

Duke's is going strong at 20-years-old

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4-year-olds raise money for St. Jude's

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NEWS Pelahatchie

**June
2016**

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Pelahatchie, MS

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Pelahatchie News
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Teh and Harrison earn East Rankin's top honors

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Catherine Teh and Katelyn Harrison were named East Rankin Academy's Valedictorian and Salutatorian, respectively.

Teh was also named as East Rankin Academy's (ERA) STAR Student for the 2015-2016 school year by the Mississippi Economic Council's M.B. Swayze Educational Foundation, sponsor of the STAR Program. The East Rankin Academy senior also earned Valedictorian honors.

Teh served as Senior Service Chair of the National Honor Society. She was a member Mu Alpha Theta (Mississippi's Mathematics Honorary Society), First Tech Robotics, History and Science Quiz Bowl Teams, and Mississippi

College Math and Science Tournament Team. She plans to attend the University of Mississippi.

Teh chose Mrs. Renee Tullos of Brandon as her STAR Teacher. She and Mrs. Tullos were honored on April 28 during the annual Education Celebration at the Jackson Convention Center.

Harrison was a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (Mississippi's Mathematics Honor Society), ACT Academic Team, ACT 30 or Above Team, Subject Award Winner in Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, and Bible and Mississippi College Math and Science Tournament. She was also on the varsity fast-pitch soccer team and received the Blitz 16/BankPlus Scholar Athlete Award. Harrison will attend Millsaps University on a Presidential Scholarship.



Catherine Teh, East Rankin Academy 2016 valedictorian (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)



Katelyn Harrison, East Rankin Academy 2016 salutatorian (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

New police chief right at home

By: Susie A. Wolfe

Kevin Poole grew up in Pelahatchie, attended East Rankin Academy and made his home in his hometown. He served with the Rankin County Sheriff's Office for 15 years prior to joining the Pelahatchie Police Department (PPD) in 2015.

Poole was sworn in as Pelahatchie's new Police Chief at the Board Meeting on May 9, but the official pinning ceremony was held May 16 at the Community Center, where his family, friends and colleagues officially welcomed him. His parents, Terri and Stephen Poole of the Shiloh community, his wife, Jennifer, and his son, Marshall, 9, were part of the ceremony.

"We are pleased to be able to promote Kevin to chief," said Mayor Knox Ross. "We have full confidence in him and our officers to take good care of our citizens. While we miss Chief Glenda greatly, having Kevin already in the department will result in a smooth transition, and we look forward to many years of having Kevin serve and protect our citizens."

Dan Boyce, headmaster at East Rankin Academy, agrees. "We are grate-



Chief Poole sworn in (Photo by Susie A. Wolfe)

ful for the leadership of Chief Shoemaker for so many, many years, and we look forward to Chief Poole and his dedication."

East Rankin presented Chief Poole with a resolution on May 20 acknowl-

continued on page 2

White and Irvin get PHS' top honors



Kaci Lynn White, Pelahatchie High School 2016 valedictorian (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)



Sheldon Irvin, Pelahatchie High School 2016 salutatorian (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Kaci Lynn White was named valedictorian at Pelahatchie High School. She holds a GPA of 97.68. White was a member of the Beta Club and the softball team. She also participated in the Rankin Youth Leadership program, and was recognized for having ACT High Honors and is being inducted into the Pelahatchie High School Hall

of Fame. White was also selected as a Blitz 16 Scholar Athlete this year. She has been accepted into early entry pharmacy school and the honors college at Ole Miss.

Scheldon Irvin was named salutatorian with a GPA of 97.07. Irvin was a member of the Beta club, SADD club, and was on the yearbook staff. He was also on the football and powerlifting

continued on page 2



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continued from page 1

New police chief right at home



Photo by Susie A. Wolfe

edging the department's work during the April manhunt in town. He said, "The men and women of the PPD are steadfast in their commitment and dedication to the people of this community and we are, indeed, grateful. Their concern for the citizens is displayed every day in their bravery and self-sacrifice."

The PPD has 12 police officers, counting part-time, according to Poole.

He is also working with reserve certificate police officers who are willing to donate their time because they love the community.

"I have many goals for the department that I will lay out soon," said Poole, "but I am dedicated to building relationships with kids now to stop bad behavior. It starts with the kids. I will be partnering with both schools."

continued from page 1

White and Irvin get PHS' top honors

teams throughout high school. He participated in the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Seminar and Mississippi American Legion Boys State. Plus, he was recognized for having ACT High

Honors and is being inducted into the Pelahatchie High School Hall of Fame. He plans to attend Alcorn State University and major in physical therapy.

