

**Kids need to be protected
inside their own homes**

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**Keep hunger away in
Pelahatchie**

See page 15

NEWS Pelahatchie

**May
2015**

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Issue 5

Pelahatchie, MS

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Muscadine Health Fair to be held at Muscadine Park

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

On May 30, the town of Pelahatchie will partner with the Mississippi State Department of Health's (MSDH) Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) team to bring you the Muscadine Health Fair to Pelahatchie. The focus of the health fair will be on injury prevention.

The Muscadine Health Fair will be held at Muscadine Park, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Currently, there are approximately 45 vendors participating in the fair.

Several health-related vendors will be giving away prizes during the event. MSDH Injury Prevention will be giving away approximately 200 bicycle helmets. Beverly R. Farabee, R.N., J.D., Statewide Human Trafficking Coordinator, will also give away several prizes.

Educational displays and interac-

tive simulators will add to the fun and learning experience at the fair. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Vendors participating in the injury prevention fair are: Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.); Developing Resources for Education in America (DREAM) Inc.; Dream Prescription Drug Abuse/Underage Drinking Prevention; Ever Reaching Community Outreach; Fusion Martial Arts; Health Works! North Mississippi.; ID Group; Madison Fire Department; Mothers Against Drunk Drivers; Mississippi Attorney General's Office - Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking; Mississippi Blood Services; Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Mississippi Council of the Blind; Mississippi Department of Employment Security Office; Mississippi Department of Transportation; Mississippi Division of Medicaid; Mississippi



Above (left), MDOT's Rover, a truck cab that spins on its own axis at 35 miles-per-hour to simulate a rollover crash. Cloth dummies (the Buckle Family – Burt, Simon, and Baby Bob) are placed inside the simulator and are used to illustrate the effects of a rollover crash on unrestrained occupants; above (right) the MSDH heart tour inflatable. (Photo by MDOT/Special to The Pelahatchie News)



Hospital Association, Mississippi Poison Control Center; MSDH Comprehensive Cancer Control; MSDH Division of Injury and Violence Prevention; MSDH EMSC; MSDH West Central Public Health District 5; Mississippi Track Club; Mississippi Wildlife,

Fisheries, and Parks; National Alliance on Mental Illness - Mississippi; Optimum 1 Dance Studios; Pelahatchie Volunteer Fire Department; Schwartz and Associates; Safe Kids Mississippi; Gary and Kim Kiddy; The Pelahatchie
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Pelahatchie Chiefs win MHSAA Boys Powerlifting 1A State Championship



On April 18, Pelahatchie High School power-lifted their way into winning the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) Boys Powerlifting State Championship. The Chiefs powerlifting team includes: Austin Vancor, Jadarious Johnson, Dwaun Patterson, Todd Jones, Antonio Buckner, Scheldon Irvin, Devon Ballard, Dylan White, Zachary Thompson, Jalen Hurst, Idarius Jones, Travion Patterson, Desmond McGee, Courtney Ousley, Booker Ficklin, and Alfred Jones. The coaches are Chris Courtney and Jeremy Corley (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Pelahatchie Elementary School earns the National Beta School of Distinction award



Along with its many other accolades, Pelahatchie Elementary has earned the distinction of being named a National Beta School of Distinction. The award speaks highly of the school's commitment to academic rigor and illustrates its dedication to preparing students for college and career readiness. (Photo and image special to The Pelahatchie News)

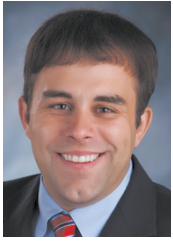


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Legislative session updates: 2015 roundup



By: Tom Miles, State Representative, House District #75

The 2015 Legislative session is over, and despite some headline-grabbing controversies, we managed to do some good for the people during the 90 days we were at the Capitol.

In the session's final days, bond and budget measures took the spotlight, and some of us worked hard to make sure essential services of government did not go underfunded. We finally agreed to a \$6.5 billion budget. In the end, we left Jackson with the Rainy Day Fund holding more than \$410 million and only \$885 remaining in the general fund.

The records show that we have cut taxes in various ways over 40 times during the last four years, and many of my colleagues and I believe we have been successful in trimming quite a bit of waste of taxpayer money.

House members adopted a plan to issue \$250 million in general obligation bonds for various projects. We secured \$3 million for rural fire trucks and \$5,000,000 in bonding authority

for state parks. I am proud that Roosevelt State Park was allotted \$150,000 for upgrades to the lake and dam. This will ensure that this important recreational facility will be able to consistently hold water no matter what the weather brings.

Among other bonding authority granted are Institute of Higher Learning (IHL): \$71.7 million; community and junior colleges: \$25 million; Civil Rights Museum and Museum of Mississippi History: \$20 million; Mississippi State Fairground improvements: \$10 million; Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital: \$6 million; and, State shipyard: \$20 million.

While the education budget received a larger appropriation than ever before, the system is still about \$1.5 billion behind the full funding required by law, despite a collective increase of about \$250 million. One of the first acts brought before us was House Concurrent Resolution 9, a legislative substitute for Initiative 42, which, if it is approved by the voters in November, will create a constitutional requirement to fully fund our public schools. Opponents of the HCR9, which created Initiative 42a, have sought relief in the courts to clear up language that

would confuse voters about the matter. I did not support the substitute initiative.

