

**East Rankin Academy
honors Veterans**

See page 4

**Make sure Christmas
doesn't go up in smoke**

See page 12

PELAHATCHIE NEWS

**December
2014**

**Volume 3
Number 12
Pelahatchie, MS**

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PELAHATCHIE, MS
PERMIT NO. 4

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

A Southern Christmas parade in Pelahatchie

By: Katie White

What will folks decorating a float in the parade be up to this year during the 2014 Christmas parade? To find out, come one come all to downtown Pelahatchie.

The Christmas parade will be held on Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. The theme this year is *A Southern Christmas*.

Mr. John Edwards and Mrs. Docie Edwards will lead the parade as the 2014 Grand Marshalls. Mayor Knox Ross will announce the winners. Also, the town of Pelahatchie will make sure Santa is there for the kids. Parents are reminded to bring a bag to collect all the goodies thrown from the floats.

Participants will line up at the Pelahatchie High School gym at 9 a.m., and they may find out their line-up number by calling Pelahatchie City Hall on Friday, Dec. 5, at (601) 854-5224. Only parade vehicles may line up on Pennington St. All others may line up beside the baseball field.



In 2013, Crooked Creek Animal Hospital employees, friends and family dress up as the Robertson family of the popular hit television show Duck Dynasty. They won first place. This is just one of many creative floats from the 2013 Christmas parade and years past. On Dec. 6 at 10:00 a.m., find out which floats will win this year. (Photo by Rachael Boyer)

Journey to Bethlehem at Shiloh Methodist Church

By: Stephanie Goss

No other scene depicts the splendor and majesty of the Christmas season more than a live nativity. One website, www.catholiceducation.org, tells us that the first re-creation of the nativity using living creatures was in 1223 by St. Francis of Assisi. He used the scene as a backdrop while he preached a midnight mass sermon about the birth of Christ. St. Bonaventure told of the night in a biography of St. Francis and said that it was a glorious night full of resounding voices and brilliant lights. He gives a picture of St. Francis' heart that night: "The man of God [St. Francis] stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy... [and he] was unable to utter His name for the tenderness of His love." The years following brought an abundance of nativity scenes throughout Europe. People began adding to the small scene

with dramatizations and more people. Eventually the nativity made its way to America.

In the Pelahatchie community, residents are lucky to be able to observe the wonder of Jesus firsthand at Shiloh United Methodist Church's Journey to Bethlehem – The Life of Jesus. Each year, Shiloh United Methodist's members transform their campus into the streets of Bethlehem, creating scene after scene, telling the story of Jesus. According to the church website visitors can experience the sights and sounds as they were thousands of years ago at the time of Jesus' birth. In this drive-thru Nativity, guests will be able to stay in the convenience of their vehicle and travel from scenes of Bethlehem to a final powerful scene portraying the ultimate sacrifice Jesus paid for our sins and eternal salvation. Shiloh has presented this event to the public periodically through the years through dedicated volunteers and event coor-



2013 live nativity at Shiloh United Methodist Church. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

dinators. Event chairman, Ms. Shirley Wadsworth, states, "The event is entering its fourth consecutive year and traffic continues to increase each year. Last year we were able to present the story of Jesus to over 600 cars, and we would love to see that number increase

continued on page 5

Christmas Events in Pelahatchie

Town of Pelahatchie
A Southern Christmas Parade
Dec. 6, 10:00 a.m.

**Pelahatchie United
Methodist Church**
Children's Christmas Program
Dec. 7, 6:00 p.m.

**Pelahatchie Library
Open House**
December 11 - All Day
Refreshments served

**Shiloh United
Methodist Church**
Journey to Bethlehem
Dec. 13-14
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**Holmes Assembly
of God**
A Christmas To Believe
Dec. 14, 6:00 PM

**Pelahatchie Baptist
Church**
He is Here Choir Performance
Dec. 14, 10:30 a.m.

**Pelahatchie United
Methodist Church**
Arise Shine!
Choir Christmas Cantata
Dec. 14, 11:00 a.m.

**Pelahatchie Baptist
Church**
Candlelight Service
Dec. 21, 6:00 p.m.

**Pelahatchie United
Methodist Church**
Come and go communion
Dec. 24, 6:00 p.m.

MEA
Medical Clinics™

**Come Get Your Flu Shot
Today at MEA!**

1.800.844.6503 • www.meamedicalclinics.com



National Honor Society students at East Rankin Academy inducted



On Oct. 12, East Rankin Academy held an induction ceremony and reception for new members of their 2014-2015 National Honor Society chapter. Currently, the East Rankin Academy Chapter of the National Honor Society holds 41 members. Selection for membership is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership and service. New members inducted (l to r) front row: Abbey Armstrong, Madison Bradford, Olivia Burton, Brooke Crain, Chloe Cunningham, Kaitlyn Evans, Madeline Ezelle, Karleigh Mahaffey, Mallory Moore and Hayden Neal; (l to r) middle row: Carolyn Nickles, Hannah Rhodes, Peyton Rhodes, Hailey Robinson, Jordan Tadlock, Catherine Teh, Elizabeth Tuttle, Kathryn White and Addison Walsh; (l to r) back row: Dylan Edwards, Sam Gunn, Noah Mashburn, Zach Nettles, Bryce Overby, Walker Phillips, Peyton Spencer and Trace Sugg. Students inducted in 2013-2014 are: Chance Gaddis, Hannah Gray, Katlyn Harris, David Herz, Taylor McMurtrey, Houston Smith, Daniel Teh, Carrie Thompson, Carlie Vinzant, Jimmie Webb, Win Winstead and Saylee Yount. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)