Cross Roads selling "A Century in the Making" anniversary cookbook

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Cross Roads Baptist Church will celebrate its one hundredth anniversary in July. In honor of this milestone, the church has compiled a new cookbook, which includes recipes from past members as well as current members.

The cookbooks sell for \$10 each and can be purchased in the church office or at Cross Roads Store and Grill, which is located across from the church on Hwy 43 South.

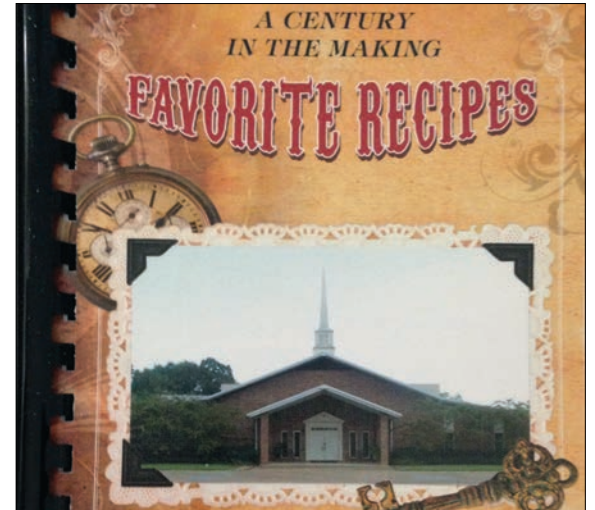


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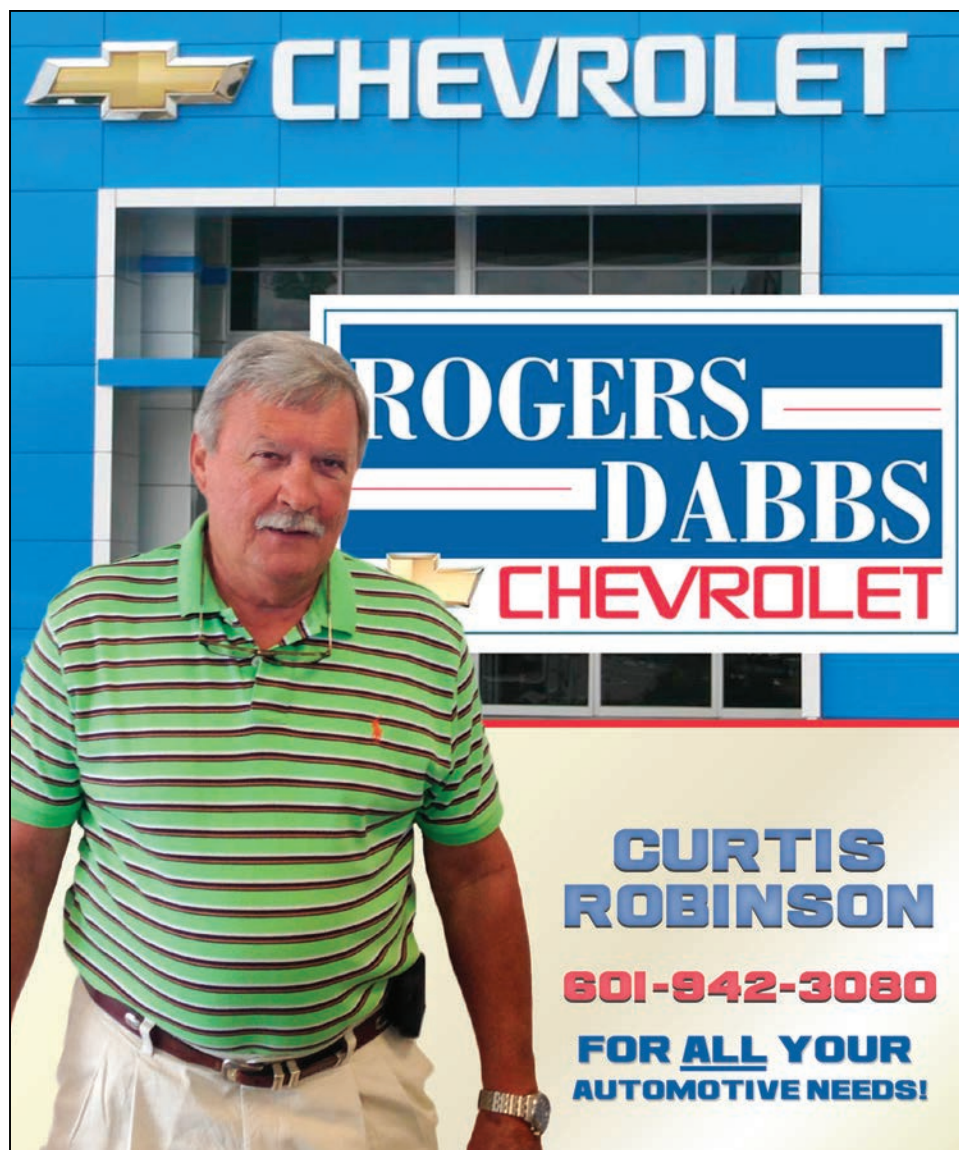
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Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Arrangements
Suzanne Coats	83	Madison, MS	5/2/2016	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Jerry Hamm	73	Lake, MS	5/1/2016	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Douglas Harrison	57	Morton, MS	5/17/2016	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Ecclesiastes Johnson	60	Forest, MS	5/12/16	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Ernest Traxler	88	Morton, MS	5/2/2016	Wolf Funeral Serv.