Many of us had hopes until the final days that we would realize a \$2,500 across-the-board pay raise for assistant teachers, who were left out of last year's comprehensive pay raise bill for teachers. Despite House efforts, the Senate failed to agree with us, and the effort died. We also pushed for an across-the-board pay raise for all State employees, but we were unsuccessful getting the votes for it to pass.

I co-sponsored House Bill 885 to require that insurance companies cover certain services for children with autism from ages 2 – 8. This is a welcomed help for families who had been struggling to help their children.

I supported Senate Bill 2695, which offers an opportunity for parents of children with special needs scholarships to enroll their children in schools offering the specialized instruction they require to succeed. This is a five-year pilot program that provides vouchers for 500 families each year on a first-come, first-served basis.

I co-sponsored a measure to help create transparency in no-bid personal contracts within state government.

House Bill 825 returned from the Senate with much of our strong language removed. I hope this issue will be revisited next year and stronger requirements to ensure sunshine in the bid process becomes law.

Our veterans were in the forefront of much of the discussion at the Capitol this year. One thing I co-sponsored was House Bill 33 to provide a tax incentive to employers who hire honorably discharged veterans. This tax credit can be received for up to five years.

I am proud to have supported House Bill 389, prohibiting texting, emailing and accessing social networking sites while driving. Too many Mississippians are being killed or terribly injured on our highways due to distracted driving.

We also passed House Bill 982 which removes the requirement of the vehicle inspection sticker. And, we agreed with Senate Bill 2380, permitting drivers to have a copy of their insurance card electronically to present when proof of insurance is requested.

I am proud to have supported House Bill 952, which prohibits higher insurance co-payments for patient-ad-

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continued from page 1

Muscadine Health Fair to be held at Muscadine Park

News; United Health Care Community Plan of Mississippi; University of Mississippi Children's (UMC) Hospital; UMC Emergency Services; and Walmart Vision Center.

Other sponsors at the Muscadine Health Fair include: Rankin County Sheriff Bryan Bailey, Larry Swales, One Stop Food Mart, B.E.W. Enterprises, Pelahatchie Dental Clinic, Yogi on the Lake, Bryant Management,

Hydra Services, Fairway Foods, Inc., Space Jump of Jackson, McDonald's (132 Stribling Ln., Brandon, Miss.), Central Mississippi Trauma Region, Penn's (Lakeland Drive), Think Anew, LLC (Madison, Miss.), Walmart (Pearl, Miss.) and Waste Management.

For more information or to reserve booth space at Muscadine Park, contact Pelahatchie City Hall at (601) 854-5224.

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Legislative updates: 2015 roundup

ministered anti-cancer medications. There was simply no reason for a pill at home to cost more than intravenous treatments in a hospital.

Senate Bill 2323 mirrored a measure that I sponsored in the House, which included emergency medical personnel and others in the first responders' death benefit program. This is an idea that I have sponsored for the past three sessions, and I was very glad to support it on its final passage. These individuals risk their lives to save others under the most dangerous of circumstances, and we felt their families deserve this benefit if they do not make it home.

Last, we passed gun-rights legislation that clarifies citizens' rights to bear arms. I hope that these efforts will cut down on questions about what constitutes legal carrying of firearms.

Although the Legislature is not in session, I still want to hear from you about your ideas and concerns for the district. As always, I am available to help. Thanks as always for giving me the opportunity to be your Voice in the Mississippi House of Representatives. If I can be any assistance to you, feel free to reach out to me at tmiles@house.ms.gov, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/reptommiles, or at (601) 732-9511.

LeGrand honored by Miss. House of Representatives



On March 31, the Mississippi House of Representatives commended Edwin C. LeGrand, of Pelahatchie, upon the occasion of his retirement as the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. LeGrand was honored with House Concurrent Resolution 80. His career spanned 40 years. Pictured (l to r) Representative Mark Formby, Representative Tom Miles, Representative Johnny Stringer and Edwin C. LeGrand, III. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Alman honored for representing the State as Miss Mississippi Junior High



The Mississippi House of Representatives honored local Miss Mississippi Junior High, Bethani Grace Alman of Pelahatchie, for representing the State as Miss Mississippi Junior High on March 28. Pictured (l to r) are Representative Mark Formby, Representative Tom Miles, Bethani Grace Alman, Representative John Moore and Representative Tom Weathersby. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

AT THE LIBRARY IN PELAHATCHIE

- In May, the library will start opening on Tuesdays and closing Fridays
- Registration for summer reading starts May 21, 2015
- Adult book club on Wednesday, May 20, at 11:30 a.m. - discussing Greg Iles' book, *The Quiet Game*

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CCC's first 5k met with enthusiasm



At the Cruising Crooked Creek 5k on April 11, runners led the way, followed by walkers. (Photo by Katie White)

By: Katie White

The Chieftain Community Club's (CCC) first annual Cruising Crooked Creek 5K run and walk on April 11 began and ended with enthusiasm. For non-participants, the air may have been a little chilly; but, for those running and walking, the cool air was invigorating.

"This is our first 5k, and it was a great success for the first year. We look forward to holding it every year. We enjoy holding events to help our school and community," said Jennifer Sledge, parent and President of the CCC.

Money raised for the 5k through the many sponsors and approximately 30 participants will help pay for renovations and a new sound system at the Pelahatchie Attendance Center Auditorium.

The 5k began at Pelahatchie High School's football field. Participants took a right on Warren Ave., a right at Heslip St., and then a right on Brooks St. to Hwy. 80. They turned left on Hwy. 80 and proceeded to the four-way stop where Hwy. 80 and Hwy. 43 intersect. Then they circled back to the start, entering through the finalist gate.

