

Business Spotlight

Duke's Steak House -- Voted one of the top steakhouses in Mississippi -- See page 8



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

Issue 2

August 2012

Volume 1

Knox W. Ross, Jr. wins Public Service Award

SPECIAL TO THE PELAHATCHIE NEWS

Knox W. Ross, Jr., of Pelahatchie has been selected the as 2012 MSCPA Public Service Award Winner and will be recognized during the Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, June 23 at Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort.



Knox serves a dual career as a practicing Certified Public Accountant and as the Mayor of the Town of Pelahatchie. As a CPA, Knox is a principal in Ross & Betts, PLLC which specializes in individual, small business, and farm accounting and taxation.

As Mayor, Knox is the chief executive of a town of 1,461 located in the Jackson metropolitan area.

Knox currently serves as the President of the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District, and recently completed his term as President of the Mississippi Municipal League.

He also serves on the board of directors of the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership where he is chairman of the Transportation Advocacy Committee, on the Advisory Board of the Stennis Institute of Government at Mississippi State University and as a Commissioner on the Southern High

Speed Rail Commission. Knox has also served as a presenter on small town and economic development topics at numerous seminars and conventions.

Knox's accounting career spans 20 years, beginning with Ernst & Young, an international accounting firm. For the last 12 years, Knox has operated his own firm located in downtown Pelahatchie. Knox's Mayoral career began in 2001 with election to the office of Mayor.

While Mayor, the Town has enjoyed unprecedented growth and recognition. The Town has been the recipient of 5 Mississippi Municipal League Excellence Awards, two North American Development Organization Awards, a Governor's Award of Excellence for the best Rural Impact Project, a Mississippi Economic Development Council Award, a regional Governor's Cup Award, and a Southeastern Economic Development Award.

"While Mayor, the Town has enjoyed unprecedented growth and recognition."

Mississippi Society for Certified
Public Accountants Newsletter

Knox holds a Bachelor of Professional Accountancy degree from Mississippi State University and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Alabama.

Knox is a member of Pelahatchie Baptist Church where he serves as a Deacon, Stewardship chairman, and Benevolence chairman. He has also

served as the President of the Morton and Pelahatchie Lions Clubs and is a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow.

Knox is married to the former Jamie Eichelberger, a practicing den-

tist in Morton. They have three children, Rebecca, Jean, and Knox III.

(Reprinted with permission from the Mississippi Society for Certified Public Accountants Newsletter)

Pelahatchie receives Municipal Award

SPECIAL TO THE PELAHATCHIE NEWS

The Mississippi Municipal League (MML) honored the town of Pelahatchie with the City Spirit Award for cities under 10,000 for the development of an old abandoned water tank into a shaded picnic area for families at their yearly Excellence Awards program.

The Excellence Awards program, which began in 1993, recognizes cities that utilize innovative problem solving, excellence in management, citizen participation and community partnerships to provide increased services and a better quality of life for local citizens.

The competition is divided into two population categories, under

10,000 and over 10,000. Within each population category, cities can vie for awards in Public Safety, Planning and Economic Development, Public Works, and City Spirit. Judges also select one application as the Best Overall.

Established in 1931, MML represents 289 city, town, and village governments in Mississippi. The mission of the MML is helping cities and towns excel through training, lobbying at the state and federal level, and providing resources and networking opportunities with state, federal and private entities.

For more information about the Mississippi Municipal League and their awards, visit www.mmlonline.com.



Mayor Knox Ross, Jr. and the board of alderman receive award at conference



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From The Mayor's Desk

BY: KNOX ROSS, JR.
MAYOR OF PELAHATCHIE

In last month's column, I asked you to let me know if there was a subject that I should address in this column. Well, lo and behold, someone did! Thus, the subject of this month's column will be the effect of shopping locally on the budget of the town.

The single largest contributor to the town's total revenue in the last financial year was sales tax. Of the total revenue (excluding water and sewer) received by the town, sales tax represented \$321,883 or 41%, of the total. Of the 7% sales tax you pay at the store, the town receives 18.5% of the 7%.

For example, if you pay \$10 for an item, the sales tax would be 70 cents. Of the 70 cents, the town would receive 13 cents. So, giving our local merchants a chance to earn your business is very important.

Let's go through a real life example. You decide to buy a new lawn

mower and see a \$160 push mower at Home Depot in Brandon. You could decide to buy it there, or you could wait and buy the \$160 lawn mower at Walters Automotive when you get home.

Your decision on where to buy has a great effect on the health of the community in which you buy it. You are going to pay \$11.20 of sales tax whether you buy it in Brandon or Pelahatchie; however, it is your decision whether \$2.07 of that sales tax goes to the City of Brandon or the Town of Pelahatchie.

All I ask and all any merchant here asks is that you give them a chance to earn your business. Remember also that these local businesses are the ones buying advertising at the local school

ball fields and in the yearbooks.

The more business that is done locally, the more that will come, and the more choices we will have. Some updates on ongoing projects of interest:

- The Milltown Park project is still in progress. I have met with two contractors in preparation of putting this project out for bid. We have accepted the bid of Kidz Zone for the playground. You should start seeing work there soon.

- The North Brooks Avenue and Lake Road repaving project is ready to advertise for bids.

- We have selected engineers for the upcoming major water, sewer, and street paving project that you will see work on in many parts of the town

principally in the area south of the Kansas City Southern Railroad.

- The remodeling of the Volunteer Fire Station is complete, and the Fire Department will be hosting an open house on September 9 from 2 to 4 p.m.

- New street signs will begin to be installed this month in the south part of town.

- A big welcome to Ben Barlow, the new elementary principal at Pelahatchie Elementary School. All the best to you as the new school year starts.

Finally, thank you for your support of our town and the advertisers who make this paper possible. As always, let me know if the town can help you in any way or if you have a question I can address in this column.

Fire Department News

BY: JENNY COWARD
PELAHATCHIE FIRE CAPTAIN

The months of June and July have been busy months for all the fire departments in the Delta District. The Delta Force has run a total of 139 calls from June 1, 2012 to July 19, 2012. We were dealing with the heat and the burn ban for Rankin County, and these two factors combined made for some interesting calls.

Pelahatchie with 21 members and six junior members ran a total of 67 calls, and they are listed as six grass fires, six MVCs, 48 medical emergencies, three structure fires, two gas spills, one false alarm and one mutual aid call. Lake Harbor with 20 members and four junior members ran a total of 26 calls, and they are listed as one grass fire, three MVCs, 21 medical emergencies and one public assistance call.

Leesburg with 30 members ran a total of 22 calls, and they are listed as Rankin Co. 9 medical call, three grass fires, one structure fire, one MVC, Scott Co. 4 medical call, two grass fires, and one structure fire. Walters with 25 members ran a total of 24 calls, and they are listed as 22 medical emergencies and two fires.

As for the Pelahatchie Fire Department, we have moved all equipment back into our newly renovated fire station. We will no longer be running around town getting apparatus that was housed in other areas in order to respond to a call. We are now back at our central location.

The new conference/training room is already being put to good use. A joint training session with the whole Delta District was held July 16, 2012 with 40 members of the Delta Force in attendance.