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Duke's is going strong at 20-years-old



The Dukes Gang with Gene Duke, far right, who started the restaurant in 1996 with his wife Carol (center). (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

By: Susie A. Wolfe

"Duke's was Gene's dream," said Carol Duke. "He had the food experience and cooked the steaks with his secret steak sauce."

After 20 years, Duke's Steakhouse is known in Central Mississippi for its food and service. People drive from 30-50 miles or more for its steaks and hospitality. Though Gene passed away two years ago, his wife, Carol, still runs the place, with the help of her two daughters, Lynn and Judy, the main waitress and restaurant manager, respectively. Carol's sister, Shirley, also helps as cashier.

The Dukes moved to Mississippi from Dallas in the 1990s hoping to open a small restaurant. Gene operated seven meat markets in Dallas and knew the food business. They lived in White Oak and worked with her sister and brother-in-law, Alene and Bill, at their restaurant, Styron's, in Brandon for about a year and a half before buying Pennington's Snack Bar in Pelahatchie in 1996.

Duke said that, when they started, they served breakfast and lunch from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m., then remodeled until 8 or

9 at night. They stopped serving breakfast after six or seven months because of the long hours, she said, and moved to Pelahatchie, which helped. The biggest challenge of running a restaurant, according to Duke, is finding good help.

Duke's is known for its fresh Angus meat cooked just right, plus Gene's secret steak sauce, and its good customer service. It also has the unique 72-ounce steak challenge that guarantees the customer that the steak is free if all the steak is eaten. Carol said many have tried throughout the years, but only seven people have finished it all.

In 2015, Dukes remodeled the front of the restaurant because a customer drove through the front door. No one was hurt, but Duke's in Pelahatchie made national news. It was the talk of the town.

The Dukes have five children, 15 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren, with one expected in July. They are located in Mississippi, Texas and Oklahoma.

"We have grown to love our customers and appreciate the community for supporting us all these years," said Duke. "We have a great menu and a lunch buffet, so come see us."



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PHS recognized for literacy achievements



Dr. Bryan Marshall was awarded Principal of the Year for PHS's achievements in literacy growth. Dr. Marshall, right, is pictured with Mrs. Voncille Anderson, lead literacy teacher. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

By Susie A. Wolfe

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) was recognized with a national literacy achievement award in May for the school's lexile growth by the Achieve 3000 international literacy program. Dr. Bryan Marshall was also named a principal of the year for the Rankin County School District.

Dr. Marshall emphasizes literacy in all aspects of education. He has incorporated a lexile growth chart to measure of reading comprehension in every classroom, and even posted the goal of 1185 on pole posters in the parking lot. With a score of 1185, students may be eligible for a scholarship, or they may get a job making \$20,000 to \$40,000 a

year.

"Everything students do revolves around literacy," said Marshall. "Reading comprehension enhances the ability to do math and science."

PHS recognized the top achievers either in most growth in one year or most activities completed with 75% or higher accuracy. Matthew Day was awarded for the most points of growth in one year with 650 points at a 93% average score leading the district.

"Every grade grew a minimum of 58 points this year," said Marshall, "even the seventh and eighth graders, many of whom have grown 75 lexile points since January, or have achieved the target for College and Career Readiness for their grade. They worked hard this year!"

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Eles Renfroe named PHS Teacher of the Year

By: Susie A. Wolfe

Eles Renfroe is Pelahatchie High School's (PHS) 2016 Teacher of the Year. She taught senior English IV, junior English III and junior ACT prep. For the upcoming 2016-2017 year, she will be the school's librarian, which is appropriate for the 19-year teaching veteran.

"Choosing what to teach was super easy," said Renfroe. "I would teach English, because I wanted to share with students my love of reading."

