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November
2021

Volume 10
Issue 11
Pelahatchie, MS

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

Key named PHS Teacher of the Year

By Susie A. Wolfe

Kessie Key was named Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Teacher of the Year at the October 22 football game. A full-time resident of Pelahatchie along with her family, husband Austin Key, and daughters Bailey Joy and Olivia, Pelahatchie Elementary students, she is a product of Pelahatchie High School, graduating class of 2001. Mrs. Key holds a hometown passion that is evident in all she does.

Providing an insight to the community and showing others the great things that are happening at PHS is a genuine passion for Key. She thrives to help everyone see the potential in moving the town's students, school, and community from great to BEST.

"When you truly invest in our small town, you realize all is has to offer."

Along with teaching at PHS, Key also

trains teachers across the state of Mississippi on the latest Computer Science curriculum, Cyber Foundations 1 & 2 and Exploring Computer Science.

"I have had the amazing opportunity to meet teachers all across our great state and bring the latest technologies and techniques back into the classroom for my students. Through these lead training opportunities, I have built relationships and resources to help shift who I am as an educator and person."

While working with the MSU Research and Curriculum Unit, Key was also offered the opportunity to join a team of educators at the International Institute of MSU on a current project for Uzbekistan Education for Excellence. On this team, Key has helped create and lead training for educational leaders and teachers in the country of Uzbekistan on the subject of Computer Science.

"All of the learning experiences that

I have gained over the past 14 years of my educational journey have been nothing short of amazing. As I sit and reflect on being awarded teacher of the year, so many faces, names, and moments come to mind of what steered me into this honor. In a recent PLC small group discussion one of my amazing co-workers stated, 'Education goes far beyond our four walls; it goes beyond knowledge. Education is not effective without relationships.' I am thankful and blessed for the relationships and knowledge God has blessed me with throughout my journey, and I look forward to what comes next. I say it often, but I mean it wholeheartedly... We are blessed with the BEST at PHS."

Her colleagues said the following on learning of her award: "Mrs. Key is a standout among her colleagues - always willing to step up and fill whatever role is needed, whenever and wherev-



Special to Pelahatchie News

er. She goes above and beyond in our school and community, and we appreciate everything that she does for those around her. Please help us congratulate Mrs. Kessie Key as Pelahatchie High School's 2021-22 Teacher of the Year!"

ERA wins Old Capitol Government Bowl



Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Academy (ERA) Government Bowl Team successfully competed against Brandon High School in the semi-finals and Jackson Prep in the finals to win the 2021 Old Capitol Bowl Competition. Pictured (l to r) are Colby Stewart, Dylan Davis, Will Price, Audrey Mayatte, and Abram Rowell.

Police Force adds new officers



Special to Pelahatchie News

New Pelahatchie police officers pictured (l to r) are: Officer L.J. May, Officer Dustin Sims, Officer David Soto, and Officer Garrett Irwin.

By Guest Columnist Chief Robert Mahaffey, Pelahatchie Police Chief

Please join me in welcoming our newly-hired Pelahatchie patrolmen. With this addition, we will soon be operating 24 hours a day once again. Since April of this year, we have hired seven new officers who were each carefully selected through multiple interviews, background investigations, references, and profes-

sional experience. Our staff at the Pelahatchie Police Department has worked diligently to provide the best service possible to the town, and we continue to make improvements weekly. As always, the staff and I are available to address any and all issues in town. If you see one of these officers in their daily service, please introduce yourself and welcome them to the community. We are very glad to have them, and they are ready to work!



Dr. C. Stewart Strange
Dr. Chandler H. Pleasant

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