The CCC plans to make the race an annual event.

Students serve as pages for House of Representatives



During the week of March 23, Morton High School students served as pages for the Mississippi House of Representatives. Pages generally run errands for officials and House staff. The students' visit was sponsored by Rep. Tom Miles. Pictured (l to r) are Rep. Tom Miles, Haley McDonald, Nicholas Crowell and Speaker Philip Gunn. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Sherrill named Parent of the Year



Samantha Sherrill was named the Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) Parent of the Year for the 2014-2015 school year. Sherrill serves in the Army Reserves, and she recently returned from a four-week duty in Germany - staying in touch with the classroom teacher the whole time. Sherrill volunteers during field trips, parties and special activities. Principal Barlow had the following to say about Sherrill, "Her interaction with students is indicative of a person who values learning and creating a family within the class. It is an honor to share that Samantha Sherrill is the PES Parent of the Year!" Pictured (l to r) are Samantha Sherrill and Benjamin Barlow, PES Principal. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

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Kids need to be protected inside their own homes

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Research released earlier this year by Safe Kids Worldwide reveals that the number one cause of childhood deaths is preventable injuries, and that the scope of the problem is in a place most parents assume is safe: the home. Every day, six children die from an injury in the home, and 10,000 go to the emergency department for the kinds of injuries that commonly happen in homes.

"A Report to the Nation: Protecting Children in Your Home" is based on a survey of 1,010 parents across America. It explores what parents are concerned about and what they do - or don't do - to keep kids safe in the home.

When asked what parents are concerned about in the home, drowning barely made the list, with only one percent listing it as a concern. Yet, every week a child dies from drowning in a bathtub. One in eight parents surveyed say they left their young child alone in bathtub for five minutes or longer. Reasons given? Getting towels, checking on other children and cooking.

TIP Give young children your full and undivided attention when they are in the bathtub or around water.

While parents say they are worried about fire safety, and 96 percent report they have a smoke alarm, 14 percent said they never check their smoke alarm battery. Working smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by half.

TIP Check smoke alarm batteries every six months to make sure they are working.

For children under the age of one, suffocation is the leading cause of injury-related death. In a separate study among children aged one and under, Safe Kids learned that 73 percent of parents say they place items in the crib with their baby, including blankets, bumpers and stuffed animals, all of which can be suffocation hazards.

TIP Keep cribs clear of objects, and make sure babies sleep alone, on their backs, and in a crib every time they sleep.

Window falls are preventable, yet 70 percent of parents say they have never used window guards or stops that prevent these falls. Each year, 3,300 children are injured from falling out of a window.

TIP Install window guards or window stops to keep children from falling out of windows.

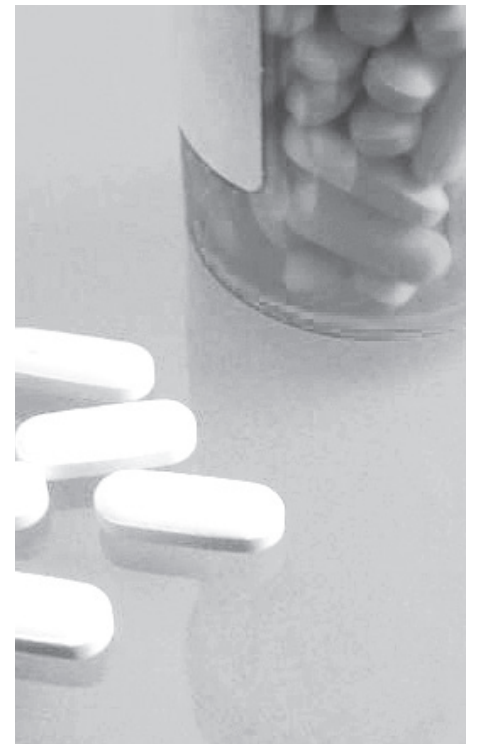
Only four percent of parents ex-

pressed concern about poisoning, which is surprising, given that Poison Control Centers answer more than one million calls a year about children 5 and under who have gotten into medicine or other dangerous products. In a separate study, Safe Kids found that more grandparents identified electrical outlets as a top safety issue than medicine, but 36 times more children go to the emergency department for medicine poisoning than for injuries caused by an electrical outlet.

TIP Keep all medicine up and away, even medicine you take every day. Be alert to medicine stored in other locations, like pills in purses, vitamins on counters, and medicine on nightstands.

"Parents want to protect children, and we found that parents consider their own home to be safer than most," said Kate Carr, President and CEO of Safe Kids Worldwide. "Parents just can't imagine it could happen to them, but it happens far too often. Sadly, 2,200 kids die from an injury in the home every year. The good news is, we know how to prevent these injuries, and parents can take simple steps to protect their kids."

To learn more tips to keep kids safe in the home, visit SafeKids.org or



Leaving medicine out can be fatal to children, who may mistake it for candy. (Photo special to *The Pelahatchie News*)

MakeSafeHappen.com.

Editor's Note: This information was printed with permission from Safe Kids Worldwide. More information and safety tips are available on their website.

