Grant, father; Cora Jones, grandmother; JP; Deondra Purvis, mother; and Hannah Lawrence, girlfriend.

support from the school and community this season. JP will continue to feel this support all the way to the top.

PES celebrates earning "A" accountability rating

By Susie A. Wolfe

Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) received an "A" accountability rating for the 2018 school year for the first time ever. The Rankin County School District (RCSD) also received an "A," and held a district pep rally with around 2,000 students at Brandon High School on November 30 where PES won the elementary spirit award.

According to Principal Lisa Attkisson, Mrs. A, there are a few reasons for the school earning an "A" including a change of culture to a culture of excellence; teaching "bell to bell" or taking advantage of every minute; and teachers are diligent in adapting instructional strategies to meet students' individual needs.

Mrs. A said that PES grew nine percent in reading proficiency and nine percent in math proficiency.

"All teachers are on board with making the school all it can be," said Mrs. A. "We are striving for a higher 'A' and have set a school goal of 10% higher



Special to Pelahatchie News

PES won the elementary Spirit Award out of thirteen elementary schools at the District Pep Rally celebrating receiving an "A" accountability rating. Pictured (l to r) are Principal Lisa Attkisson and Assistant Principal Mijia Ward with the award.

next year. Each teacher has also set goals for the class and the students have set individual goals."

"Seeing the children and teachers being successful makes my heart happy," Mrs. A said.



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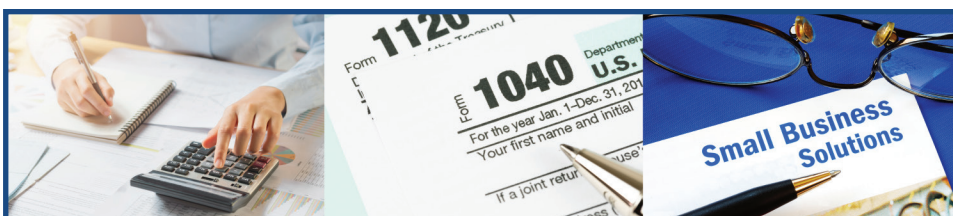
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Pelahatchie adds to police force



Justin Stevens, left, Kendrell Canada, right



Travis Crain



Billy Pickle

Special to Pelahatchie News

In addition to a new police chief, the Pelahatchie Police Department (PPD) recently added officers.

From the desk of the Mayor



By Ryshonda Beechem,
Mayor of Pelahatchie,
Mississippi

Twenty-eight was very rewarding with many accomplishments. I would like to take this opportunity

to thank the citizens, businesses of the town of Pelahatchie and all that helped to not only have a successful Muscadine Jubilee, but also the Trunk R Treat, Mayor's Prayer Breakfast and the town of Pelahatchie Christmas parade, just to name a few.

We have also improved our town's lagoon, 99% finished with the saferoom, and we have our third baseball field up with the exception of the netting for the backstop. New busi-

nesses have migrated to the town of Pelahatchie, and there are more in the works. We are excited to have new residents who have moved and settled in the town of Pelahatchie as well. We are well on our way.

For the new year 2019, we have many upcoming events and would love to see all our citizens participate. As your



Special to Pelahatchie News

mayor, I will strive to continue to move our town forward and together we shall accomplish great things.

ERA bands perform in Christmas Program



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy (ERA) Upper School and Lower School Band students performed for the East Rankin Academy Fine Arts Christmas Program on December 11. ERA Lower School Band Students pictured (l to r) front row, are: Audrey Mayatte, Lane Riemann, Lydia Collipp, Mackenzie Richmond, Kenzie Lovett, and Marlee Rakinic; second row: Audrey Hawk, Brady Stewart, Jessica Boman, Keely Smith, Jordan Porter, and Abram Rowell; and third row: Cole Cotnam, Marshall Poole, Addie Grace Weaver, and Preston Pennington. Not pictured is Lesley Scarberry. ERA Upper School Band Students, pictured (l to r) front row, are: Tori Tullos, Charity Johnston, Kaitlyn Thompson, Riley Baumann, Kathryn Martin, Jaimee Hawkins, Sarah Sullivan, Sydney Phillips, Rylae Smith, Joanna McCollum, and Peyton Patrick; second row: Mallory Ellis, Brennan Rials, Anna Lee Johnston, Taylor Massey, Elijah Rowell, Bailey Baumann, Alex Tullos, and Brandyn Luke; and third row: Max Gainey, Laney French, Trent Chapman, Rebekah Sullivan, Mason Jordan, Matthew Marin, and Hunter Robinson. Not pictured is Lillie Cofer.