Pete Adcock of the Mississippi State Fire Marshall's office came in and spoke to the group about arson investigation, preservation of a possible arson scene and the protocol for the volunteer firefighters when dealing with a suspected arson scene. The group really enjoyed the lecture along with the question and answer portion of the training.

On July 20th and 21st the Delta Force team met together again for another joint training session at Leesburg

Fire Station on compressed air foam systems (CAFS). These systems have been a big help to the departments in the battle of fire suppression. The CAFS is a system that must be constantly trained on for proper handling because it determines the density of foam needed for any type of fire. We train together frequently in order to be able to handle and use each other's equipment in case we have to come to another department's aid.

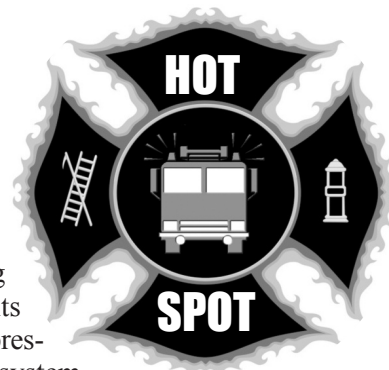
Congratulations needs to go out to three members of the Delta Force that recently passed their EMT national register, and they are Melissa Ingle with Lake Harbor, Treigh Peoples and Jenny Coward with Pelahatchie. Matt Jordan with Walters is scheduled to take his register at the end of July. We wish him good luck!

The Delta Force Team wants to remind everyone to stay cool, drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated, keep watch on all elderly persons, small children and pets. Signs of heat exhaustion are dizziness, weakness or feelings of faintness, nausea, vomiting or headache. After dialing 911, remove any excessive layers of clothing particularly around the head and neck area. Move the person out of the sun into a cool place and splash them with cool water. **DO NOT USE ICE WATER!** Please pay close attention while the high temperatures are with us.

If you are interested in becoming a member of a fire department, please contact your local fire department. I know each one of them is looking for good men and women to join their organization.

And if you do not want to join a department to fight fires or run calls but still would like to help out in some way, check out the firefighter's auxiliary (formerly ladies auxiliary) because they are always looking for good folks.

Until next month stay safe, stay cool and thank a firefighter should you see one. They could be the person saving your life one day!



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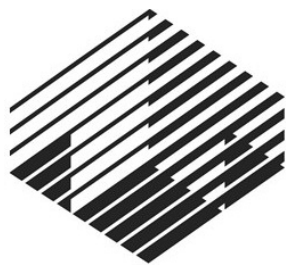
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Meet the Editor

First, I would like to say how truly excited that I am about being able to call myself Managing Editor of *The Pelahatchie News*. It is an honor to be a part of such a wonderful community, and all the thanks goes to you the readers and the advertisers.

I know some of you are probably wondering who I am, so I wanted to take the time to tell you a little bit about myself. My name is Kristen Jones, and I am the daughter of Robbie and Kathy Jones.

My family and I have been life long residents of Pelahatchie and are quite proud to be called Pelahatchians. In May of 2008, I graduated from Pelahatchie Attendance Center. After

high school, I attended Mississippi College and graduated this past May with my Bachelor's of Arts degree in English Writing.

Now, I am currently continuing my education and taking classes to receive my Master's of Science in Communications. To contact me, please call me at 601-566-1932 extension 2 or email me at News@pelahatchienews.com.

Kristen Jones



Pelahatchie Public Library wants teens to get carded

BY: KRISTEN JONES

The Pelahatchie Public Library is having their Get Carded program for high school students on Thursday, August 23rd at 6 p.m. August is back-to-school month, and the Pelahatchie Public Library is encouraging high school students in the area to get carded by showing their library card or applying for a card.

The library has many resources for

high school students to meet educational and entertainment needs.

"A Central Mississippi Regional Library Systems (CMRSL) library card allows teenagers access to all libraries in our system," said Tina Mauney, librarian at Pelahatchie Public Library.

During the program, the staff will be showing the film *The Hunger Games*. After the movie, students will have the opportunity to win a copy of *The Hunger Games* DVD.

To enter for a chance to win, the student must show their library card or apply for a library card during the program.



Regional Library System



The 2012 Muscadine Jubilee coming soon!

BY: DAPHNE MCNAIR

It is that time of year again for the annual Muscadine Jubilee Festival. The idea was a product of a Town Meeting when municipalities were encouraged to rediscover heritage and promote individuality.

A group of interested citizens called "the town committee" decided to celebrate a day of family-oriented fun to promote uniqueness of the town. The Muscadine Jubilee was first named "Our Town Day" in 1980. In 1984, Dr. Boyne Coats, owner of a local vineyard, proposed that it be renamed. The muscadine grape was a famous ingredient used in southern wines, pies, and jellies. As a result, the Muscadine Jubilee came into being.

The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast has always launched off the event which will be held August 18, 2012

at 8 a.m. at Pelahatchie Baptist Church. The 32nd Muscadine Jubilee Festival will take place on September 8, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. in downtown Pelahatchie in Muscadine Park.

There will be plenty of food, fun, arts and crafts, and entertainment. Some of the entertainment for this year will be local talent Troy Laz and the headliner Larry Gaitland of the Gaitland Brothers.

T-shirts are now available at City Hall (SM-XL \$12.50 and 2x-3x \$15.00), and tickets for the Prayer Breakfast are also on sale for \$5.00 so be sure to purchase one when you purchase a t-shirt. Booth prices for the jubilee are as follows: Craft Vendors: \$40 without electricity and \$55 with electricity Food Vendor: \$160.

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ERA football team is raising the bar

BY: KRISTEN JONES

Athletic Director for East Rankin Academy (ERA), Dan Boyce, says that he is looking forward to another great year of athletics at ERA.

"Across the board all of our teams should be very competitive this year," said Boyce. "We are lucky to say that all of our coaches are returning this year, and the stability of that will be an

advantage."

One specific returning coach is head football coach Matt Butts, and he says he is coming into this year with some high expectations. For the last two years, the Patriot football team has made it to the playoffs, but in the ninth hour lost their chance to compete for the State Championship. However, Butts says that he believes that the Patriots will be even more competitive than in the past two years.

"We have fourteen starting seniors this year," said Butts. "We will have an experienced team who have made a lot of plays and are very talented at their positions."

Butts says that he is very confident in his offensive line, and the one player he is counting on is quarterback Jacob Weldon. Butts says he is surrounded by some other great players such as linebacker Brylan Overby, tailback and wide receiver Phillip Parker, and tailback Colby Crowell.



ERA quarterback in action.

GENERAL SCHOOL CALENDAR 2012

August 10	High School Orientation (1st day of school for grades 9-12) (Morning) 9th graders & Parents (8 a.m.-9 a.m.) 10th-12th Students Only (10 a.m. - noon)
August 12	K4-3rd Grade Parent-Teacher Orientation (Noon Sun.) K4, K5, and 1st Grade Parents (2 p.m.) 2nd-3rd Grade Parents (3:30pm)
August 13	FIRST DAY for K4 and K5 (7:45-11 a.m.)
August 13	4th-8th Grade Parent-Teacher Orientation (Evening) 4th-6th Grade Parents (6:30 p.m.) 7th-8th Grade Parents (7:30 p.m.)
August 14	REGULAR SCHOOL DAY for K4-12th Grade
September 3	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

ERA softball team is energized about new season



Jordan Herring practicing for the scrimmage game.

