



September
2019

Volume 8
Issue 9

NEWS Pelahatchie

Good News You Can Use

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Pelahatchie News
P.O. Box 771
Pelahatchie, MS 39145

Muscadine Jubilee set for September 7

By Susie A. Wolfe

Schedule of events:

September 7, 2019, 10 a.m.

Welcome - Mayor Ryshonda Beechem

Invocation - Pastor Beth Feisel

Flag Presentation - Pelahatchie ROTC

Pledge of Allegiance & National Anthem - PHS ROTC

10:20-10:45 - Introducing the Miss Muscadine Jubilee 2019

10:45-11:20 - Chieftacular

11:20-12:00 - Political Candidates Speaking

12:00-12:20 - 2019 Celebrity Muscadine Stomp

12:30-1:00 - Political Candidates Speaking and band set up

1:00-2:00 - Grady Champion

2:15-3:15 - Troy Laz Band

3:15-4:15 - Fair River Band

The thirty-ninth annual Muscadine Jubilee will be held on Saturday, September 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Muscadine Park in Downtown Pelahatchie. Craft and food vendors will again line the downtown area, as will train rides, and live entertainment. New this year is that the Kid's Zone is free.

Entertainment includes Fair River Band, Troy Laz, Grady Champion and Pelahatchie Elementary's Chieftacular. The famous Muscadine Stomp will have local politicians, candidates and celebrities against each other for bragging rights. Those signed up as of publication include: Whitney Adams, Jay Hughes, Jeff McDaniels, and DeKethier Stamps.

Muscadine Pageant winners will also be introduced at the event.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Town in Turmoil: Problems in getting checks signed

By Susie A. Wolfe

Two people are required to sign the Town of Pelahatchie checks for employees, power for telephones and lift stations, gas for police cars and fire trucks, insurance payments for state retirement, and pay other essential bills. Normally, that is Mayor Ryshonda Beechem and Alderman Pro Temp Margie Warren or the city clerk, but there is no one currently in that position.

"We are fighting to save the Town, not destroy it," said Warren, who has been a Pelahatchie Alderman for more than 30 years. "Something's got to give. We are grasping at straws."

She said the telephone company came out Friday, August 23, to turn the telephones off, but the Town was given an extension. But the unpaid bills are mounting up. There's money there, ac-

cording to Warren, but no checks are being written.

Warren said that the Town Attorney



Special to Pelahatchie News

Mayor Ryshonda Beechem is shown signing Pelahatchie employees August checks. It took a few days for all employees to get their checks, but as of the end of August, all employees were paid. Beechem is quoted as saying "This temporary fix will not solve a long-term problem... I, as mayor, plan to continue to avoid personally executing any check, loan, note or instrument on behalf of the Town." Her attorney has advised her not to sign off on any finances while investigations are underway.

John Wakefield advised the Board not to spend money until an audit is done for

the safety of each individual member.

Beechem's attorney, Thomas Bellinder, said "When it came time to sign the check for the illegal payment to their private lawyers to defend against the state auditor's lawsuit, the Board had no problem signing. But now, were worried about whose 'job' it is."

Beechem feels she has given Warren the instructions to upload to ACH, but Warren said she has never done that and is not comfortable

doing it.

To help the employees who have not received a paycheck in August, there has been more than \$10,000 raised. On Sunday, August 25, \$990 was given in Pelahatchie Baptist's service for the employees.

Both the Mayor and Board of Aldermen are frustrated with the situation.

The Mayor feels "this board hasn't given me the tools to do my job. I will happily do all these things if provided with tools I need: I need a full-time clerk; an attorney that will tell me in writing it's lawful to sign off, I will sign off; quit having meetings in private and making decisions without my knowledge with the previous mayor; I need financial management that isn't dependent on illegal loans or borrowing money from funds that are not permitted

continued on page 3

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PES 2019 new teachers



Special to Pelahatchie News

There are eight new Pelahatchie Elementary Teachers for the 2019-2020 school year. Pictured (l to r) are: Sarah Kate Dye, Morgan Angell, Kate Morris, Victoria Norwood, Jessica Boozer, Cathryn Tritschler, Deanna Carpenter, and Melissa Briggs.

Alexia Jones starts as new PHS basketball coach

By Susie A. Wolfe

Alexia Jones is the new Lady Chiefs basketball coach. The Morton native played basketball for Morton 2005-2009, then coached Morton seventh and eighth grade and assisted with high school there 2015-2017. She also worked at Northwest Rankin 2017-2019 as head of ninth grade, assistant varsity basketball and girls track coach. Jones is a graduate of Jackson State University and is currently getting her Master's in Education Leadership at Arkansas State University.

The 14-member Lady Chiefs team is currently preparing for the 2019 basketball season that starts November 5. Some of her favorite mottos include "rise to the occasion," "rise up," "trust the process," and "we > me."

"Coaching is a ministry for me. I love inspiring young people to be the best they can be on and off the court and in life," said Jones.

Her mom, Wyvonne Ward, and brother, Anton Gammage, live in Morton as does Jones and her husband, Marshall.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Morton native Alexia Jones is the new Lady Chiefs basketball coach. She has coaching experience at Morton and Northwest Rankin.



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Chieftacular to perform at Sept. 7 Muscadine Jubilee



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The members of the 2019 Chieftacular group pictured (l to r) front row, are: Malachi Macklin, Mary Taylor Nutt, and Kyle Sherrill; and back row: Samantha Adams, Haven Titus, Danielle Windham, Rylee Watson, and Alyssa Prestage. Not shown is Harmony McGill.

