

Willy Wonka Junior Photo Spread

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Business Spotlight

Crossroads Store and
Grill

See page 8

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

Issue 2

February 2013

Volume 2

Project CHANCE receives donation from Rankin County Bar Association

BY: KRISTEN JONES

The Rankin County Juvenile Justice Center (JDC) received a \$2,000 donation for Project CHANCE (Communities Helping Adolescents Navigate Challenging Environments) from the Rankin County Bar Association on Thursday, Jan. 17. Attorneys David Morrow and Troy Odom presented the check to JDC officials.

"Every donation helps," said Bob Mohr, Project CHANCE Assistant Coordinator. "We appreciate every bit of assistance that we get from businesses and individuals. This generous donation certainly makes a difference."

Project CHANCE is a program designed to help adolescents who are struggling with various forms of addiction. The program is sectioned into four phases of treatment, and each phase consists of family and group sessions to



The Rankin County Bar Association donated money to the Rankin County Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) program called Project CHANCE (Communities Helping Adolescents Navigate Challenging Environments). Pictured from left to right: Attorney Troy Odom, Michelle Rhodes, Judge Tom Broome, Bob Mohr and Attorney David Morrow (Photo Special to The Pelahatchie News)

aid in the recovery process. To keep adolescents motivated throughout the program, small incentives are awarded to the teenagers after they have successfully completed a phase of the program.

"At the end of the day, people have to remember these are kids we are working with," said Case Manager Cynthia Porter. "We have to keep them motivated, and the best way to keep them motivated is to reward them for showing progress."

Donations to Project CHANCE go toward purchasing these incentives for the adolescents in the program, and all types of donations are welcomed.

For more information on Project CHANCE or how to make a donation, please contact Bob Mohr at (601) 824-2545.

The Lions Club sponsors father-daughter dance

BY: KRISTEN JONES

The Pelahatchie Lions Club is sponsoring their second annual Father-Daughter Valentine's Dance on Saturday, Feb. 9, in the Pelahatchie Community Center from 7-9 p.m. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for pictures.

The event is for girls, ages 5-12, and their fathers, and the cost to attend the event is \$25 per couple and \$5 per additional

child. Tickets are available for purchase at Pelahatchie Trustmark Bank, Duke's Steakhouse and the Pelahatchie Police Department until Feb. 7.

Refreshments will be provided, and door prizes will be given throughout the course of the evening.

For more information, contact Judy Windham at 601-497-9280.

Pelahatchie prepares for election race

BY: KRISTEN JONES

With the beginning of the new year, new possibilities are in the air. Candidates for alderman and mayor are starting to pick up packets to begin the process of election and re-election.

Currently, two alderman have already qualified, Margie Warren, Ward 3, and Billy Watson, Ward 4; the present mayor, Knox Ross, Jr., has also turned in his paperwork and has qualified

for the race. The other individuals serving as alderman have not turned in packets for qualification as of press time.

"To run for mayor or alderman at large, you must be a registered voter and live within the city limits of Pelahatchie," said Bettye Massey, Pelahatchie City Clerk.

Anyone who is considering running for election must fill out — continued on page 3 —



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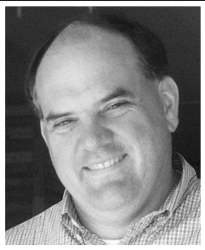
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**BY: KNOX
ROSS, JR.,
MAYOR OF
PELAHATCHIE**

*Special to
The Pelahatchie
News*

The dreary winter weather we have been experiencing has not dampened our Town's enthusiasm. I would like to welcome our two new businesses. The Muscadine Marketplace has opened next door to Rhodes & Robby Drug Store, and they have an eclectic mix of merchandise from gifts to clothing. Go by and say hello to Francine Gray and welcome them to our Town. Also, Robin's Florist and Gifts is now Candy's Florist and Gifts. Candace Holmes has purchased the business and has added

new gifts and decorative items to the store. She is also maintaining the East Rankin Academy uniform exchange. Be sure to stop by and wish her the best.

While on the subject of new businesses, please make sure you give our local businesses a chance to earn your business. If our local businesses do well, others will follow. Our local businesses also contribute a great deal to our local economy, which allows our Town to do more.

If you have not done so, please take the opportunity to "like" our Town's Facebook page. We are constantly updating the page with local news, local business deals and other fun facts and pictures. It is a great way to stay

in the know about activities and events happening in town.