BY: KRISTEN JONES

Coach Trey Bayliss says that he can sum up his expectations for the new season in one word. Excitement. He says that he feels that there is a great chance for a winning season.

"I am excited about the new season," said Bayliss, softball coach for East Rankin Academy. "I feel that we have a young team, but a young team with quality players."

Despite being in one of the toughest conferences, Bayliss feels that his team has the chance to be quite competitive against opponents such as Jackson Preparatory School. In the past few weeks, Bayliss has been working with his team to get them ready for the season by practicing everyday for up to three hours a day for conditioning purposes.

Coach Bayliss is not the only one excited about the new softball year. Senior third basemen and short stop Anne Claire Nichols along with pitcher Jordan Herring say that they feel this year will be a good season.

"I am excited about the new season," said Nichols. "I think we have a lot to look forward to this year."

Both ladies admitted that they felt that this season was going to be a winning season and felt it was due to the addition of the young talent on the team.

"I feel that this year we have a good chance at a winning season," said Herring. "We have a lot of good younger players coming in."

For more information about the Lady Patriots, please contact East Rankin Academy at 601-854-5691.

2012 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	PLACE
AUGUST 17TH	PILLOW ACADEMY	7:00 P.M.	MOODY DAVIS FIELD
AUGUST 24TH	SYLVA BAY ACADEMY	7:00 P.M.	AWAY
AUGUST 31ST	MRA	7:00 P.M.	MOODY DAVIS FIELD

2012 FAST PITCH SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	PLACE
AUG. 7	JACKSON PREP	4 P.M. (JV) 5:30 (V)	HOME
AUG. 9	PARKLANE	4 P.M. (V) 5:30 (JV)	HOME
AUG. 13	COPIAH	1 P.M. (V)	AWAY
AUG. 16	STARKVILLE	4 P.M. (V) 5:30 (JV)	HOME
AUG. 20	PCS	5 P.M. (V) 6:30 (JV)	AWAY
AUG. 23	HILLCREST	3:30 P.M. (V)	HOME
AUG. 25	PARKLANE	TBA (V)	AWAY
AUG. 28	PCS	4 P.M. (V) 5:30 (JV)	HOME
SEPT. 1	JONES TOURNAMENT	TBA (V)	AWAY

Rankin County School District Prepares For New School Year

BY: KRISTEN JONES

It's back to school time and the Rankin County School District is preparing for the start of the 2012-2013 school year. All Rankin County School District students will report to class on Tuesday, August 7, for an entire day of school.

This day will count toward their total number of days in the school year and any students not attending on this day will be considered absent. It is extremely important to have all students registered prior to the start of the school year.

Parents of new students may stop by their local school to register their child any weekday between 8 a.m.- 3 p.m.

ENROLLMENT:

In order to be enrolled in August, students must meet the following criteria:

- Be 5 years of age on or before September 1 of the current school year to enter Kindergarten.
- Be 6 years of age on or before

September 1 of the current school year to enter first grade.

- Have a certified birth certificate/long form.
- Complete the Rankin County School District Residency Form and

provide required documents.

- Have a social security number.
- Have a completed immunization record from the Health Department or a doctor.

BUS ROUTES:

Bus route times will be approximately the same as last year's schedules. However, all routes will be on tentative schedules the first week of school. These routes may run a little earlier than last year until all routes have been established.

No bus routes will begin before 6:30 a.m. Until all routes have been established, please plan on having students at their stops earlier than last year's schedule. Please contact your local school for more information.

LUNCH PRICES:

Lunch prices for the 2012-2013 school year are \$2.75 for students who pay full price and \$1.75 for breakfast. Breakfast will not be served the first day of school. The regular breakfast program will begin Wednesday, August 8.

The free and reduced applications will be available the first day of school and are not being mailed to parents this year.

SCHOOL BEGINNING TIME	BUS DISMISSAL	CAR DISMISSAL
Pelahatchie Elem. 8:05 a.m.	3:00 p.m.	2:50 p.m.
Pelahatchie High 8:00 a.m.	3:06 p.m.	3:06 p.m.

Open House Dates

PELAHATCHIE ELEMENTARY

Principal: Ben Barlow

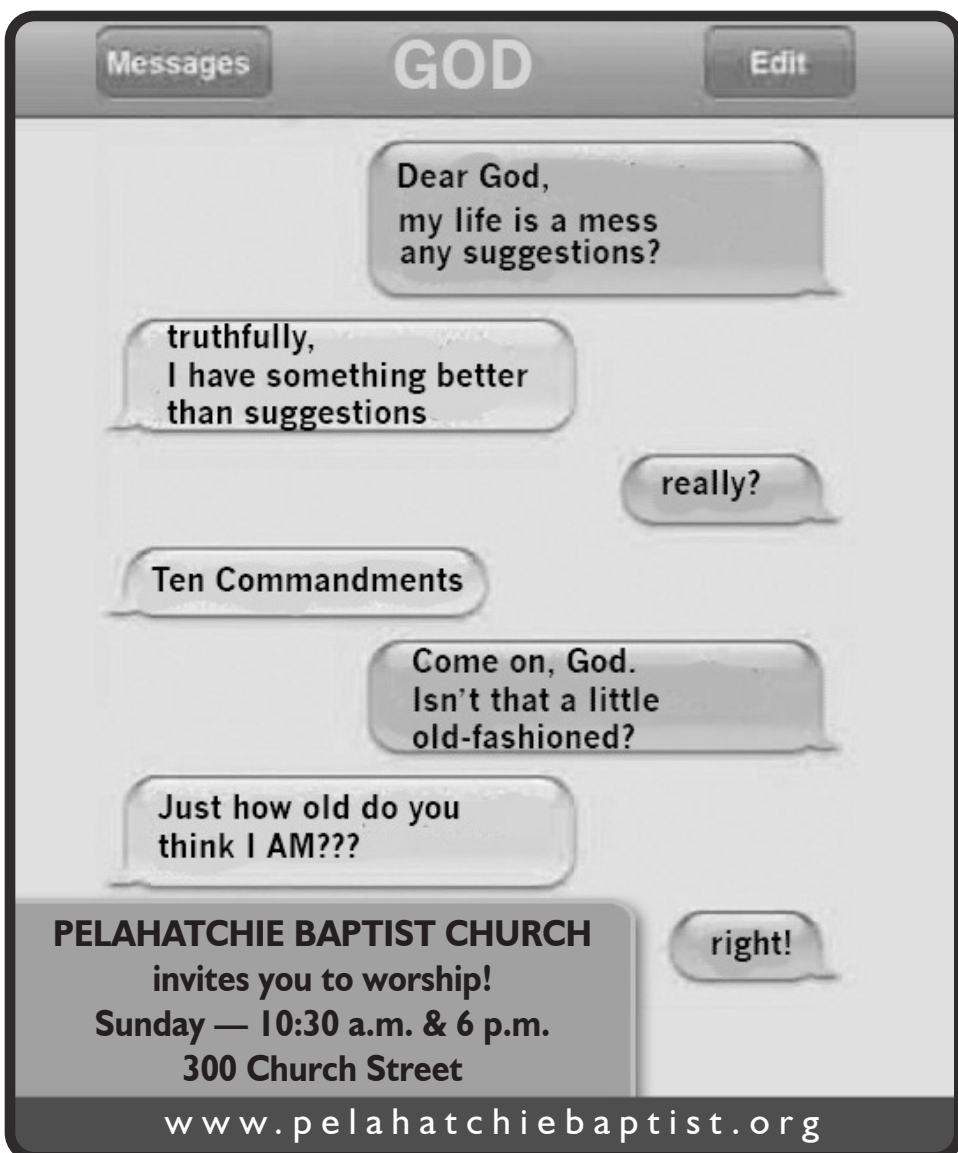
601-854-8060 Thursday, August 9 6-7 p.m.

