

Business Spotlight

Brewer Healthcare Clinic:
professional healthcare
right here in Pelahatchie



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P.O. Box 771
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Issue 1

July 3, 2012

Volume 1

Pelahatchie launches community newspaper

Letter from the Editor

Dear New Reader,

No it is not just a rumor... *The Pelahatchie News* has arrived. Our staff and sponsors are excited for *The Pelahatchie News* to make its debut as the first community-wide newspaper in Pelahatchie.

Over the course of many years, the town of Pelahatchie has experienced the void of not having its own written voice; and today, *The Pelahatchie News* is correcting this by providing the citizens of Pelahatchie with a voice and a way to display the great opportunities that our town has to offer. You can look forward to having your very own free copy of *The Pelahatchie News* delivered directly to your mailbox the first Tuesday of every month.

Through this publication, businesses now have an avenue in which

they can advertise their services and products. If you have news about your business, we would love to see it.

If you have products or services that you believe need to be broadcast to the community, we would love to help make that possible. Many local businesses have already shown genuine excitement at the prospect of having a Pelahatchie-based advertising venue, and we are eager to help in this endeavor.

Through talking and visiting with other Pelahatchians, I have discovered that the community needs a place to exhibit its accomplishments so that the residents of Pelahatchie can recognize that the town fits its motto of "A Place to Prosper."

The Pelahatchie News is excited about partnering with the community in showcasing the achievements of the citizens of Pelahatchie. From schools

to organizations, we want to acknowledge and create awareness about the great works that are taking place within the town of Pelahatchie.

Readers, please support the advertisers and persons you see in this and future issues, and let them know that you are thankful for their contributions to Pelahatchie and this newspaper.

Without their commitment to our cause, our staff would not have been able to even produce this paper; and without your support of their businesses, we will not succeed. With the continued support of our advertisers and readers, we will only con-

tinue to grow and evolve each and every issue; and we are dependent upon our readers to help us continue this effort.

Throughout this issue you will find quotations from prominent Pelahatchians who are excited about *The Pelahatchie News*.

After all, this is your community and your community newspaper, but most importantly, this is YOUR opportunity to use YOUR voice to help our community shine.

Thank you and happy reading!

Kristen Jones
Managing Editor



From the Mayor's Desk

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I write my inaugural Mayor's article for Volume 1 Issue 1 of *The Pelahatchie News*. I want to thank Clay Mansell for taking the risk



and having the vision to create a newspaper just for "us." I also want to thank Kristen Jones for taking on the task of building the paper from scratch. I most especially want to

thank each one of you who have signed on as advertisers. Without you, this paper would not be possible.

However, enough about that. I want to discuss for a moment what you should expect from this monthly column. I plan to write about the town and its operation, things that are currently happening and things that are going to happen. I will also talk about our hopes and dreams for the future. I will try to keep you informed on how town government works so that you will have a better understanding of it, how it is funded and how it can better serve you. I also want feedback from you. If you want me to address something, let me know. I will write about it. Remember, if you are curious about

something, chances are others are as well.

"I also want to thank Kristen Jones for taking on the task of building the paper from scratch. I most especially want to thank each one of you who have signed on as advertisers. Without you, this paper would not be possible."

Now, for an update on town issues. We have several projects that are in various stages of planning and construction, with more to come. The fol-

lowing is a summary, not meant to be exhaustive, of where we stand on each:

- Milltown Park- We have received and accepted bids on the playground for the park. This bid was well below budget, and we are doing some redesigning to add additional items. We are awaiting final construction drawings, which I am told to expect within two weeks. This has been an agonizingly slow process, but we are very close to having plans from which to build. Also, please note that we are working with several different funding sources and agencies that have their own requirements, and this causes delays.

cont. on page 2



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cont. from front page

Future and current plans for Pelahatchie. . .

However, we are very close to starting.

- Volunteer Fire Department- We have almost finished our work on the remodeling of the Volunteer Fire Department, and the volunteers have moved back in.

"I want to thank Clay Mansell for taking the risk and having the vision to create a newspaper just for "us."

