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NEWS Pelahatchie

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Ward named RCSD Elementary Assistant Administrator of the Year

Special to Pelahatchie News

Mijia Ward, assistant principal at Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES), was named the 2020-2021 Rankin County School District (RCSD) Elementary Assistant Administrator of the Year.

She is in her tenth year serving the students, parents, and community of Pelahatchie. Her experience as a Chief has been full of excitement and continual growth. Even in the midst of COVID, she is driven to ensure every student experience a safe and nurturing environment, while receiving solid instruction and academic support.

Ward enjoys connecting with the students and their families. She thrives on celebrating students' growth, as they continue to work hard to become stronger academically. Seeing students excited
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Special to Pelahatchie News

Presenting Mijia Ward the award for RCSD Elementary Assistant Administrator of the Year pictured (l to r) are: Shane Sanders, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Karen Schmidt, Assistant Superintendent; Ward; Dr. Sue Townsend, RCSD Superintendent; Dr. Scott Rimes, Assistant Superintendent; and Dr. Undray Scott, Assistant Superintendent.

PES and PHS name Parents of the Year

Special to Pelahatchie News

Whitney McKay Adams was named 2020-2021 Parent of the Year for Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES), and Yolanda Jones was named for Pelahatchie High School (PHS).

Adams, a Rankin County Justice Court Judge for District 4, is a lifelong resident of Pelahatchie and graduate of PHS. She is also owns and operates Sanford & Adams law firm. Her children are Eli, 12, and Celeste, 10.

According to PES counselor Dana Lee, "Whitney has been instrumental in bringing the arts to Pelahatchie Elementary School. Assemblies that have been brought through the years are: Mississippi Ballet Theater, Belhaven University Opera, and New Stage Theater multiple times. It is a passion of Mrs. Adams to expose our students to experiences that they may not have otherwise."

Jones has faithfully served PHS for many years. She dedicates her time to the high school in addition to working



Special to Pelahatchie News

Whitney Adams, left photo, and Yolanda Jones were named Parents of the Year at Pelahatchie Elementary and Pelahatchie High schools for 2020-2021.

at Hudspeth Regional Center in Brandon, Mississippi.

Her oldest son, Idarias, a 2017 graduate of PHS, is currently pursuing a nursing degree while playing football as an offensive guard at Southwest Oklahoma State University.
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Rhodes family win Farm Bureau Agriculture Achievement Award

Special to Pelahatchie News

Brian and Ashley Rhodes were awarded the 2020 Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement in Agriculture Award at the Annual Meeting in December.

Brian and Ashley Rhodes are third-generation poultry and cattle farmers from Pelahatchie who are passionate about their involvement in Farm Bureau. After their service on their state Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee, Brian and Ashley have realized the importance of engaging as a collective voice to help promote and protect the agricultural industry.

Brian serves as president of their County Farm Bureau and is heavily involved in Farm Bureau's policy development process and maintaining strong communication between elected officials and the needs of the American farmer. Ashley is a stay-at-home mom



Special to Pelahatchie News

Brian Rhodes, who is the Rankin County Farm Bureau president, operates boiler houses and a cow calf operation on the outskirts of Pelahatchie off Shiloh Road. Pictured with his family (l to r) front row, are: Lucy, Anna Belle, and Casper Rhodes; and back row: Ashley and Brian Rhodes.

who enjoys raising their three children on the farm and actively assisting with daily farm duties, such as helping their oldest, Lucy, nurture her very first cat.
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At your Pelahatchie Library in 2021



By Tina Mauney, Head Librarian, Pelahatchie Library

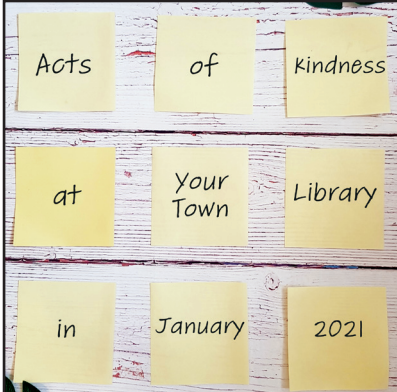
It goes without saying that everyone is ready to put 2020 behind them and move forward in hope that 2021

will be a better year. We at the library are hopeful, too. For almost 10 months, we have been unable to offer in-library programs - book clubs, story times, author visits - and we have missed our patrons that look forward to these events. If you are unaware, the library reopened in July. You may come in to check out books, movies, etc., use the computer, or use the copier/fax. We still require you wear a mask to enter.

Many people set resolutions at the start of a new year. If you are one of those that do, we want you to know that your library may have resources to help facilitate your 2021 resolution. Want to diet?

We have books about diets, old and new. Need to exercise more? Check out a video to help get you started. Interested in budgeting, finances, or starting a business? Numerous authors available to help you get started. Learn a new craft or start a new hobby? Again, we have the books.

As for Pelahatchie Public Library, one of our resolutions is to offer kindness to our patrons and community during 2021. To start 2021 off in that mindset, we will be promoting acts of kindness during January. All over the library will be sticky notes with an act of kindness idea. We invite you to stop by and take a sticky note to pay it forward in January.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pick up a sticky note in January at Pelahatchie Library to help them meet a 2021 New Year's resolution of offering kindness to its patrons and the community.