I want to share some good news on the development front. By the time you read this, we will have advertised for bids for the construction of Milltown Park. We have been waiting a long time for this, and I am very pleased to finally be able to move forward. We will be able to advertise for bids soon on the North Brooks reconstruction, and we will also be installing sewer service to the northwest corner of Highway 43 and Interstate 20 interchange in the next month. This will complete the availability of water and sewer service to that site and make it more marketable for commercial development in the fu-

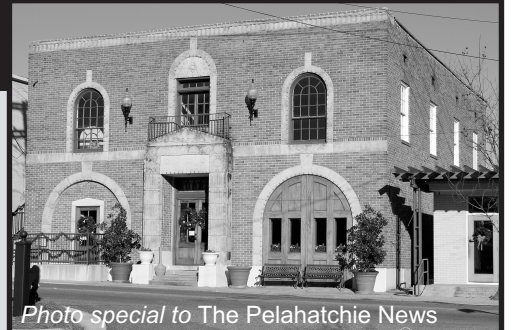


Photo special to The Pelahatchie News

ture.

We are also in the engineering stages of sewer and water repairs and upgrades for the south part of Town as well as other upgrades to the sewer system. This will allow the repaving of Moore Street, Williams Street and McDonald Street.

Both of our schools are winding up their basketball seasons. Please take the opportunity to go and support them. We also will be gearing up for baseball season soon.

— continued on page 3 —



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Volume 2 Issue 2

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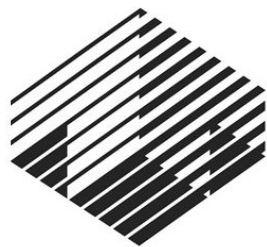
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From the Mayor's desk

— continued from page 2 —

Our economic development team, led by Rankin First, is hard at work identifying potential industrial sites and marketing those sites to potential employers. We have had some success in securing sites to show; we hope to have a steady stream of potential employers coming to visit with us. I also want to thank Representative Tom Miles for introducing the bill to relocate the Mississippi Department of Revenue in Pelahatchie. While the likeli-

hood of this happening is unknown, his leadership in representing our interests is greatly appreciated.

Our future here is bright. I am pleased that we are having new businesses open, new families arrive and others that are expressing keen interest. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor, and I again ask you to give our local businesses a chance to earn your business. It is vitally important to the future of Town!

Pelahatchie prepares for election race

— continued from page 1 —

a Qualifying Statement of Intent and certify that they have never been convicted of a punishable crime that resulted in at least one year of detainment in a Mississippi Penitentiary. A Candidate Petition for signatures of qualified voters would be given to the potential candidate. For mayor and alderman at large, 50 signa-

tures would be needed, and for the position of alderman, 15 signatures are needed. The deadline for qualifying packets to be returned to Pelahatchie City Hall is March 8 at 5 p.m.

For more information about the election process, contact Pelahatchie City Hall at (601) 854-5224.

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PELAHATCHIE ATTENDANCE CENTER BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE		TIME
FEB. 5	HARTFIELD ACADEMY	HOME	JH/HS	5:00 P.M.
FEB. 8	ENTERPRISE LINCOLN	AWAY	HS ONLY	6:00 P.M.
FEB. 12-16	DISTRICT TOURNAMENT	HOME	HS ONLY	TBA



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Candy's Florist was formerly Robin's Florist located in downtown Pelahatchie across the street from Priority One Bank on Hwy 80.

601-854-5154



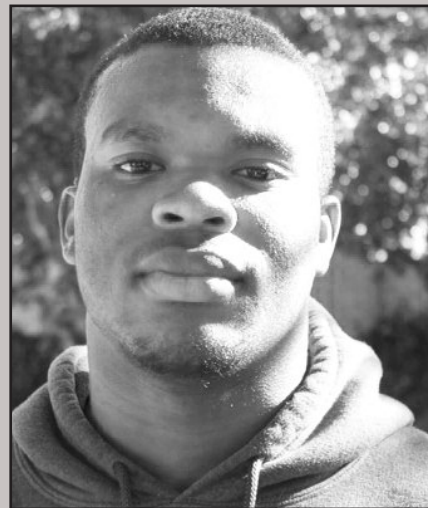
Patriots claw the Cougars



The East Rankin Academy Lady Patriots beat the Columbia Academy Cougars only by a small margin. It was a close game, and the Lady Patriots managed to win it at the free throw line with a score of 37-35. Pictured: Karlie Koglan driving in for a lay-up. (Photo by: Kristen Jones)