This work included a new building front, construction of a meeting space and exercise facility, and a refurbishment of the equipment bays. The majority of the cost was paid by a Small Municipalities Grant obtained from the Mississippi Development Author-

ity.

- North Brooks and Lake Road paving- This project should be in place by the fall. We are awaiting the final design of a traffic circle to be placed at the intersection of Lake Road and Brooks Avenue. A traffic circle will have a calming effect on traffic and enhance the appearance of the area.

- North Brooks Bicycle Trail- We are completing discussions with utility providers to relocate utilities, and the final construction plans have been submitted to the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) for approval. While I have no firm idea of a start date, we continue to work through the process toward completion.

- Water, Sewer, and Street Im-

provements- We received funding through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for sewer system improvements. We also recently retired a bond for our water system. Through the borrowing of money matched with the EPA funding, we will be able to repair and improve the sewer system south of the railroad; pave McDonald, Williams and Moore Streets; repaint the Jackson Street water tank; bring two existing water wells on line; and provide enhanced water and sewer service on Leesburg Road.

- Safe Routes to Schools Sidewalk Program- The construction plans for this project have been submitted to MDOT for approval. When approved, we will advertise for bids to construct sidewalks on portions of Warren, Jack-

son and College Streets.

There is more to come. All of these have taken more time than I would like to start; however, the delays are out of our control. Please know that we are working diligently to complete each of these.

I have a great deal of faith in our future. We have been working hard to make this a place that we can be proud to call home. We still have work to do. In the coming months, I will share with you ways you can help make our town the best it can be.

The most important way is to shop locally when possible. Please give our local businesses a chance to earn your business. When they grow and prosper, more will come.

Mayor Knox Ross, Jr

Pelahatchie Attendance Center sums it up

After being rated as a "high performing" school for the second year in a row by the Mississippi Department of Education and receiving three Program for Research and Evaluation for Public Schools (PREPS) Value Added awards in three subject areas, Principal Shane Sanders said that Pelahatchie Attendance Center (PAC) has started a trend they do not plan on stopping.

"I am excited about the progress we are making," Sanders stated. "We have had an outstanding year and hopefully; we will have many more to come."

Several of the PAC's educators were recognized on a district level for their outstanding performance. Agriculture Science teacher Brian Edwards was selected as one of the top teachers in the tri-county area by the Jackson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and English teacher Nina Mills was selected as Teacher of the Month for the Rankin County School District. Mathematics teacher Steve

Massey was chosen as Pelahatchie High's Teacher of the Year.

"We have so many great teachers and educators who are doing great work, and I am glad that they are being recognized for it," Sanders said.

However, Sanders was most impressed with the commitment that the students showed to their school.

"Without their hard work and dedication, this year would have not been possible," Sanders stated.

Callie Page, Kristopher Rogers and Lindsey Kelley represented Pelahatchie Attendance Center in the Rankin County Chamber of Commerce's Youth Leadership Program, and Mary Eutzler placed first in the poetry competition at the state Junior Beta Convention.

Not only did the Chieftains experience a great academic year, they also had a successful year athletically.

"All of the athletic departments raised the bar this year," Sanders said.

The PAC football team made the state playoffs for the third consecutive

year with an 8-4 record. From the team, two players were named All State players, Casey Ousley and Chris Elliot.

The Lady Chiefs softball team struck success with opening a new field in the spring while also making playoffs and ended the season with senior Megan Goss signing with Hinds Community College.

After finishing in 6th place overall, the power lifting team wrapped up the season with two state champions, Sam Jones and Cody Graham, and one runner up, Mytaius Whitfield.

For the first time in over 20 years, PAC's baseball team won the Regions 6 1A championship, and the team qualified for the quarter final round of the state playoffs, with players Andrew Gough and Erick Hoard making All State.

Under the guidance of first year coach, Pearlene Fairly, the Lady Chiefs basketball team played well in the 1A South State Tournament.

PAC recently received national acclaim and was named a bronze level school by *U.S. News* and *World Report*, which Sanders acknowledged as one of PAC's greatest accomplishments for the year. Gold, silver and bronze levels are awarded to approximately 4,800 schools nationwide. Along with this national honor, PAC was also named an Energy Star Certified School and is the only school in the state to receive this designation.