Renfroe has a set of bookcases in her classroom that hold top classics and books that appeal to young adults. It is her goal to start students reading books on topics of high interest to them, like the fantasy book series *Twilight* or *Hunger Games*. She would even give them time to read in class.

She started her teaching career in Mansfield, Texas, which is near Arlington, where she spent six years. Then, she taught Brandon ninth graders English and Honors English for six years. After teaching tenth-and eleventh-grade English for one year at East Rankin Academy, Renfroe started at



Eles Renfroe (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

PHS, where she has been for the past seven years.

A graduate of Carthage High School, Renfroe attended college at East Central Community College, the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi College, where she received a Master's degree in English.

Renfroe and her husband, Daniel, live in Pulaski with their two daughters, Brenna, 14, and Laura, 11.

ERA recognizes police effort



Dan Boyce, headmaster at East Rankin Academy on the left, presented a resolution to Police Chief Kevin Poole and Mayor Knox Ross on May 20 to acknowledge their gratitude for the P.P.D.'s protection during the recent 48-hour manhunt in our town. The department's concern for Pelahatchie citizens is displayed every day in their bravery and self-sacrifice, the resolution stated. (Photo by Susie A. Wolfe)

Family Medical Clinic moves office

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Family Medical Clinic is now located at 1205 Second Street, two buildings east of Duke's Steakhouse. The new office opened on May 10. The clinic was located on Brooks

Street, but closed due to structural problems.

The office personnel, including Dr. Nash, have been working in other offices in Brandon, Pearl and Flowood. Contact the office at 601-854-6085 to make an appointment.

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Walk-Ins Welcome

PHS sets summer projects

By Susie A. Wolfe

Six instructors will teach summer school at Pelahatchie High School May 25 – June 10, which includes an ACT boot camp. Students will then have the opportunity to take the ACT on June 11.

According to Dr. Bryan Marshall, other activities that the summer staff will be doing involve campus beautification and facility maintenance, including:

- Planting approximately 70 knock-

out roses around the campus

- Painting press box and band tower, fencing siding at softball field
- Painting courtyard in front of the gym and hall doors
- Practice for marching band--40 kids in varsity band 20 in beginner
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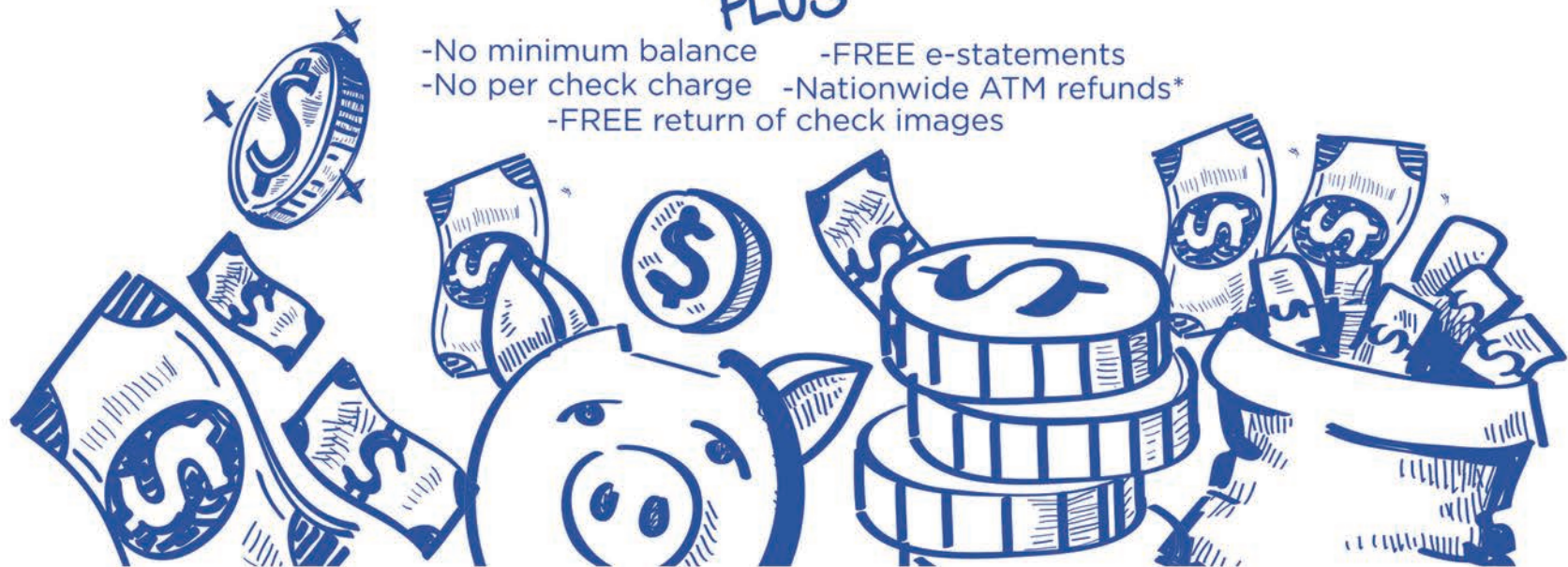
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Shane and Robin Sanders are still working to improve Pelahatchie education