EAST RANKIN ACADEMY BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	HS ONLY	TIME
FEB. 5	COPIAH	AWAY	HS ONLY	6:00 P.M.
FEB. 6, 7, & 8	SOUTH AAA JH TOURNAMENT	TBD	JH ONLY	TBA
FEB. 8	MRA	HOME	HS ONLY	6:00 P.M.
FEB. 12-16	AAA DIVISION II TOURNAMENT	AWAY	TBA	TBA



PAC Player voted Player of the Week

Pelahatchie Chieftain Erick Hoard was voted *Clarion Ledger* Metro Area Player of the Week for his outstanding performance against the St. Aloysius Flashes. Hoard scored 25 points, which helped lead his team to a victory of 65-59.

(Photo Special to The Pelahatchie News)

Cross Roads Baptist Church

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Sunday Schedule

8:30 - Contemporary Worship Service
10:00 - Bible Study for all ages
11:00 - Blended Worship Service
5:00 - Cross Clubs for Children & Students
6:00 - Evening Worship

Wednesday Schedule

6:00 Family Dinner
7:00 - Children's Mission Activities • Student Worship
Ladies Bible Study • Couples Support Group
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Fire Department News

**BY: JENNY COWARD
FIRE CAPTAIN**

Well, it is February already, and it seems that January just flew by. I should say it just floated by with all the rain we experienced during the month.

The Delta District was hard at work again, responding to 88 calls between four departments: Pelahatchie-33 calls, Walters-21 calls, Lake Harbor-20 calls and Leesburg-14 calls.

After a widespread outage of over 900 Entergy customers, the power was restored, which resulted in two structure fires on January 13. Leesburg and Pelahatchie fire departments were paged to a house fire on Holly Bush Road that turned into a fully involved kitchen fire. Due to the quick response and trained personnel, the fire was controlled and contained. After working the kitchen fire, Pelahatchie and Walters were paged out to another structure fire on Church Street in the town of Pelahatchie. Upon arrival, they dis-

covered another fully involved kitchen fire. Once again, with the quick response and knowledgeable personnel, the fire was contained and controlled, limiting fire damage. These two structure fires were just a small example of how the fire departments within the Delta District are able to handle these situations like a finely-oiled machine.

The Delta District has a request for the Hotspot readers. Each department asks that each residence put up house numbers and make them visible from the road. You can place numbers on both sides of the mail box, preferably made of reflective materials. This helps our men and women responding to your 911 emergency reach you quicker. If we have to pass a residence several times or stop to ask Central Dispatch for directions, this is wasting time. You can purchase these letters and numbers at any hardware store. These numbers usually only cost \$1 or less and could potentially save your life.

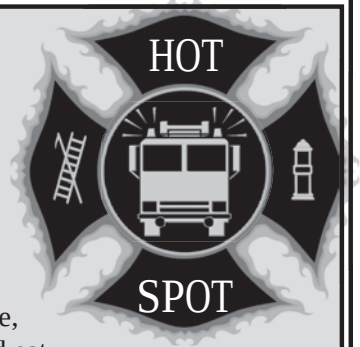
Another issue the Delta District, along with all the other fire departments in Rankin County, are having is the abuse of the 911 system. For the past couple of years, we have had people to abuse the 911 system by calling for non-emergency situations. People need to remember these unnecessary calls take time away from the Volunteers' families, jobs, sleep and personal activities. Bob Wedgeworth, who works with Rankin County Emergency Operations, is working on a plan to help counter this abuse. In a recent meeting, Wedgeworth stated that he is going to begin writing certified letters outlining the actions that will be taken against people who abuse the 911 system. If the abuse of the system continues, the person in question will be fined.

On February 9 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., a few of the Delta Force departments will be participating in "Putting out the Flames" chili cook-off on Market Street in Flowood, Miss. It is a \$10 per per-

son admission, and with this admission fee, you should eat all the chili you want and have a chance to win a door prize. All profits made from the event will be divided equally among the participating departments; so, come and support your local fire department.

During these cold temperatures, remember to keep a close check on the elderly and the handicapped to make sure they have proper heating to keep them from suffering any complications, illnesses or injuries. Also, remember to be safety-conscious when using fire places, gas heaters, space heaters and portable electric heaters.