Special to Pelahatchie News

Shelia Sharplin started the Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) sixth-grade show choir, Chieftacular, in 2015-2016 by having an audition for students that would be going into sixth grade. The very first group had nine members that voted on the name.

That first year, they performed for the Muscadine Festival, first day PES teachers came back to school, Halloween at the Park, and Pelahatchie Christmas Parade. Every year has been different, according to Sharplin, who also works with the Junior Beta Songfest group that scored in the Top Five in the state last year.

"Chieftacular sings different kinds of music each year depending on the members and what their style is best

at singing. The first group was more R&B and popular music, while some of the other groups have been more Disney or Broadway show type music performers," said Sharplin. "My dream for Chieftacular was not to perform in competitions where there is so much stress and structure but rather to have the students enjoy performing and wanting to continue with their talents after being members of Chieftacular."

Sharplin says it has been a joy and blessing to work with each of the five groups that have and continue to represent Chieftacular. This year's group had their first performance singing for the teacher's professional development on August 5, and they have already been invited to sing at Muscadine Jubilee, as well.

Local blues artist Champion to perform at the Jubilee



Special to Pelahatchie News

Canton, Mississippi-based, Grammy Award winning songwriter, entertainer/musician, Grady Champion has been captivating audiences for more than two decades. He will perform at the thirty-ninth Muscadine Jubilee.

Special to Pelahatchie News

Canton, Mississippi-based, Grammy Award winning songwriter, entertainer/musician, Grady Champion will be performing at the September 7 Muscadine Jubilee. He has been captivating audiences for more than two decades.

The singer/harp player/guitarist/songwriter/producer signed to Malaco Records, headquartered in nearby Jackson, Mississippi, in 2013; his first full-length release with the legendary blues label

was released the following year. His album, *Bootleg Whiskey*, establishes Champion as a torch carrier for authentic Mississippi blues.

Champion was born Oct. 10, 1969, and grew up on a farm in Canton, within a religious household. The youngest of his father's 28 children, he joined his church choir at the age of eight and realized his passion for music. He currently is touring with a schedule of approximately 180 performances per year and promoting his tenth album on Malaco Records.

continued from page 1

Town in Turmoil: Problems in getting checks signed

(like police funds); and I need you to accept contracts for lawn services competitive bids and not for your friends."

"Then I will be signing checks all day long. I need the assurance that the business of the government is being handled properly. I didn't think it would be a problem, because by law if the mayor does not feel comfortable signing, then the board is obligated to board."

Beechem signed the checks on Wednesday, August 28, morning, but

said, "This temporary fix will not solve a long-term problem. This board has jeopardized us all by its refusal to follow the law...Based upon the past financial misdealings, deficit spending, continued violation of law by the board and the exposure to civil liability that comes with dealing with this board, I as Mayor plan to continue to avoid personally executing any check, loan, note or instrument on behalf of the Town due to exposure to civil liability "

Farm safety for kids



By Doug Carter,
Rankin County
Extension Agent

Farming and Hay Season are in full swing. Very soon it will be time to harvest corn, cotton, and soybeans.

Workdays are long and tiring. It's not a job for the slothful and certainly not for children.

Every year across this nation youngsters under 16 are seriously and often fatally injured due to accidents on a farm.

Although the odds for an accident may not be great, it does happen. The likelihood of a crippling injury or death is enough to make any parent do some serious thinking, before they allow their child to tag along or take the wheel.

Machinery-related farming accidents tend to be among the most physically devastating - mere flesh is no match for horse power and cold steel. A small child's body can't withstand the weight of a tractor if he or she fell off and under when riding along, or even worse, the child could fall under the implement the tractor is pulling.

Children are not miniature adults and cannot be expected to always successfully cope with situations that call for adult's foresight, judgement, experience, skill and strength - situations that we often face when farming.

Perhaps a 10-year-old can guide a tractor down a furrow, but it may not always be that simple. Something can always happen, that requires a quick decision and a critically correct response.

Every farm parent must decide when their children are ready to help and what jobs are appropriate for their level of development. A lot of times the extra help is really needed to get through the bulk of the work, but there is too much risk in pushing a child into work, that he or she simply isn't fully capable of doing safety.

Children are all different; just because one child of a certain age can successfully complete the work, doesn't mean another child of the same age can do the same. We need to keep in mind that physical development may be misleading - "big enough" doesn't necessarily constitute "old enough."

Maturity, willingness to learn and take direction, the ability to focus on the task at hand, taking pride in doing a good job and being a part of the family work force are all necessary. Children who regard driving a tractor as a time to "goof around" and have their minds on fun or games, are not yet responsible enough to operate machinery. We need to make certain that young workers are properly trained for all jobs they are given and are provided with needed protective equipment. Make wise decisions in regard to your children's safety, and watch them grow up to do the same.

It's everyone's job to empower children



By Guest Columnist
Lisa Attkisson,
Pelahatchie Elementary
School Principal

It is important that all of us - parents, teachers, the school and our community work together in an extended family environment to ensure success for all our students. We believe it is everyone's responsibility to empower children with the creative, intellectual, and decision-making skills necessary for them to become academically, socially, physically, and emotionally successful and responsible.

As parents, as educators, and as a community, the words we share with students can either encourage a child to choose a challenge and increase achievement or look for an easy way out. Praising hard work and effort cultivates a growth mindset. When students have a growth mindset, they take on challenges and learn from them,

therefore increasing their abilities and problem-solving skills. We need to send a message to our kids that they can be anything they want to be when they grow up. The sky truly is the limit.