ERA choir performs at Christmas Program



Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Academy (ERA) High School Choir performed on December 11 for the school's Fine Arts Christmas Program. Choir members pictured (l to r) front row, are: Rachel Dearman, Abby Blair, Candice Crain, Emily Maroney, Brooklyn Luke, and Maddie Denson; second row: Anna Lindsey, Emily Loe, Harley Bowman, Mollie Macon, Maddie Morgan, Claire Reeves, Kailey Anna Davis, and Mallory Ellis; third row: Makayla Reeves, Anna Grace Boykin, Kate Betts, Brett Bridges, Sydney Phillips, Rylie Smith, and Elijah Rowell; and back row: Trey Nichols, Tyler Betts, Pablo Villegas, Trent Wuestefeld, Jacob Gardner, and Taylor Irby. Not pictured are Brooke Cunningham, Jamie Hawkins, and Tori Tullos.

ERA Robotics wins at December competition



Special to Pelahatchie News

At the Robotics Competition December 2, East Rankin Academy (ERA) won the Inspire Award and first place with the alliance team; first runner up for Connect Award and second runner up for the Rockwell Collins Innovate Award.

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Lady Pats basketball wins against Kirk Academy



Photo by Jade Huffman

The ERA Lady Pats won 48-27 against Kirk Academy in Grenada in December. Pictured is Kelly Boydston. She is wearing number 12.

Rural Mississippi deserves high-speed Internet



By Guest Columnist
Mississippi Representative
Tom Miles

If you are one of the thousands of Mississippians who don't have access to high-speed Internet at your home or office, I think we got some good news for you recently.

Several of my legislative colleagues and I have been discussing this issue for the past few sessions, and we believe we are now looking at a solution for rural Mississippians who want to enjoy the benefits of reliable, high-speed internet service – no matter where they live.

On November 14, I was happy to be invited to a broadband forum in Jackson, sponsored by the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi.

As those of us who live in the country know, many of our families are provided electricity through the vast networks provided by local electric coops. In other words, the infrastructure exists for something like a wireless, Internet system to be installed.

The problem is that State law currently prohibits the electric coops from providing any kind of service other than straight electricity. No doubt, whoever wrote that didn't envision the fact that in the twenty-first century, much of our lives and livelihoods depend upon computers and the Internet. Consequently, today, a large swath of our citizens simply cannot enjoy the benefits provided by reliable high-speed Internet.

We hope to have this problem solved early in the 2019 legislative session. A number of us will be sponsoring legislation that will lift this outdated restriction from our electric coops. It only

makes common sense.

We are encouraged that our Public Service Commissioners are also well on board with this change. It is a bi-partisan effort that will surely receive broad support in the Legislature. It is also endorsed by the Farm Bureau, The Realtors, and even AARP. Those folks know their members and clients need this service.

One of the good things about doing this is that it won't cost taxpayers a dime. Those Cooperatives that wish to offer the service to their customers will simply have the opportunity to do so. There will be no mandate.

We know that Mississippi is battling a so-called "brain drain," some of which is due to the fact that young people expect to be able to use the Internet whenever they need it. Our local communities are also struggling to keep their young people at home and contributing

to their hometowns.

It is clear that the time has come to do what we can to help our rural communities thrive and give our young people the tools they need to stay close to their friends and family while they help grow their local economy.

The passage of this bill will ensure that the over 800,000 Mississippians who currently don't have reliable and usable Internet access will be provided that service in the near future.

Please feel free to contact me on this or any other subject that you think should be addressed during the coming session. I am your representative in the legislature, and I'm here to help.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Representative Tom Miles serves as the State Representative for House District #75, which consists of eastern Rankin and Scott counties. He can be contacted at tmiles@house.ms.gov or 601-469-7886.

How El Nino and La Nina affect weather



By Doug Carter,
Rankin County
Extension Agent

El Nino and La Nina are opposite phases of what is known as the El Nino-Southern Oscillation cycle.

El Nino is the sometimes referred to as warm phase and La Nina, is sometimes referred to as the cold phase.

El Nino means The Little Boy, or Christ Child in Spanish. El Nino was originally recognized by fishermen off the coast of South America in the 1600's, with the appearance of unusually warm water in the Pacific Ocean, this was important to them because, they did not catch as many fish. The name was chosen based on the time of year (around December) during which these warm waters events occurred.

The term El Nino refers to the large scale ocean atmosphere climate interaction linked to periodic warming in sea surface temperatures, across the central and east-central Pacific.

Typical El Nino effects are likely to develop over North America during winter season. Those include warmer-than-average temperatures over the western and northern United States. Wetter-than-average conditions are likely over portions of the U.S. Coast and Florida. Dryer-than-normal average conditions can be expected over the Pacific Northwest and Ohio Valley region.