Until next month, stay warm, stay smart and stay safe. Always remember help is only 3 numbers away: 9-1-1.



Pelahatchie Hosts Leadership Rankin

BY: DAPHINE MCNAIR

The town of Pelahatchie hosted a luncheon for the Leadership Rankin Class on January 16. The Leadership Rankin Class consists of approximately 30 individuals who provide leadership to Rankin County. This year-long program is sponsored by the Rankin County Chamber of Commerce, and the

class meets several times over the course of the year to learn more about different subjects such as education, politics and economics in Rankin County. The group visits different businesses and locations around Rankin County as well as meets with local government officials to learn about what Rankin County has to offer.

While visiting Pelahatchie, the Leadership Rankin Class had lunch with Mayor Knox Ross, Jr. and discussed the history and businesses of Pelahatchie.

"It is a great opportunity to meet town officials, to learn how the government works and to learn how the county works. It is a great way to network," said Mayor Knox Ross, Jr.


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Pelahatchie performs *Willy Wonka Junior*



Pelahatchie Elementary performed their version of *Willy Wonka Junior* on Thursday, January 24, for the general public at the Pelahatchie Attendance Center Auditorium. (Photo by: Rachael H. Boyer)

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Business Spotlight: CrossRoads Store and Grill

BY: KRISTEN JONES

It is amazing what a little prayer mixed with a big leap of faith can accomplish. For Crossroads Store and Grill owners, Tommy and Dianna Key, their day of fate came when they decided to purchase a small tin building on Hwy 43 that would one day be their future business.

"We just started talking about the idea of opening a store," said Dianna Key. "We felt like God was leading us to do it, and with a lot of prayer and faith, we finally opened the store."

In December of 2011, Crossroads Store and Grill made its debut and has not shown any signs of slowing down. Within the past year, the store has made a name for itself due to its signature hand-pattied hamburger.

"We have people who drive all the way from Jackson just to

eat one of our hamburgers," said Dianna Key.

As an interesting addition to their menu, Crossroads Store and Grill also creates customized cakes. The cakes are all designed by Dianna Key herself, and she has produced all sorts of crafty creations. From wedding cakes to birthday cakes, she does it all. Home-made specials are also offered throughout the week, and to keep the specials a surprise, the Crossroads crew does not even plan the specials ahead of time. The

specials are even a mystery to them.

"Today is a good example," said Tommy Key. "We got here this morning and just decided today's special would be fish."

Currently, the store is gearing up for crawfish season. Crossroads Store and Grill will begin

selling crawfish on Super Bowl weekend and will continue until the end of crawfish season.

While the store's menu is quite impressive, the atmosphere is what keeps customers coming back for more.

"We try to provide a family atmosphere and a place where customers can fellowship together," said Dianna Key.

The best way to create a family atmosphere is to have family helping run the business.

"The whole family helps out at the store," said Tommy Key. "Without them, this would not be possible. They are such a great help."

Crossroads Store and Grill is planning to open a new section of the store that will serve as an ice cream soda shop.

"Right now, we are not sure of an exact date, but we are planning to open this section up in the spring of this year," said Dianna Key.

To keep up with the latest news at Crossroads Store and Grill, like them on Facebook or contact them at (601) 546-2255.



Pictured from left to right (back row): Kessie Key, Austin Key, Drake Key, Kalai Key (front row): Leilani Key, Tommy Key, and Dianna Key. (Photos special to The Pelahatchie News)



Police Chief sends out a thank you

SPECIAL TO THE PELAHATCHIE NEWS

After all the donations were collected from the Christmas Toy Drive, the Pelahatchie Police Department was able to help 28 families. Groceries and

toys were given out to these families in order to help them during the holiday season. The Pelahatchie Police Department would like to thank all of the residents who donated and helped with the toy drive.

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Cross Roads Baptist Church offers Upward Basketball

BY: JOHN VAUGHN, PASTOR OF CROSS ROADS BAPTIST CHURCH

Upward Basketball is in full swing at Cross Roads Baptist Church. This is the 13th year that boys and girls have had the opportunity to play Upward Basketball at Cross Roads. Since its debut in 2000, the program has grown and evolved.

In 2010, a Kindergarten level was started, and last year, we began to offer Upward Cheerleading. Currently, we have a total of 181 children participating in the program. Participants come from as far away as Forest and Brandon, and 51 churches are represented.