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E-cigarette use triples among middle and high school students

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Current e-cigarette use among middle and high school students tripled from 2013 to 2014, according to data published by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Tobacco Products (CTP) in a recent Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). Findings from the 2014 National Youth Tobacco Survey show that current e-cigarette use (use on at least 1 day in the past 30 days) among high school students increased from 4.5 percent in 2013 to 13.4 percent in 2014, rising from approximately 660,000 to 2 million students. Among middle school students, current e-cigarette use more than tripled from 1.1 percent in 2013 to 3.9 percent in 2014—an increase from approximately 120,000 to 450,000 students.

This is the first time since the survey started collecting data on e-cigarettes in 2011 that current e-cigarette use has surpassed current use of every other tobacco product overall, including conventional cigarettes.

"We want parents to know that nicotine is dangerous for kids at any age, whether it's an e-cigarette, hookah,

Truth about E-cigarettes



Not Nicotine-Free - nicotine is highly addictive and may cause brain damage.

Marketed to children - with bright color wrappers and candy flavoring, e-cigs are easily appealing to children.

Odorless - making it more difficult to tell if your child is vaping. A dry cough and mouth and throat irritation is a sign.

Image special to *The Pelahatchie News*

cigarette or cigar," said CDC Director Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H. "Adolescence is a critical time for brain development. Nicotine exposure at a young age may cause lasting harm to brain development, promote addiction, and lead to sustained tobacco use."

Hookah use roughly doubled for middle and high school students, while cigarette use declined among high school students and remained unchanged for middle school students. Among high school students, current hookah use rose from 5.2 percent in 2013 (about 770,000 students) to 9.4 percent in 2014 (about 1.3 million students). Among middle school students, current hookah use rose from 1.1 percent in 2013 (120,000 students) to 2.5

percent in 2014 (280,000 students).

In 2014, the products most commonly used by high school students were e-cigarettes (13.4 percent), hookah (9.4 percent), cigarettes (9.2 percent), cigars (8.2 percent), smokeless tobacco (5.5 percent), snus (1.9 percent) and pipes (1.5 percent).

The products most commonly used by middle school students were e-cigarettes (3.9 percent), hookah (2.5 percent), cigarettes (2.5 percent), cigars (1.9 percent), smokeless tobacco (1.6 percent), and pipes (0.6 percent).

Cigarettes, cigarette tobacco, roll-your-own tobacco and smokeless tobacco are currently subject to FDA's tobacco control authority. The agency currently is finalizing the rule to bring

additional tobacco products such as e-cigarettes, hookahs and some or all cigars under that same authority.

"In today's rapidly evolving tobacco marketplace, the surge in youth use of novel products like e-cigarettes forces us to confront the reality that the progress we have made in reducing youth cigarette smoking rates is being threatened," said Mitch Zeller, J.D., director of FDA's Center for Tobacco Products. "These staggering increases in such a short time underscore why FDA intends to regulate these additional products to protect public health."

The report concludes that further reducing youth tobacco use and initiation is achievable through regulation of the manufacturing, distribution, and marketing of tobacco products coupled with proven strategies. These strategies included funding tobacco control programs at CDC-recommended levels, increasing prices of tobacco products, implementing and enforcing comprehensive smoke-free laws, and sustaining hard-hitting media campaigns.

The National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS) is a school-based, self-administered questionnaire given annually to middle and high school students in both public and private schools.

Cross Roads holds Tablesapes Dinner

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Cross Roads Baptist Church is sponsoring a Tablesapes Dinner that will be held in the Church Fellowship Hall on May 9.

Over 25 tables will be decorated. The speaker for the dinner will be Beth Bowman who is on the staff of First Baptist Church in Brandon. She will speak about being a Godly Mother. There will also be musical entertainment. The menu will include roast beef with vegetables, salad and dessert.

Tickets for the dinner are \$15 and may be reserved by calling the Church office at (601) 546-2297.

All proceeds will benefit funding for the children's playground. The dinner is being sponsored by the Children's Ministry Team and the Ladies



Photo special to *The Pelahatchie News*

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Howell seeks Supervisor District 4



Photo special to The Pelahatchie News

By: Don W. Howell, Jr.

I, Don W. Howell, Jr., am in the race for Rankin County District Four

Supervisor. I am seeking this position, because I feel there needs to be someone that is available for the people of this county.

I have lived in Rankin County for over 25 years. I have been married to Rhonda M. Howell for 23 years of which we have lived in this district for 13 of those years. We have a daughter, Lindsey Kay, who attends Park Place Christian Academy. We presently attend Crossgates Baptist Church.

I am a graduate of Leake Academy located in Madden, MS. I earned my degree in Radiologic Technology

from University Medical Center later obtaining my bachelor's degree from University of Louisiana at Monroe. I have experience in management and supervising as well as budget analysis, spreadsheets, and computer technology. I also have experience in heavy equipment, building, managing projects, occupational hazards, fire safety, electrical and plumbing.

My goal is to work for the people and oversee the budget and growth of District Four. I am not afraid of jumping in and helping to accomplish jobs or tasks that need to be completed. I

enjoy listening and meeting others in all walks of life. I am willing to work with other departments hand in hand to start new projects and finish the ones that need to be completed. Construction and renovation is on the move in Rankin County. We need someone that is open for discussion and willing to listen. I look forward to obtaining and earning your vote. I really believe that there needs to be some changes in the district and I want to be the one you can count on.

Paid political announcement by Don W. Howell, Jr.



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*Medical professionals may include physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners.