Best wishes for a new year. Please let us know if we can assist you in 2021. Our phone number is 601-854-8764 and email address is pelahat@cmrls.lib.ms.us. Pelahatchie Public Library is a branch of Central Mississippi Library System serving Rankin, Scott, Simpson and Smith counties.

Key named PHS Rural Teacher of the Year

Special to Pelahatchie News

Kessie Key was recently named the Pelahatchie High School (PHS) 2020-2021 Rural Teacher of the Year. In conjunction with the Mississippi Rural Education Association (MSREA) and the Program of Research and Education for Public Education (PREPS), the award was given to Key for her impact on rural student learning, collaboration as a member of the community, continuous learning, and leadership.

Key, a PHS graduate and 9-year PHS educator, said, "I am beyond blessed, and shocked to say the least, but very appreciative of the honor of being named PHS 2020-2021 Rural Teacher of the Year. Pelahatchie is home! I look forward to continuing to grow and learn with my Tribe. God is good. We are blessed with the BEST at PHS!"

Dr. Teague Burchfield said, "When considering candidates for this award, we looked for a homegrown educator who was dedicated to serving this community in unique ways. Mrs. Kessie Key checks all of the boxes; a lifelong resident of Pelahatchie, she serves not only as an effective classroom teach-



Special to Pelahatchie News

Kessie Key has been named the PHS 2020-2021 Rural Teacher of the Year. Her name is also under consideration for this honor on a congressional-district basis. Pictured (l to r) are: Dr. Teague Burchfield, principal; Key; and Leslie Herbert, instructional supervisor.

er but also as a tremendous link to the community as our social media coordinator. We are so proud of her and her service to the Pelahatchie community!"

A committee will review all nominations submitted based on evidence of impact of rural student learning, collaboration as a member of a rural community, continuous learning, and leadership. MSREA/PREPS will then recognize one winner for each Mississippi congressional district with one of those serving as the MSREA/PREPS Rural Teacher of the Year.



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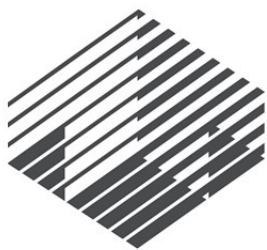


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Ward named RCSD Elementary Assistant Administrator of the Year

continued from page 1

about learning and being in school is the most rewarding part of her assignment.

Now in her twenty-first year of education, Ward began teaching third grade in the Copiah County School District at Crystal Springs Elementary for two years. She then transferred to the Rankin County School District (RCSD), teaching first grade for two years at Richland Elementary.

Ward made her way back to her home school of Puckett Attendance Center, where she taught for eight years, grades kindergarten, first, and second. In 2010, she was named Puckett Attendance Center's Teacher of the Year. Although being in the classroom was extremely rewarding and she loved it very much, Ward accepted the position at her hometown of Puckett's lifelong rival school, Pelahatchie

Elementary, as the assistant principal in 2011. Since becoming an administrator, she was named RCSD Administrator of the Month in December 2019.

Ward began college at Tougaloo College, where she studied Elementary Education. She then transferred to Belhaven College, earning a bachelor's and master's degree in Elementary Education. She also attended Mississippi College, where she earned an Education Specialist Degree in Education Leadership. Ward is a member of the Clinton Mississippi Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Ward and her husband, Garland, have two children, Garland II (Deuce), and Breanna Ward, and Luke, the family dog. Deuce, 16, and Breanna, 12, attend Pelahatchie High School.

Pelahatchie bus riders of the month



Special to Pelahatchie News

The November Pelahatchie high school and elementary bus riders of the month pictured (l to r) top row, are: Trinity Buckner, Arionna Roby, Brooklyn Kelly, Adison Crosby, Nahgee Hawkins, Harmony McGill, and Audreii McNair; and bottom row: Rylin Kersh, Madeline Nuzzo, Karley Griffin, Bethany Pilgrim, and Cada Magee. The graphic was created by PHS student Laura Renfroe.



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Collins named November Teacher of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Special Education teacher Emily Collins was named the Farm Bureau Teacher of the Month for November. Pictured (l to r) are: Dr. Teague Burchfield, principal; Collins; Tanner, Rankin County Farm Bureau; and Leslie Herbert, instructional supervisor.

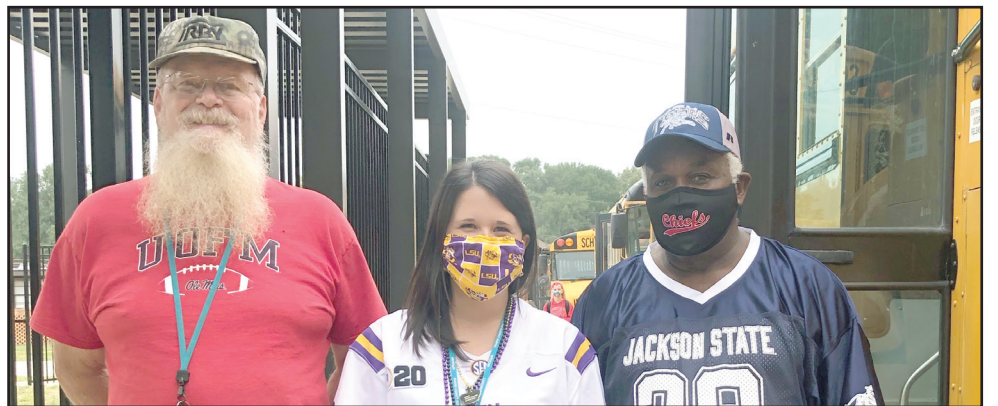
Bus driver Williams honored for RCSD service



Moreess Williams' family attended the Pelahatchie High School Christmas lunch on Thursday, December 17. The family was presented with a certificate commemorating Williams for receiving Pelahatchie's Bus Driver of the Month award for December. Pictured (l to r) are his children and grandchildren from: Marcus Williams, Moreess Williams, Jr., Malcolm McGee, Madyson McGee, and Quante Williams.