In the Upward Program, every

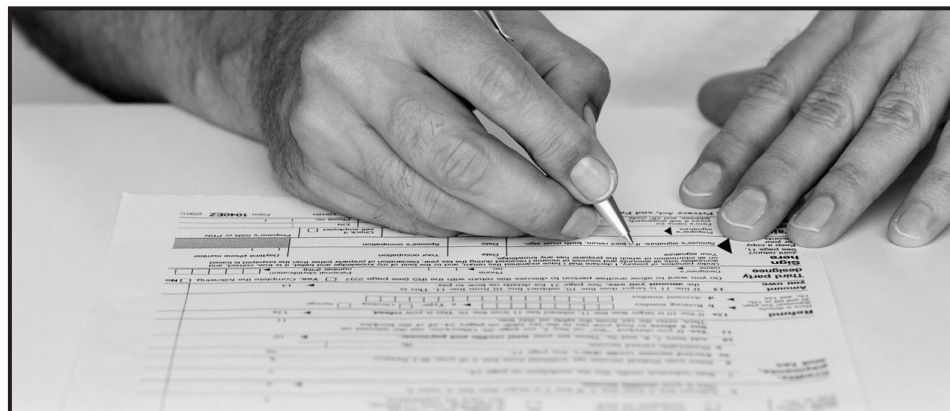
child is valued and receives equal playing time. The goal of Upward is to help every child improve their basketball skills and to give them spiritual lessons that they will benefit from for the rest of their lives.

Games are played every Saturday and will continue until February 16. The Upward Awards Celebration will be February 23. Penn's Fish House will cater a meal, and entertainment will be provided by Steve Brogan, a professional entertainer from Norman, Okla. The entertainment is free and open to the public. Meal tickets must be purchased in advance from the church office or at one of the Upward events.

PAC past players honored at halftime



Lynn Everett, Dwayne McNair, Coach Billy Gray and Frank Dilliard were honored at Pelahatchie Attendance Center's (PAC) game on January 11 at halftime. Coach Billy Gray was recognized for coaching at PAC for over 21 years and for having over 1,000 career victories in his 40 years of coaching. Lynn Everett, Dwayne McNair and Frank Dilliard were celebrated for being a part of winning teams in PAC history. Banners were placed in the gym to commemorate past winning teams. (Photo by: Kristen Jones)



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PASTOR'S CORNER

BY: JOSEPH OSTER, PASTOR OF
LEESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Psalm 119:165
*"Great peace have
 they which love thy law
 and nothing shall offend
 them."*

I think it is safe to say that we live in a world of offense. Amen? So many people have been hurt by someone or something, whether it was intentional or unintentional. No one likes to be hurt. In my life, when I have been hurt by others, it left the door open for unforgiveness to creep in and really begin to tear things apart in my life. Have you ever been there?

I truly believe God has a plan for our lives. He wants to make us a people who have impact, influence and fruitfulness in His Kingdom, and being offended at someone along the way can rob us of that

Taking offense

appointment. One of the signs of great maturity in the Christian life is the ability to not be offended. The word offense in the original Greek language means a stumbling block, a trap or a snare, and Satan uses offense to rob us of the blessings of God. I do not know about you, but as a believer, I do not want to miss out on anything that God has for me. In Acts 24:16, Paul says that he has to exercise himself to have a conscious void of offense toward God and man. If the apostle Paul had to work at it, I think we will have to work at it as well.

May I challenge you today? Has someone offended you? Forgive them. Have you offended someone? Ask for their forgiveness. Do not allow unforgiveness to lead to bitterness and anger. Allow God to help you. Forgive much because we have been forgiven much. It is summed up best

in the words of a song by Matthew West.

It says...

"It'll clear the bitterness away,

It can even set a prisoner free,

There is no end to what its power can do.

*So, let it go and be amazed by what you
 see through eyes of grace.*

*The prisoner that it really frees is you...
 forgiveness!"*



Photo special to The
Pelahatchie News

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Legislature update

BY: TOM MILES
STATE REPRESENTATIVE



(Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Last week was a busy one at the State Capitol. I was honored to host a press conference featuring several men and women first responders on Thursday. These individuals risk their lives for us daily. I have introduced House Bill 269 (HB 269) which will increase the death benefit for these public servants from \$65,000 to \$100,000 at no cost to taxpayers. It also includes emergency management as potential recipients of the benefit.