P.O. Box 771
Pelahatchie, MS 39145

Volume 3 Issue 12
Circulation - 3,300

Clay Mansell

Publisher
601-397-4442
claymansell@pelahatchienews.com

Katie White

Managing Editor
601-566-1932 x5
katie@pelahatchienews.com

Photography

Rachael Boyer

Staff Writers

Stephanie Goss
Kristen J. Rials

Sales

601-566-1932 x5

For submission information, email
katie@pelahatchienews.com

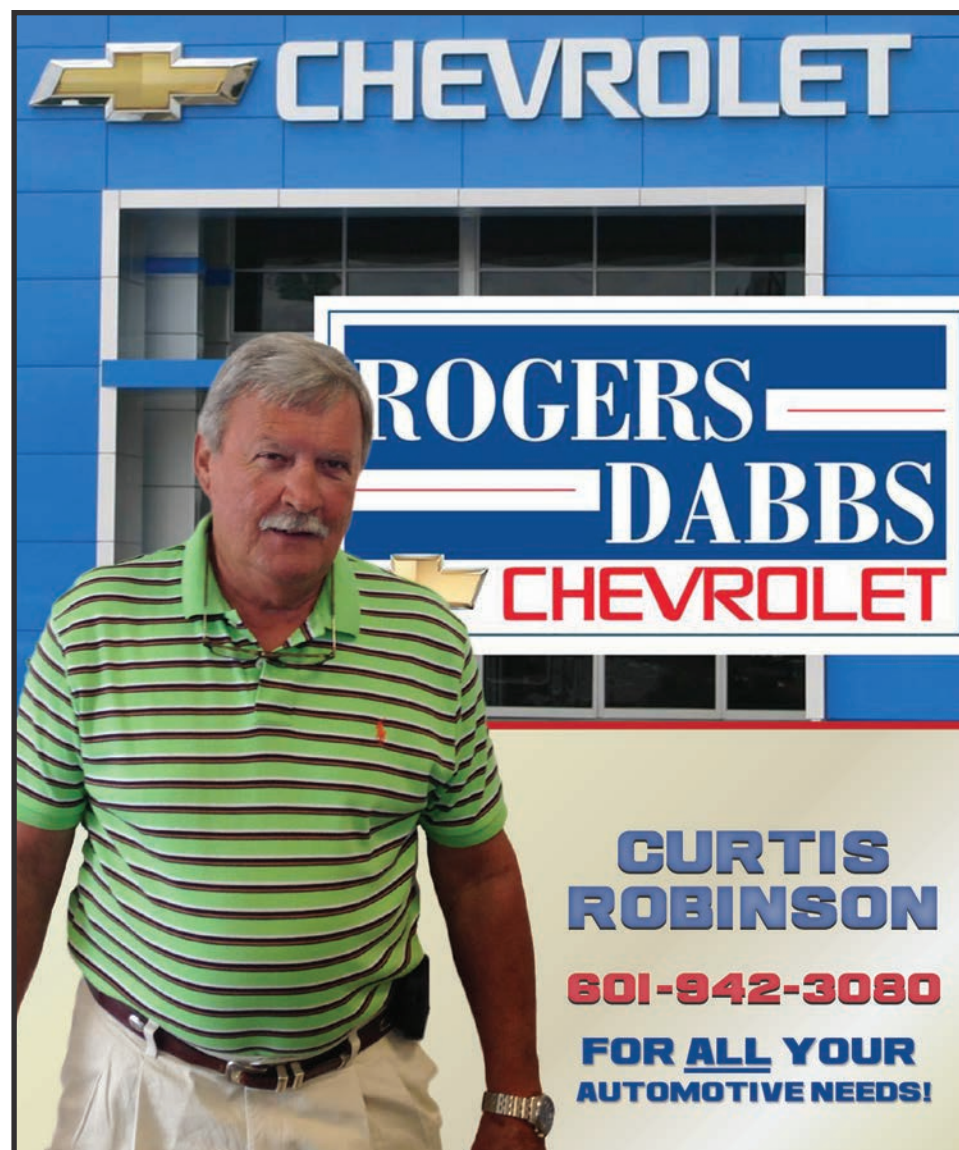
The Pelahatchie News is published
on the first Tuesday of every month
in Pelahatchie, MS

Copyright 2014. All rights reserved. Materials may
not be reproduced in whole or in part without written
permission of the publisher.



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/PelahatchieNews



CHEVROLET

ROGERS DABBS

CHEVROLET

CURTIS ROBINSON

601-942-3080

FOR ALL YOUR AUTOMOTIVE NEEDS!

Fusion Martial Arts



www.fusionma.net
601-759-1123

Service • Maintenance • Replacement



601-941-1476
546 Antioch Shiloh Rd., Pelahatchie, MS 39145

*"We treat others the way
we want to be treated."*



Trustmark
Banking and Financial Solutions

National Honor Society students package shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child



All 41 members of the East Rankin Academy Chapter of the National Honor Society recently completed fall service projects. Members packaged shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and provided canned food items for the Pelahatchie Police Department's local food pantry. Pictured are Hannah Gray, Win Winstead, Jordan Tadock and Jimmie Webb. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)



East Rankin Academy
Sports Calendar
www.eastrankinacademy.org

High School & Junior High Basketball

Dec. 3, 4, 6	MRA Tourn.	HS	Away	TBA
December 9	Presbyterian Christian	JH HS	Away	4:00
December 11	Jackson Prep	7th JH HS	Home	4:00
December 13	Simpson	JH HS	Away	11:00
December 19	Columbia	JH HS	Away	4:00
Dec. 27, 29, 30	Simpson Tourn.	HS	Away	TBA



Holiday Extended Hours

Monday thru Friday
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

GAME DAY T-SHIRTS IN STOCK!

Ronaldo • Hobo • Clothing • Jewelry • Gifts & More

601-854-7112
110 S. Brooks Ave • Pelahatchie, Ms
[facebook.com/RazmatazofPelahatchie](https://www.facebook.com/RazmatazofPelahatchie)
Next door to the Pelahatchie Police Department

PELAHATCHIE MEDICAL CLINIC

**We have flu vaccines
for all insurances,
including Medicaid & Chips.**

Our Staff:

Dr. William F. Krooss, II

Mary Ann Griffin, CFNP
Tracie Bass, LPN
Kim Risher

Florence Measells
Kayla Wilbourne
Amanda Pigott, Respiratory

507 Hwy 80 West
Pelahatchie, MS 39145
601-854-8002

East Rankin Academy honors Veterans



East Rankin Academy students perform patriotic music and read essays to honor veterans at their Veteran's Day program. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

On Nov. 10, East Rankin Academy (ERA) students observed Veterans Day with a program to honor local veterans. The ERA High School Choir, along with the K5 Bell Choir and fourth grade classes, presented patriotic music.

The senior class also shared essays written in honor of the Veterans. ERA

High School student council members led the program.

Jim Smith, former Mississippi State Supreme Court Chief Justice, was the guest speaker. Veterans from surrounding communities were honored as each branch from the U.S. military was recognized. A color guard consisting of members from the Mississippi Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion also participated.