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Volume 1 Issue 1

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"Having a newspaper makes you feel like you are real. It makes you feel important," said Mayor Knox Ross, Jr., "A paper will give our people an avenue to express themselves, and it is the best way to keep people in the loop."

Mayor Knox Ross, Jr.



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Pelahatchie Graduation 2012



Kordia J'Latrude Mosley
Matthew Travis Pennypacker
Marie Catherine Haynes
Lauren Elizabeth Jones
Mitika Shaidil Holifield
Regina Nicole Davis
John Armando Cruz Castillo
Nathaniel Tyler Smith
Christopher Hunter Keene
Robert Lane Allen
Christopher Mason Elliott
Zachery Elias Mason
LaRyan Wade Fletcher
Wendy Shontate Johnson
Rian Danae Stephens
Shavon Latray Jefferson
Brittany Nicole Myers

Total Scholarships for 2012 for Pelahatchie Attendance Center
\$1,170,380.00

Mississippi Scholars

Kayla Danielle Bouslay
Megan Elise Goss
Ashley Nicole Johnson
Christopher Hunter Keene
Brianna Michelle McBride-Cook
Kordia J'Latrude Mosley
Jessica Hope Varner

High Honor Roll

Ashley Nicole Johnson
Jessica Hope Varner

Honor Roll

Kayla Danielle Bouslay
Cruz Castillo
Megan Elise Goss
Marie Catherine Haynes
Candice Marie Long
Brianna Michelle McBride-Cook
Brittany Nicole Myers
Emily Kathleen Robinson

Pelahatchie Attendance Center's "Star Student" for the year 2011-12

Ashley Nicole Johnson

Pelahatchie Attendance Center's "Star Teacher" for the year 2011-12

Mrs. Donna McMillian

Distinguished Service Graduates

Kayla Danielle Bouslay
John Armanda Cruz Castillo

Cynthia Lynn Hamilton

Ashley Nicole Johnson

Lauren Elizabeth Jones

Clinton John King

Candice Marie Long

Brianna Michelle McBride-Cook

Kordia J'Latrude Mosley

Katellynn BreAnna Porter

Nathaniel Tyler Smith

Jessica Hope Varner

Rankin County District Award Honorees

High Honors:

Kayla Danielle Bouslay

Ashley Nicole Johnson

Brianna Michelle McBride-Cook

Honors:

Megan Elise Goss

Cynthia Lynn Hamilton

Christopher Hunter Keene

Candice Marie Long

Nathaniel Tyler Smith

Jessica Hope Varner

Honor Graduates

Ashley Nicole Johnson

Jessica Hope Varner

Megan Elise Goss

Brianna Michelle McBride-Cook

Kayla Danielle Bouslay

Cynthia Lynn Hamilton

Jasmine Marie Nelson

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Dental clinic opens their doors to the public

William T. Neely III, D.M.D. and Shellie Varner Breland, D.D.S. of the Central Mississippi Community Dental Clinic (CMCDC) are excited to invite the people of Pelahatchie to their open house on July 11, 2012. From 3-5 p.m., refreshments will be served, and informational gift bags will be given out. The dentists will also be available to answer any dental questions that visitors may have.

"We just want to get the word out to the community about our business and let them know where we are," said dental assistant LeShea Gray.

The newly renovated dental clinic is located in the Dollar General Shopping Center, which is easily accessible to Pelahatchie residents. The staff of CMCDC is excited to have the opportunity to fulfill the dental needs of Pelahatchie residents of all ages.

"We want to let the community know that we are open for business," said Dr. Breland. "We are here to

meet Pelahatchie's dental needs."

Breland, a Pelahatchie native, who graduated from East Rankin Academy, says she is excited to be back home. She obtained her Bachelor's degree at Mississippi College and finished dental school at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center.

Neely is also no stranger to Pelahatchie. He and his long time assistant, Tina Patterson, along with office manager Rhonda Jennings Renfroe, operated a practice in Pelahatchie for 15 years before Neely made his move into the area of dental surgery.