Pelahatchie School softball field dedicated to Coach Bishop

By: Stephanie Goss

Tears sprang to the eyes of many on April 20, as Gabbi Walters sang the National Anthem before the Pelahatchie Lady Chiefs' fast-pitch game against the Ethel Lady Bobcats. Family, faculty, students, City officials and friends were gathered at Pelahatchie High School for the dedication of Johnny Bishop field.

After the anthem, the Lady Chief players touched their hearts, then stretched out their arms, pointing to Coach Bishop – a tender tribute to a great man, who is truly missed.

Memories of a wonderful coach and friend flooded the field and the minds of the many in attendance at the dedication of the Johnny Bishop field. Thanks to the generosity of the community and the urgency of administration like Dr. Bryan Marshall, a back fence wall was built and painted to honor the memory of Coach Bishop.

The dedication of the field and the unveiling of the newly painted back fence took place between the Varsity and Junior Varsity games. Guest speakers included: Shane Sanders, Rankin County School District Assistant Superintendent; Gene Murphy, Head Football Coach at Hinds Community College; and Bill Ward, Pelahatchie Attendance Center Athletic Director. All gave heartfelt testimonies of Coach Bishop's inspiration in their lives, as well as how they witnessed



Pictured (above), a back fence was built and painted in honor of Coach Johnny Bishop; (bottom left) red, white and black (Pelahatchie School colors) balloons were released by family, softball players, faculty and administration; (bottom right) Lady Chiefs point to the sky in recognition of Coach Bishop. (Photos by Katie White/special to The Pelahatchie News)

hatchie Attendance Center Athletic Director. All gave heartfelt testimonies of Coach Bishop's inspiration in their lives, as well as how they witnessed



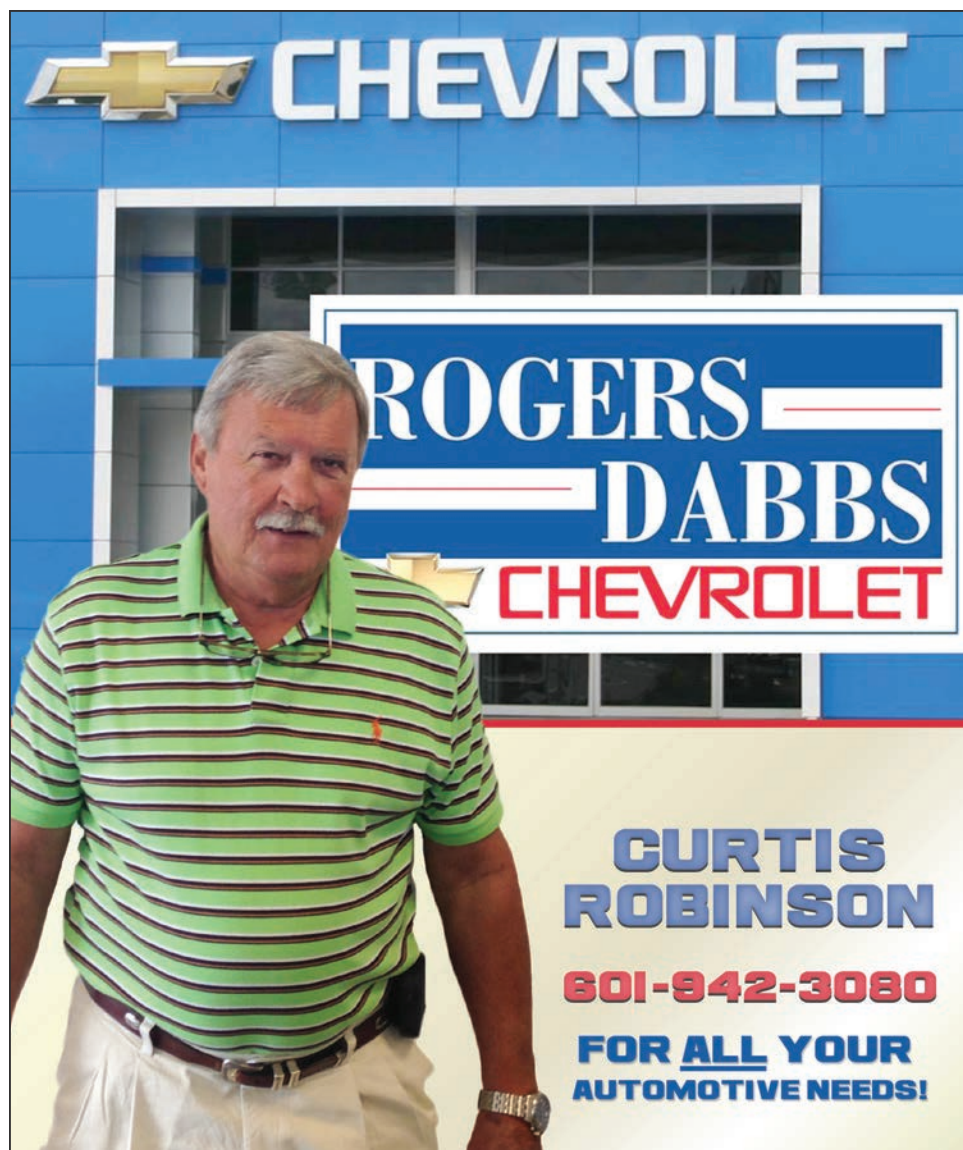
his kindness, leadership, and character over and over again. Pelahatchie High School presented Coach Bishop's family with a plaque and picture acknowl-

edging the dedication Coach Bishop gave to his family, community, job, students, and to the creation and execution of building a softball field for his players.