Cross Roads Baptist to host grief remembrance service



Photo special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

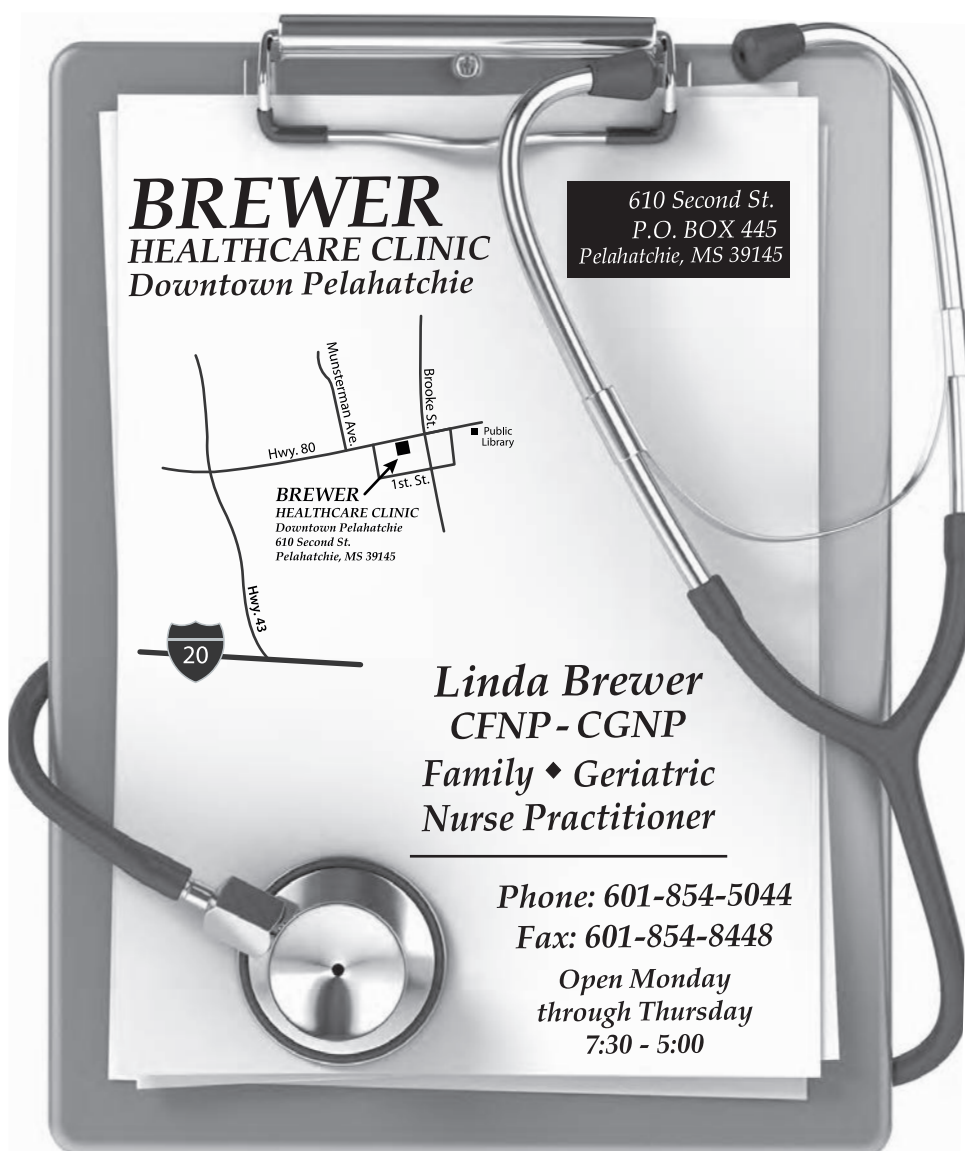
The Christmas season is a joyous time when we remember the birth of Jesus Christ, participate in festive parties, eat a lot of good food and enjoy exchanging gifts. But for many people, this is a difficult time because they miss the presence of a loved one who is no longer with them. The absence of that loved one and the grief that is felt can rob a person of the joy that should be experienced at this time of year.

This may be your first Christmas without a loved one, or they could have left many years ago. Either way, the pain and grief that is felt is very real. As a part of their Grief Ministry,

Cross Roads Baptist Church will host a Grief Remembrance Service to honor loved ones who are not present for this Christmas season. The service is open to anyone who feels the absence of a loved one.

The service will be held in the Sanctuary of Cross Roads Baptist Church on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 2:00 p.m. Those honoring a loved one may bring a photo to place on the Remembrance Table. There will also be an opportunity to share something about your loved one. Everyone is invited to participate.

Cross Roads is located at 104 Crossroads Rd., Pelahatchie. For more information, please call the church office at (601) 546-2297.



BREWER
HEALTHCARE CLINIC
Downtown Pelahatchie

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

Linda Brewer
CFNP - CGNP
Family ♦ Geriatric
Nurse Practitioner

Phone: 601-854-5044
Fax: 601-854-8448
Open Monday
through Thursday
7:30 - 5:00

Map showing location: Hwy. 80, Hwy. 43, 1st St., Brookline Ave., Public Library, BREWER HEALTHCARE CLINIC, 610 Second St., Pelahatchie, MS 39145.



Pillars, LLC
601-954-0699

NSSA
NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORS

From Roy and Diane Thompson
Your neighborhood National Social Security Advisors
www.pillarsllc.com

Luke 2:11 - Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.
Merry Christmas

FISHING
Springwater
Ranch
CAMPING
Summer Special

Annual Memberships
601-966-6160 • www.swrfish.com

COMPLETE PRINTING • COPYING & FAXING SERVICE
OFFICE SUPPLIES • COLOR COPIES
WEDDING & GRADUATION INVITATIONS

Hall's
Printing & Office Supplies, Inc.
"FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1970"

OFFICE & FAX: 601-732-8073
Email: hallprinting@aol.com
84 Hwy. 481 S.
Morton, MS 39117

Benefit held for "last of his kind" Jimmie Thompson

By: Katie White

On Nov. 29 at Leesburg Baptist Church, the family of Jimmie Thompson held a benefit lunch to raise money for ongoing hospital expenses for Thompson who has been fighting stage IV melanoma cancer for two years. Approximately \$5,000 was raised at the benefit.

Thompson grew up in the Branch-Leesburg community. He is the son of Jim and Lorene Robinson Thompson. He is also one of 10 children, six girls and three other boys. Thompson is married to Ellen Thompson. He has two daughters, Lynne Stevens and Tammy Brun, and one son, Joey Thompson.

"Every surgery I get weaker and weaker," said Thompson. But Thompson is not alone. His family has been there for him, as evident by the amount of participation at the benefit held in his honor.

A chicken plate benefit lunch was organized to raise money for hospital expenses. Thompson's family invited everyone to come out and show their love and support for Thompson and to help him continue his fight against

cancer.

Although he wanted to be there to see everyone and thank them personally, Thompson was in the hospital when the benefit was held. However, his family continued on with the lunch, and they had plenty of great things to say about him.

"We were always really poor, but we didn't know we were poor. We were always provided for, and we were always loved," said Brun.

"He always taught us to be very respectful or we would be in trouble," said Stevens. Stevens also described the closeness of their family, "He didn't just care about immediate family, he cared about all of them."

One of Thompson's nephews, Randy Renfroe, described his Uncle as "The last of his kind. Last of the dogmen. One of the few left who is an outdoorsmen and loved gardening. His most peaceful times are when he is hunting. He loved being with God and nature."

Now retired, Thompson had a long-term employment with Richard Schwartz, Underwood Homes and many others. He loyally worked for 50 years in the home and business paint

management profession. During some of those years, he worked alongside his brother James, Hilton and Bobby.