PELAHATCHIE HIGH

Principal: Shane Sanders

601-854-8135 Thursday, August 2: 7th grade orientation
Thursday, August 9: Open House 6 p.m.

* For more information, please contact Robin Haney
or Carol Jones at 601-825-5590.



Messages **GOD** **Edit**

Dear God,
my life is a mess
any suggestions?

truthfully,
I have something better
than suggestions

really?

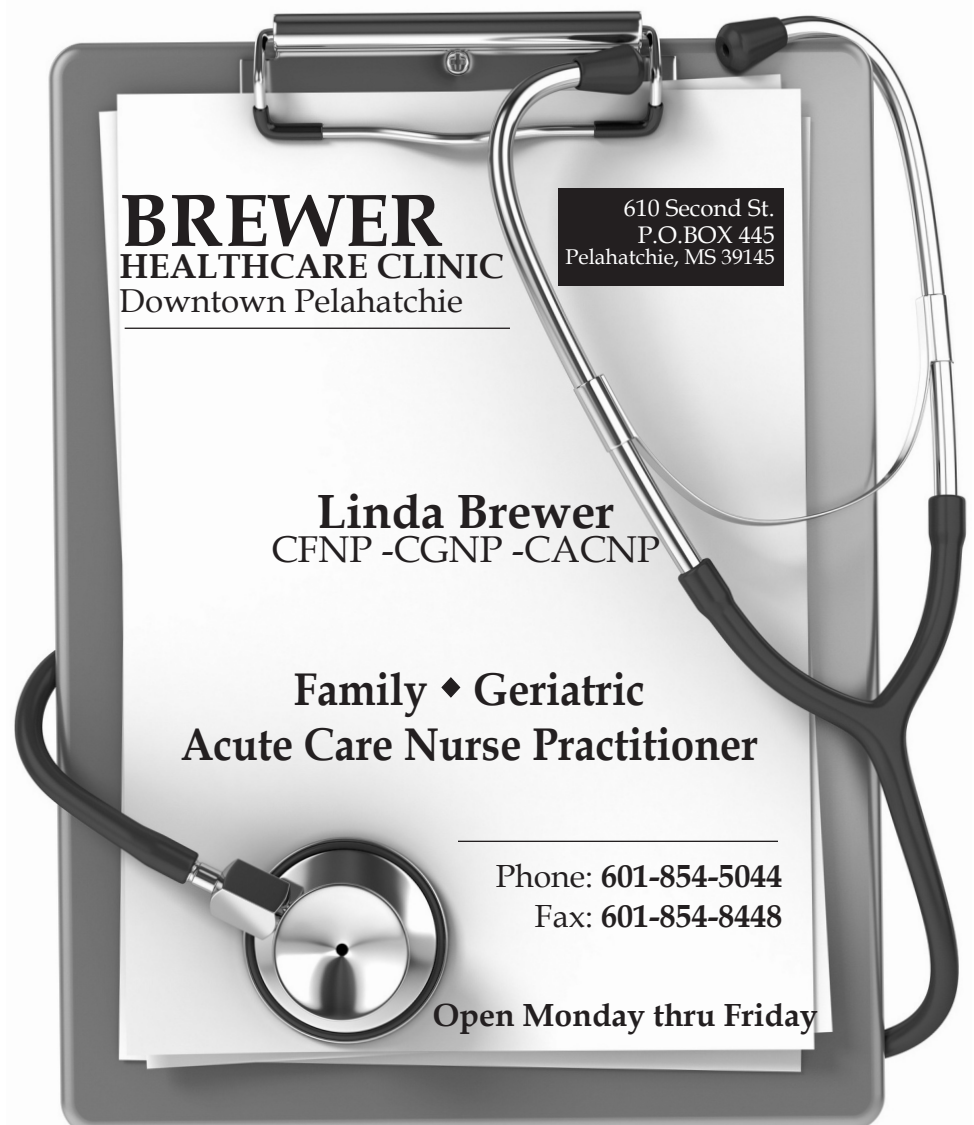
Ten Commandments

Come on, God.
Isn't that a little
old-fashioned?

Just how old do you
think I AM???

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PELAHATCHIE ATTENDANCE CENTER

AUGUST SPORTS SCHEDULE

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

AUG. 10 JAMBOREE	BOUGE CHITTO	HOME - 6:00 P.M.
AUG. 17	PISGAH	HOME - 7:30 P.M.
AUG. 24	PUCKETT	AWAY - 7:30 P.M.
AUG. 31	LAKE	AWAY - 7:30 P.M.

SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL

AUG. 13-14	RANKIN CO. TOURNY	AWAY (BRANDON) TBA
AUG. 18	FOREST TOURNY	AWAY (FOREST) TBA
AUG. 21	FOREST	HOME - 4 P.M.
AUG. 23	PUCKETT	HOME - 4 P.M.
AUG. 28	MCLAURIN	AWAY - 5 P.M.
AUG. 30	LAKE	HOME - 4 P.M.

PAC softball is ready to play ball

BY: KRISTEN JONES

Softball coach Stephen Tuttle has already set his personal goals for the year. With a young team coming in, he wants to start the season by working hard to develop the skills of his young players.

"Some personal goals I have this year are to work with the younger players and develop the skills needed for them to step into positions in the years to come, improve on last season, and develop the batting to where we are solid from the top of the line up to the bottom," said Tuttle.

Some of the key players for the Lady Chiefs this year will be Lindsey Kelley, Nikki Burke, Lacey Harpe and Caitlin Bishop.

"Lindsey will be a senior this year and will anchor down the pitching for us. The other three will play a key role in the field as far as experience and leadership," said Tuttle. "I look for all

of them to step up and have a good year this year."

Overall, the team's ultimate goal is to have a winning season, to win the district championship, and to win a state championship. However, softball is not the only thing that Tuttle is excited about this year.

The Lady Chiefs' new softball field will have a new scoreboard by mid August, and the field will also be receiving its own press box/ concession stand. Tuttle says that is he is optimistic about the new season and the changes that the softball field is undergoing, but he is mostly thankful for the support the team has received.