Both Dr. Neely and Dr. Breland look forward to treating old friends and seeing familiar faces. They are also excited to be back serving the Pelahatchie community, and they are pleased to be hosting this open house for the public.

For more information the new office or open house, call 601-854-7478.

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT:

Brewer Healthcare Clinic: professional healthcare right here in Pelahatchie

Feeling a little under the weather? Got a case of the sniffles you just can't shake? Pick up the phone and make an appointment with Linda Brewer at Brewer Healthcare Clinic right here in Pelahatchie. Brewer is a Nurse Practitioner who is triple certified in family, geriatric, and acute care.

"I like being a nurse," said Brewer. "I like being a nurse. It is a great profession."

Brewer began working in Pelahatchie in a Pelahatchie-based branch of the Scott Regional Hospital in 1994. After working for other clinics for many years, she finally decided to break away in 2010 and opened her own practice, which is now located downtown by the Pelahatchie Community Center.

"Pelahatchie is where I am now," said Brewer, "and Pelahatchie is where I will retire."

Brewer Healthcare Clinic has found modern ways to deal with preventing help problems. The first way is through educating future healthcare providers. Brewers serves as an adjunct professor at the Univeristy Medical Center's School of Nursing where she teaches cardiovascular information to students.

At her clinic, Brewer encourages patients to take an Advanced Cardiovascular and Diabetic test which tells them in what areas they need to shape up in when it comes to heart care. The test presents results that are color-coded and easy for patients to read and understand. It breaks down the results into several categories that shows what problems they may have or what future health problems could occur if left untreated.

"I encourage many of my patients to take the test," said Brewer. "It is even free to patients with insurance."

With the Advanced Cardio Vascular and Diabetic test, Brewer has been able to help patients prevent health problems. After administering the test and getting the results, Brewer then sits down with her patients and explains what they can do to prevent problems from happening.

"Before we will give patients medication, we want to show them that many of their problems can be solved through changing their lifestyles, said



Anding hard at work.

Brewer. "The patients who change their lifestyle and see results are thrilled with themselves for doing it on their own."

According to Brewer, the most important thing to her is letting patients know that she is here to help them in any way she can.

"It has happened where people will come to the clinic because they know that we will take care of them until the ambulance can get to them," said Brewer.

Brewer Healthcare Clinic caters to their patients. If a patient is running late to the appointment, they will wait on them. It is not uncommon for Brewer and her staff to stay at the Clinic until 6 or 7 p.m., taking care of patients.

"We understand that this is a business, but we are way more about caring for our patients," said Brewer. "I have a rule that you should do unto others as you would have them do unto your momma."

Brewer says that she is dedicated to making her patients feel that they are cared for and to make them feel like family. She says she has such a love for the people of Pelahatchie, and she is dedicated to Pelahatchie. Brewer frequently gives back to the community by donating to the schools and sponsoring community events.

Brewer serves as a volunteer on Shell Road's Volunteer Fire Department. Brewer and her clinic staff are occasionally requested to help with the Pelahatchie Fire Department on emergency calls such as wrecks, house fires, and medical emergencies. Brewer says that she enjoys serving the community and that some of her fondest moments

are not even related to healthcare.

"The greatest compliment that we get is when people come to the clinic to chat and visit," said Brewer. "It just makes you feel good."

According to Brewer, she tries to provide the best care possible to her patients, and her office manager Carrie

Anding agrees. Anding has been a long-time patient of Brewer's and now works for her.

"I have known her for 19 or 20 years because my family has received their care through her. Then, as an adult I continued to see her for my healthcare needs," said Anding. "She is a great nurse practitioner. She is open and always listens to what you have to say, and she tries to get you the most affordable healthcare she can."

Anding says that she sees Brewer as a mentor and someone who she enjoys working with.

"It was the perfect scenario to come work for her," said Anding, "I knew she had a good work ethic, and I wanted to be a part of that."

To learn more about Brewer Healthcare Clinic, contact them at 601-854-5044, or stop by their office in downtown Pelahatchie. Visits are always welcomed.