By: Susie A. Wolfe

Shane Sanders and his wife, Robin White Sanders, have 38 years combined investment in Pelahatchie education, not counting her 12 years attending school at Pelahatchie Attendance Center, or the fact that their daughters are currently students.

"It's home," she said. "It was difficult to leave this place, so we take advantage of every opportunity we have to give back so we are still connected."

Shane, originally from Florence, spent 21 years at Pelahatchie Attendance Center before becoming Assistant Superintendent of Support Services for the Rankin County School Board (RCSD) in 2014. He served as principal for eight years and prior to that was assistant principal for five years and agriculture instructor and baseball coach for eight years.

The RCSD has over of 19,000 students on 28 campuses. His current po-

sition is responsible for building and grounds, new project construction, transportation, sixteenth section management, drug testing, insurance and Frontiers.

Robin was a Pelahatchie Elementary School teacher for 14 years and interventionist for three years before becoming District K-12 Academic Interventionist and Dyslexia Coordinator for RCSD. Her position creates plans and evaluates data to determine the best course of action for students who are performing below grade level academically, which she estimates is 30-40 percent of students in the district.

"I benefitted greatly from Pelahatchie's small school setting on both an academic and personal level because of the relationships built with teachers. They not only expected me to learn and do my best, they expected me to do what's right. I want nothing more than for our own children to have the opportunity to build positive relationships with

the teachers at Pelahatchie Schools," said Robin.

The Sanders two daughters, Payton, 10, and Reagan, 13, have just been promoted to the fifth and eighth grades respectively. Payton is a member of Jr. Beta Club and the gifted program. Reagan is also a member of the Jr. Beta Club, and plays sports at Pelahatchie High School.

Though his office is in Brandon, Shane and Robin have continued projects that Shane started as principal, including providing a senior breakfast to each of the sports teams at the end of the season, and conducting an ACT Drawdown for \$100 four times a year to encourage higher scores. They also support



Photo by Susie A. Wolfe

the FFA end of the year cookout.

The Sanders have also started the Carter-Gray Honorary Scholarship of \$500 in honor of Johnny Carter and Billy Guy Gray. This year's recipient, Zach Thompson, was presented the award at the May 17 graduation ceremony.

"Pelahatchie schools will always be near and dear to our hearts," said Shane. "Just like our goal for RCSD, we will continue to work to take Pelahatchie from great to best."

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

East Rankin Academy Graduating Class of 2016



The 2016 East Rankin Academy graduating class includes: Abbey Armstrong, Jessica Aycock, Madison Bradford, Olivia Burton, Garrett Busby, Chloe Cunningham, Austin Davis, Seth Dearman, Dylan Edwards, Elora Estep, Madeline Ezelle, Paxton Fisher, James Flickner, Jadi Gibbs, Bo Giordano, Sam Gunn, Will Gunn, Tanner Guy, Wade Hall, Katelyn Harrison, Dusty Hines, Tanner Hutchins, David Jefcoat, Brooke Knight, Jack Langford, Joseph Macon, Chris Marin, Zach Nettles, Carolyn Nickles, Bryce Overby, Michaela Phillips, Walker Phillips, Adrienne Pittman, Alex Polk, Hannah Rhodes, Peyton Rhodes, Forrest Russell, Clay Sanders, Emilee Sawyer, Victoria Shoemaker, John Henry Smith, Matt Stanton, Trace Sugg, Jordan Tadlock, Catherine Teh, Elizabeth Tuttle, Addison Walsh, Coltan Wofford and Lexie Worsham. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

So now what?



By: Leslie Trigg,
Youth Minister, Shiloh
Methodist Church

Congratulations to the Class of 2016! You have made it. You have graduated! So now what? Graduation may mark the

end of high school, but it is only the next step in the journey of life. Many of you find yourself at a crossroads - college, military, work force, or something else. So which one should you choose? Allow me to offer a word of wisdom:

Proverbs 4:23 tells us that our "heart is the source of life." The Bible uses "the heart" to describe our desires, hopes, ambitions, dreams, motivations, and passions. God has given each of you unique passions. Ever wondered

why some subjects, activities, or circumstance interested you; while others bored you to tears?