We know that some of our children will hold jobs that have yet to be created. Some will play a part in creating those jobs. The bottom line is, we want them to have choices concerning their life's work, and we want them to be happy with the choices they make. That means working together to make sure they are successful in school, kind and accepting of others, and physically and emotionally healthy.

As we begin another productive school year at Pelahatchie Elementary, I hope your children gain valuable insights and perspectives from their daily experiences that will help guide and shape their destinies. May you and your children continue to dream big, and may those dreams continue to come true. At Pelahatchie Elementary, we are #livingthedream...and then some.

Worrell named ERA Head Football Coach

By Susie A. Wolfe

Jonathan Worrell moved from public school coaching to a private school at East Rankin Academy (ERA) in April. He spent six years as an assistant football coach in Pearl, one year as a defensive coordinator at Northwest Rankin, then four years as head coach at Forest High School.

Worrell said that he accepted the ERA offer "because the school is succeeding in everything they do—academically, spiritually and athletically. We are solely-focused on getting these kids better."

Worrell is the son of Kevin Worrell, a distinguished Mississippi coach with a 30-year career at schools including Pearl and Kosciusko. He is excited to be working with a veteran coaching staff made up of Dan Davis, a long-time Brandon coach; Tony Hill, a former long-term ERA coach; Dan Boyce, a former head football coach who played at Ole Miss; and Scott Walters, who will also serve as missions pastor.

A graduate of East Central Community College and Mississippi College, Worrell is a friend of Pelahatchie High Coach Sam Williams after they coached



Special to Pelahatchie News

together at Northwest Rankin. Though they won't play each other, they will have lots of football to talk about.

Worrell and his wife, Cheryl, have three sons, Rivers, four, Rylan, three, and Ramsey, seven months.



Mr. Jerry Jones and his wife Cleo have resided in the Leesburg community since 1969. Mr. Jones wore a badge for 47 years and was dedicated to keeping our state of MS safe. He is a retired MS Highway Patrol, former Pelahatchie Chief of Police, and retired Rankin County SO. At MSCC we strive to always ensure that our patients have an excellent experience during their stay here. Nothing makes us happier than to hear that we have achieved our goal while they were here. We were overjoyed to have Mr. Jones enjoy his stay.

As a result of a fall, Mr. Jones had to have a partial hip replacement. Upon hospital discharge, he was not physically stable enough to go home so he chose to come to MSCC for rehab and therapy. "My wife and I knew you (MSCC of Morton) had an excellent reputation for having a good rehab department and giving good care. It was also close to home so that would make it easier for my wife to come visit me. That is why we originally chose MSCC. I knew I would receive the best care possible but it was better than I ever expected it to be! I couldn't have asked for it to be any better! The therapist and nursing staff are #1 in my book! Everyone is so nice. If I had to do it all over again I wouldn't change a thing! No regrets whatsoever! I would recommend this unit to anyone that needs a little help getting back on their feet after being in the hospital!"

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Lady Chiefs attend Victoria Vivian’s clinic



Special to Pelahatchie News
Some of the Lady Chiefs basketball team attended Victoria Vivians' basketball clinic this summer at Leake Central Junior High School. They were working hard for the upcoming season. Pictured (l to r) are: Doneshia Johnson, Victoria Vivians, Janay Johnson and Chrystianna Beeman.

PHS adds new teachers



Special to Pelahatchie News
The newest Pelahatchie High School hire, Deonte Johnson, is assisting with Exceptional Education classes.



Special to Pelahatchie News
Pelahatchie High School (PHS) new faculty are pictured (l to r): Brian Edwards, Alexia Jones, Kimberly Watson, Leslie Hebert, Bryan Collins, And Tyler Walters.

Cross Roads Baptist Church



Sunday Schedule

8:30 - Contemporary Worship Service
10:00 - Bible Study for all ages
11:00 - Blended Worship Service
6:00 - Evening Worship

Wednesday Schedule

6:00 Family Dinner
7:00 - Children’s Mission Activities • Student Worship
Ladies Bible Study • Couples Support Group
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

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Hinds Community College holds Summer 2019 Graduation

Special to Pelahatchie News

Hinds Community College awarded a total of 672 credentials to 572 graduates, with some graduates receiving more than one credential, in two ceremonies on Aug. 2.

Of the summer graduates, 99 achieved cum laude, 3.2 to 3.59 grade point average; 34 achieved magna cum laude, 3.6 to 3.99 GPA and 93 achieved summa cum laude, 4.0 grade point average.

The speakers included Rosalyn Howard, executive director of the Mississippi Nurses Foundation, and Steve Gaines, who represents District 4 on the Rankin County Board of Supervisors.

Pelahatchie graduates are Travis Cohn, Lisa Davis, Adrienne Pittman,

Emily Still, and Kameron Wilson

As Mississippi's largest community college, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills. With six locations in central Mississippi, Hinds enrolls about 12,000 students each fall semester. To learn more, visit www.hindscc.edu or call 1.800.HindsCC.



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East Rankin Academy football starts season



Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Academy (ERA) varsity football team pictured (l to r) front row, are: Patrick Martin, Will Freeman, Porter Derden, Nico Stringa, Thomas Barnett, Mason Morgan, Rouse Boyce, Dylan White, and Lane Burgess; second row: Brock Tullos, West Winstead, Ethan Reiss, Peyton McDill, Jack Pittman, Titan Henderson, Tucker Loper, Garrison Yoder, Judson Giordano, and Trey Rhodes; and back row: Logan Land, Kevin Butts, Franklin Joe Bradley, Knox Ross, Will Maroney, Christian Leper, Hayden French, Owen Lusk, Garrett Gregory, Lawson Wuestefeld, and Stephens Bulger. Videographer is Ethan Crain. Coaches are Tony Hill, Dan Boyce, Head Coach Jonathan Worrell, Scott Walters, and Dan Davis. Manager is Cole Jordan.