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Arrangements
Lula Mae Owens Fountain	102	Lake, MS	11/27/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Bennie Kemp	65	Lagrange, GA	12/1/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Joe Louis Beemon	66	Morton, MS	12/1/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Robbie Warren	62	Morton, MS	12/9/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Patricia Ann Tadlock	75	Morton, MS	12/12/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
William Hannah	91	Pulaski, MS	12/12/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Edward Evans	84	Lake, MS	12/13/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Micheal O'Neal Thrasher	39	Forest, MS	12/14/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Betty Elizabeth Martin	56	Brandon, MS	12/18/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Janie Carolyn Barton	79	Forest, MS	12/13/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Harace Barton	81	Forest, MS	12/18/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Joe C. Bradford	61	Forest, MS	12/18/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Moreess Williams loved joining in with campus events. Pictured (l to r) are: Mr. Sidney Smith (Pelahatchie bus driver and close friend of Williams); Kelsey Williams, Pelahatchie Transportation Supervisor; and Moreess Williams, Sr. The three are shown representing their favorite college game day apparel for a PHS football spirit day.

Special to Pelahatchie News

Mr. Moreess Williams, Sr. served as a bus driver for Rankin County School District (RCSD) for 12 years, driving for Brandon from 2009 to 2014, then for Pelahatchie from 2014 to 2020.

Williams' work was celebrated at PES on December 17 after he passed away on November 30. Joint services were held on December 6 for him and his daughter, Yulanda Williams, who passed away six days before him.

"Mr. Williams loved driving for our students. He genuinely cared for our students and community, attending many Pelahatchie events and supporting

our students in various activities.

We cannot express how thankful we are for Mr. Williams' many years of service to our school. He will be greatly missed by all Pelahatchie Chiefs," said PHS Transportation Supervisor Kelsey Williams.

According to Mayor Ryshonda Beechem, "The Town of Pelahatchie sends our love and condolences to Mr. Moreess Williams and daughter, Yulanda Williams, family and friends. Williams served as Pelahatchie bus driver and the kids loved him. Mrs. Yulanda Williams is a graduate from Pelahatchie High School. Please continue to pray for the family and Mrs. Yulanda's kids."

Middle School announces Spelling Bee winners



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) announced the 2020-2021 Middle School Spelling Bee winners in December. Pictured (l to r) are Runner Up Olivia Ishee and Champion Jaci Smith. They will both compete in the District Spelling Bee in February.

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 - (b) Are known to mental health or state housing agency to have been arrested or incarcerated in the last year due to conduct related to mental illness; or
 - (c) Are known to the mental health or state housing agency to have been homeless for one full year or have had four or more episodes of homelessness in the last three years
- Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes a subset for an individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for ninety days or less and who resides in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.



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Pelahatchie High School names November Students of the Month



The recipients of the Pelahatchie High School (PHS) November Student of the Month pictured (l to r) front row, are: Kyra Bryant and Isaac White; and back row: Kadence Hesseltine, Myles Stringer, Madden Renfro, Payton Sanders, and Madi Holmes. Not pictured are Alisha Cooper, Iyana Newsome, and Cameron Watkins. The two PHS November Students of the Month in the second photo are: Chrystianna Beeman and Collins Doster.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Till is Character Trait Winner for November



Special to Pelahatchie News

Allie Till is the counselor's Character Trait Winner for November. A seventh grader, Till was the manager of the high school girls' volleyball team. She loves art and science, fashion, church and TikTok. She wants to be an interior designer.

Hilliard and Kilpatrick named First Year Teachers of the Year

Special to Pelahatchie News

Destiny Hilliard and Anna Kilpatrick were named New and First Year Teachers at Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) and Pelahatchie High School (PHS) consecutively.

Hilliard grew up in Southaven, Mississippi, where she taught kindergarten at Greenbrook Elementary last year. She relocated to Rankin County in March. This year, she teaches fifth grade English Language Arts and Social Studies.

She graduated from Ole Miss with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. In December, she received a master's degree from Arkansas State University, graduating with an MSE in Reading.

"I am honored to win this award. I love my students and want them to all reach their maximum potential. I could not be the teacher I am without the dedication and hard work of each of my students and the support from their guardians."

"I teach because I want to instill a love and gratitude for education in my students. I hope that they can see the importance of education and see that they can succeed in anything they do. I teach to be their biggest supporter and help them achieve their goals to be the best versions of themselves that they can be."

She said the pandemic has definitely had a significant impact on education. "Though there were obstacles faced in the beginning, it has shown us all that we can overcome anything in order to achieve our goals. We all, teachers and students alike, have a better appreciation for school," she said.