La Nina means Little Girl in Spanish.



It is sometimes called "A Cold Event."

La Nina episodes represent periods of below-average sea surface temperatures across the east-central Pacific.

During a La Nina year, winter temperatures are warmer than normal in the Southwest and cooler than normal in the Northwest.

An El Nino condition is declared when three month average sea surface temperatures in the east central equatorial Pacific Ocean is 0.5 degrees C or more above normal.

In October, the Climate Prediction Center released its long range forecast for a moderate El Nino to influence our winter weather. This usually means a wet winter for us.

From September to October 20, Mississippi State University received 19.44 inches of rain. The average is 6.15 inches, that's 13.29 inches above normal for that period, and Jackson received 11.71 inches, which is 4.79 above normal for these seven weeks.

Since then, it has rained every few days and as I was driving around before writing this article, I saw cows standing knee deep in mud, rutted pastures and fields, I've seen a truck stuck in a yard, and I've seen high water many times. I think it is safe to say, the El Nino forecast is correct.

Center for Violence Prevention offers shelter, counseling

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Center for Violence Prevention is located in Pearl, but covers Claiborne, Copiah, Hinds, Issaquena, Madison, Rankin, Sharkey, Simpson, Warren and Yazoo counties, and is the only human trafficking shelter in the state.

Executive Director Sandy Middleton has been with the full-service victim agency for 15 years and has seen it grow from four employees with a budget of \$250,000 to 40 employees operating a \$2.1 million budget that helps victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, survivors of homicide, and human trafficking. Federal grants help the shelter, but they require matching funds, which come from community donations from citizens, churches, service groups, among others.

The need is there, according to Middleton. One in four women will be a victim of domestic violence in her lifetime, while one in six will be the victim of sexual assault. She said they have seen 50 victims of human trafficking in the last year, fifteen of



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Second Chance store shopper Denise Jamison, a nurse at Mississippi State Hospital, said she shops there because there are great prices on good merchandise, and because the proceeds of the sales benefit abused or battered women and children.

which were children.

According to Pearl Prosecutor Troy Odom, "Sandy and her team at the Center for Violence Prevention are

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How you can help.

The Center for Violence Prevention advocates that every person has the right to a life free from violence. Through partnerships with multiple community organizations and a committed staff focused on the needs of the abused, they provide services for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Rape, and Human Trafficking.

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instrumental in my role as in prosecuting crimes of domestic violence. They are a fixture in the Pearl Municipal Court. Their guidance and advice are key to not only bringing abusers to justice, but also counseling those in our court."

In addition to financial support, the Center for Violence Prevention needs volunteers to work with victims. She said they have twenty now but could use more. They also invite individuals or businesses to donate their professional services, such as dentists, cosmetologists, accountants, etc. One ex-

ample of a recent professional service donation was Cummins, which that donated oil changes.

The Center also needs gently-used donations to their Second Chance Retail Store located in Bright Shopping Center near First Baptist Church in Pearl. According to weekly Second Chance store shopper Denise Jamison, a nurse at Mississippi State Hospital, said she shops there because there are great prices on good merchandise, but because the proceeds of the sales also benefit abused or battered women and children.

Human trafficking to be top priority in 2019 legislative session



By Speaker of the House Phillip Gunn

Human trafficking was brought to my attention last year while attending a conference. I always assumed this was a problem other states experienced, not

Mississippi. I did not fully understand that this issue takes place all around us; and, like many of you, I was unclear on the definition of human trafficking and what it actually encompasses. For that reason, I have made addressing human trafficking in Mississippi a top priority for the 2019 legislative session.

In October, we hosted a one-day conference in Jackson on the issue and brought in experts from around the country. Human trafficking is compelling a person to do any type of work against their will. This includes any form of labor with a commercial exchange accompanied by some type of force, fraud or coercion.

Human trafficking is a \$150 billion a

year industry in our country. Globally, approximately 24.9 million people are enslaved. It is essentially free labor. With trafficking, unlike drugs, you can sell a product (human) repeatedly. If we can remove the profit from this industry, we can perhaps disincentivize traffickers and save lives.

Mississippi has strong laws and penalties on its books regarding human trafficking and has a B ranking overall, making it among the top fifteen states with the strongest laws addressing child sex trafficking. We want to do everything we can to get Mississippi to an A rating like our neighboring states of Louisiana, Tennessee and Alabama.

My goal this session is to increase awareness about all forms of human trafficking—labor and sex trafficking. We can achieve this in several different ways. We must strengthen our agencies to empower survivors and treat them with dignity. We must have consistent identifying measures (among law enforcement, educators, etc.) and responses to exploitation situations. We must remove barriers to identification—exploitation is not inevitable.