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Gary Varner gets "miracle" lung transplant

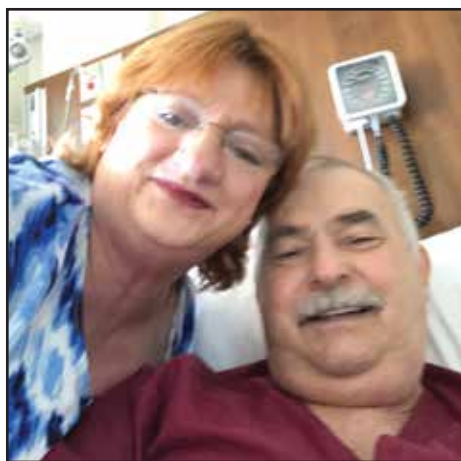
By Susie A. Wolfe

Gary Varner, Sr. of Crossroads has been home a little over a month from having a lung transplant at the VA Center at the University of Wisconsin near Madison. He was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF), which is rare. Only 10-12 out of 100,000 have the IPF diagnosis.

Varner, an Army Korean war veteran who worked as a heavy equipment operator for more than 31 years, was treated at the Jackson VA Hospital by Dr. Rujesh Bhagar. After numerous episodes of critical breathing difficulty, he was sent to Wisconsin in March for additional tests, where it was determined he needed a lung transplant to live.

Varner was told he had a two percent chance of being approved to have the procedure by the VA. He had to go through many tests to determine if he was able to have the transplant. Three days after being added to the transplant list, he was told that there was a 100% match, which is extremely rare or "a miracle" according to Varner, the son of former Pelahatchie Police Chief Jake Varner and his wife, Myrtle.

"I am blessed by God. It was prayers



Special to Pelahatchie News

Gary Varner, Sr., was at the VA Hospital at the University of Wisconsin for five months receiving a life-saving lung transplant. Bottom right: Varner is shown hooked up to machines to help him breathe before having the lung transplant. Shown with his brother Butch Varner and his sister Kathy Varner French, both of Pelahatchie. Top left: Betty Eddins, shown with Varner, was his sponsor, helping him through the process of recovery. top right: Crossroads Baptist Church Pastor John Vaughn and his wife, Kathy, drove to Wisconsin to visit Varner during his recovery.

by people of the church and even people in the Philippines that helped me survive. I can't say except that I am so blessed. I am getting stronger and better all the time. I now walk 2 to 3 miles a



day."

In addition to his family's support, Varner's "sponsor" was Betty Eddins, a retired nurse from Mobile who recently moved to Crossroads. She stayed with him 24/7 and was prepared to make life or death decisions as needed. The stay in

Wisconsin turned into a 5-month ordeal before he was allowed to travel back to Mississippi on July 19.

Varner is required to take 25 or more anti-rejection medications daily and to avoid anything that will affect his already-compromised immune system. He needs to be cautious by running an air purifier and taking up the carpet in his house. He is also required to eat his meat well-done and avoid runny eggs. He goes back to Wisconsin (a 13-hour trip by car) at one-month and then every three months for two years and thereafter, every six months.

Being an organ donor is very important, said Varner. He recommends that not only do you indicate on your driver's license but tell your family that you want to donate. It could save one or up to six people's lives.

Varner's brother, Butch (Betty), and sister, Kathy French, live in Pelahatchie, and another sister, Gayle James (Kenny) lives on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. His children, Gary, Jr. (Raeann), Gretta Evans (?), and Rebecca Laughlin (Lenny), also live in Pelahatchie. He has seven grandchildren, Jessica and Zac Varner, Braden and Easton Laughlin, and Tyler, Hayley and Noah Evans.

ERA Lady Pats winning at soccer



Photo by Jade Huffman

The East Rankin Academy Lady Patriots won this August in a game against Park Place Academy 2-0. Pictured is Presley Thompson number two. This was a district game win.

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Pictured L to R: Courtney Rhodes (front office specialist), Casie Peters, DPT (therapist), Halle Huffman (physical therapy technician), and Spencer Shoemaker, DPT (therapist/clinical director).

We are very excited to announce that Casie Peters, DPT has joined the Performance Therapy team. Casie is from Magee but has resided in Brandon for the last few years. Beyond providing everyday therapeutic skills, Casie is also dry needle certified. This technique is used for trigger points (muscle knots), chronic and acute pain, and referred pain patterns. You can have this technique performed with simply a prescription from your doctor or nurse practitioner. We have also added Halle Huffman. Halle is a student athlete at East Rankin Academy. She will be taking on the role of physical therapy technician for our clinic. She is from the Crossroads community. Please stop by today to meet these two lovely ladies, see our building, and let us treat you or your loved one. We look forward to serving you!

PriorityOne Bank featured in Microsoft Case Study

By Carolyn Higgins

PriorityOne Bank customers know that they can depend on their bank to serve them wherever they are—and in a state where agriculture is the top employer, that often means at the farmhouse kitchen table. Based in Magee, Mississippi, the bank takes pride in its personal service. Until now, unreliable connectivity stalled those kitchen table transactions. PriorityOne Bank's solution? Microsoft Surface Pro LTE enabled by eSIM. With Microsoft eSIM on Windows technology, PriorityOne Bank overcomes connection availability, and managing data subscriptions is now a breeze.