Hilliard comes from a big family with six siblings who all live in Southaven. She is engaged to Jake, and has a dog named Beau.

Anna Kilpatrick was named First Year Teacher of the Year for Pelahatchie High School (PHS). She is from Brandon and graduated from Northwest Rankin High School. She attended Mississippi State University with a degree in English, and received her teaching certification from Ole Miss.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Destiny Hilliard and Anna Kilpatrick were named New and First Year Teachers at Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) and Pelahatchie High School (PHS) consecutively.

Kilpatrick teaches eighth grade English, ACT Prep for the reading section, and Learning Strategies for seventh and eighth grade.

According to Dr. Teague Burchfield, "Ms. Anna Kilpatrick has done a phenomenal job in trying times as a first-year teacher here at Pelahatchie High School. Her ability to create positive relationships with her students has led to tremendous outputs in a short amount of time. We look forward to her continued growth here at Pelahatchie High School!"

She said she believes she won the first-year award because of the relationships she's built with students in the classroom and across campus. She consistently encourages them to believe in themselves and strive for their best.

"It was such an honor to receive this award as I've only been teaching since August, and I'm extremely blessed to start my teaching career here at Pelahatchie. COVID-19 has put stressors on my students, and myself at times, but my kids are tough. As far as COVID-19 goes, my kids have really come to meet the challenge; it's not easy coming to school wearing a mask all day, sitting six feet away from your friends, and reading stories for English on a computer, but they have adapted and put forth the effort in making it work. My students and I have been working together to achieve their maximum potential, even during a pandemic, and I'm extremely proud of them. I'm continuously grateful that Pelahatchie High chose me and has welcomed me, and I look forward to the future."



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PES names Character Trait Students of the Month



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Gratitude was the Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) November Character Trait of the Month. Students who earned this honor include: Edan Williams, Bailey Claire Davidson, Olivia Key, Kiyah Wade, Daniel Welch, Liam Harper, Ayden Hill, Aubri Key, Kamiyah Stokes, Mayvonyae Christon, Madison Charleston, Lou Ellen Wilson, Graison Redmann, Julius Wash, Ella Harvey, Hannah Dominguez, Brianna Brown, Blade Keith, Nathan Brown, Jacob Harvey, BreAnna Hughes, Alisa Strickland and Roshea McCoy.

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A better version of ourselves



By Guest Columnist
Dr. Teague Burchfield,
Principal, Pelahatchie
High School

Special to
Pelahatchie News

Happy New Year! It is my hope that you were able to have a safe and restful Christmas holiday vacation with family and friends. As 2020 FINALLY comes to a close, a few phrases like "turn the page," "turn over a new leaf," and "hit the reset button" all come to mind. Yes, this new year (more than any other in recent memory) calls for a clean slate coupled with an approach of optimism and resolve. I hope you are as eager as I am for the potential of what this new year brings!

A few weeks ago, I overheard a post-game interview with Arizona State's Head Football Coach Herman Edwards. Coach Edwards is my kind of guy; he has a way of drawing those around him in with an infectious, positive, and high energy approach. With that being said, it was not just what he said or how he said it in the interview that day, but it was his sincerity and approach of a greater victory beyond the playing field, that caught my attention.

Arizona State had just handily defeated their in-state rival Arizona by a score of 70-7. While there was so much to discuss and laud in all areas of their game plan through victory, it was not the "x's and o's" that Coach Edwards addressed. Instead, he acknowledged the ultimate

goal for his players was to become "the best version of themselves." Again, after a DECISIVE victory over their in-state rival, Coach Edwards' focus was NOT on the victory at hand, but on the continual growth of those in his program not only on the playing field, but in life as well! What a blessing Coach Edwards is for not only his players, but for their parents who have entrusted him with their children. And as for us adults, what an outstanding model as well!

Our approach at Pelahatchie High School aligns well with Coach Edwards' philosophy. Our students are more than just letter grades. Our faculty and staff make great strides with our students through high expectations and appropriate relationships and rigor. In turn, our students welcome the expectations and challenges that the school day brings. Every day we see victories across our campus; growth is not only seen academically and athletically, but socially and emotionally as well. We are so proud of the continual development of our student body in all areas of their lives.

We also recognize that the work is not finished. In fact, it never is. This not only applies to our students, but to each of us as well. As adults, we have a responsibility to our children to model continual growth in ourselves as well. In 2021, let's all respond appropriately to the challenge of "being the best version of ourselves."

Go Chiefs!

Pelahatchie students named to Ole Miss fall 2020 honor rolls

Special to Pelahatchie News

The University of Mississippi recently announced students named to the Fall 2020 Honor Roll lists. The Chancellor's Honor Roll is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.75-4.00, and the Dean's Honor Roll is a GPA of 3.50-3.74.

"Our Chancellor's Honor Roll students deserve a great deal of recognition for their pursuit of academic excellence and incredible achievements," said Chancellor Glenn Boyce. "These students represent some of the best and brightest at the University of Mississippi, and I'm thrilled to congratulate them for their pursuit of personal and academic greatness."

Pelahatchie students on the Chancellor's list include: Joseph Ward Winstead, Hannah Kaitlyn Whitney, Emily Warren, and Holden Garrett Gray.