As defined by the American Cancer Society, melanoma is a cancer that starts in a certain type of skin cell. Stage IV melanoma cancer is the most difficult to cure. Surgery and radiation are common treatments associated with melanoma cancer, and it is possible for patients to survive for several years due to the treatments.

Thompson has had five such surgeries. During his fifth surgery, a metal rod was placed in one of his legs that extends from his hip to his knee. This was done to prevent the cancer, which has metastasized to 50% of one of his hip bones, from causing further damage to his leg or femur bone.

Thompson's family and Jimmie Thompson are grateful to those who have helped with his medical expenses or prayed for him. Further donations may be mailed to, 291 Rehobeth Rd., Pelahatchie, MS 39145.

The Thompson family also asks everyone to, "Schedule regular doctor appointments and take extra precautions as we pray to find a cure in this on-going battle to find a cure for this

terrible disease. God is good all the time, and all the time God is good."



Jimmie Thompson (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

continued from page 1

Journey to Bethlehem at Shiloh

this year. Our volunteers have put in countless hours of practice, starting back in August, including full days of prep work, to organize this event." Organizers and participators are very excited to share this with their community.

Take a moment to celebrate the life

of Jesus this Christmas season. Shiloh United Methodist's presentation of Journey to Bethlehem – The Life of Jesus is December 13 and 14, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. For more information or directions to the church, you can call 601-854-8158 or log onto the website at www.shilohunitedmethodist.org.



601-500-0563
RACHAELHBOYER.COM

Trusted Family Dental Care

Keeping your smile healthy and bright through the ages!

ROSS DENTAL CLINIC, PC

Jamie E. Ross, DMD

233 Woodland St, Morton, MS 39117

601-732-6200

B&B

Carpet, Rug, Upholstery, Grout & Hard Floor Cleaning & Pressure Steaming

Bill Bearden

Cell 769-257-2267

the owner cleans most jobs

Counter Top Sanitizing

Commerical Ceiling/Restaurant Cleaning

HighRise Office/Appt Service Equip

Dust & Odor Removal - Pet Areas - Rug Cleaning

Tile & Grout Washing - RV/Semi Interiors - 24/7

Emergency Water Extraction/Smoke Damage Service

House Washing - New Construction - Move In/Out

Spring Cleaning

Tons of Local Referrals

Serving Scott, Rankin, Madison, Hinds County

Message Center 601-854-8011

Lady Chiefs down the Lady Wolves



On Nov. 20, the Pelahatchie Chiefs girls basketball team won the home game against Puckett by a score of 70-51 (Photo by special to The Pelahatchie News)

Mississippi College to hold 29th annual Festival of Lights



Image special to The Pelahatchie News

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

For nearly three decades, Mississippi College's Festival of Lights has attracted big crowds to see an inspirational candlelight service of scriptural lessons, carols and prayers.

The 29th annual Festival of Lights at Provine Chapel will adhere to that tradition on Dec. 4 through 6, with the university's award-winning MC Singers returning for another performance this Christmas season.

Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Festival patrons are advised to order their tickets as early as possible. Prices are \$15 for adults, \$10 for Mississippi College faculty and staff and \$5 for students from any school with an I.D.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.mc.edu/marketplace or by calling Dottie Serio at the MC Department of Music at 601-925-3440. Tickets should also be available at the door.



Pelahatchie Attendance Center Sports Calendar

www.rcsd.ms/Page/26571

2014- 2015 High School Basketball

December 4-5	Rural Rankin County Tourn.	HS	TBD	TBD
December 9	Puckett	HS	Away	6:00
December 11-13	Mize Tournament	HS	Away	TBD
December 18	Magee	HS	Home	5:00
December 26-27, 29	NWR Tourn.	HS	Away	TBD

2014- 2015 Junior High Basketball

December 9	Puckett	JH	Away	4:00
December 15	McLaurin	JH	Home	5:00

Ross & Betts, PLLC

Knox W. Ross, Jr.
Shirell Stuart Betts
Certified Public Accountants

P.O. Box 369
Pelahatchie, MS 39145
Office: 601-854-7007
Fax: 601-854-7008

Cross Roads Baptist Church

presents

A CROSSROADS CHRISTMAS

Saturday, Dec. 13, and Sunday, Dec. 14,
both performances will be at 6:00 p.m.

You are invited to attend what may be the **worst** Christmas party ever. *A Crossroads Christmas* features the music of David T. Clydesdale, Phil Barfoot, Allie Lapointe, Nick Robertson, Tony Wood, Phil Cross, Don Poythress, and many more.

The drama is an original script written by the Associate Pastor/Minister of Music of Cross Roads Baptist Church, Charles Wallace. "It's Christmas, what could possibly go wrong at a Christmas party?" Cross Roads Baptist Church hopes you will join with them as they celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with the choir, soloists, girls ensemble and drama.

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

Located on Hwy 43, 5 miles south of I-20, Exit 68

New awareness campaign encourages people to reduce sodium

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Americans eat too much salt, and most have no idea how much they are eating, according to new consumer research by the American Heart Association.

Nearly all of the 1,000 people surveyed by the American Heart Association either underestimated or could not estimate how much sodium they eat every day. Too much sodium in the diet can increase risk for high blood pressure, stroke, heart disease and other major health problems.

Most people who underestimated their sodium consumption in the survey were off by around 1,000 milligrams. The American Heart Association recommends 1,500 milligrams a day for ideal heart health. Most Americans consume more than double that.

In an effort to help people better un-

derstand and limit their sodium intake, the American Heart Association has launched a new awareness campaign called "I Love You Salt, But You're Breaking My Heart." The campaign includes a new website, heart.org/sodium, with an online pledge for people to commit to reduce how much sodium they eat, along with a new video to show how sodium is sneaking into foods. The site also features a blog, sodium quiz and infographics, links to lower-sodium recipes, and educational articles.

Limiting salt in the bigger picture—the U.S. food supply—is an important goal of the campaign. That's because seventy-five percent of Americans' sodium consumption is from processed, prepackaged, and restaurant foods—not the salt shaker.

"It's challenging for Americans to stick to sodium intake recommenda-

tions because most of the sodium we eat in this country is added to our food before we buy it," said Local AHA Spokesperson, Dr. Timothy Quinn. "In order to really make a difference in the health of all Americans, we must reduce sodium in the food supply through the support of food manufacturers, food processors and the restaurant industry."

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death and disability worldwide, and high blood pressure is a major risk factor. One-third of American adults have high blood pressure, and about ninety percent of American adults are expected to develop high blood pressure over their lifetimes. Children, too, are at risk of developing heart disease and elevated blood pressure at an earlier age. Nearly eighty percent of one to three-year-olds and more than ninety percent of four to



Photo special to *The Pelahatchie News*

eighteen-year-olds eat too much sodium.