PriorityOne Bank, located in Mississippi, has 15 full-service branches and three mortgage offices scattered throughout the state. It's a true regional institution—a place where customers feel valued and at home. And PriorityOne Bank, frontline workers have the same warm relationships with the bank's senior management team as they do with their customers. Those frontline workers shrink the distance between Mississippi's rolling



Special to Pelahatchie News

green fields and PriorityOne offices with technology. But in many areas where the scenery impresses, Wi-Fi is less stellar. That's why PriorityOne IT is adopting Long-Term Evolution or LTE-connected devices—such as Windows 10 devices like Microsoft Surface Pro with LTE—that use cellular networks to connect to the internet. By replacing physical subscriber identity module (SIM) cards with embedded SIM (eSIM) technology to easily enable LTE connectivity when they need it, PriorityOne Bank is accelerating productivity for its mobile workers and its IT department.

Helping customers wherever they

are - The customer service ethos is tightly woven into everything PriorityOne Bank does. "It's the personalized service that sets our bank apart," says Justin Griffith, Technology Officer at PriorityOne Bank. "We're a true community bank, and we work with a lot of Mississippi farmers to secure their commercial loans." These customers might face long travel times to complete a transaction at a branch, losing valuable work time on the farm.

PriorityOne Bank wants to make life easier for all its customers. The bank has automated mortgage software, but the predominance of areas with poor internet connectivity can defeat the

sincerest efforts to serve customers on their farms, to the frustration of PriorityOne Bank mortgage lenders. "Mortgage lenders are the most prevalent mobile users—they often travel to the customer's home. LTE technology gives more flexibility to PriorityOne Bank customer offerings. Mortgage lenders can operate just as they would inside bank walls."

That's why Griffith was intrigued when local mobile network provider C Spire approached him about a new service offering that uses Surface Pro LTE devices with Windows 10 Pro with eSIM. The eSIM technology is a software-enabled device feature that replaces physical SIM cards and allows eSIM-capable devices to connect to the internet via a cellular data connection. Even without a physical SIM card installed on the device, users can access data from mobile operators offering the service. Organizations that use mobile device management (MDM) solutions, such as Microsoft Intune or MobileIron, can assign cellular subscriptions to their managed devices almost effortlessly.

continued on page 15

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Dear Friend,

It's been the honor and privilege of my life to serve you and be your voice at the State Capitol.

When I was first elected, I made the commitment to you that I would always put you, the people of House District 75, first in every decision that I make and every vote that I take, and most of all, I would be there to help you when you needed my help!

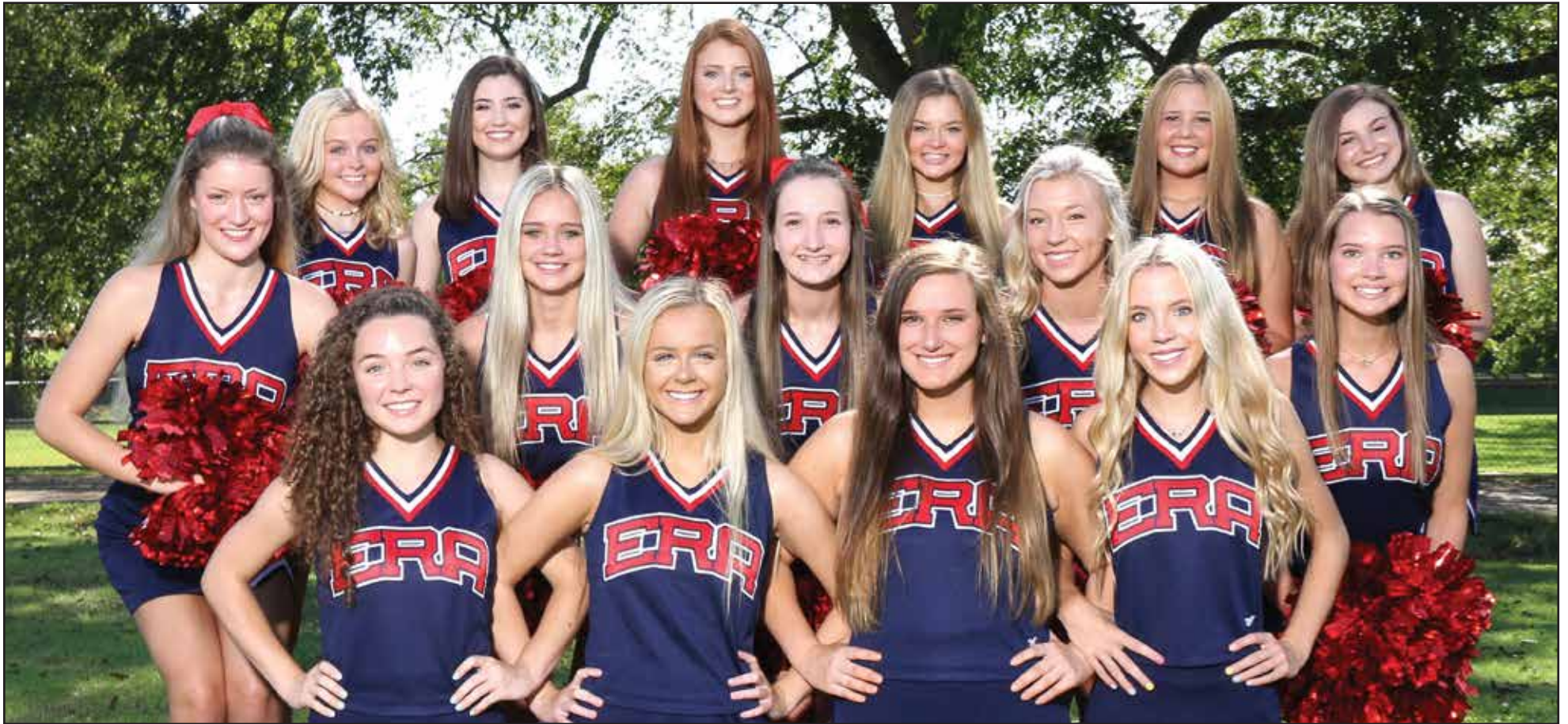
I believe I've lived up to that commitment to you. I would be honored to have your continued support so that I can continue to serve you.