In order to be eligible for honor roll designation, a student must have com-

pleted at least 12 graded hours for the semester and may not be on academic probation during the semester.

The Pelahatchie students named to the fall Dean's Honor Roll include: Elsi Gabriela Munoz Ramos, Jordan White, and Emily Warren.

The University of Mississippi, affectionately known as Ole Miss, is the state's flagship university. Included in the elite group of R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest Research Activity by the Carnegie Classification, it has a long history of producing

leaders in public service, academics and business. With more than 23,000 students, Ole Miss is the state's largest university and is ranked among the nation's fastest-growing institutions. Its 16 academic divisions include a major medical school, nationally recognized schools of accountancy, law and pharmacy, and an Honors College acclaimed for a blend of academic rigor, experiential learning and opportunities for community action.



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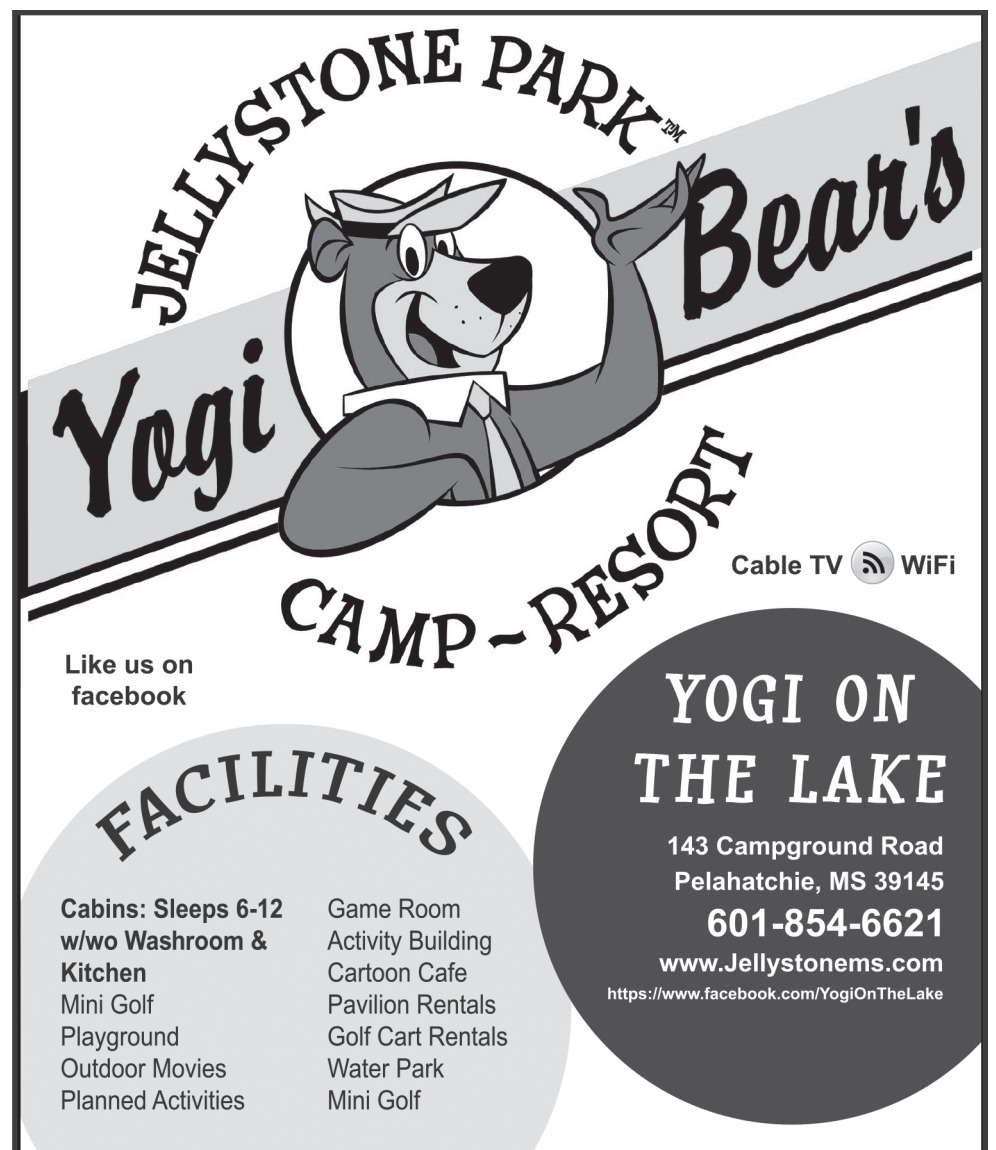
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There is no wrong time to apply lime



By Doug Carter,
Rankin County
Extension Agent

Special to
Pelahatchie News

We have been taught that fall is the preferred time to apply lime, so that it will have the winter months to get into the soil solution and neutralize acidity, but this is not an absolute requirement.

The first consideration is that we use a good quality lime, that is finely ground, so it can react with the soil acids and do its job. We must also consider that the lime and the water, in which it is carried must move into the soil profile, by infiltration, by way of pores in the soil. Or it may need to be incorporated, in situations where the need for lime is to severe.