BREWER HEALTHCARE CLINIC

Downtown Pelahatchie

Linda Brewer
CFNP -CGNP -CACNP

610 Second Street
P.O.BOX 445
Pelahatchie, MS 39145

Phone: 601-854-5044

Fax: 601-854-8448

Family

Geriatric

Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

28 Years and Counting

By: Daphne McNair

Alderman Michael Adams has served the town of Pelahatchie for 28 years and does not plan to stop any time soon.

In 1984, Adams was asked by members of the community to run for alderman because they wanted to see someone with a level-head in position. Adams agreed to run because he saw a need for change. He soon became the first "elected" African American alderman.

Since elected, Adams has collaborated with various city officials and auxiliaries to ensure a better standard of living for the town of Pelahatchie. He has helped with establishing new businesses, budgeting accounts, writing and implementing policies, handling citizens' complaints, and keeping the town in accordance with the law.

"It's like running a household but on a larger scale. We want to see that the town operates well," said Adams.

Adams helped established the Industrial Park, Yogi Bear Park and Muscadine Park, Pelahatchie Public Library, and Community Fun Day all in collaboration with community members and business owners.

One of the greatest accomplishments has been being able to see projects from start to finish and witnessing the growth and changes in the citizens' lives," said Adams. "Friendships and



social networks formed while in office were a positive as well."

Before he retires, Adams wants to see more growth and accomplishments for the town of Pelahatchie. He has even thought of running for a higher position.

"I have thought about running for a higher position, but I believe I am more beneficial where I am for the time being," Adams said.

For those seeking a future in politics, Adams provides valuable advice.

"Be serious in what you are trying to do. Do things for the right reasons, even if it is hard," said Adams. "Follow your dreams and stand firm in your beliefs."

Summer Reading Fun



Jennifer Smith, Mobile Zoo Instructor for the Jackson Zoo, showed off her special nocturnal friends to the children of Pelahatchie Wednesday, June 20, 2012, at the Pelahatchie Public Library Summer Reading Program. All of the children gathered around to see Snickers the ferret, Honey the Screech Owl and Nefereti the King Snake.

"The ferret was so funny," said 11 year-old Jessica Smith. "He was so playful and running around all over the place." According to Pelahatchie librarian Tina Mauney, they are excited to have such a wonderful group of children, she and she is proud that can help kids read during the summer.

Something old, something new



The town of Pelahatchie received its fifth award since the year 2000 for the renovation of a structure that served as a water pump house into a nice shaded picnic area for families which is located behind the Pelahatchie Public Library.