-Tom

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East Rankin Academy names varsity cheerleaders



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy (ERA) 2019-2020 Varsity Cheerleaders are pictured (l to r) front row, are: Rachel Sikora, Megan Harrington, Mallory Cole, and Madalyn Edwards; second row: Emily Loe, Lexie Gibson, Sydney Phillips, Anna Castle Peden, and Rylie Smith; and back row: Olivia Goolsby, Tori Tullos, Emily Maroney, Neely Hawthorne, Candice Crain, and Brookyn Luke.



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Encouraging letters go a long way



By Guest Columnist
Teague Burchfield, Principal,
Pelahatchie High School

Every summer, our leadership team prepares for the upcoming school year through collaboration with each other on many different topics. One topic of discussion during the summer was "community engagement." The question was asked, "How could Pelahatchie High School tap into one of our greatest resources (community) in an efficient (cost and time effective) way?"

Mr. Bryan Collins, our new assistant principal, had just the answer. "Why not allow members of our community to encourage our students through a friendly letter?" From there, the idea took off. We ordered 450 notebooks for our students to have to start the school year. We then reached out to several businesses across the town to assist in writing a letter of encouragement in that notebook. Everyone we asked was excited to participate in the activity

and followed through with tremendous words of encouragement for our students. We are grateful for the community's interest in the success of all of our students and thankful for everyone who took a few minutes of their time to write sincere and thoughtful notes for our students. We are proud to announce that ALL of our students started the year with a notebook with at least one note of encouragement to have access to when they needed additional encouragement. Having read many of the notes myself, I know they will have a positive influence on our students.

To close, I would like to highlight our Ladies' Volleyball Program. Led by Head Coach Nikki Nutt and Assistant Coach Abby Sweeney, our Lady Chiefs have improved tremendously and have been very competitive in their initial year as a program. Regarding Friday Night Football, this Friday, September 6, marks our first home football game with defending 2A state champion Scott Central. Our band, cheer, football, and volleyball squads appreciate your continued support! Go Chiefs!



Photo by Teague Burchfield



Yogi on the Lake's Insanity in the Woods

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AT THE LIBRARY IN PELAHATCHIE

SEPTEMBER LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

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Saturday, September 7

Tween Book club
Thursday, September 12, 5:00 p.m.
Discussing *The Doughnut Fix* by Jessie Janowitz

Crafting Corner: Mosaic Tile
Part 1 - Thursday, September 12, 2:00 p.m.
Part 2 - Thursday, September 19, 2:00 p.m.

Adult Book Club
Wednesday, September 18, 9:30 a.m.
Discussing *Flight Patterns* by Karen White

Call the library (601.854.8764) or visit the website (www.cmrls.lib.ms.us) to register.

Back to School Bash gives kids school supplies



Photos by Pelahatchie News

The Ever Reaching Community Outreach (ERCO)'s Back to School Bash was held at Muscadine Park on August 3. Two other co-hosts were Liberty Baptist Church in Flowood and the Town of Pelahatchie. More than 175 backpacks were filled with school supplies. Hamburgers and hot dogs were provided as well as a water slide. The Gathering Church of Leesburg had a booth and gave fresh produce. Magnolia Health provided some supplies. Yogi on the Lake provided 37 bags with supplies. ERCO wants to thank all those who gave school supplies and came to volunteer.



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Sept. 6	Scott Central	Home
Sept. 13	Forest	Away
Sept. 20	Bay Springs	Home
Sept. 27	Jackson Academy	Home
Oct. 4	Riverside*	Away
Oct. 11	South Delta*	Home
Oct. 18	Pisgah*	Away
Oct. 24 (Thurs.)	St. Joe*	Home
Nov. 1	Morton	Home

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Pastor's perspective: China, strangers in the land



Special to
Pelahatchie News

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

While the official beginning of autumn is still several weeks away, the Labor Day Holiday marked the unofficial end of summer. Schools are back in session, garden work is winding down and, for most folks, vacations are now a memory.

One of the highlights of our summer was having our daughter Michelle and her family visit with us for several weeks. She and her husband Jay teach in an International School in China. But they returned to the U.S. for summer vacation. Of course, we also enjoyed having our four grandchildren from that family with us, as well!

We enjoyed hearing about their adventures during their first year in China. The city where they live is in the province where the Giant Panda Reserves are located, so they got to see the gentle creatures up close in their true native habitat. They visited in Beijing, and

saw Tiananmen Square, which covers over 100 acres and is one of the largest public squares in the world. They visited the Forbidden City, which contains the Imperial Palace, home to Chinese Emperors for over 500 years. They visited the Great Wall and got to explore some of the fortifications and hear how and why that magnificent structure came to be. They even went to Disneyland in China! They took the bullet train, which covered the 1,200 miles from their city to Shanghai in under 14 hours.