The national human trafficking hotline number is 888-373-7888.

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Pelahatchie Middle School November Students of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

5. Pelahatchie Middle School Students of the Month for November pictured (l to r) are, front row: Hunter Cain, Daniel Flores, Madyson McGee, and Madi Holmes; and back row: Thomas Strickland, Devan Sinclair, and Mariah McGill.

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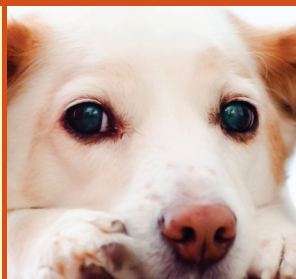
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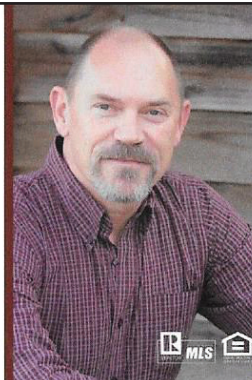


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PHS names November Students of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School Students of the Month for November pictured (l to r) are: front row: Lani Key, Gavin Spears, Riley Bowman, and McKinley Goodin; middle row: Sandra Lewis, Alexis Johnson, Reagan Sanders, Isabella Atkinson, Adriana McCoy, and James Thompson; and back row: Colton Nickels, Matthew Harper, PJ Wilson, Damontaye Turnage, Jacob Jordan, and Ethan White.

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PHS November Extra Curricular



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie HS November Extra Curricular Students of the Month are Sydni Goldman and Caleb Watkins. Shown with Principal Dr. Teague Burchfield, center. Award sponsored by Bob's Gas of Pelahatchie.

Shivers named PHS Teacher of the Year

By Susie A. Wolfe

Math teacher Sandra Shivers is Pelahatchie High School's (PHS) Teacher of the Year, according to Principal Dr. Teague Burchfield.

"We are proud to announce Mrs. Sandra Shivers as Pelahatchie High School's Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Shivers is a tremendous classroom manager who has developed positive relationships with her students," said Burchfield. "She has an incredible instructional delivery; her precision has led to growth among all of her students. She tactfully shares a competitive spirit with her students that has created a want to succeed on the seventh-grade math MAAP test."

Shivers is in her twentieth-year teaching and her fifth at PHS. She started her teaching career with first graders at Pelahatchie Elementary for three years. She currently teaches seventh grade math, but has also taught first grade, fifth grade, and all high school

math classes at previous schools.

The Pisgah/Sandhill native graduated from Pisgah High School in 1995 and got her undergraduate degree in elementary education, with a minor in math, from Belhaven University in 1999. She achieved National Board Certification in early adolescent math in 2006 and received a master's degree in curriculum from the University of Mississippi in 2014.

Shivers is most proud of the growth her students have made in the district during her time at Pelahatchie. She said that seventh grade math was last in the district when she first came, but they have been fourth the last two years, with only a few points in difference in the top schools.

"It has been very rewarding to have Pelahatchie be recognized as the diamond in the rough it really is," she said.

Shivers and her husband, Shannon, live in Pisgah/Sandhill with their two boys, Connor, 17, and Jack, 11.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Dr. Teague Burchfield, PHS principal, is shown with PHS's Teacher of the Year Sandra Shivers.

PHS November Athletes of the Month



Photo by Pelahatchie News

November Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Athletes of the Month were awarded to "JP" Purvis and Madelyn Cain. Purvis led the Chiefs to the football playoffs and also plays basketball. Cain, a ninth grader, plays softball and cheers. Pictured (l to r) are: Dr. Teague Burchfield, Principal; JP; Cain; and Tanner Wilson with Farm Bureau, sponsor.

PHS teachers recognized



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Coach Tip Nutt was awarded the Handled It Award and Kessie Key the Big Time Award on November 30. According to Principal Teague Burchfield, Nutt is head baseball coach but helped with Friday night football events. Key manages digital media and the Spirit Tribe. Pictured (l to r) are: Burchfield, Nutt, Key, and Tanner Wilson with Farm Bureau, awards sponsor.

PHS Cheerleaders place second



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Cheerleaders placed second in the game day non-tumbling class for the 11-team 1A-3A Division at the Mississippi High School Athletic Association competition held on December 15, 2018. It is their first year ever to compete in school history. Pictured (l to r) front row, are: Madelyn Cain, Collins Doster, Tiara Collier, Hannah Lawrence, Skye Bowman, Katie Belle Boyer, and Luran Kane; middle row: Maddie Grace Walter, Rose Gibney, Madi Holmes, Malori Scherer, and Adlyn Till; and back row: Meghan Herrington, Ben Ingallina, Kaitlyn White, Makenzie Hester, Haley Mills, Madison Broome, Camden Patton, Ian Jackson, and Justin Beeman. Not photographed are CJ Wilder, and Sponsors/Coaches Mandy Herrington and Tina Roberts.