I was especially pleased that our local group from Scott and Rankin County attended the press conference. It was good to see our local law enforcement, fire fighters and emergency management. They are always there for us when we need them, and it does not

matter to them what personal risk they take to help us. It is an honor for me to have sponsored this bill and to work across party lines with my colleagues in the Senate and House to see it become law. Our men and women first responders and their families deserve our full support.

As you have probably heard, we spent over ten hours in debate over House Bill 369 (HB 369) or "The Mississippi Public Charter Schools Act of 2013" on Tuesday, January 22. After 18 amendments were voted on and the entire bill was read out loud word-for-word, a final vote was taken around 12:50 a.m. The measure passed 64-55. I voted against it.

Although the House version does offer limitations on where and how charter schools can be placed, I still believe we should follow the law and fully fund our public schools before trying something new. One amendment that I supported was to give the public an opportunity to vote if they wanted charter schools in their community or not, but it was voted down, unfortunately. One

of the biggest concerns of many is that losing children out of our traditional public schools could lead to a large increase on local ad valorem taxes.

Now, the House version of the charter school law will go to the Senate for consideration and deliberation. No matter which version prevails, it will wind up in a conference committee to iron out the differences. Conference committees are supposed to be conducted in public, and I will make every effort to let you know in advance of their meeting and also let you know who is on the committee.

I was happy to vote to help approve (HB 610) which will allow the University of Mississippi Medical Center to update and improve its facilities for training physicians and other healthcare providers. Importantly, this measure will also allow for the expansion of enrollment in the medical school. Before, the school was limited to about 135 graduates each year; it will be able to expand that number to up to 200. This will mean citizens in our rural areas will have better access to physicians.

On January 28 and 29 of this week, I hosted Erin Merryn at the Capitol while she was speaking on behalf of Erin's Law. Senator Collins of Tupelo is sponsoring the Senate version of the law (SB 2133), and I authored the bill (HB 200). I will write more about Erin's visit to Jackson along with the progress of this effort to make sure children who have been sexually assaulted will know how to report their abusers and get out of harm's way. We were so thankful that Erin agreed to come. Her presence made a big difference.

I invite you to visit our website at www.legislature.ms.gov, watch our floor debates live, look through the various bills and peruse the voting records of members. This is an important step in bringing our state government into full transparency for our citizens, and I am proud that the new website is so easy to explore. Please feel free to call me at 601-469-7886, or email me at tmiles@house.ms.gov if you have concerns or comments. I welcome your input and look forward to hearing from you.

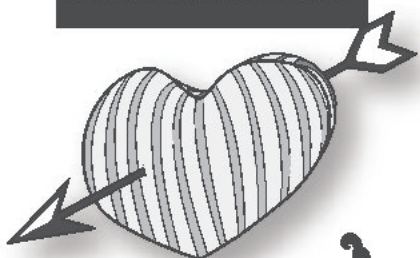
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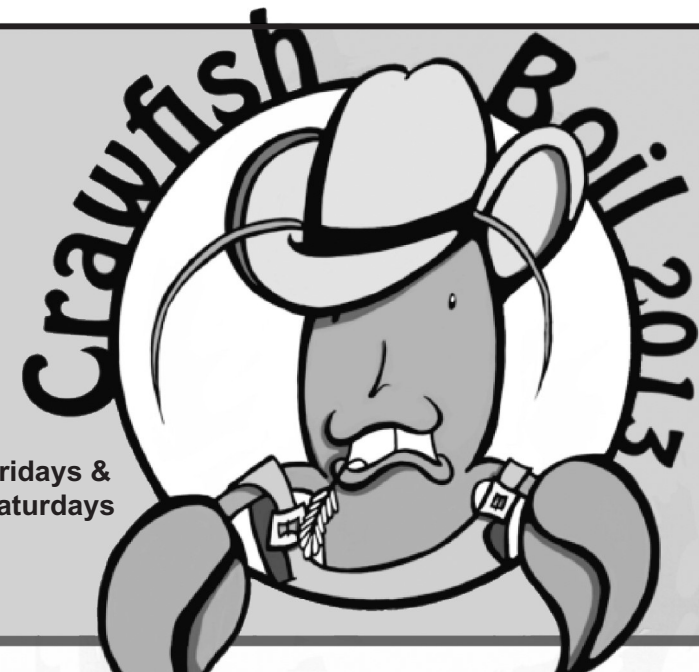
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