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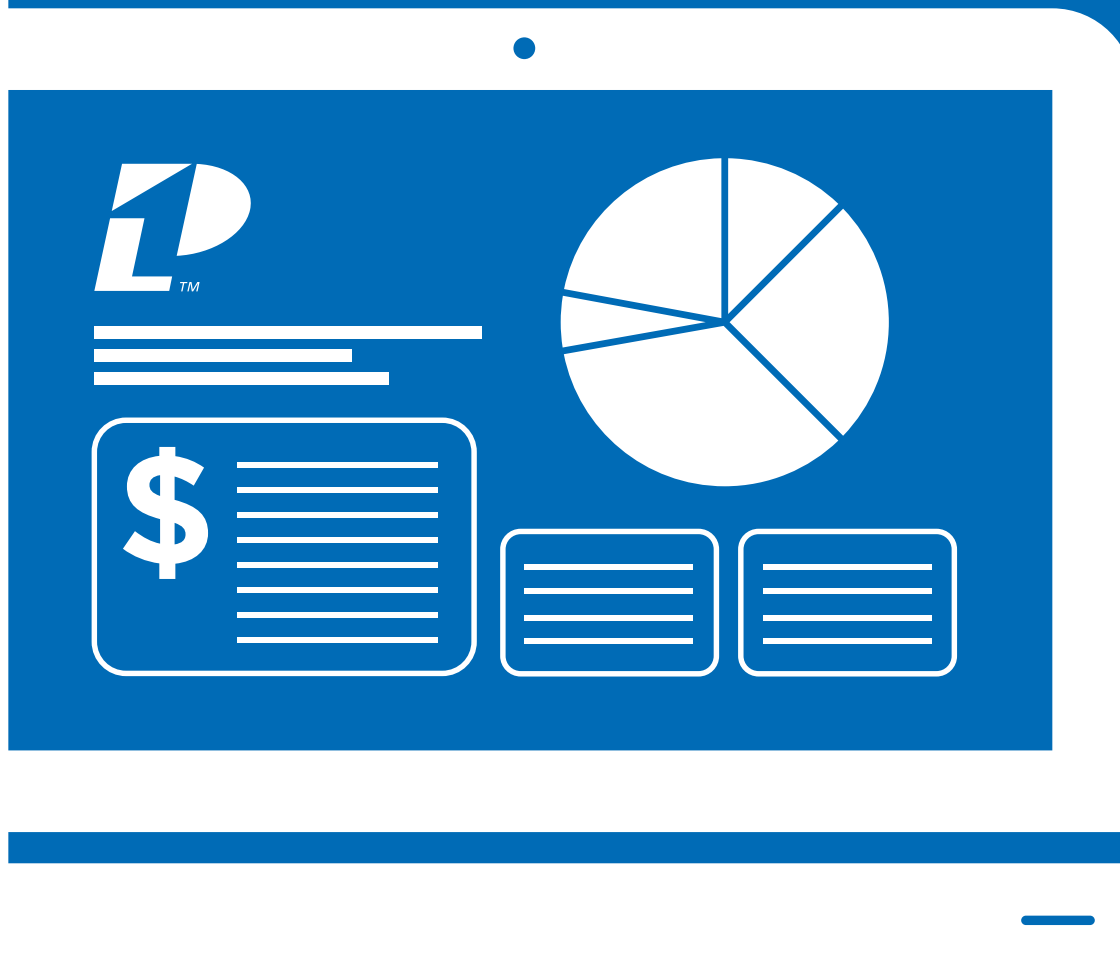
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Our mission is to train each child spiritually, academically, physically, and socially with the help of a college-preparatory curriculum, extracurricular activities, and the united efforts of parents and teachers under the leadership of God as found in the Old Testament and New Testament of God's Holy Word.

The 44 graduating Seniors were as follows:

Casey Allen
Andrea Ashley
Makenzie Adcock
Jeremy Batte
Caleb Bedford
John Wilson Bilbro
Nathan Bray
Kaitlyn Busby
Kristen Byrd
Tori Franklin
Macaulay Gibson
Tyler Gray
Cameron Hale
Spencer Harrell
Haley Harris
Landon Herrington
Blair Hill
Seth Hodges
Josh Irby
Mary Anna Jefcoat
Dani Jennings
Abby Johnson
Karleigh Keeton
Kaila Knight
Justin Laster
Mason McGowan
Ashley Miller
Lexi Overby
Sara Pell
Marlaina Perkins
Brock Perry
Katelynn Perry
Tyler Rhodes
Katie Roberts



Madison Smith
Amanda Stokes
Matthew Stuart
Taylor Stubbs
David Vaughn
Hunter Venters
Brittney Vinzant
Ethan Watkins
Michael Weaver
Sarah Webb

VALEDICTORIAN- Ashley Miller
SALUTATORIAN- Lexi Overby

Nearly 40% of this year's senior class received recognition as a member of East Rankin's ACT Academic Team for having a score of 25 or above on the ACT Test.

Special Awards Received

DAR Good Citizenship Award
Tyler Rhodes
Kirk McKay Memorial Award
Matt Stuart

Chet Cole Memorial Award
Tyler Rhodes
Gwen Massey Gregory Memorial Award – Ashley Miller
Billy Max Crapps Memorial Scholar-

ship Award – Amanda Stokes
Lee Thrash All-Star Scholarship Award – Macaulay Gibson
Nearly 75 % of the class received college scholarships.

Colleges to be attended by this year's graduates include:

Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi, Mississippi College, University of Southern Mississippi, William Carey University, Mississippi University for Women, University of Mobile, Texas Bible College, Hinds Community College, Jones Community College, East Central Community College, Holmes Community College, and East Mississippi Community College.

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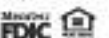
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Basketball camp takes the bite out of crime

On Monday, June 4, 2012, Pelahatchie's annual summer basketball camp kicked off its summer season. Police Chief and founder of the camp Glenda Shoemaker created the summer camp in order to prevent crime by keeping kids off the streets and helping them focus their attention on something positive.