Those interests come from God and are given to you for a purpose. God has wired you to do what you love. Because of this, you will be good at what you love to do. If you don't care about a task, you will not excel at.

Those who achieve much in their field are those who do it out of passion, not duty or profit. When you do what you love, no one has to motivate you or

check up on you.

Examine the passions of your heart. What does it say about who are? Consider how those passions might be used for God's glory. As you seek to take the next step, ask: "What is my passion?" Choose your passion wisely, and pursue it with all your heart.

Editor's Note: Leslie Trigg is a "Jesus freak" and "comic book geek" with a black belt in Taekwondo. Trigg serves as Youth Minister at Shiloh UMC and instructor at Fusion Martial Arts.

Pelahatchie High School Graduating Class of 2016



The 2016 Pelahatchie High School graduating class includes: Abby Elaine Bouslay, Margaret Grace Bowman, Antonio Buckner, Jr., Abigail Rene Conn, Samantha Bree Conn, Lindsey Marie Cook, Jerrett, Kayl Edwards, Ashlyn Renae Elliott, Chelsea Morgan Evans, Heriberto Felix, Alana Mackenzie Goss, Ryley Megan Green, James Alvin Grice, Christina Ann Hamilton, Marlo JaMarion Hardy, Zachary Tyler Harper, MiAngela Unique Harvey, Alexis Audrianna Hobson, William Scott Houston, Chet Bailey Hudson, Jalen Juwan Hurst, Scheldon Denard Irvin, Jeremy David Jefferson, Alexis Diane Johnson, Joseph Austin Johnson, Rebecca Hope Kennedy, DaChawn Jejuan Kincaid, Terry Terrell Lee, Johnathan Dakota Maddox, Kaylen Renay Matthews, Talieeka Ti'Yahn Monee' Mazique, Emily Erin McMillan, Kyeesha LaMonica Melvin, Emily Grace Morgan, Kameron Lynn Morris, Jessica Payton Moulder, Dwaun Eulance Patterson, Tabitha Hope Phillips, Karen Lacey Pittman, Zachary Coleman Rust, Kayla L. Tadlock, Taquilla Titania Taylor-Beeman, Zachary Paul Thompson, April Alize Ticer, Austin Gray Vancor, Anthony Thomas Wadsworth, Lexie Rayvon Walker, Jacob Tyler Watkins, Kelsey Masha Watson, Dylan Ted White and Kaci Lynn White. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

4 year olds raise money for St. Jude's



Mrs. Sirmon's 4-year-old kindergarten class had an end-of-the-year picnic with ice cream and watermelon. The class also got to ride their bikes for a class project, where they raised \$300 for St. Jude's Trike-a-thon. (Photo by Susie A. Wolfe)

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Crooked Creek Car Show held May 21



Winners at the tenth annual Crooked Creek Car Show include front row, l to r, Art Todd, John Bolden, Cindy Robertson, Barbara Eldridge, Sam Hupperich and Kevin Fant. Second row, l to r, Richard Morris, Charlie Brown, Marcia Brown, Laura Mayo, Gary Mayo and Charlie Harrison. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Approximately 70 cars participated in the tenth annual Crooked Creek Car Show at Muscadine Park on May 21. The show is held annually, with proceeds going to the Pelahatchie Lions Club to help provide glasses and hearing aids for local families, according to President Gary Windham.

Awards given at the event included Best of Show Truck, which was given to Charlie and Marcia Brown of Brandon; Best of Show Car, won by Barbara Eldridge of Brandon; Longest

Distance, won by Kevin Fant of Hattiesburg; Lion's Choice Car, won by Cindy Robertson of Pelahatchie, and Lion's Choice Truck, won by Art Todd of Terry.

The Top Eight trucks as voted on by the participants included Buddy Hillard, Charlie Harrison, Hulon and Kaye Slay, Junior McBride, Charles Dean, Charlie and Marcia Brown, Glen McCoy and Gary Blackmon. The Top Eight cars winners were Richard Morris, Barbara Eldridge, Gary Mayo, Laura Mayo, Sam Hupperich, Eric Knight, Tommy Marshall and John Bolden.