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Caregivers of Alzheimer's patients need support

Special to Pelahatchie News

For caregivers of patients with Alzheimer's Disease, the disease can take a toll. According to the Alzheimer's Association, here are some tips to help support those who have relatives coping with Alzheimer's Disease:

1. **Educate yourself about Alzheimer's disease.** Learn about its effects and how to respond.

2. **Stay in touch.** A card, call or visit can show you care.

3. **Be patient.** Adjusting to an Alzheimer's diagnosis is an ongoing process and each person reacts differently.

4. **Offer a shoulder to lean on.** Simply offering your support and friendship can provide comfort.

5. **Include the person with dementia in conversation.** It's important to engage the person, even as his or her communication skills decline.

6. **Help the family tackle its to-do list.** Prepare a meal, run an errand or provide a ride.

7. **Invite family members to join you in leisure activities.** Invite them to take a walk or participate in other enjoyable activities.

8. **Offer a reprieve.** Spend time with

the person living with dementia so family members can enjoy time alone or with friends.

9. **Be flexible.** The family may need time to assess its needs. If they don't accept your offer for support or assistance right away, try asking again later.

10. **Get involved with the Alzheimer's cause.** Show your support for the family by joining the fight against the disease.

"It's important caregivers receive support during the difficult time of caring for a loved one," Merit Health Behavioral Health Director Scott Jones said. "At Merit Health, we offer a wide range of services to assist in the care of patients with Alzheimer's disease, as well as other mental and emotional challenges."

For more information, call 601-824-8575 or visit mymeritdoctor.com.

To learn more about the Alzheimer's Association, call 800-272-3900 or visit alz.org.



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Pelahatchie Elementary names Students of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

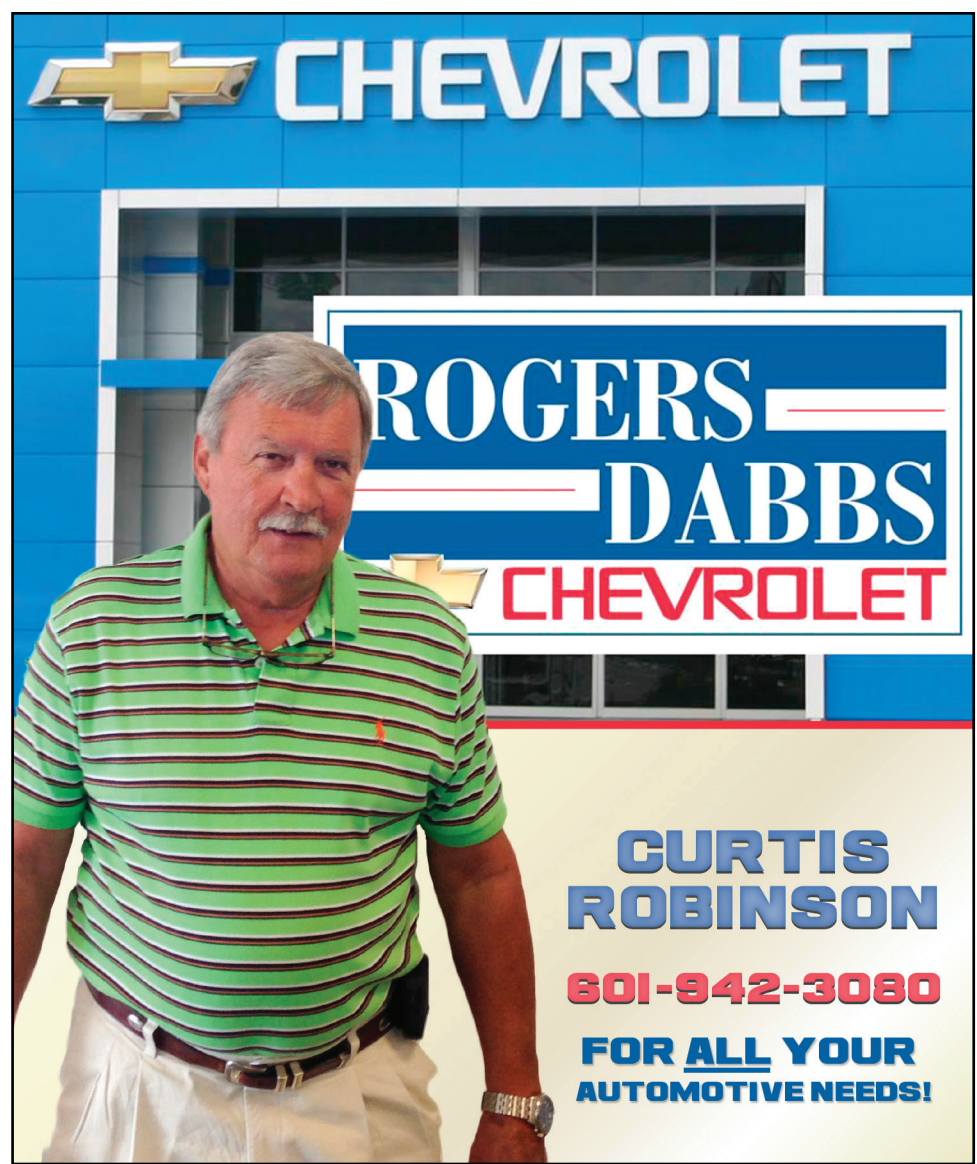
The Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) Students of the Month for November pictured (l to r) first row, are: Makenzie Bowie, Ethan Quick, and Kylii Russum; second row: Jose Cortes, Sierra Sanders, Hailey Ward, Bethany Pilgrim, Eli Roberts, Avril Edwards, Bailey Joy Key, and Jada Cumberland; third row: Melanie Ball, Nathan Brown, Brian Renfrow, Eriana Smith, Jackson Fayette, Tate Hopson, Alexis Jordan, Graison Reddman, and Mary Taylor Nutt; and fourth row: Anyiah Gilbert, Savannah Whiddon, Katie Jenkins, Connor Jolly, Abbigail Brown, and Ashton Moore.