"This is a good thing for the kids. It keeps them off the street. To me, not doing something would be like waiting for the crime to happen. Instead, I am trying to prevent a crime," said Police Chief Glenda Shoemaker.

Mayor Knox Ross, Jr. made a special appearance along with other guests at the event, and he thanked the Friends of Children of Mississippi, Inc. for providing the McCall Center' gym to be used during the summer for the camp.

"Without you, we could not held this event," Ross said, "This is a great resource."

He was followed with remarks by Rick Jones of the Pelahatchie Police

Department who thanked the sponsors and expressed how without their support the camp would have not been possible for a second year. Jones reiterated how successful last year's camp was and how he had high hopes for this year.

The sponsors for the event in-

cluded: Harper Accounting, Brewer Healthcare Clinic, Yogi Bear Lake Resort, Rankin County Sheriff Bryan Bailey, Chancery Clerk Larry Swales, Charles Haynes MAP, Gary Windham, Pelahatchie Masonic Lodge #276, Mayor Knox Ross, Jr., and Shiloh Methodist Church.



Mayor introduces panel.

"All of the credit for the camp goes to Chief Shoemaker. She cares about the kids. She does so many great things, and she does it all herself," said Linda Brewer, owner of Brewer Healthcare Clinic and camp sponsor.

"It gives the kids something to do and something to focus on. They get to see that the police are approachable and here to help them, but they also see that obeying the law is serious business."

After opening ceremonies were completed, refreshments were provided, and the children hit the court for some fun. A sea of smiling faces stood under the hoops waiting for their turn to take a shot. Chancery Clerk Larry Swales shot a few hoops with the youngsters, and Yogi Bear himself made an appearance at center court.

The camp is open to children of all ages and is from 2-6 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at the McCall Center's gym. For more information contact the Pelahatchie Police Department at 601-854-5223.

"I am happy that I have been given the opportunity to serve in the place that I call home," said Managing Editor of The Pelahatchie News Kristen Jones, "It feels good to know that I can give back to the community that has given me so much."

Kristen Jones



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Fire Department Renovations Complete

Pelahatchie Fire Department, established in 1952 and the oldest fire department in Rankin County, is receiving a face lift to their 100 year old building which according to, Training Officer, Capt. Jenny Coward, has been long overdue.

We have been needing to renovate our building for years,” said Coward,” We were told to be patient, and our time would come.”

That time came when Mayor Knox Ross, Jr. obtained an energy grant to begin the renovation process.

“After he got the grant, the mayor kept finding more funding for us,” said Coward.

Using the grant and various funds, the fire department now has new finished floors and walls with cabinetry to match. A conference room has been built with a place to house their own communication system. Also, professional gym equipment has been purchased, and an extra room has been added to serve as a gym for the volunteer firefighters

“The gym offers the capacity for the volunteers to get fit and stay fit,” said Coward, “It is important for fire fighters to stay fit because heart disease is the number one cause of death for

them due to the physical and mental stress of being in emergency situations.”

The building will not only serve the volunteer firefighters better, but it is designed to better serve the community. In case of a disaster, the fire department now has the ability to house Pelahatchie residents with efficiency.

“Pelahatchie residents can come if a disaster happens,” said Fire Chief Clark Phillips,” We have showers and room for people to be housed. We can now operate as a shelter.”

With all the new room and space, the fire department

plans to put their building to use for a variety of other events. Medical and fire training classes can now be held to keep all of their volunteers certified and prepared for emergencies. July 18th will kick off the Pelahatchie Fire Department's first opportunity to have a training class in their new remodeled fire station. The Pelahatchie Fire Department now has the ability to hold their own training classes and to invite other fire departments such as Leesburg, Lake Harbor, and Walters to join them for training opportunities.

“We work hand in hand with the other departments,” said Coward,” We are all separate entities, but we work as one big family.”

The fire department also plans to hold community events for the residents of Pelahatchie. The first opportunity to hold a community event will hopefully be held during the month of August. For many, volunteer firefighting is an expression of their commitment to the community they call home according to Coward.