Afterwards, the family, Lady Chiefs, administration, coworkers and friends released balloons in school colors as Coach Bill Ward uttered the words, "Fly high, all the way to Coach Bishop."

From the conception of building the field until the very end, Coach Bishop could always be found at that little piece of land, working diligently, and like everything else he put his mind to, he finished what he started. Coach Bishop's hours of hard work and dedication to making sure the Lady Chiefs had a field to play on is evident in the beautiful finished product.

The Lady Chiefs have their own building containing a concession stand, bathrooms, locker room, and weight room, as well as a complete field with a scoreboard. The players will never forget what Coach Bishop sacrificed for them. In their hearts and minds, he will always be a Chief. Those same sentiments resonate throughout the entire school, with every student or staff member he came in contact with and with every life he touched. Once a Chief, always a Chief.



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Listeria bacteria? It's bigger than Blue Bell, UMMC experts say

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

If you've got a half-eaten container of Blue Bell ice cream in your freezer, should you finish it off?

Throw it away, says Dr. Skip Nolan, director of the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC).

There's a chance - albeit small - it contains the troublesome listeria monocytogenes bacteria that prompted a nationwide recall by Texas-based Blue Bell Creameries after listeria was found to have contaminated products made at several of its factories.

All Blue Bell selections, including ice cream, frozen yogurt, sherbet and single-serve cups, were swept from store shelves last month following the deaths of three people in Kansas and reports it has sickened a handful of people in other states, not including Mississippi.

Symptoms are mostly gastrointestinal and include fever, nausea, diarrhea, severe headaches and abdominal pain and cramps.

However, listeria cases have been around for a long time, Nolan said. In fact, the outbreak linked to Blue Bell began as long as five years ago, officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

"There's a lot that people don't know about this," Nolan said of listeria bacteria.

For starters: It's found just about everywhere. "Surveys show that if you culture produce in the grocery store, deli meat and other surfaces, it's pretty easy to find," Nolan said. "The same thing is true in your refrigerator. Everybody gets exposed to it, but only certain people get it."

And, the average healthy person probably isn't going to get sick from listeria, even if they eat Blue Bell ice cream that contains it. "Those most at risk are pregnant women, people over 60, people who have problems with their immune systems, people who have had transplants, people with HIV or cancer," Nolan said.

Those groups account for at least 90 percent of reported listeria infections, the CDC says. "It's very prone to get into the bloodstream of immunocompromised people and can cause meningitis or encephalitis," Nolan said. "A fetus can be born extremely ill with listeria, or can die."

"It's possible to get extremely sick from it, but in otherwise healthy people, you usually don't see it," he said.

So far as food poisoning, however, salmonella is the bigger villain, Nolan said. "Salmonella will sicken just

about anybody. It's a bigger public health threat, and it's more transmissible from person to person. Listeria is just not generally transmitted from person to person."

"If you're healthy and have a choice between salmonella and listeria, you probably want listeria because it won't make you as sick as salmonella."

The CDC says listeria infections can be prevented by rinsing raw produce thoroughly before eating, cutting or cooking; scrubbing firm produce such as melons with a clean produce brush; drying produce with a clean cloth or paper towel; and separating uncooked meats and poultry from veggies, cooked foods and ready-to-cook foods.

Consuming raw milk and unpasteurized milk products is always a bad idea, Nolan said.

Cathy Taylor, UMMC's assistant director of food and nutrition services, said food safety is foremost with her department. "We're all aware that we're in an environment with people who have compromised immune systems," she said.

For example, UMMC employees are instructed to change gloves between tasks, and to wash their hands before putting on the new pair of gloves. Cutting boards are color-coded



Manager of food services Rodney Rogers slices fresh zucchini in the University of Mississippi Medical Center's main kitchen using a green cutting board designated only for preparation of fruits and vegetables. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

so that various foods won't be mixed.

"Normal food has bacteria in it, but when you heat it to the proper temperature, it kills the bacteria," Taylor said. "Hot foods have to be hot, and cold foods have to be cold."

Nolan doesn't care for sweets. But if he did, and a half-gallon of Blue Bell Moo-lennium Crunch bought a week ago was on his freezer shelf, would he eat it?

"Probably not, knowing what I know now," Nolan said.



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The Pelahatchie News newspaper used as a teaching tool



Sharon Hall's second-grade class at Pelahatchie Elementary holds up The Pelahatchie News for a quick group photo before reading the paper. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Special to The Pelahatchie News

On April 22, Sharon Hall's second-grade students each received the April issue of the *The Pelahatchie News*. The students were asked to read the paper and search for their favorite article to summarize.

"The students loved reading the newspaper, because it makes them feel 'grown up,'" said Sharon Hall, second

grade teacher at Pelahatchie Elementary.

Hall has used the newspaper as a teaching tool before, and the students knew there was a good chance that they would see some familiar faces. "As they turned the pages, different ones called out, 'I know that girl!' or 'that's my church.' They were all identifying with different photos on the pages."



After reading The Pelahatchie News newspaper and selecting their favorite article, the second-graders at Pelahatchie Elementary wrote summaries on the selected article. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

The ads interested the young students just as much as the articles - maybe more so, because they were shorter and easier for them to read.

The students were interested in a wide-range of the newspaper's contents. Their interests were completely random when selecting the article or ad that they chose to write about.

After reading the paper, each student clipped his or her favorite article

and summarized it.