The American Heart Association encourages people to reduce their sodium intake by comparing product labels and selecting the option with less sodium, limiting the consumption of processed, prepackaged, and restaurant foods, and by substituting salt with herbs, spices, citrus juice, or vinegars to season food.

To learn more about sodium and to take the pledge, visit heart.org/sodium.

Give the gift of inspiration

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

This December, give the gift of inspiration to a child with a contribution to the Mississippi Children's Museum's (MCM) Inspire a Child annual campaign. This campaign supports the efforts of the museum to reach all children in the state and inspire them to discover and achieve their potential. The museum works every day to reach children through hands-on, engaging exhibits and innovative outreach programs that encourage children to ask questions, discover the answers and have fun while learning.

The Inspire a Child campaign also helps MCM provide low cost and free field trip visits to students across the state.

"Since February 2011, MCM has invested \$60,000 in Mississippi's children through scholarship field trips allowing over 4,000 students from underserved communities to visit the museum, discover new experiences and cultivate their creativity," said Susan Garrard, President of MCM. "MCM has seen over 81,000 children from 84 of Mississippi's 148 school districts participate in special field trips and group visits and continues to seek opportunities to engage children in underserved communities through scholarship field trips and outreach programs."

Donate to Inspire a Child today through the MCM website, www.mschildrensmuseum.com/supportus, by mail or phone or in person at the museum. Any donation, no matter the size, can inspire a child's imagination!

MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

HOLIDAY Spectacular!

Play in SNOW at Garden Glow

Magic Mondays:
MCM is open
DEC 22 & 29

Book a Garden Glow Birthday Party!

Purchase a JOLLY-GRAM!
#InspireaChild

Local choirs & performers will be at each Garden Glow

Experience our Holiday Spectacular! decorations

NOV 28 - JAN 3

GARDEN GLOW NIGHTS (6:00-8:30 PM)
NOV 28, 29; DEC 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27; JAN 2, 3
Sponsored by: The Radio People

'Tis the season to fill your heart with jolly cheer,
And visit Santa to say that you've been nice all year.
Decorate your cookies and play in the snow,
And listen to seasonal tunes as you sip on hot cocoa.
Join us every Friday and Saturday night at Garden Glow!

DEC 20

QUESTION IT? DISCOVER IT!: SANTA INSTITUTE
DEC 20 (10:00 AM-2:00 PM)
Sponsored by: Children's of Mississippi at University of Mississippi Medical Center

Answer all of your questions about Santa's quest,
at the Santa Institute, because professionals know him best!
Visit us on Saturday to get your brain in gear.
Learn how Santa navigates with his many reindeer.
St. Nick Specialists will have you grinning from ear-to-ear!

DEC 31

NOON YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION
DEC 31 (9:00 AM-1:00 PM)
Sponsored by: Regions & iHeartMedia

A new year to learn, a new year to play,
2015 is coming our way!
As wishes, crafts and confetti abound,
We light up the rocket as we begin the countdown.
Then celebrate with MCM all year round!

WWW.MSCHILDRENSMUSEUM.COM • 601.981.5469

All Holiday Spectacular! events are \$10 per person and free for MCM Members.
Located in Jackson, MS at I-55 & Lakeland Drive • A signature project of the Junior League of Jackson

FROM *PriorityOne Bank*
WE WISH YOU A
Merry
Christmas
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

BIG BANK SOPHISTICATION,
small town values.



Two Rankin County hospitals to help consumers sign up for health insurance

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Crossgates River Oaks Hospital and River Oaks Hospital are helping area residents learn about and enroll in health insurance options on the Health Insurance Marketplace.

As part of the Affordable Care Act, most U.S. citizens are required to have health insurance beginning in 2014. During the first enrollment wave, which began last October and ended in March, nearly 10 million uninsured individuals enrolled in a Marketplace plan. Yet, approximately 30 million Americans remain uninsured.

"As a primary health provider in Rankin County, we want to help educate residents in an easy-to-understand way, as well as assist those who haven't yet signed up for health insurance or Medicaid, if qualified," said Jon-Paul Croom, CEO of Crossgates River Oaks in Brandon. "During the next few months, we'll offer way to educate consumers and help these individuals find affordable coverage for themselves and their family."

Health Plans on Health Insurance Marketplaces - The Health Insurance Marketplace provides U.S.

citizens access to affordable health insurance coverage. Depending on household income, some individuals may qualify for financial assistance from the government – or subsidies – towards the cost of the premium.

All health plans on the Marketplace must offer a comprehensive set of benefits, and individuals cannot be denied coverage based on a pre-existing condition. Some of the health benefits include preventive care and wellness services, doctor visits, prescription drugs, hospital and emergency department care, lab services, pediatric services – and more.

If you can afford health insurance coverage in 2015, but don't sign up, you may have to pay a penalty (\$325 per adult, \$162.50 per child – up to \$975/family or 2% of family income, whichever is higher). And, without insurance, you will be financially responsible for all of your medical costs.

Medicaid - In all states, Medicaid provides health coverage for some low-income people, families and children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. In some states, the program covers all low-income adults below a certain income level.



Southern Cycle and ATV Repair

"Thank you and have a Merry Christmas!"

601 • 854 • 6858

**4346 Hwy 80, Suite A
Pelahatchie MS 39145**

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT DIRECTORY

Crooked Creek Animal Hospital, INC

Charles M. Edwards, II, DVM
Staci L. Rhodes, DVM
R. Jason Gray, DVM

3435 Shiloh Rd./P.O. Box 130
Pelahatchie, Ms. 39145
www.crookedcreekanimal.com

Phone: 601-854-7808
Fax: 601-854-7810

Follow us on:
www.facebook.com/CrookedCreekAH
www.instagram.com/ccanimalhospital



Razor Sharp

Walk-ins Welcome!
Open Monday - Saturday
Chemicals by appointment

Stylists: Dee Dee, Loretta, Jimmie Nell, Gayle, Amber & Ashley

(601) 824-4009

1645 West Government Cove, Suite A • Brandon, MS 39042

SPECIALTY TREE SERVICE, LLC

Gabe Walters
601-405-5857

Specializing in large and dangerous tree removal

- Tree Trimming
- Stump Grinding
- Lot Clearing
- Debris Removal
- Free Estimates



RICHLAND WRECKER SERVICE & AUTO REPAIR

We Go The Extra Mile • 24 Hour Service
22 Years Experience in Auto Repair

Brakes • Timing Belts • Water Pumps • Clutches • Certified A/C and More

Bus. 601-936-0003
Fax 601-936-0353

24 HOUR
601-502-3706

2651 Hwy. 468
Pearl, MS 39208

WE BUY JUNK CARS

Master Card American Express Discover VISA



Crossgates Jewelers, Inc.