Another factor is that when lime is

applied to the surface, the application of most nitrogen fertilizers following it will lead to the loss of nitrogen as ammonia gas. When nitrogen must be applied soon after lime, it should be injected or incorporated, in order to



Special to Pelahatchie News

avoid loss of nitrogen. Another precaution is to separate the lime and nitrogen fertilizers by as much as possible and at least one good rain.

Another question I get is about the neutralization ability of poultry litter. Poultry litter does contain small amounts of basic elements calcium and magnesium. The lime value of a ton of good quality broiler litter may range

from 200 to 400 pounds per ton. This is just not enough to correct a low soil pH problem, although it may be enough to maintain soil pH in the preferred range

after it has been corrected. In other words litter will not fix the problem, but it may help prevent it. Regular soil testing is important.

Lime is important to the availability of most plant nutrients. Soil pH levels below 5.6 or above 7.0 may significantly reduce the availability of some of the other nutrients including nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, calcium, and magnesium. Another issue in most of our soils is that when pH falls below about 5.5, aluminum and manganese enter the soil solution and are toxic to plant growth.

Lime is important enough to apply almost any time, you can get it done, and crops will begin to gain benefits from it as soon as it begins to go into solution. About the only time we might want to avoid liming is when the crop is nearing maturity. Good soil pH is the foundation of a sound soil fertility program.

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Honoring the Chief Elite in elementary school



By Guest Columnist,
Robin Sanders,
Principal, Pelahatchie
Elementary

Special to
Pelahatchie News

Motivation and success are what drive people. In the school setting, it is critically important that we celebrate and recognize the outstanding things that students accomplish, both inside and outside of the building. Watching students grow and accomplish their goals is one of the main reasons most people go into education, myself included. The recognition of students fosters strong relationships among students, families, staff, and the community and creates a positive school culture where students feel valued.

Pelahatchie Elementary recognized the first semester Chief Elite students on December 16. Teachers selected two students from each classroom that have exceptionally demonstrated school expectations. Teachers were able to specify the character traits that each student has displayed the entire first semester. What is impressive about this honor is that students are making good choices each day, which takes focus and dedication.

The Chief Elite recognition program is sponsored by Charvarius Ward, #35 of the Kansas City Chiefs. We are beyond thrilled that he felt led to support

the students of Pelahatchie Elementary.

Chief Elite, 2020 First Semester:

- **Macy Renfro**, PreK - Sirmon, Compassion, Kindness
- **Lyric Jolly**, PreK - Sirmon, Kindness, Perseverance
- **Justin Foreman**, K5 - Dye, Perseverance, Respect
- **Jailah Hughes**, K5 - Dye, Determination, Kindness
- **Pandora Johnson**, K5 - Morris, Kindness, Determination
- **Wesley Maddox**, K5 - Morris, Kindness, Perseverance
- **Emma Stevens**, K5 - Parker, Responsible, Determination
- **Connor Myers**, K5 - Parker, Perseverance, Determination
- **Paisley Smith**, 1st Grade - Angell, Integrity, Determination
- **Karsyn Vanderford**, 1st Grade - Angell, Perseverance, Helpful
- **Noah Steadham**, 1st Grade - Lee/Counselor, Courteous, Energetic
- **Madeline Nuzzo**, 1st Grade - Wiles, Motivation, Friendship
- **James Kelly**, 1st Grade - Wiles, Respect, Determination
- **Michael Lee**, 1st Grade - Stayton, Integrity, Compassion
- **Martha Kate White**, 1st Grade - Stayton, Friendship, Kindness
- **Julian Wash**, 2nd Grade - Thompson, Determination, Respect
- **Kylie Griffin**, 2nd Grade - Thompson, Motivated, Friendship
- **Blake Till**, 2nd Grade - Tucker, Re-

spectful, Determined

- **Skyller Snow**, 2nd Grade - Tucker, Focused, Respectful
- **Brooklyn Pilgrim**, 2nd Grade - Hall, Respect, Perseverance
- **Landon Boykin**, 2nd Grade - Hall, Determination, Respect
- **Caden Roby**, 3rd Grade - Crowe, Determination, Perseverance
- **Makenzie Bowie**, 3rd Grade - Crowe, Kindness, Perseverance
- **Noelle Gardener**, 3rd Grade - Stewart, Determination, Respect
- **Wyatt Tucker**, 3rd Grade - Stewart, Perseverance, Kindness
- **Bailey Roberts**, 3rd Grade - Moore, Determination, Respectful
- **Abel Lamb**, 3rd Grade - Moore, Motivated, Kindness
- **Bentley Goodin**, 3rd Grade - Vinson, Determination, Respect
- **Bradley Denton**, 4th Grade - Coleman, Respect, Determination
- **Jayla McKinnis**, 4th Grade - Coleman, Motivated, Consistent
- **Travis Butler**, 4th Grade - Jones, Respectful, Kindness
- **Bethany Pilgrim**, 4th Grade - Jones, Respectful, Determination
- **Haylee Blackwell**, 4th Grade - Ludlum, Determination, Perseverance
- **Tyler Moran**, 4th Grade - Ludlum, Motivated, Respect
- **Cada Magee**, 4th Grade - Ellzey, Determination, Perseverance
- **Ethan Butler**, 5th Grade - Hilliard, Determination, Kindness