One of the most interesting things they visited was the Terracotta Army, which was constructed to protect the first emperor of China in the afterlife. The army consists of over 8,000 life sized foot soldiers and officers along with hundreds of horses, chariots and Calvary men. Each statue is made of clay and is totally unique. Even the facial characteristics differ on each one. It is believed that it took about 50 years to complete, and over 700,000 workers and artisans were used to construct the army. The work was completed in about 200 B.C. The Terracotta Army was buried over 25 feet below ground level and was only

discovered in 1974. It was not known to even exist until then. The army covers an area of over 40 square miles, and the soldiers are lined up in battle formation.

Besides their travels and adventures, it was interesting hearing about everyday life in China. Since Michelle grew up in Brazil, she was a little better prepared to face the challenges and differences they discovered. One of the interesting things they had to get used to was the fact that everywhere they went as a family, they attract attention.

Their city has over 15 million residents, and only a small number are Westerners. So they obviously stand out from the native population. It is probable that they are the first Westerners that some people have ever seen. So it was common for people to stare at them and to take photos of them or to ask to take "selfies" with them. Some people even approached and wanted to touch these strange looking blond and red headed kids with fair complexions!

One day while they were here visiting with us, Michelle told me that she now understood much better what Peter meant when he said that we are "aliens

and strangers in the world." Peter says that as Believers we should look different and stand out from those who don't know Christ. The way we live, the choices we make, our attitudes and our actions should all make us look different from those whose lives are guided by worldly values.

The sad truth is, however, that many times it is difficult to know when a person is a Believer, because they don't live their lives any differently from those who do not know Christ. Rather than standing out as an "alien" in this world, Christians often blend in with the crowd. Often, it is difficult to tell the difference, because our choices and lifestyles look the same as those who are governed by the standards of the world.

If you are a Believer, do you look different from those who are not Believers? Do you make different choices? Does your lifestyle make you stand out in a crowd? Are you following the instructions of Christ to be different so that you can make a difference? If not, maybe it's time to begin living like an "alien" in this world! You can start by taking your family to Church on Sunday!

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Arrangements
Edward Crosby	80	Lawrence, MS	7/25/19	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Vashti Ford	45	Forest, MS	8/5/19	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Clifton Warren	88	Lake, MS	8/5/19	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Bonnie Harvey	88	Forest, MS	8/9/19	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Margaret Phillips	92	Morton, MS	8/11/19	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Brenda Olson	72	Brandon, MS	8/13/19	Wolf Funeral Serv.
James Harris	59	Mathiston, MS	8/18/19	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Edith Pace	85	Scooba, MS	8/20/19	Wolf Funeral Serv.

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Worship - Caleb and Sarah Matheny



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Joey White, Music

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6:00 pm - Evening Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 pm - Prayer Meeting,
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First Apostolic Church

508 Heslep St.
Pelahatchie, MS 39145
Phone: 228-219-1972

Pastor: Rev. Jerry Hamilton

Services:

Sunday - 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.



continued from page 10

PriorityOne Bank featured in Microsoft Case Study

With Surface Pro LTE devices that are eSIM-capable and C Spire's support for this technology, PriorityOne Bank is truly able to serve its customers wherever they are located. This has amplified the level of service PriorityOne Bank can provide to its customers. "Many rural areas where our customers live have limited internet connectivity. With LTE so easily enabled by eSIM, that is no longer a problem," says Griffith.

Tapping into accelerated productivity - Easy and seamless provisioning is the productivity booster that small IT departments like PriorityOne Bank's often need. With just three full-time employees and two part-time help desk technicians, PriorityOne Bank has a busy IT department. Griffith hopes to turn the department's attention to more strategic purposes. He sees enormous potential for time savings in the streamlined management that is possible with eSIM on Windows devices and MDM providers. His team spends hours provisioning user devices—from tablet devices and laptops to mobile phones. "eSIM on Windows

saves time because you don't have to order and activate a physical SIM card," he explains. "After the employee signs into the device, it's active—it deploys itself. We are saving an estimated 26 hours of time per device."

PriorityOne Bank puts security first. The ability to manage not just devices but assets as well with MDM—notably eSIM—takes provisioning and deprovisioning to a new level. Griffith foresees automated provisioning that begins with a notification to the carrier to activate a group of eSIM devices, importing the information into eSIM, and having those devices connected and in users' hands in record time. "When employees leave, it's a simple matter to revoke eSIM access, rendering the devices useless until we redeploy them," he says.

Griffith's team is planning other productivity enhancements. Many of PriorityOne Bank's IT operations happen after hours. The initiative to deploy LTE-enabled devices with eSIM originated from the mortgage department, "but it means just as much to our IT workers," he says. When all his team

is out of the office on remote calls and an employee at one of the branches has a technical problem, one of the team can fix it from any area where LTE service is available. "The flexibility we have with LTE service coupled with easily provisioned eSIM on Windows technology helps us to manage our employees' technological needs," says Griffith.

Innovating to solve everyday problems - With the promise of eSIM on Windows technology to reach customer service and IT productivity goals, PriorityOne Bank IT leadership is forging ahead, building on this experience to creatively address unexpected situations. Mississippi is occasionally at the mercy of extreme weather conditions, and PriorityOne Bank, like organizations everywhere, as Griffith wryly notes, encounters uncommonly bad luck. One bank branch uses a fiber-optic cable-based landline as its connection to a cloud-based backup solution. It recently lost its connection when not one but both lines used by the branch were severed. "With LTE enabled by eSIM on Windows, we'd

have redundancy that would afford us an immediate alternative," says Griffith.