Walters wins November Character Trait award



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Chloe Walters was awarded the November Character Trait of the Month at PHS.



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Resolve to take PHS to the next level



By Guest Columnist
Teague Burchfield,
Principal, Pelahatchie
High School

Happy New Year!
How nice it is to have
a new calendar that af-
fords us a clean slate.

Through reflection, hind sight from the previous year gives us wisdom while angst creeps into us all because we have no way of predicting what lies ahead. This "mixed bag" of emotions allows us to cap off a restful Christmas Holiday Break with a fun New Year's Eve "get together" with family and friends to shake off the old so that we may begin to embrace the new.

As the years pass, these New Year's celebrations all seem to provide an outline that, while predictable, seem to always be so entertaining. Although not as good as Dick Clark, Ryan Seacrest still manages to keep us awake until the ball has dropped. Auld Lang Syne is mumbled by everyone in the room and we witness Jenny McCarthy kiss a lucky soldier and/or Donnie Wahlberg as streamers float from the New York City Skyline. Some of us, for good measure, even try to crash the party on the west coast a couple of hours later from the couch.

On New Year's Day, we wake up to the smell of a good luck meal; my favorite-fried pork chops, black-eyed peas, greens, and cornbread. Significant college football bowl match-ups hoard the living room television, but no one complains about it. And as the day moves on, we begin to consider how we plan to approach what we have contemplated over the last two weeks, our New Year's Resolution.

As an administrator and with a quite fruitful fall semester behind us, it is my wish that all stakeholders consider how together we can resolve to take Pelahatchie High School (PHS) to the next level. Regarding students, an increased focus on academic growth is so appropriate. As for parents, an increased interest in a child's academic success is a standard worth setting. For educators, a renewed commitment to a guaranteed and viable curriculum to all of our students is warranted.

In closing, I hope that you have established an ambitious, yet obtainable, resolution for yourself. It is my wish that we all consider service in our resolve to be a better individual this year. There is no better outlet to deploy that service than through our students at Pelahatchie High School. On behalf of everyone at Pelahatchie High School, we wish you the best in 2019!