“We want to reach out to the community to let them know that we are doing this out of the kindness of our heart,” said Coward



The Hot Spot Pelahatchie Fire Department News

By: Jenny Coward

Let me begin by introducing you to the Pelahatchie's Volunteer Fire Department. We are the oldest volunteer fire department in Rankin County. The department was established in September 1952; and boy, have we grown since then.

We currently have 21 firefighters and five junior firefighters. We have a wide variety of training among our members, from Firefighter Certified II, EMT-B, EMR, Hazmat, Storm Preparedness, and the list goes on.

Pelahatchie Fire Department officers are Clark Phillips, Fire Chief; Dennis (Papa D) Jackson, Assistant Chief; and Jenny Coward, Captain/Medical Training officer/Secretary/Treasurer; Lenis Stanley, Captain/Fire Training officer; Bobby Bishop, Captain; Joey White, Captain; Jacob Matthews, Lieutenant; and Kevin Hall, Lieutenant.

We have a great group of men and women who make up the Pelahatchie Volunteer Fire Department, and they do this job out of the kindness of their

hearts.

These folks are not compensated in any way such as monetary means, they do this job because of the want and need to help their fellow man to make sure their community and town is provided help and assistance when needed.

It takes a very special person who is willing to dedicate themselves to this field, because it is very time consuming, exhausting and frustrating. Knowing they are able to help out when someone is in need and to hear just one thank you from time to time makes it worth all the time it takes.

Last year, the department responded to close to 500 calls, which included fire and medical emergencies, motor vehicle crashes and mutual aid.

As of today, we have run over 230 calls, and it is just June. The department covers a 50- mile radius response area, along with providing mutual aid to Leesburg, Walters, Evergreen and Morton Volunteer Fire Departments. In just the month of June, we have

been busy working storms, cutting trees and clearing roadways.

We worked two tractor trailer MVCs on I-20. If you didn't know it, Pelahatchie Fire Department works a nine-mile stretch of Interstate 20 from mile marker 64 to mile marker 73 at the Scott County line.

As this column grows, you will hear from other departments that make up the Delta District of Rankin County. They are Leesburg, Lake Harbor, Evergreen, Langford and Walters fire departments, better known as the Delta Force.

These departments, along with Pelahatchie, work as one big family,

training with one another, assisting one another, and yes, even socializing and having fun with one another. The Delta Force takes pride in their ability to work so closely together and being able to grow and learn as one big team.

Each one of these departments is looking for good men and women to join them. So if you are interested in the field of volunteer fire and rescue, go visit your local fire department and find out what these folks have to offer.

They will be glad to tell you all about the job and get you an application. Stay tuned till the next article to see what The Hot Spot has to offer on Fire News.

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PASTOR'S CORNER

In life, there are many "firsts." Think about all the firsts in your life: the first time you saw the love of your life, the first time you held your child, your first day of school, your first kiss, the first time you read *The Pelahatchie News*. And, speaking of historical firsts: the first time man set foot on the moon, the first time the New Orleans Saints won the Super Bowl, the first time believers were called Christians.

What a moment in history. This important first is found in Acts 11:26. Up until this point in history, those who followed Jesus were called the church, disciples, followers of the way. They were not called Christians until Antioch, and it was not meant to be a compliment. The term "Christian" was used to poke fun at the believers in Antioch. Imagine you are back on the playground at recess hearing the class bully making fun of you by saying: "Nana booboo, you're a little Christ. You're a Christian." Thanks be to the LORD, what was meant for insult was in reality the greatest compliment given to those early believers. It meant that

they were living their lives in such a way that, when the outside world encountered them, they saw the nature, the character and the love of Jesus Christ in them. They weren't merely religious people; they were "Little Christs."

With that thought in mind, I have to ask myself and you: If someone was to look at my life, what would I be called? Husband. Father. Saints' Fan. Loving. Strange. Or would I be called Christian? Am I loving, living, and thinking like Jesus? Do my actions in public and private reflect Jesus?

As you live out your faith daily in the big ways, and, most importantly,

in the small ways, people will know what to call you: Christian.

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