Tammy & Gerald Frazier
Owners

(601) 939-9313
Watch & Jewelry Repair
Custom Design

401 Cross Park Drive
Suite A
Pearl, MS 39208



Olde Towne Drugs

- Full-service pharmacy
- Compounding
- Hormone Consults
- Soda Fountain

601-724-1904 • www.OldeTowneDrugs.com
1645 W. Government Cv, Ste E. • Brandon, MS 39042

2014-2015 East Rankin Patriots basketball team announced



The 2014-2015 East Rankin Academy varsity basketball team includes: front row (l to r), Adam Wolverton, Case Taylor, Bo Giordano, Houston Smith, Seth Dearman, Austin Banes and Kyle McMillian; back row (l to r), Daniel Teh, Hayes Roden, Paxton Fisher, Blaine Hill and Garrett Busby; not pictured: Luke Warren, David Jefcoat (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)



STOP!

Paying Too Much for Insurance

- Call us for a free quote -

Tri-County Insurance

Auto - Home - Life - Health - Medicare Supplementants - Business

www.FaceBook.com/TriCountyInsuranceAgency

www.TommyMiles.com



Tom Miles, Agent

See Tommy & Sheena Miles
in Morton
89 Hwy. 481 South
1-800-258-6366 • 601-732-6769

See Tom Miles
in Forest
807 Hwy. 35 South
1-877-469-7886 • 601-469-7886

2014-2015 East Rankin Lady Patriots basketball team named



The 2014-2015 East Rankin Academy varsity basketball team includes: front row (l to r), Ali Whatley, Hannah Walters, Mackenzie Thompson, Hannah Caldwell, Madison Bradford, Brittany Wade and Marley Maddox; back row (l to r), Peyton Rhodes, Carolyn Nickles, Chloe Cunningham, Morgan McKinion, Annabeth Bowman, Brooke Turnage and Elizabeth Tuttle; not pictured: Abby Usry, Madison Brunt, Jean Ross (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)



The Detectives Present at YOGI ON THE LAKE

“Santa Claus Is Watching You”
A crowd interactive whodunnit in 4 hilarious acts!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13
6:30 P.M. SEATING; 7:00 P.M. SHOW
Tickets: \$42 (includes tax)

For reservations and cabin specials: 601-854-6621 or info@jellystonems.com

Also at Yogi on the Lake Winter Cabin and RV specials

Rent 2 nights in any of our cabins for one price of \$149 plus tax
or
Rent 2 nights on any of our RV sites (including premium sites) for \$39 plus tax
(Reservation times good through Jan. 31, 2015)



Make sure Christmas doesn't go up in smoke

By: Stephanie Goss

The holidays often conjure notions of food, loved ones, traditions and celebrations. For our local firefighting personnel, however, the holidays bring thoughts of fire prevention and safety because of the increased risk of house fires. Citizens of Pelahatchie can make the jobs of emergency workforce much easier this holiday season by utilizing tips and steps for fire safety and prevention. The National Fire Protection Association's Project Holiday offers an online toolkit designed to provide its readers with a surplus of safety information specifically for this time of year. According to their website, www.nfpa.org, the three leading causes of house fires during the holidays are Christmas trees, candles, and cooking.

The foremost cause of U.S. house fires and fire injuries is unattended cooking. The following are tips to prevent fires due to cooking:

- Stay in the kitchen while you are cooking items on the stovetop and turn it off if you leave the room, even if you are only leaving for a few minutes.
- Use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Create a "kid-free zone" of at least three feet around the stove where hot

food and drinks are prepared or carried.

- If you have a fire, get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire. Call 911 or the local emergency number immediately after you leave.
- If you do decide to fight the fire, make sure others are getting out and that you have access to an exit.
- Keep a lid nearby when you are cooking to smother small grease fires. Be sure to slide the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cool.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

Since December is a peak month for house fires caused by candles, here are a few preventative steps.

- Keep candles away from things that could catch fire – at least 12" away.
- Remember to blow out candles before you leave the room or go to bed.
- Use candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over, and are placed on uncluttered surfaces.
- Avoid using candles in the bedroom or other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle.
- Consider using flameless candles that look and smell like real candles.

U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 230 structure fires annually triggered by Christmas trees. The NFPA gives several rules of thumb to follow to ensure fire safety.

- Be sure that your tree is labeled, certified, or identified as flame retardant.
- If you choose to use a fresh tree, make sure the green needles don't fall off when touched. Before placing it in a tree stand, cut 1 – 2" from the base of the trunk. Be sure to water the tree daily.
- Make sure your tree doesn't block an exit and is at least three feet away from a heat source.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory, and make sure you know whether they are designed for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords, or loose bulb connections.
- Connect no more than three strands of mini-string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.
- After Christmas, get rid of the tree. Dried-out trees are a fire hazard.

- Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

The American Red Cross says that nearly 47,000 fires occur during the winter holidays claiming more than 500 lives, causing more than 2,200 injuries and costing \$554 million in property damage.

Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly half. Smoke alarms save lives. Install a smoke alarm near your kitchen, on each level of your home, near sleeping areas, and inside and outside bedrooms if you sleep with doors closed. Use the test button to check it each month. Replace all batteries once a year.

By taking some preventative steps and following simple rules of thumb, most home fires can be prevented during the holidays and beyond. A local source to glean from for having a worry-free Holiday Season is the Mississippi Insurance Department, whose website has important videos and links from the Mississippi State Fire Marshal on their website at www.mid.ms.gov. For more tips or to look at the NFPA's online fire safety toolkit further, access the website www.nfpa.org and search for Project Holiday or explore www.redcross.org/homefires.

Social Security Knowledge Center: Growing the surviving spouses benefit



By: Roy and Diane Thompson, Pillars, L.L.C., National Social Security Advisors

One of the biggest reasons to delay your benefit is to "grow" your surviving spouses benefit. On average, women outlive men by three to ten years, so maximizing this benefit can be very important, because women often face longer periods of disability than men during the latter years of their lives.

These prolonged periods of disability (e.g. expensive, chronic nursing home care) can result in significant financial stress to the surviving spouse. Typically, for the survivor to capture the highest Social Security income benefit, it is best for the spouse with the higher benefit to delay claiming as long as possible.

An example: Steve takes his benefit at age 62 - \$1500 - this amount is now permanent, and changes cannot be made. When Steve dies, Lisa, whose benefit was less than Steve's, will receive \$1500 per month for the rest of her life.

Had Steve waited until age 66 to file for benefits, Lisa's survivor benefit would be \$2000 per month for the rest of her life.

Had Steve waited until age 70 to file for benefits, Lisa's survivor benefit would be \$2640 per month for the rest of her life.

Our goal is to educate our readers to understand the potential merits of waiting to claim at age 66 - 70. Those who become educated and carefully apply these advanced claiming strategies may be rewarded with significant additional retirement income over their lifetime. Planning for a strong survivor benefit is a significant part of comprehensive, intelligent Social Security income planning for married couples.