- **Katlynn Murray**, 5th Grade - Hilliard, Respect, Helpful
- **Amelia Garcia**, 5th Grade - Ogle-tree, Kindness, Perseverance
- **Kaden Sanders**, 5th Grade - Ogle-tree, Helpful, Encouraging
- **Carlye Grogan**, 5th Grade - West, Motivated, Perseverance
- **Tadarius Collier**, 5th Grade - West, Determination, Helpful
- **Madyson Roby**, 5th Grade - Anderson, Integrity, Compassion
- **Carter Edwards**, 5th Grade - Anderson, Responsible, Motivated
- **Jermiya Johnson**, 6th Grade - Brewer, Integrity, Respect
- **Jalyn Magee**, 6th Grade - Brewer, Respect, Kindness
- **Arianna Gipson**, 6th Grade - Carpenter, Perseverance, Determination
- **Zion Grant**, 6th Grade - Carpenter, Determination, Trustworthy
- **DaMarion Snow**, 6th Grade - Griffin, Respect, Integrity
- **Leila Oexman**, 6th Grade - Griffin, Motivated, Perseverance
- **Julius Wash**, Brewer/Venture, Kindness, Respect
- **Braylan Boyd**, Bryant/Library, Perseverance, Kindness
- **Aaron Griffin**, DeMuth, Determination, Responsible
- **Jeremiah Boydston**, Long/Speech, Perseverance, Respect
- **Madison Nuzzo**, Pace/Speech, Motivated, Respect

PES and PHS name Parents of the Year

continued from page 1

ma State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma. Her youngest son, Ashton, is currently a tenth grader at PHS participating in football and basketball.

Jones has spent countless hours working various sports' concession stands over the years. She attends numerous Chieftain events, even when her boys aren't participating. She is also the

president of the PHS Chiefs Basketball Booster Club.

"We are so fortunate to have Mrs. Jones as a member of the Pelahatchie Family. If there is ever a need, she fills the void! As a parent, her involvement in Pelahatchie High School is the model for us all," said Principal Dr. Teague Burchfield.

Rhodes win Farm Bureau Agriculture Award

continued from page 1

tle herd. Ashley is a former teacher who is passionate about educating children about agriculture. She leads the charge in keeping updated Ag in the Classrooms lessons flowing through their county schools. They feel blessed to be able to continue their family's farming legacy and enjoy being able to see their county Farm Bureau grow with new

ideas and events to help farmers in their area.

The Rhodes will compete in the 102nd American Farm Bureau Virtual Convention that will be held January 10-13, 2021. There they will bring together farmers, ranchers and industry experts to discuss the top issues facing agriculture.



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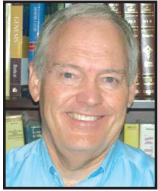




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Pastor's Perspective: Make the Lord a priority in 2021



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

Special to Pelahatchie News

It's January, and a new year has begun! 2020 was a difficult year for many people, with the Coronavirus and all the turmoil it caused. Plus, every individual had their own issues and challenges that were particular to you. So, many people are happy to see the year 2020 in the rear-view mirror of life!

But the reality is that neither the Coronavirus nor the challenges that we normally face in living "real life" pay any attention to the calendar! So, turning the page from one year to the next won't automatically make things better. We can hope, and we must continue to pray that the days ahead will be brighter and better than those that have recently passed.

The beginning of a new year always provides the opportunity for making a fresh start, turning a page, or resolving to change something in our lives. Those efforts are generally referred to as "New Year's resolutions," and have always been an optimistic, if sometimes controversial practice. Either you are a "resolutions person" - sure that the coming year will be different and you will finally get



Special to Pelahatchie News

organized / lose weight / break that habit / read more / start a new hobby / or whatever is on your list of things you wish to accomplish - or you are not.

A recent research poll questioned people concerning their feelings about 2020, and their outlook for 2021. By anyone's standard, 2020 was not a normal year, and it's looking like 2021 won't be a typical year either.

But 72% of the respondents to the poll agreed that 2020 helped them realize what was most important to them. They determined that physical and mental health and relationships with family and friends was most important to them over anything else.

And many people indicated a change in their outlook at resolutions. 51% of those polled planned to make New Year's Resolutions, including 17.8% of respondents

who don't typically do so. In contrast, only 6% of people said that the chaos of 2020 made them decide not to make resolutions for the coming year.

The most common resolutions can be grouped into three categories. 86.5% of the survey respondents intend to focus on "self-care" in 2021. Included in this category are hobbies, outside interests, both physical and mental wellness and spiritual development.

Health, weight loss and exercise were the second-most common resolution, with 63% of respondents selecting this as their top priorities for 2021. Many of the respondents cited changes in their daily habits and routines during the COVID crisis as a reason to work on these areas of life in the New Year.

In third place, almost 50% of respon-

dents are prioritizing their relationship with family and friends in 2021. Many respondents extended this to relationships beyond close family and friends, saying they wanted to make a difference in their local community or serve a good cause. They expressed the desire to be more aware of specific needs of other people, and ways that they may be able to help others in need.

Challenges, while painful, can often bring out the best in us. If we can take one thing away from a year as difficult as 2020 was, it's a shift in our focus. The survey indicates that folks are taking a step back and trying to refocus on taking care of themselves, their loved ones and others in their communities.