"We appreciate the support that the community and administration has given along the way," said Tuttle.

Come support the Lady Chiefs at their first home game of the season on August 21st against Forest High School.

PAC coach excited about the new season

BY: KRISTEN JONES

After coming off an 8-4 winning record last year, head football coach Bill Ward says that he is looking forward to the new season. The Chiefs will have 17 returning starters.

Across the board, the Chiefs football team will have 11 returning offensive lettermen and 13 returning defensive lettermen.

Most of the team this year will be sophomores and juniors with nine seniors.

"We are real excited about what our sophomores and juniors will bring to the team this year," said Ward. "There is great leadership potential

among these players."

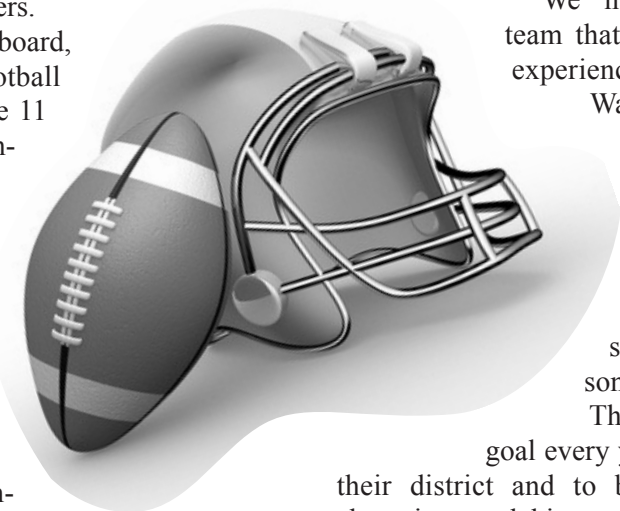
Ward says that overall he feels that the team is solid defensively and offensively, and the Chiefs will have an opportunity to beat their previous winning record.

"We have a good team that has a lot of experience," said Ward.

"We feel that the opportunity is out there for us to have a very successful season."

The Chieftain's goal every year is to win their district and to become state champions, and this year, Ward has the same goal.

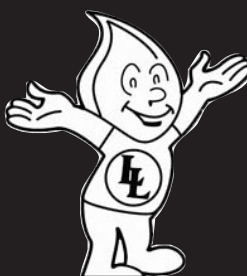
Coach Bill Ward encourages the community to come support the Chiefs on August 10th which will be the first game of the season.



Ross & Betts, PLLC

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Certified Public Accountants

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PAC principal welcomes students, introduces new staff

**BY: SHANE SANDERS, PRINCIPAL
PELAHATCHIE ATTENDANCE CENTER**

Welcome back!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our students back for the 2012-2013 school year. A special welcome goes out to the class of 2013. We hope you have a great year. Let us make the most out of the opportunities we have when August 7th rolls around.



In fact, I'll start with a challenge to our seniors. Last year's graduating class had well over one million dollars in scholarship offers (the most ever for a senior class at Pelahatchie Attendance Center).

I would like to make it our goal to surpass that amount. The potential is certainly there. Abby Harmon, Britney Gordon, Tristen Smith, Devan Goodman, Callie Page, and Kristopher Rogers have already qualified for

ACT Honors, and those scores are one of the biggest factors that determine scholarship offers.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new staff members to Pelahatchie Attendance Center. Kessie Key will be joining us in our business department. Mrs. Key is a 2001 graduate of Pelahatchie and will be teaching the business classes and senior Project. We are certainly excited about her "coming home".

Coach Ryan Keeton is coming to us from Bruce High School and will be teaching high school science and coaching football and track.

He will serve as the defensive coordinator for the Chiefs this year. Coach Jonathon Beard will serve as the special teams coordinator for football and also assist Coach Keeton with track.

He will be the Physical Education teacher for Pelahatchie Elementary School. Mrs. Donna Bishop will return to Pelahatchie this year and teach in our science department.

Mrs. Bishop will be teaching 8th grade science, Anatomy and Physiology, and General Biology I and II. Finally, I would like to welcome Mrs. Brandi Johns as our new guidance counselor. Mrs. Johns has been with us as a classroom teacher for the past eleven years, and we are really excited about her move to counselor this year.

"I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our students back for the 2012-2013 school year. A special welcome goes out to the class of 2013. We hope you have a great year."

Principal Shane Sanders

In addition to our new staff, we are looking forward to kicking off another year with our dual enrollment program. Pelahatchie is now offering students the opportunity to receive 20

hours of college credit for only the price of \$50.

This program is operated in conjunction with Hinds Community College and has proven to be very successful in past years. We encourage students to take part in this program.

In the athletic department, we have several building and renovation projects going this year. We are currently in the planning stages of adding a facility to the softball field.

This building will be the combination of a press box/concession stand/dressing room for our softball program. We are very excited about the new facility for our young ladies in the softball program.

August 7th is right around the corner, and we are excited about the upcoming school year. Please mark August 9th on your calendar. We will host our annual Open House beginning at 6:00.

We look forward to seeing everyone there. Have a great year!

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Business Spotlight: Duke's Steakhouse

BY: KRISTEN JONES

Are you looking for a good steak with a side of good ole southern hospitality? Look no further than right here in Pelahatchie, Miss. at the family owned and operated Duke's Steakhouse.

The Duke family has been in business for almost seventeen years, and owners Gene and Carol Duke have been no stranger to the food business. Mr. Duke has worked as a butcher for 62 years and has run a number of grocery store chains and meat markets throughout his 82 years. Despite those accomplishments, he has always wanted to own a steakhouse.

The Duke family originally started in the steakhouse business by working in a fellow family member's steakhouse in Brandon, Miss. and then, they decided to open their own place in Pelahatchie.

They bought their building from Pennington's Snack Bar on Highway 80 in 1996 and had to remodel the building which included adding a large kitchen along with many other changes. Duke's Steakhouse made its

debut in March of 1996. The restaurant has been a staple of the Pelahatchie community ever since.

After almost seventeen years, the question is what makes Duke's Steakhouse such a special place. According to Mrs. Duke, the answer is quite simple.

"We have a down to earth feel," said Mrs. Duke. "We are not fancy. We have the best steak and have a good staff, and we are known for our prompt and courteous service."

Duke's Steakhouse has been voted the number two steakhouse out of the whole state of Mississippi, and it is known for its high quality steak that is cut right in the restaurant by the skilled hands of Mr. Duke.

"I doubt that there is many steakhouses left that have the variety of steak that we do," said Mr. Duke. "We serve everything from rib eyes to porterhouses to filet mignon."

Duke's Steakhouse has over seventeen different sizes of steak to offer

their customers along with a secret steak sauce that was created by Mr. Duke himself. Steak is not the only food option though. Duke's also serves a variety of meats like chicken, fish,



The Duke Family takes time to smile after the busy lunch hour.

chicken fried steaks, hamburger steaks, and they have a large selection of burgers and sandwiches.

"We have people from all over who stop to eat at our steakhouse," said Mrs. Duke. "We have out of town guests who stop in on their way through just to have a steak, and we have our locals that eat here everyday."