Widows and widowers have more flexibility than other Social Security beneficiaries because survivor benefits and retirement benefits are two differ-

ent pots of money. A surviving spouse can choose one benefit first and switch to the other benefit later if it results in a larger monthly income.

To become eligible for a survivor benefit, a widow or widower must have been married to the deceased worker at the time of death, and for at least nine months prior to the worker's death. There are some exceptions to this rule as well, such as accidental death and active military death.

Contact us at dthompson@pillarsllc.com or rthompson@pillarsllc.com or 601-954-0699. Our website is www.pillarsllc.com. Remember to email us with questions that you may have that we can address in future columns. An individualized report is worth the time and effort.

Merry Christmas from all of us at

Candy's Florist and Gifts

Make Christmas even more special with a beautiful Christmas centerpiece made by Candy's.

**Now at Candy's-
the convenience of in-town drycleaning**

Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri. 8-5
Thurs. 8-12 • Saturday 9-12

Candace Holmes
Owner

525 Second Street • Pelahatchie, MS 39145
Work: 601-854-5154 • Cell: 601-201-9446
E-mail: candacelholmes@gmail.com

Nu-Way Drycleaning
Dropoff and Pickup Station
Family owned since 1926

Hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



REchelle's Pet Parlor

Professional Grooming
By Appointment Only

601-854-5353

518 Second Street • P.O. Box 943
Pelahatchie, MS 39145

Pastor's Perspective: The Christmas Hope



By: Pastor David Brewer,
Holmes Assembly
and Director of Rankin/
Scott Living Free

Mathew 1:18-21
18 Now the birth of
Jesus Christ was on
this wise: When as his mother Mary
was espoused to Joseph, before they
came together, she was found with
child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being
a just man, and not willing to make her
a public example, was minded to put
her away privily.

20 But while he thought on these
things, behold, the angel of the Lord
appeared unto him in a dream, saying,
Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to
take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that
which is conceived in her is of the
Holy Ghost.

21 And she shall bring forth a son,
and thou shalt call his name JESUS:
for he shall save his people from their
sins.

There are so many in this world
who are looking for something in ev-
ery area they can. Seeking and digging
for something to fill the void that is in
their life. These passages of scripture

describe the piece to that puzzle, and
no other piece can fit.

Mary "was found to have con-
ceived from the Holy Spirit," and was
told that she would bring forth a son
and his name was to be Jesus. What an
amazing event where a woman brings
forth a child when she has been with
no man and that precious child holds
the key to everyone's heart and life.
Amazing!

Drunk, you can never drink enough
to fill that spot! Drug addict, you will
never find any drug to fix that empti-
ness! You can never work and make
enough money to buy out this void!
Being just a good person does not sub-
stitute this need.

A person can seek all the things in
the world they want but there is only
one true hope that is meant for every-
one, Baby Jesus! There is a place in
each of us that is meant for nothing or
nobody except our savior.

That beautiful baby born in the
manger in a world of sin so he can pur-
sue that which was lost, us. That ba-
by's life would never be easy because
he would take the sin of the world
upon him, even when the world loved
him not.

There is hope this Christmas, next



Image special to The Pelahatchie News.

Christmas and every day in between in
a child wrapped in swaddling cloths
in an old dirty manger. The gift is tru-
ly for you and I. A precious gift for a
hurting and dying world. When you
are down and feel like all is over, just

look up and follow the stars of your
heart today and let the Christmas hope
change your life.

Sing with me "Oh how I love Jesus,
oh how I love Jesus, because he first
loved me!"



608 2nd Street, Pelahatchie Miss.

(Across from Fairway Foods on Hwy. 80)

**Christmas Special for the month
of December. No joining fee.**

Full fitness center • 6 & 12 month contract options
Tanning available • Family discounts

Locally owned & operated

Phone: 601-854-5600

www.brickhouse-fitness.com

[email: michelle.carter@brickhouse-fitness.com](mailto:michelle.carter@brickhouse-fitness.com)

**PALMER
LAW FIRM**



**CHRISTOPHER P. PALMER
ATTORNEY**

Estate Planning and Family Law

276 Maxey Drive (39042)

P.O. Box 896

Brandon, MS 39043-0896

(601) 724-1870

Attorney General warns holiday shoppers of payment card vulnerabilities

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

As the holiday shopping season gears up, Mississippi's Attorney General Jim Hood is warning holiday shoppers of payment card vulnerabilities.

"In the past, shoppers only had to worry about someone snatching their wallets, including their cash, and credit or debit cards," said Hood. "Now, credit card payment information can be stolen by invisible thieves who may have hacked into the retailer or restaurant's payment system."

Until updated payment card technology is implemented, consumers should exercise extreme caution when using debit or credit cards, especially debit cards. Debit cards are especially sensitive, because the cards allow access to the consumer's bank account. Recognizing an unauthorized user will be more of a challenge for retailers, banks and credit card companies with the high volume business the holiday season brings. Hood recommends the following:

- Consumers should regularly monitor their credit card and bank statements, especially during and following the holidays. It can take 7 to 10 days for a card to be reissued if it is

compromised. As a result, shoppers need to be prepared to use cash in the event their card is compromised so that they are not prevented from completing their holiday shopping or essential purchases.

- When shopping online, shoppers are advised to watch for unsolicited fake emails which are not related to their actual purchases. Shoppers are encouraged to utilize credit cards or small amounts of cash when shopping in person. However, the Attorney General does not encourage consumers to travel with large amounts of cash.

- Shoppers should use trusted websites and look for those with security certifications such as VeriSign or TRUSTe. A good rule of thumb is to look for an "s" in the website's address line or the URL. "HTTPS" indicates a safe and secure site. Also, U.S. law enforcement can assist shoppers more easily if a problem arises with a U.S.-based online merchant rather than a foreign business.

Scammers will also try to take advantage by calling consumers regarding an alleged breach or compromise and pretending to be a legitimate financial institution. They can even spoof and use the institution's real



Consumers need to be cautious until updated payment card technology is implemented. It is also important to know that a financial institution will never ask for account or personal information on the phone. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

phone number. Remember, a financial institution will never initiate a call to a customer and then ask the customer to verify his or her account or personal information on the phone. Consumers are advised to hang up the phone without talking to the person and immediately speak to their bank in person or call the financial institution on

a phone number with which they are familiar, not the number provided by the scammer.

For more information on holiday shopping safety, see the Attorney General's publication "Consumer Safety Tips for Holiday Shopping" available at www.agjimhood.com, under "media center," then "publications."