So, 2021, here we are! And whether

But 72% of the respondents to the poll agreed that 2020 helped them realize what was most important to them. They determined that physical and mental health and relationships with family and friends was most important to them over anything else.

you call it a resolution or not, each one needs to make it a priority to develop your relationship with the Lord in the coming year. That is an ongoing need that we all have, and a

task that is personal to each one. Happy New Year to you and yours! Be sure to take your family to church on Sunday or watch a service together on-line!

Cross Roads Baptist Church



WINTER SCHEDULE

*Sunday Worship Service:

9:00 a.m. - Blended Worship Service
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School for All Ages

*Wednesday:

5:30 p.m. - Family Dinner
6:30 p.m. - All Activities

Morning Devotions

7:30 a.m. on the Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook Page

*Services broadcast live on the Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook page.

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Hinds names Fall 2020 Pelahatchie graduates

Special to Pelahatchie News

More than 1,300 students received credentials from Hinds Community College in December 2020. Credentials include certificates and associate degrees. Of the fall graduates, 187 achieved cum laude, 3.2 to 3.59 grade point average; 97 achieved magna cum laude, 3.6 to 3.99 GPA and 120 achieved summa cum laude, 4.0 grade point average.

Among the Pelahatchie graduates were the following: Aubree Beeman, Tamatha

Hughes, Makia Lewis, an Paige Loper.

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.

RCSD names Pelahatchie's Wade Substitute Teacher of the Month

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Rankin County School District (RCSD) recognized Angelia Wade as its Substitute Teacher of the Month for November.

From Brandon and Pearl areas, Wade has an associate degree in computer science from Hinds Community College.

Wade said that when she received this award, "I was so honored that the staff at Pelahatchie High School took the time to nominate me. I have been subbing there for about three years, and I took a long-term sub job at the beginning of this school year."

Challenges from this unusual year have been "learning zoom, the schools' systems and setting up classroom," said Wade. "The administration was

impressed that I was able to accomplish this with help from so many at the high school. The staff has told me they like how I interact with the staff and students."

Wade has two sons who graduated from Pearl. While her sons were growing up, their friends were always around, and she loved it.

"After retiring, I was looking for a way to make a little extra money and started subbing," said Wade. "Little did I know that subbing was not about the money. I fell in love with Pelahatchie High School. The staff has made me feel like I belong there. The students fill the void of my sons and their friends not around anymore. I love interacting with the students and hope I can make a positive impact on their life. When COVID hit last year, I missed seeing the students."



Special to Pelahatchie News

Angelia Wade was named the RCSD Substitute Teacher of the Month for November. She has been subbing at Pelahatchie for about three years, and I took a long-term sub job at the beginning of this school year.



2021

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BASKETBALL SCHEDULE



JAN. 5 @ LEAKE COUNTY 6:00/7:30	JAN. 8 @ RIVERSIDE 5:00/6:30	JAN. 12 VS PISGAH 6:00/7:30	JAN. 15 VS ST. JOE 6:00/7:30	JAN. 19 @ SOUTH DELTA 6:00/7:30	JAN. 26 VS RIVERSIDE 5:00/6:30
JAN. 29 @ PISGAH 6:00/7:30	FEB. 2 @ ST. JOE 6:00/7:30	FEB. 5 VS SOUTH DELTA (SENIOR NIGHT) 6:00/7:30	FEB. 8-13 DISTRICT TOURNAMENT TBA		



2021 PELAHATCHIE

HIGH SCHOOL

SOCCER SCHEDULE

JAN. 7 *@ SE LAUDERDALE 5:30/7:00	JAN. 11 **VS MORTON 5:30/7:00	JAN. 12 *@ FOREST 5:30/7:00
JAN. 14 VS PISGAH 5:30/7:00	JAN. 19 *VS CLARKSDALE 5:30/7:00	JAN. 22 *VS SE LAUDERDALE 5:30/7:00

*Denotes district games **Senior Night

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PHS Chiefs recognized with district awards

Special to Pelahatchie News

Members of the Pelahatchie Chiefs received outstanding district performance recognitions for this football

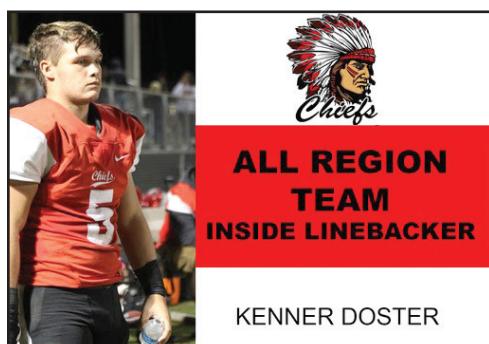
season. Cameron Watkins was named Region 4-2A MVP and Garrett Day was Region 4-2A's Defensive POY.

Seven Chiefs were named to the All-Region Team: Jacob Thompson,

offensive tackle; Carlos Felix, offensive guard; Cooper Sirmon, tight end; Kenner Doster, inside linebacker; Caleb Moore, defensive line; Devin Sinclair, defensive back; and Elijah Williams,

running back.

Coach Keeton said, "We are proud of each and every player and appreciate your representation of all things Pelahatchie on and off the field this season."



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Nine members of the Pelahatchie Chiefs received Region 4-2A All-District recognitions.



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