Even though the restaurant is family

owned by the Dukes, they like to think of their customers as family. They enjoy talking and socializing with the people of Pelahatchie and the people who stop in.

"We enjoy our customers," said Mrs. Duke. "We have many customers who are like family, and we make sure that everyone is treated right."

Hospitality is an important ingredient to the Duke's success. They have a top notch staff, and most of their employees have been with them for ten years or more.

"We have a great staff," said Mrs. Duke. "People always tell us how friendly our employees are and is one of the many reasons that people have always enjoyed eating at our restaurant."

From great food to friendly faces, the Duke family feels that they have made a name for themselves, and they are happy to have been able to serve their customers and the town of Pelahatchie so well for so long.

For more information about Duke's Steakhouse, please call them at 601-854-5210 or like them on Facebook.




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New principal prepares for new year

BY: KRISTEN JONES

Ben Barlow, Vicksburg native and the new principal of Pelahatchie Elementary School, says that he is excited about the upcoming year. Before making his debut as Pelahatchie Elementary School's principal, Barlow spent his teaching career at Northwest Rankin High School beginning in 2001. While there, he taught English Language Arts in all levels from freshman to senior level courses.

"I tried to not stick to just one area," said Barlow. "I tried to remain open in my teaching. I felt like as a teacher you needed to be well rounded in your practice."



Photo by Rachael Boyer

In the past year, Barlow took a sabbatical from teaching and worked a full-time internship through the Rankin County School District in coordination with the Barksdale Reading Institute and the University of Mississippi in a program called the Principal Corps. During his internship, he worked at Brandon Middle School. After he finished his internship, Barlow interviewed for the position as Pelahatchie Elementary School's principal.

"I was humbled to interview for the job and honored to receive this position as principal of Pelahatchie Elementary," said Barlow.

hatchie Elementary," said Barlow.

While in Pelahatchie, Barlow says that some of his personal goals are to help the students grow more than just from year to year and to help his staff grow as professionals.

"I see how the town of Pelahatchie is growing and all the great things that are happening in Pelahatchie," said Barlow. "I want Pelahatchie Elementary to be the

heartbeat of this town, and I think we can be."

Before school starts in August, Barlow says that he plans to meet some students and parents and to try to integrate himself more into the role of Pelahatchie Elementary School's principal.

For more information about Principal Barlow or Pelahatchie Elementary School, please call Pelahatchie Elementary School at 601-854-8060.

Welcome Back

BY: BRANDI JOHNS
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR
PELAHATCHIE ATTENDANCE CENTER

I have worked at Pelahatchie Attendance Center for 11 years now as a Science teacher for junior high and high school students. As a teacher, I have gotten to know the faculty and students very well, and now, I have decided to make the move from the classroom to the counselor's office.

I am excited about the new position, but I have already learned that I will have many different roles on a given day.

One of my main goals as Pelahatchie's new counselor is to help college-bound students wade through the application process and apply for

scholarships and financial aid. As a matter of fact, our first scholarship and financial aid workshop for seniors and their parents is scheduled for August 20th.

I also plan to help those students who are planning to enter the workforce finalize their resumes and improve their interviewing skills, but I will never be too busy to help students deal with the social pressures of being in high school.

You will not find administrators, teachers, or students that top the ones we have at Pelahatchie, and I am looking forward to a great year!



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PASTOR'S CORNER

BY: GUY HUGHES
PASTOR OF PELAHATCHIE BAPTIST CHURCH

All things are possible

"You're stupid."
"You will never be able to learn." "Just give up."

Voices little Ben heard, if not aloud from others, then certainly in his own head.

He may not have known how to spell "discouraged" but he surely knew what it meant.

His father left his mother, his brother, and him.

With very little money, Mom had to work two jobs that left Ben and his brother home alone most of the time. The inner city gangs of Detroit were inviting. Yet, deep down Ben knew that was not the answer.

"Turn the TV off and study," his Mom would tell them. "Read. Read. Read."

So, Ben did what Mom said. He read. He studied. He engaged life. Ben discovered books provided him with the opportunity to leave the hopeless world he felt trapped in.

Soon, his grades began to improve. Ben began to love learning and knew his ticket out of his dismal life would be earned by using the brain God gave him. His hard work and disciplined dedication paid off.

Today, Ben is Ben Carson, a world famous pediatric neurosurgeon. He became the first surgeon to successfully separate conjoined twins at the head. He continues to use his gifted hands to heal others.

Read Ben Carson's book, *Gifted Hands* or watch the movie with the same title. Check out his videos on YouTube. His passionate heart will inspire you.

August provides every student with a new school year, a fresh opportunity to lay aside the past, embrace the present and impact the future.

Truly, the mind God has given you is a terrible thing to waste. The Bible tells us to "Study to show yourself approved unto God..." (2 Timothy 2:15). God expects us all to study. We are never too old to learn.

Impossible you say? God's Word says, "With God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26). He desires for you to learn. As my grandfather used to say, "Use your head for something more than a place to put a hat."

Ben Carson did.

You can too. You just need to put your mind to it!



Pelahatchie hosts National Night Out

BY: KRISTEN JONES

On August 7th, Pelahatchie will host their 14th annual National Night Out celebration in Muscadine Park. It is a free event that will kick off at 6:30 p.m.



There will be several activities for children including water slides, and all sorts of food will served.

The entertainment for this year will be provided by Shades of Gray. Police Chief Glenda Shoemaker says that she is excited about the event.

"We will have lots of activities," said Shoemaker. "It will be a lot of fun."

For more information, please call the Pelahatchie Police Department at 601-854-5223.



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Central Mississippi Community Dental Clinic's open house is a success

BY: KRISTEN JONES

On July 11th, Central Mississippi Community Dental Clinic (CMCDC) opened their doors to the public from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Several members of

the Rankin County Chamber of Commerce were in attendance.

Refreshments were served, and an introduction of the CMCDC staff kicked off the event. Dr. William

Neely III, dentist at CMCDC expressed his gratitude for all those in attendance. He also showed his appreciation for the town of Pelahatchie and said that he was glad to be back in business in the area.

"Pelahatchie is a great place," said Neely. "I was excited at the opportunity to work in Pelahatchie."

Dr. Shellie Varner Breland, his partner, followed by saying that she

enjoyed having the ability to work in her hometown.

After the introductions and words of thanks, the staff had their ribbon cutting ceremony inducting them into the Rankin County Chamber of Commerce.

For more information about CMCDC or to make an appointment, please contact Rhonda Jennings Renfro at 601-854-7478.



CMCDC cutting their ribbon.