"Second grade students at Pelahatchie Elementary school may not be sipping coffee with their newspapers, but they surely are enjoying reading *The Pelahatchie News*," said Hall.

"Their excellent work is proudly displayed on the wall outside Room 111. Second grade wants to thank *The Pelahatchie News* for its contribution to a fun day of learning!"



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Hinds CC Rankin celebrates Earth Day



Pictured (l to r) are: Hinds Community College Rankin Campus Phi Theta Kappa adviser Joy Rhoades; student Zack Gray of Pelahatchie; Forrest Gordon, Customer Service Specialist for Mississippi Department of Transportation; student Brandie Welch of Braxton, student Brandon Jenkins of Brandon and Hinds Community College Rankin Campus Phi Theta Kappa adviser Judith Isonhood. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

As part of the first-ever Earth Day Celebration at Hinds Community College's Rankin Campus, students and faculty highlighted the benefits of recycling and the fact that monies earned from recycling fund student scholarships.

"We hope to encourage awareness of and a significant increase in recycling to benefit our students, our college and the community," said Joy Rhoades, geography and history instructor and adviser for the Rankin Campus Phi Theta Kappa.

Jason Pope, director of Sustainability for Hinds Community College, said local businesses and individuals donate their recyclables to Hinds. "The Hinds County Sheriff's Department uses our trucks and trailers to

pick up and deliver the recyclables to the Hinds Community College Recycling Facility located near the prison," Pope said. "The Sheriff's Department provides free labor throughout the process of picking up, sorting and baling the recyclables in preparation for selling the goods. We then coordinate shipping and selling the recyclables to a recycling facility."

After all of the expenses from program operations are paid – maintenance on trucks, trailers, baling equipment, etc., the proceeds are then used for scholarships. Those benefiting from the scholarships are Hinds Community College Honors Students at the Raymond Campus, who volunteer in the program, and the prisoners at the Hinds County Penal Farm who take GED classes and other vocational classes.

Summer fun means higher risk of burns



William C. Lineaweaver, MD, medical director (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

School is just about to end for the summer and that means people will begin spending more time at the beach, camping or participating in other outdoor activities.

For William C. Lineaweaver, MD, medical director, Joseph M. Still Burn and Reconstructive Center at Merit Health Central in Jackson, it also means people are more at-risk for getting burned.

"Burns can happen in the blink of an eye," said Dr. Lineaweaver. "A person can get easily distracted when participating in outdoor activities, and it is often in that moment when your guard is down when an accident can happen."

Avoiding summer burns starts with making sure you are prepared to venture out in the sun. Apply sunscreen of 30 SPF or higher 30 minutes before you plan to go out in the sun, and then reapply the sunscreen regularly if you are sweating profusely or spending time in the water, Dr. Lineaweaver recommends. It is also important to wear appropriate clothing and sunglasses.

"People should also remember that just because they can't see the sun because of clouds doesn't mean they are not getting burned by UV rays," he said. "In fact, some of the worst burns can occur on cloudy days because people are not as careful or thorough with sunscreen."

But what happens if you do get burned?

First, you need to determine the severity of the burns. Blisters can indicate a more serious burn, which could require emergency medical treatment. Also, make sure that there is no swelling associated with the burn that could make it difficult to breathe or swallow. If you do get burned, there are a few simple "dos" and "don'ts" to help alleviate the pain and minimize skin damage:

- **DO** take a cool shower or bath or use a cold, damp towel to apply pressure
- **DO** wear loose-fitting clothes that do not irritate the skin

- **DO** apply aloe or lotion to help cool and moisturize the burn
 - **DO NOT** use butter or oil as they may exacerbate the burn
 - **DO NOT** break any blisters
 - **DO** take an over-the-counter pain reliever, like ibuprofen
 - **DO NOT** take prescription pain pills without consulting a doctor
- Getting sunburned is only one of the risks that come along with spring and summer activities. Gas grills can be another potential danger. Make sure the grills are used in a properly ventilated area and that once food is cooked, the grill has cooled properly.

"In the kitchen, we recommend creating a three-foot safety barrier for children around the stove," said Dr. Lineaweaver. "Employ that same tactic around your grill, even when it is not lit. Some of the most painful burns we see are children who have accidentally touched a hot grill."

Spring and summer also present opportunities for people to clean up their yards, and maybe burn trash and other debris. Each year, several patients are admitted to the burn unit after getting scorched burning leaves or other waste items. Often, such accidents involve the use of gasoline or other accelerants, Dr. Lineaweaver said.

"You should also know exactly what is in the pile you are burning," he said. "We have seen people severely injured when something like a paint can exploded in their trash fire."

Another danger that comes along with warmer weather is fireworks, which should never be handled by children – even if the children are being supervised by adults. Make sure a hose or bucket of water is always nearby, just in case.

And there is one more hidden danger some parents may not consider: the risk of a burn on common playground equipment. In the searing spring and summer sun, some surfaces, like slides or walkways, can reach 200 degrees or more.

"When exposed skin, or even skin that is thinly covered, touches a surface at that temperature, the burn occurs almost instantaneously," Dr. Lineaweaver said. "With children, it can be a deeper burn because their skin is thinner than adults."

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Pelahatchie News has grown

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

The Pelahatchie News published its inaugural issue in July of 2012. Since its very beginning, the publication has prided itself on employing talented and local individuals; and those individuals have not only helped make the paper a successful part of the community, they have also helped it to grow. To further accommodate that growth, *The Pelahatchie News* is pleased to announce it has recently added two more talented individuals to its staff.