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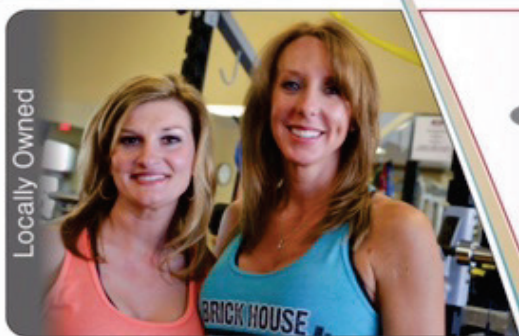
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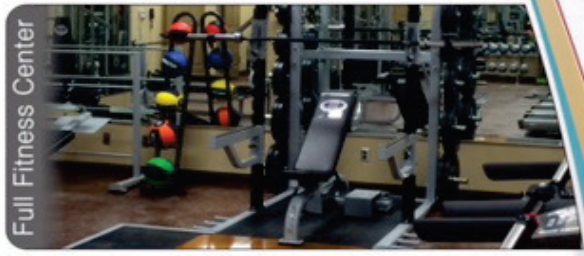
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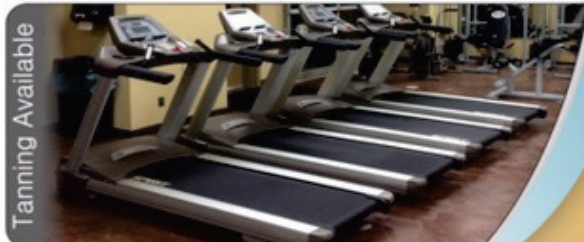
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Williams - Noble to wed July 2



Photo special to The Pelahatchie News

Terry and Lanette Williams of Brandon announce the engagement of their daughter, Kelsey Jane Williams, to Charles Avery Nobles, son of Charlotte and the late Charles

Nobles of Morton.

Kelsey is a graduate of Brandon High School and Mississippi College with a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and a minor in Secondary Education. She teaches eighth grade math and ninth grade Algebra I at Pelahatchie High School.

Avery attended Morton High School and Pelahatchie High School. He received a Bachelor's degree in Special Education from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Mississippi College. He is currently the principal at Bettye Mae Jack Middle School in Morton.

Kelsey and Avery will exchange vows on Saturday, July 2, 2016, at McClain Lodge in Brandon. After honeymooning at a resort in Cancun, the couple will reside in Morton.



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Pastor's perspective: who stands ready to help all?



By: John Vaughn, Pastor,
Cross Roads Baptist Church

This year, Cross Roads Baptist Church, where I have the privilege of serving as pastor, is celebrating its centennial. Many things have changed in the hundred years since 18 faithful believers gathered together for the purpose of organizing a new Baptist Church to serve the Cross Roads community.

As a Church, Cross Roads has grown, and those 18 charter members would certainly be amazed at the fruit that has been produced because of their step of faith. The first meeting place was inside the building of Cross Roads School. A church building was soon erected to house worship services for the new Church. That building was replaced some years later, and the church moved into the current facility in 1989.

This being the Centennial year, the Church decided to make some needed improvements and upgrades to the building and facilities. One area that is being addressed is making repairs to the driveway and expanding the parking near the Church building. The needs were studied, and a plan was developed. Bids were received, contrac-



Construction to Cross Roads Baptist's parking lot (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

tors were chosen and financing was secured. Finally, the work began.

It was known that there were buried phone and electrical lines in the area of the construction. The appropriate efforts were made to identify exactly where those lines were buried so that care could be taken to not cut any of the lines. With the phone line, we received excellent cooperation from the phone company. The underground drainage pipe that we wanted to install actually crossed the phone line in three places. But because of the precautions that were taken, the pipe was installed, and no phone lines were broken in the process.

We also knew the location of the electrical lines, since members of the church had actually put them in the ground to provide electricity to our parking lot lighting. But even though

the lines were marked, and care was taken, the machinery operator broke the line at several different points. He was so focused on his task of removing the excess dirt and grading what was left that he failed to be careful enough around those electrical lines.

While we knew about the electrical and phone lines, we were surprised when the backhoe operator was digging away and all of a sudden water began spewing from the ground. He had hit an underground water pipe that no one knew was there! It was then that we realized that the water line provided water to the bathrooms on that side of our building. After that initial break in the line was repaired, the effort was made to find exactly where the line ran, so that care could be taken not to hit it again. But, it was actually broken several more times!

That construction project and the utility lines offer us some valuable spiritual lessons. (1) In living life, it is important to make plans. And in doing so, we must consider issues that might need extra care or precaution. Often, problems can be avoided if appropriate measures are taken, just like with the phone lines. (2) Sometimes we can encounter problems, even though we are aware of the possibility and take precautions to avoid them, like with the electrical lines. (3) Sometimes problems can come up and catch us by surprise, like the water lines.

The issues with the utility lines and our parking lot will all be resolved in time. Those with experience and expertise will make sure of that. The work will go on, and the finished product will be better than what we started with.