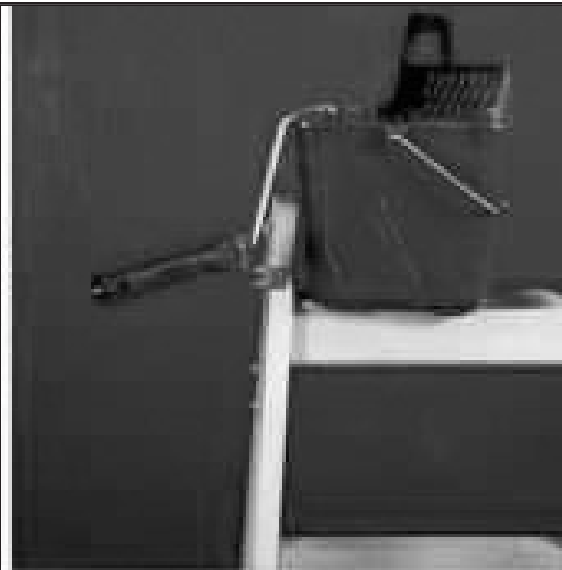
Boy Scouts attend town meeting

BY: DAPHNE MCNAIR

Local dentist, Dr. William Neely III, brought his son, Andrew Neely, and fellow Boy Scout member, Alex Abusaa to the Pelahatchie town meeting. The two teens are in Scout Troop 1 which is sponsored by Saint James Episcopal Church and Saint Andrews Episcopal Church of Jackson, MS and led by Scout leader Jay Cook.

"We're the oldest and first troop in the state of Mississippi," stated scout leader Jay Cook. "They are a good group of boys, and we have a lot of fun together."

The Scouts are now working on their Communication and Citizenship merit-badges. There are many requirements for merit-badges and attending a community meeting is one of those requirements.



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Multicraft International celebrates Multicraft Day



Multicraft International celebrated Multicraft Day on June 28th. The employees and staff all enjoyed lunch together. At the end of lunch, there were drawings for monetary prizes for employees who had achieved various goals throughout their work time. After the drawings were completed, everyone gathered together for a photo to commemorate the 2012 Multicraft Day.



Fusion Martial Arts hosts tournament

BY: KRISTEN JONES

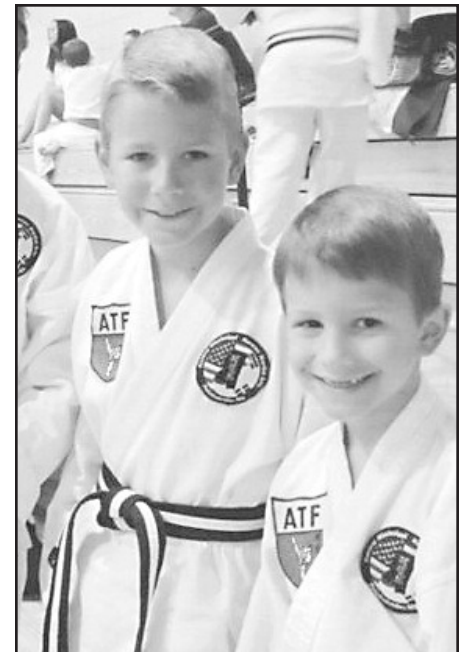
Fusion Martial Arts is hosting their biannual Mississippi Championship tournament at Pelahatchie High School on August 25th.

The Black Belt Competition will start at 8 a.m. followed by the team sparring competition, opening ceremonies, and then, the colored belt competition. Competitors will come from martial arts schools all across the southern region of the United States.

"I am very excited about the tournament," said student Samson Belamy. "It is a chance for us to show pride in our martial arts school and the town of Pelahatchie."

Fusion Martial Arts would like to thank the following tournament sponsors for all of their support: Talon Communications, Rhodes and Robby Pharmacy, Studio Hair and Tan, Crooked Creek Animal Hospital, Ryan Rowell Painting, and Rankin Family Practice.

For more information about the tournament or Fusion Martial Arts, please call 601-854-6091 or email them at fusion@fusionma.net.



Jackson and Reese Harper excited about the tournament.

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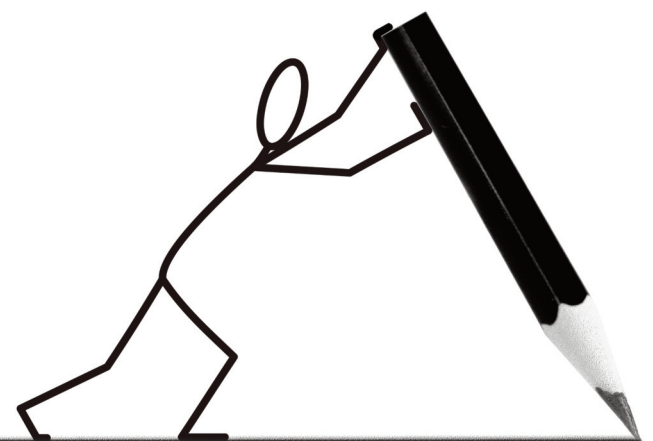
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For more information, please contact our Managing Editor, Kristen Jones.
news@pelahatchienews.com 601-566-1932 x2

Pelahatchie sorority sisters receive honors at Delta Gamma Convention

By: KRISTEN JONES

On June 30th, Anne and Sarah Robinson, sisters and graduates of East Rankin Academy, received awards at the Delta Gamma Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana for their respective chapters.

Anne Robinson attends Mississippi State University and is the president of the Delta Lambda chapter of Delta Gamma. While at the convention, her chapter won awards for their excellency in various areas such as recruitment innovation, philanthropy and electronic communications.

"Winning awards at the convention was a huge honor," said Anne Robinson. "I believe our awards reflect how hard our chapter has worked in the past two years."

Her sister, Sarah, attends the University of Mississippi and is president of the Alpha Psi chapter of Delta Gamma. Her chapter was awarded the Region 3 Eleanor Smith Slaughter Award for Excellence. This award is

given out to chapters that demonstrate excellence in all the areas of chapter administration, programming, recruitment, finance, academics, philanthropy and communications.

"I was very honored to accept the award on behalf of my chapter," said Sarah Robinson. "Delta Gamma is such a wonderful organization that does good for so many, so being recognized as an Outstanding Collegiate Chapter was a very humbling experience. It was very exciting to see the results of all the efforts of our colleagues, alumnae, and advisors."

Both sisters have big plans for the future. Anne Robinson is currently majoring in Psychology and is going to begin to apply for Doctoral Clinical Psychology programs. She plans to work in a hospital or teach on a collegiate level while also working in the field of research.

Sarah Robinson is currently majoring in Public Policy Leadership and plans to pursue a career in the public policy sector.

Pelahatchie Fire Department holds training

By: KRISTEN JONES

Pelahatchie Fire Department held their first training session in their new renovated fire house on July 16th at 7:00 p.m. The training session was titled Arson Investigation, and Deputy Fire Marshal Pete Adcock spoke to the volunteer firefighters about proper protocol to follow when working with

a potential arson.

"I am always excited to help out volunteer fire departments," said Adcock.

During the arson training, the Pelahatchie Fire Department also held registration for their Volunteer Firefighting Certification Level One Class in the new town community center. Emergency Service Director for the Town of Pelahatchie, Carl Vanhorn, is teaching the class.

"In the certification class, the volunteers learn basic firefighting skills that even career firefighters learn," said Vanhorn. "The class has a lot of hands on activities as well as classroom lecture."

After the class is completed, the volunteer firefighters will go one day in October to the Fire Academy and receive their certification through the state fire academy as a volunteer firefighter.

For more information about the Fire Department or certification classes, please contact your local fire department.