Construction at Pelahatchie schools

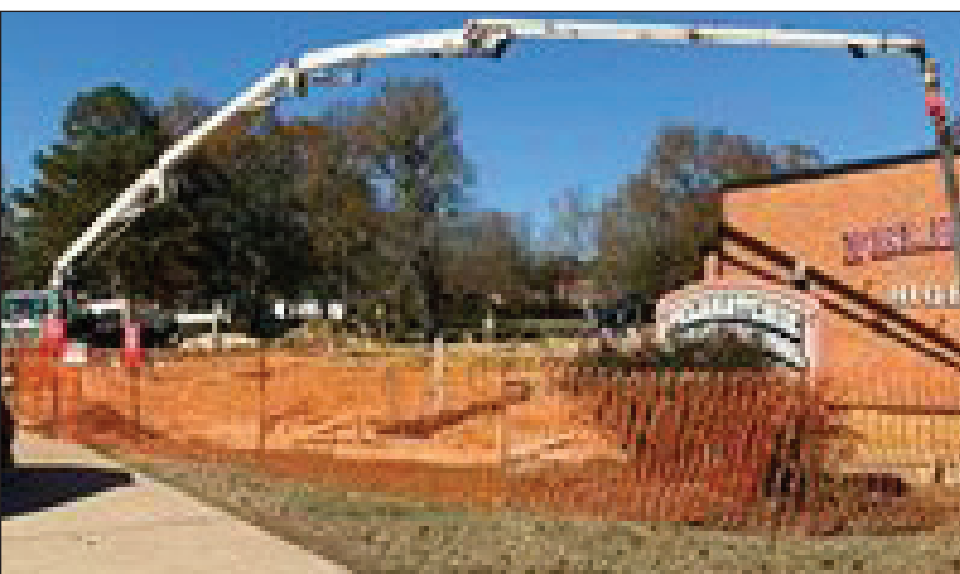


Photo by Pelahatchie News

Despite cold, wet weather, progress is being made at Pelahatchie High and Pelahatchie Elementary schools. On this day, the crew was laying concrete.

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Arrangements
Dewel Lingle	71	Polkville, MS	11/24/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Landon Miller	11	Carthage, MS	12/1/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Roy Smith	82	Wiggins, MS	12/4/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Alicia Reid	4	Forest, MS	12/4/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.

Rankin County Extension holds open house January 17



Rankin County Extension Office
Open House
Thursday, January 17th
4-6 pm

Rankin County Extension Office
601 Marquette Road, Brandon

Check out our local services and organizations!

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Rankin County Extension Office

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Special to Pelahatchie News

The Rankin County Extension Office will hold an open house, Thursday, January 17, 4-6 p.m. at the Rankin County Extension Office, 601 Marquette Road, Brandon. Visitors can learn more about the Rankin County Extension organizations such as Cattlemen's, Forestry, Master Gardeners, Quilt Guild, Machine Embroidery

Club, Homemakers, and 4-H youth programs. The Rankin County Extension Agents will be on hand to answer any questions and to educate the community on programs and services they offer. Light refreshments and snacks will be served.

This event is open to the public. They will be giving away nine-volt batteries for smoke detectors while supplies last. For questions, call 601-825-1462.



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Pelahatchie places first and second in FFA Capital competition



Special to Pelahatchie News

The senior and junior FFA teams did well in Capital Federation competition and will be competing at the District Level in March. Pictured are the two teams with officers. The senior team pictured in left photo (l to r) are: Katie Belle Boyer, president; Olivia Sirmon, vice president; Adlyn Till, reporter; Chloe Walters, treasurer; Anna Grace Carter, secretary; Justin Beeman, student advisor; and Isabella Atkinson, sentinel.



Special to Pelahatchie News

The junior officer team, right, (l to r) front row, are: Olivia Lassiter, reporter; Leah Carter, secretary; and Payton Sanders, sentinel; and back row: Macey Bowman, student advisor; Maddie Grace Walters, president; Eli Boyer, treasurer; and Camden Patton, vice president.

By Susie A. Wolfe

Pelahatchie was just one of many FFA schools from Scott, Rankin, Hinds and Warren counties at the Capital Federation competition in December. And, Pelahatchie's four first-place and three second-place finishes will get them in

District competition in March, and possibly even to Nationals, according to Bob Robinson, ag instructor and FFA advisor. State competition will be held in June.

Students who placed include: Adlyn Till, first place, National Creed; Chloe Walters, first place, Senior Creed; Levi

Goldman, first place, Senior Extemporaneous Speaking; Anna Grace Carter, first place, Senior Prepared Public Speaking; and Maddie Grace Walters, second place, Junior Creed. Also, both the senior officer team and the junior officer team placed second.

Robinson explained that not only do

the students learn the creeds, which are five paragraphs in length, but they must "make it their own" and answer questions about its meaning. He said all first and second places move to the Spring district championship at East Central Community College in Decatur, Mississippi.

Pastor's perspective: The new year is full of promise and possibilities



By Guest Columnist
John Vaughn, Pastor,
Cross Roads Baptist
Church

And so, we begin a New Year! 2019 stands before us full of promise and possibilities. What you make

of this year will largely depend on you. Even though uncertainty and doubts are common and normal, we must look ahead with confidence and hope. We must face each day and week and month with the conviction that whatever happens, God is still in control! And, we must believe that ultimately God will keep His promise to work out all things for our good if we will love Him and live our lives according to His purpose for us.