Stephanie Goss, a fifth-grade math and science teacher at Bettye Mae Jack Middle School in Morton, joined the staff in November of 2014 as a staff writer.

Goss, who graduated from the school that used to be known as Madison-Ridgeland High School, attended Hinds Community College, where she wrote for and even served as Editor of the college's creative writing magazine, *College Ink*.

After Hinds, Goss attended Mississippi State University in Meridian, where she earned her teaching degree. She is married to James Goss and has five children: Megan, 20; Alana, 17; Will and Wes, 15; and Nick, 11. Goss and her family reside in Pelahatchie.

Susie A. Wolfe, who works in sales at Crown Jewelers, was hired in March of this year to be an account manager for *The Pelahatchie News*.

Wolfe graduated from Pearl High School. After graduation, she earned her Associate of Art degree at Hinds



Stephanie Goss, Staff Writer, *The Pelahatchie News* (Photo special to *The Pelahatchie News*)



Susie A. Wolfe, Accounts Manager, *The Pelahatchie News* (Photo special to *The Pelahatchie News*)

Community College. She continued her education at the University of Southern Mississippi, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in public relations and also completed a Masters degree in communication.

She has also worked at Godwin Group and Miskelly's Furniture as an ad manager. Wolfe is a new member of the Pelahatchie Lion's Club, and she and her family are longtime residents of Pelahatchie.

"Spice" consumption may lead to death



Photo special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

The number of emergency room visits and hospitalizations related to the use of synthetic cannabinoids, commonly referred to as "Spice" or "Mojo," continues to climb. Since April 2, 2015, 97 cases have been reported to the Mississippi Poison Control Center. More than 20 counties throughout the state are reporting emergency room admissions from this dangerous synthetic drug designed to mimic the effects of marijuana.

According to State Epidemiologist Dr. Thomas Dobbs, there is no safe

amount of "Spice" consumption. The effects from using it are unpredictable, and adverse outcomes are common, even leading to death in some cases.

"Spice is an unregulated drug. We are seeing people become extremely ill with even the tiniest amount of use. There is absolutely no safe level of inhalation. This is an incredibly dangerous drug and needs to be taken very seriously."

The Mississippi State Department of Health is continuing to monitor the situation, coordinate information, and to work with providers and the Mississippi Poison Control Center.

Keep hunger away in Pelahatchie

By: Katie White

The Summer Lunch Bunch crew is at it again, offering free lunches for school-age children from noon to 1 p.m. every Tuesday in June and July.

Summer Lunch Bunch was created by Duncan and Paige Tucker. Their efforts help feed children who during the summer months may go without proper nutrition when school is out. The free lunches were a huge success in the community during the first run in 2014, and so the lunches will be offered again.

The Tuckers are active in the Ever Reaching Community Outreach (ERCO), and both have served on the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) at Pelahatchie Elementary. Duncan Taylor is an assistant special education teacher at Pelahatchie High School.

The Tuckers started out delivering sack lunches to the homeless in Jackson a few years ago, but then they decided there were those close to home who were also in need of food.

"We had always been looking for a way to help within our own community, as well. Being involved in the school, we have seen how many kids depend on school lunch as their main meal of the day," says Paige Tucker.



Image special to The Pelahatchie News

"We also have seen how much the food pantry in the elementary school is used. We worried how these same students eat during the summer. We decided to try to start a summer sack lunch program in the park."

The Tuckers are also asking for donations, such as school supplies and gently used books to give out over the summer.

If any business, church, school or other organization would like to help with the sack lunches or make a donation of school supplies and/or gently used children's books, call Duncan or Paige Tucker at (601) 573-5463.



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Shiloh United Methodist Church hosts its first arts and craft show

By: Katie White

On April 11, Shiloh United Methodist Church held its first annual Shiloh Arts and Crafts Show on the church's campground site.

Artists and craftsmen from Pelahatchie and the surrounding area set up their booths in front of the antique-style cabins that surround the church's playground and pavilion. The sun was shining, and there was a breeze to make the day all the more pleasant.

A silent auction table was arranged before patrons made their way to the booths. Proceeds collected from the silent auction benefits the Christmas shoebox program that Shiloh United Methodist Church has chosen for one of this year's missions, called Operation Christmas Child.

Operation Christmas Child is a Christian international relief program. Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest Christmas project which "brings joy and hope to needy children around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Since 1993, more than 100 million shoe box gifts have been delivered to children in more than 130



Author Ramona Bridges sells and signs her books: Sweet by and By, An Unclouded Day and Standing on the Promises. (Photo by Katie White)

countries," as stated on their website.

The vendors who donated one of their pieces in the silent auction and participated in the Arts and Crafts Show are: Anna's Doll Closet; Author Ramona Bridges; Bobby the Builder; Carol Chancellor; Cross Her Art; Coverings for Baby; Doc's Toy Shop; Nancy Gaine; Hope Fruit and Berry Farm; J and A Wood Creations; Joice's Gems; Lathem Originals; Lov Pottery, LLC; MB's Originals; Painted Possum, LLC; Roger and Ineke Pearson; Peeps Garage Creations and More; Simply 'More' Mosaics; Smith County Handmade Pine Needle Baskets; Thompson Farms; Timber Creek Candles; Wicks Candles; White Hill Farm; and Windham's Woodworks.

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