Dillon Vancor practicing putting on his fire fighter gear at certification training

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Economy at a Glance

BY: DARRIN WEBB
STATE ECONOMIST
MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS

While there is no official definition for a recession, for our purposes, we define a recession as three consecutive declines in the Coincident Index and a cumulative decline of 0.5 percent. In other words, Mississippi may very well already be in recession.

If there is a third month of decline of at least 0.2 percent, then Mississippi will have been in recession since April. Whether or not we are in a recession, the economy has clearly lost momentum. This is true especially for the State, but also for the Nation.

The ISM Manufacturing Index has fallen below 50, indicating the industry is contracting. Consumer spending is slowing and consumer and business sentiment is deteriorating. Of particular concern is recession-level growth in real income.

First quarter income data was released at the end of June. Nationally, income growth is essentially un-

changed compared to the year ago level. In Mississippi, we have fallen below the year ago for three consecutive quarters.

IHS Global Insight has raised their risk of recession to 25 percent from 20 percent. However, recessions are always difficult to identify before the fact.

The December 2007 recession was identified a year after the fact. It is quite possible then that future data will show that the Nation is already in a recession.

Mississippi Employment Trends

Mississippi nonfarm employment fell a substantial 2,600 jobs in May relative to April. The decline erased all of the gains that occurred in April and brought employment to its lowest level since August 2011.

Employment has fallen relative to the prior month for five of the last seven months. The series has been below the year ago level for all but two



of the past thirteen months. May employment was 0.1 percent below the year ago.

Averaging the first five months of 2012, employment is down 0.1 percent for

the year. Construction employment took the largest hit in May, falling 2,500 jobs or 5.3 percent.

The professional and business service sector lost 1,000 jobs or 1.2 percent. Manufacturing, which grew in three of the previous four months,

saw a 700 job decline.

The government added 400 jobs while "other services" added 600 and financial activities added 478. There was also a gain of 400 jobs in trade, transportation and utilities, but this was not driven by retail sales which lost 800 jobs.

Employment growth has been weak throughout the recovery. In fact, growth has been generally sluggish since 2000.

The State lost a large number of jobs following NAFTA in 1994. This was less noticed early on as the State enjoyed growth in the casino industry. Once the casino industry reached maturity the State struggled to add jobs and has struggled ever since.

Rachael H. Boyer
PHOTOGRAPHY



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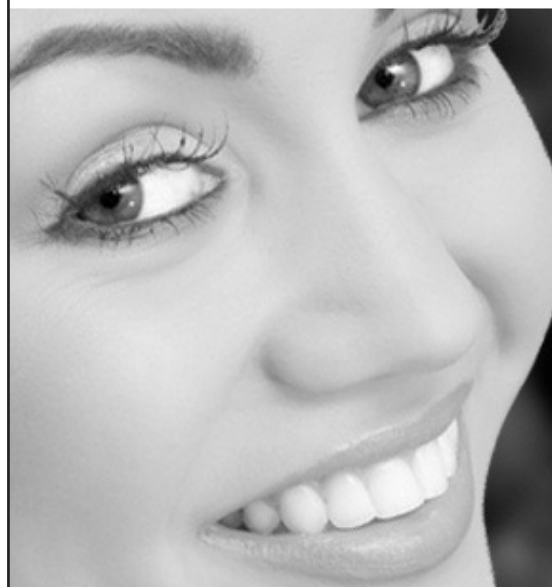
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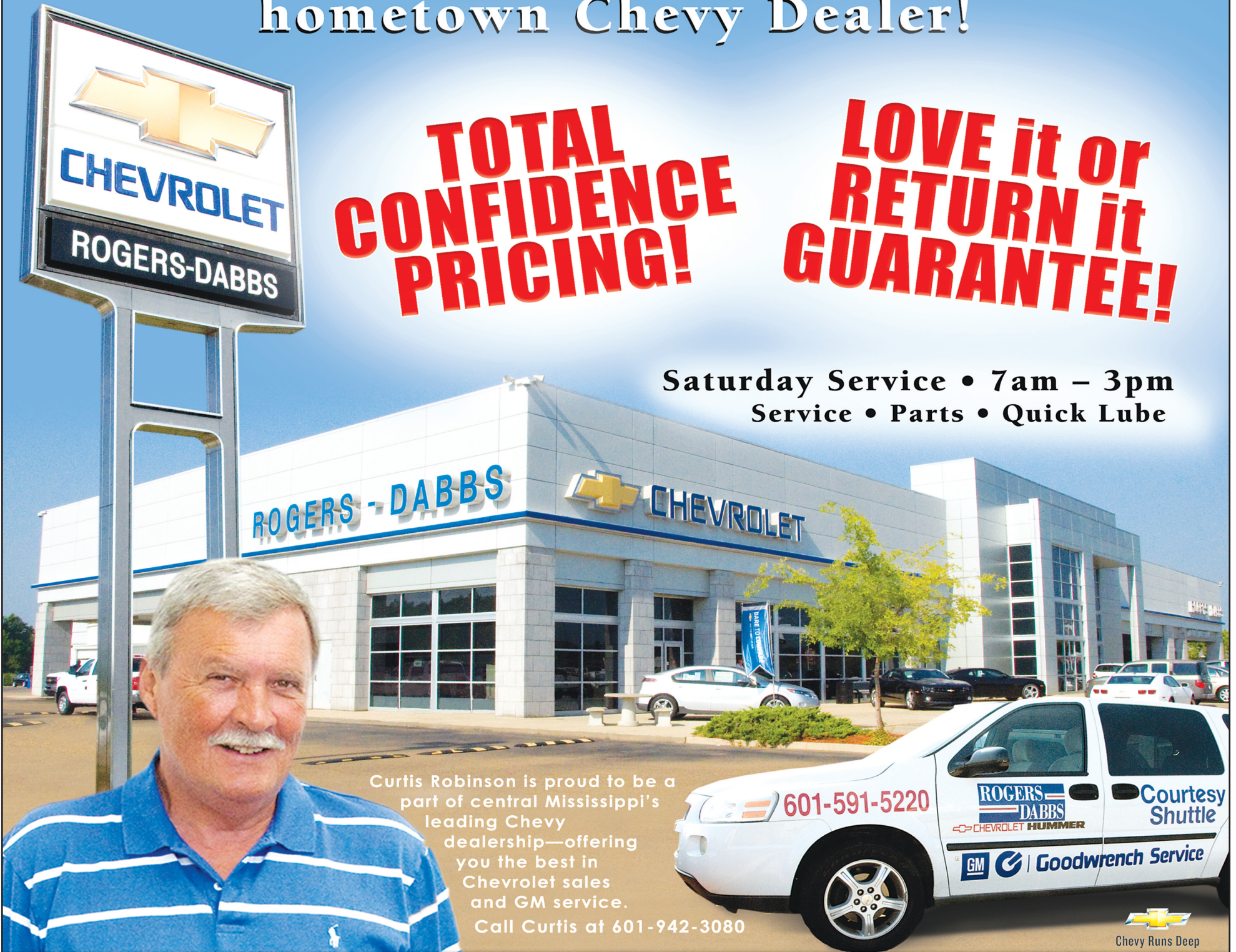
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