The longer I stick around on earth, the more things I see happening around me that just don't seem to meet the common-sense standards that I was taught growing up in Scooba. It seems that every day, there is a news item that runs contrary to what I believe is just and right.

Radio commentator Paul Harvey

rightly predicted much of what we see happening today. In 1965, he gave the following commentary.

"If I were the prince of darkness, I would want to engulf the whole world in darkness. I'd have a third of its real estate and four-fifths of its population, but I would not be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree — thee.

So, I would set about however necessary to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first, and I would begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: 'Do as you please.'

To the young, I would whisper that the Bible is a myth. I would convince the children that man created God instead of the other way around. I'd confide that what's bad is good and what's good is square. And the old, I would teach to pray after me, 'Our Father, which are in Washington...'

Then, I'd get organized, I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten T.V. with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd peddle narcotics to whom I could.

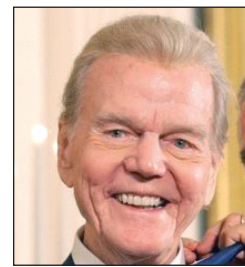
I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

If I were the devil, I'd soon have families at war with themselves, churches at war with themselves and nations at war with themselves until each, in its

turn, was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings, I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames.

If I were the devil, I would encourage schools to refine young intellect but neglect to discipline emotions. I'd tell teachers to let those students run wild. And before you knew it, you'd have drug-sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door. Within a decade, I'd have prisons overflowing and judges promoting pornography. Soon, I would evict God from the courthouse and the schoolhouse and them from the houses of Congress.

In his own churches, I would substitute psychology for religion and deify science. I'd lure priests and pastors into



Special to Pelahatchie News
Paul Harvey

misusing boys and girls and church money. If I were the devil, I'd make the symbol of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

If I were the devil, I'd take from those who have and give to those who wanted until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. What'll you bet I couldn't get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I'd caution against "extremes" in hard work, in patriotism, in moral conduct.

I'd convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun and that what you see on television is the way to be. And thus, I could undress you in public and lure you into bed with diseases for which there are no cures.

In other words, if I were the devil, I'd just keep right on doing what he's doing."

Over 50 years ago, Paul Harvey had it right. Much of what he said then is reality now. But another reality is that God is still on His throne! And ultimately, His goodness and righteousness will triumph! Keep believing in Him! Keep worshipping Him! Keep serving Him!

Be sure to take your family to church on Sunday.



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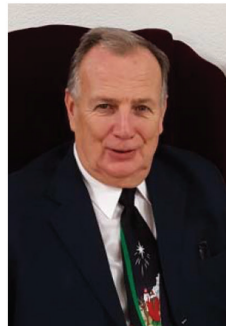
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Wednesdays: 7:00p.m.



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Wednesday Schedule

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Founder of Mid South Baking Company instilled community involvement

By Susie A. Wolfe

Fred Bower, one of the three founders of the Mid South Baking Company, passed away on November 20 after a long battle with stomach cancer. He, John Pattekis and Peter Grimm founded the company dedicated to making McDonald's hamburger buns and English muffins in Bryan, Texas in 1988.

They opened the Pelahatchie location in 1995 at the request of McDonald's. The plant is one of the largest in town. Steve Warden, Bower's son-in-law, current president and the fourth partner, said, "Fred instilled a sense of family and community in the company. It is part of our DNA. He leaves a great legacy of company pride with the employees that we will continue."

Mid South Baking Company now has 140 employees in Pelahatchie and 140 in the Bryan plant where they make 3.8 million hamburger buns a day and 1.2 billion buns last year. From three manufacturing facilities, they service



Special to Pelahatchie News

Three generations of family working with Mid South Baking Company pictured (l to r) are: Zach Warden, field service; Steve Warden, president/managing partner; and Fred Bower, founding partner.

3,500 McDonald's restaurants across the southern tier of the United States stretching from Nevada and Idaho all the way through the Carolinas and to the ocean.

Bower is survived by his wife of 60 years, JoAnn, and two children, Diana and Mark. Diana is married to Warden and they have three children, Zach, Jessica and Alex. Zach and Jessica work for the company, and Alex lives in Nashville. Mark and his wife, Nancy, have two children, Britany and Ashley, and they live in California.

Nobles awarded the RCSD secondary employee of month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Kelsey Nobles, math teacher at Pelahatchie High School (PHS), was named the Rankin County School District Certified Secondary Employee of the Month for November 2018. She was presented with the award at the RCSD Board Meeting in December. Nobles is pictured (l to r) with Mississippi First Lady Deborah Bryant.



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