So it is with life. Some problems can be avoided with care and planning. Others will happen even though effort is made to avoid them. And still other issues will catch us by surprise. But there is One who stands ready to help us through any issue we face in life. He is the Lord, and He will help you get through those difficult times you encounter as you go through life. Trust Him, and let Him work on your life, and it will be better than it was before.



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Milltown Minutes

By Jennifer Poole

The spring baseball and softball season is coming to an end at Milltown Park. We were so blessed to have roughly 150 kids that participated. We hope that our youth baseball and softball program grows bigger and better every season. The Moms of Milltown continue to be active in helping with community events. The Moms provided lunch to Pelahatchie Police Department as our thanks for National Police

Week. Thank you cards and banners were provided to the officers by students at Pelahatchie Elementary. Movie at Milltown Park is scheduled for Tuesday night, June 14 at 7 p.m. We will be showing the movie *Home*. Admission to the park and movie is free.

Be sure to bring your chair or blanket. For \$8, you will receive a hot dog, popcorn, chips, cookie, and a drink, or you can buy these items individually for \$2 each. No outside food or drinks allowed, please.

Two PHS students get softball scholarships



PHS athletes Abby Bouslay and Becca Kennedy are shown signing scholarships to become Holmes Bulldogs and continue their softball careers. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)



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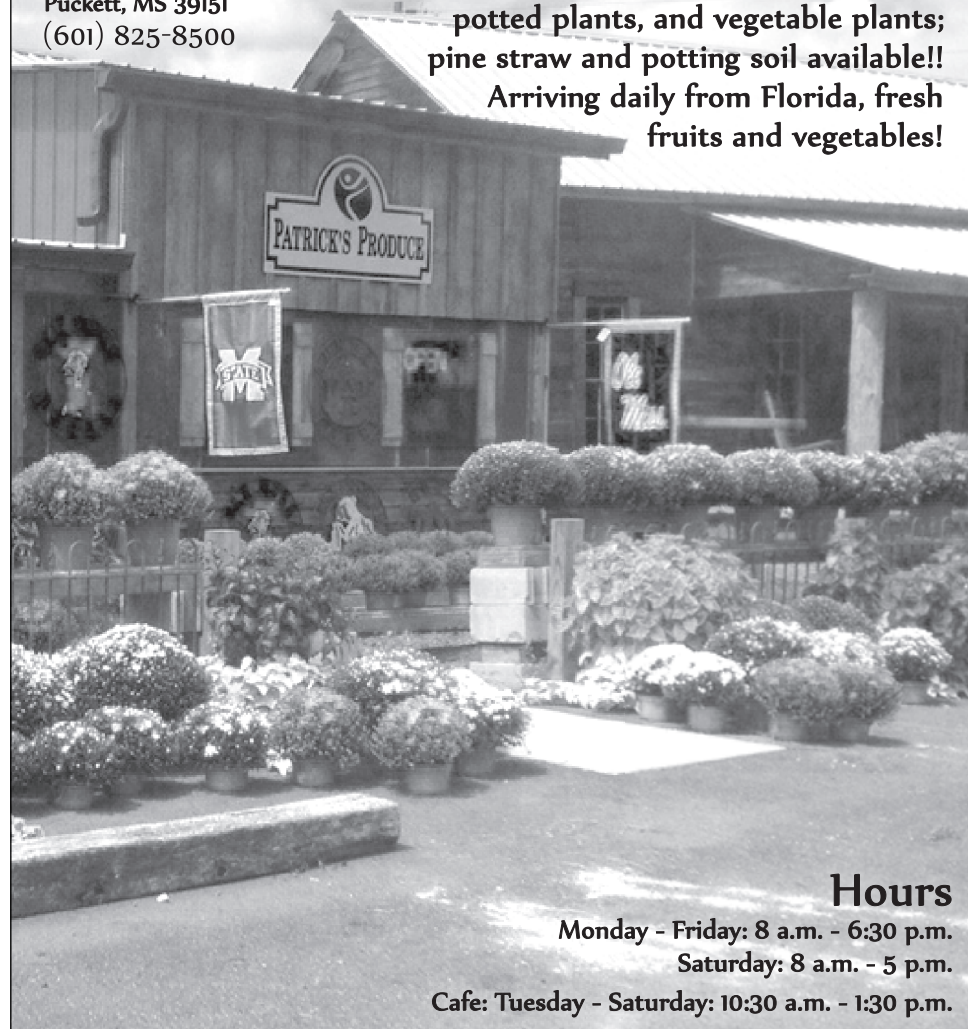
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