PriorityOne Bank never forgets its root value: people come first. It's using technology to breach the gaps between remote customers and dedicated PriorityOne Bank staff. "We see a lot of banks migrating to technology instead of person-to-person service," explains Griffith. "We understand that a lot of people would rather talk to real people. That's why I'd like to see our loan officers be able to use loan origination software directly at a client's home. We're poised to do that with devices equipped with eSIM on Windows."

Find out more about PriorityOne Bank on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

EDITOR'S NOTE: PriorityOne Bank, based in Magee, Mississippi, operates fifteen offices in eleven Mississippi communities: Collins, Seminary, Hattiesburg, Magee, Mendenhall, Richland, Brandon, Ridgeland, Flowood, Pearl, Pelahatchie, and Morton. The bank has assets of approximately \$650 million.



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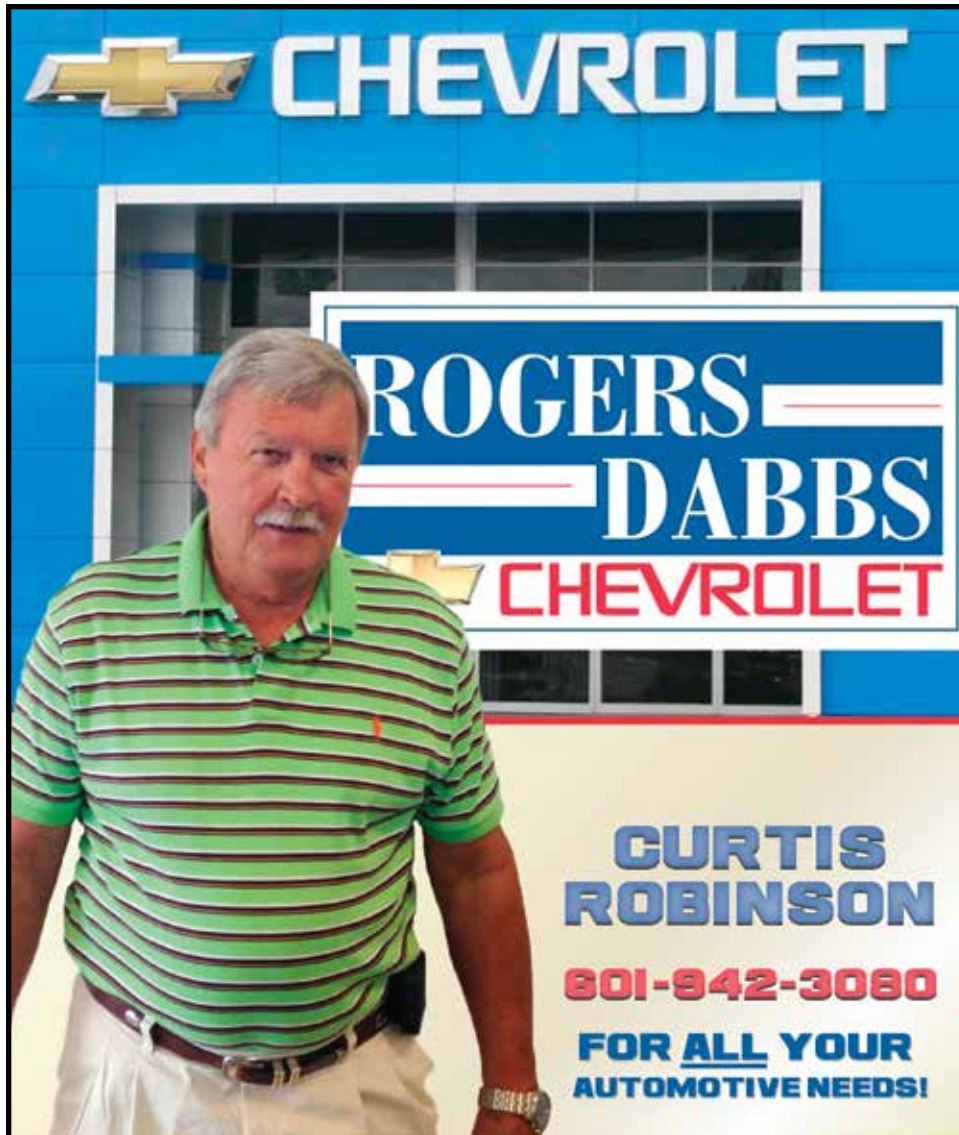
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New Yogi management upgrading park

By Susie A. Wolfe

New Yogi on the Lake owners, Great Escapes', goal is to become the largest privately held owner of RV Resorts, according to COO Troy Sheppard who was in the park in August. He said that televisions were added to every room in the cabins in August, and 20 more golf carts and WIFI were added to the park. The tennis and basketball courts are being updated, and items like ice cream and snow cones were added to the Cafe.

New park managers Jackie Boone and Nikki Ammons who have been with the park since 2012 and 2013, respectively, said that they have also added laser tag, a jumping pillow, aqua trikes, kayaks and canoes and one additional cabin, the Ranger Smith cabin. They will be running the resort made up of 43 cabins, 164 RV sites and 23 tents.

They are also preparing for their "Insanity in the Woods" Halloween trail adventure and winter specials to come.



Special to Pelahatchie News

New Yogi on the Lake park managers pictured (l to r) are: Nikki Ammons and Jackie Boone, who have been with the park since 2013 and 2012 respectively.



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