Student of the Month and Citizenship Awards



October Student of the Month recipients at Pelahatchie Attendance Center included (l to r), front row: Donna Bishop, teacher; Lizzy Pinter, 9th; and Ashley Cannon; (l to r) back row: Pearlene Fairley, coach and teacher; Anna Grace Carter, 7th; Sheldon Irvin, 11th; Jamari Stokes, 8th; and Desmond McGee, 12th. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)



October Citizenship award recipients at Pelahatchie Attendance Center included Thomas Gibney (left); and Anna Phillips (right). (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Breakfast with Santa Saturday, December 13



8:00 am - 10:30 am
Walters Volunteer Fire Dept.

125 Walters Road
Drive 5 miles south on Hwy. 43
(from BP Gas Station)

Come eat pancakes while
visiting with Santa

\$5 per plate



HOPPER
PROPERTIES

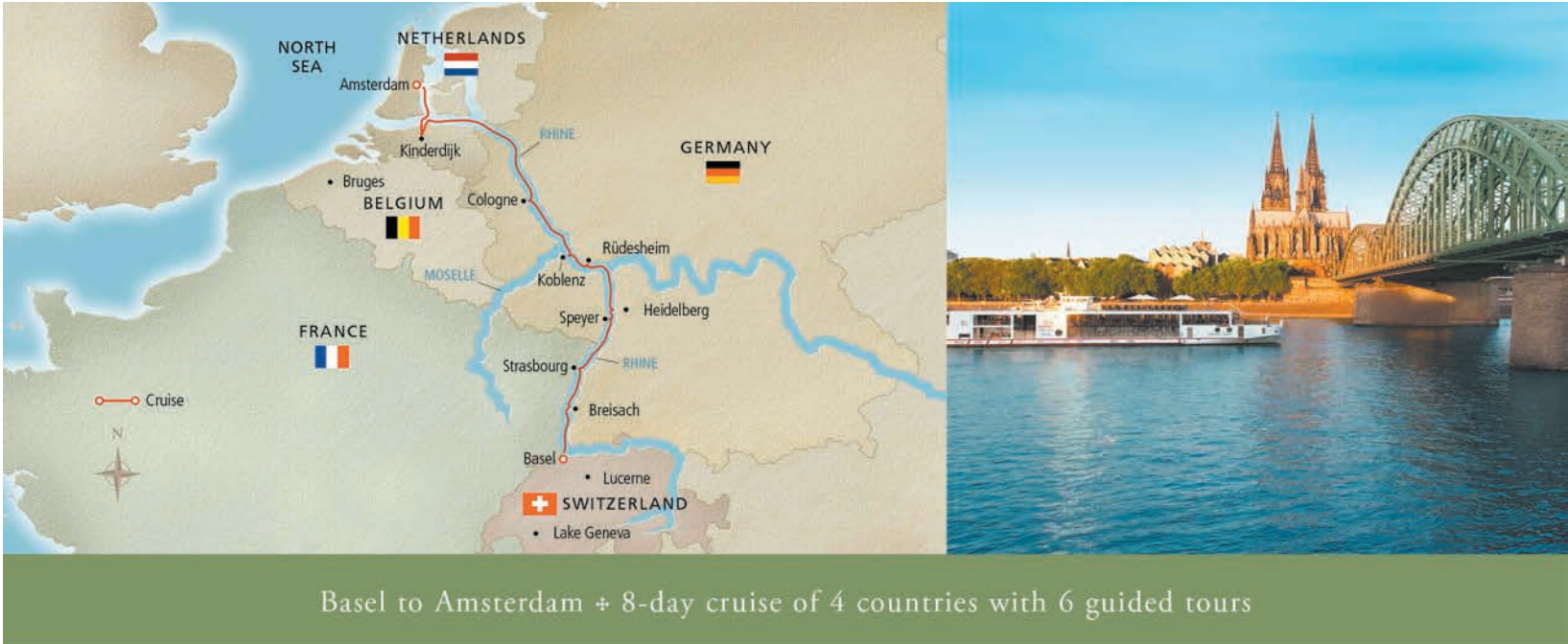
"Mississippi's Home & Land Brokerage"

www.HopperMS.com
26 Eastgate Drive, Suite E
Brandon, MS 39042



Kim Fortner
Sales Associate, REALTOR®

kim@hopperms.com
cell: 601-624-1596
office: 601-724-1435



2015 Rhine Getaway

Sail aboard one of our
state-of-the-art Viking Longships®

DAY	DESTINATION	ACTIVITIES
1	Basel	Embark your Viking ship; free time
2	Breisach	Black Forest scenery tour with clock-making demonstration; optional Colmar excursion
3	Strasbourg	Walking tour featuring Strasbourg Cathedral; afternoon at leisure
4	Heidelberg	Half-day city tour featuring Heidelberg Castle; free time
	Rüdesheim	Evening at leisure to stroll the <i>Drosselgasse</i> , perhaps sample local wines

DAY	DESTINATION	ACTIVITIES
5	Braubach	Cruising the Middle Rhine, a UNESCO Site; Marksburg Castle excursion
6	Koblenz	Free time
7	Cologne	Walking tour & Gothic Cathedral visit; free time
8	Amsterdam	Tour Kinderdijk windmills, a UNESCO Site
		Disembark your ship

TravelPlanners LLC presents:

Table 100's Chef Mike hosts "Rhine Getaway" sailing!

Sail Europe's Rhine River with Chef Mike Roemhild, a native of Germany, who has traveled the world through his many years of culinary career. He is passionate about sharing his knowledge of European cuisine and love for travel. You are invited to join him aboard one of Viking River Cruises Longships for an 8-day Rhine Getaway.

You will visit 10 European port cities in 4 European countries, Switzerland, Germany and Netherlands, all accompanied by Table100's Chef Mike. Pre- and post extensions allow further explorations and add another country to your world travels. In addition to the included river cruise excursions you will enjoy added exclusive chef-led events such as a market tour, a winery visit with wine tasting and dinner as well as a demo cooking class.

To learn more about this travel opportunity, contact TravelPlanners LLC.
www.TravelPlannersMS.com

TravelPlanners LLC
252 Katherine Drive, Suite B, Flowood, MS 39232
Ph: 601-714 1959 / E: Travel@TravelPlannersMS.com

TRAVELPLANNERS LLC



ALL THIS IS INCLUDED:

- 8-day cruise with river-view stateroom
- 6 guided tours with audio headset
- All meals: 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners, featuring regional specialties and including Welcome Cocktail Reception & Dinner and Captain's Farewell Dinner
- Complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks with onboard dinner and lunch service
- Visit 5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Culture Curriculum: Enjoy a classical music performance; learn how to create your own Alsatian *Flammkuchen*;
- All port charges
- Free Wi-Fi (connection speed may vary)



Rankin County Chamber hosts ribbon cutting for Candy's



The Rankin County Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for Candy's Florist and Gifts on Nov. 12. Members of the Rankin Chamber, city officials, family and friends all came out to show their support during the ribbon cutting ceremony. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Rhodes & Robby Drugs



Let our family serve your family.

601-854-8252 DOWNTOWN PELAHATCHIE