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Volume 5 **November 2016** Issue 11

NEWS Pelahatchie



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

PHS names Homecoming Court



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School and Junior High recently named their Homecoming Court. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Haley Mills, Dana Bennett, Kimberly Cochran, Morgan Boyd, Makayla McClure, Tiara Collier, Victoria Thornton, Sydney Goldman, Isabella Rust, and Chrystianna Beeman; back row: Lanie Burkes, Anna Attkisson, Courtney Lum, Jayla Jennings, Haley Jones, Janae Collier, Shelby Sledge, Breanna Ferguson, Makia Lewis, and Morghan Hobson.

RCSD receives A rating

By Susie A. Wolfe

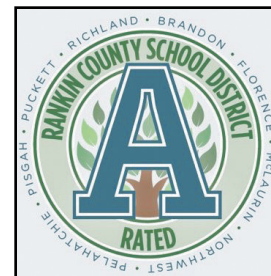
The Mississippi Department of Education released 2015-16 ratings on an A to F scale for the state's school districts and charter schools on October 20. Under the Mississippi Assessment Program, the Rankin County School District (RCSD) received an A rating along with 14 other districts, including Madison County and Clinton.

The RCSD is home to nearly 19,500 students and 3,000 employees. The District has 28 schools in over 757 square miles, making RCSD the third largest school district in Mississippi. RCSD has more National Board Certified teachers than any other district in Mississippi and among the highest in the nation.

Last year's graduating seniors received a record-breaking \$43 million in scholarship offers.

This year's grades are not strictly comparable to last year's because of several factors, including a new standardized test. The typical Mississippi public school and school district rates a C.

Among the 19 school districts rated F is the 28,000-student Jackson district, the state's second largest. Also rated F are the Canton, Holmes, Yazoo City, and Greenville school districts.



Special to Pelahatchie News

ERA Homecoming Court



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy recently named their Homecoming Court. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: flower girl A. J. McIlwain and crown bearer Candan Smith; second row: Brittany Wade, Mackenzie Thompson, Claire Harris, and Madyson Gibson. Back row: Bailey Thompson, Taylor Turman, Emilee Tadlock, and Abi Baggett. The flower girl is A.J. McIlwain and the crown bearer is Candan Smith.

Group puts flags on veterans' graves



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Three members of the Hebron Hill Coffee Club are shown flagging the veteran's graves in Pelahatchie Cemetery. Pictured (l to r), are George Mitchell, Sr., George Mitchell, Jr., and Rusty Varner.

By Susie A. Wolfe

The 20-member Hebron Hill Coffee Club started putting flags on soldiers' graves in Rankin, Hinds, Madison and Smith counties about ten years

ago. Now, Community Bank sponsors the 15,000 flags, and they have support from groups like the Brandon and Florence Boy Scouts and 70 Pearl High School students.

continued on page 3



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Linda Brewer, RN, CFNP, CGNP

Chief's Comments: Don't be scared. Be prepared.

By Chief Kevin Poole,
Pelahatchie Police Dept.

I assure you the PPD is prepared to take care of whatever comes our way, but don't think it won't happen here. Just last month, 15 grams of Meth was seized in Pelahatchie. Our police force was well qualified and trained to deal with that and any situation.

"Don't be scared. Be prepared" is our motto. I have given teachers and others information on responding to an active shooter. Let's all be aware of the environment around Pelahatchie and any possible dangers, because it can happen here.

If in an active shooter situation, you will need to evacuate, hide out, and take action. Call 911 when it is safe to do so, but it is important to remain calm and follow instructions. Don't have anything in your hands, and avoid quick movements towards officers.

Don't stop them to ask questions or directions. Everyone will be scared, but it is important to let the officers do their job.

I am also proud that the PPD is a dual-purpose department, meaning nine of our officers are also trained as firefighters and six as paramedics. Two officers recently responded to a house fire and were able to assist the Pelahatchie Volunteer Fire Department to resolve the situation. We are all working to keep you safe.

The PPD is also co-sponsoring the Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 17.



Special to Pelahatchie News

The cross in Chief Poole's office was given to him by Katherine Varner when he was sworn in as chief.



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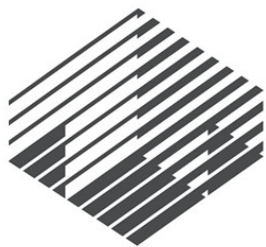
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Bowman among Woolley Scholarship winners



Special to Pelahatchie News

Annabeth Bowman is among the winners of the Ed, Mattie & Douglas Woolley Scholarship to Hinds Community College. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Brennon McDowell of Brandon, Alexis Bailey of Pearl, Emily Kraemer of Clinton, and Linda Woolley, scholarship donor; second row: Evan Ratcliff of Brandon, Bowman of Pelahatchie; Daygon Williams of Brandon, Jackson Mitchell of Brandon, Calvin Dobson of Brandon, and Holley Moore of Selmer, Tennessee.

continued from page 1

Group puts flags on veterans' graves

According to Rusty Varner, owner of Five Lakes Auto Sales on Highway 18 in Brandon, where the coffee group meets on Thursday afternoons, the flagging began when he and A.R. McDaniel were riding motorcycles near the County Line Cemetery between Puckett and Mendenhall. McDaniel was a decorated veteran and wanted to honor the ones in the cemeteries.

The group paid for the flags and did the flagging for many years until others asked to be involved, said Varner. One veteran who always participates is George Mitchell, Sr., 93, of Brandon. He was an Air Force radio operator in WWII.

"It is just our way of honoring the veterans," said Varner, "for what they did for the country."

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Photo by Pelahatchie News

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Success comes with growing pains



By Dr. Bryan Marshall,
Pelahatchie High School
Principal

Greetings from Pelahatchie High School! We are excited to tell each of you that we have completed the first nine-week grading period along with our first benchmark exams. We have had a blast with homecoming festivities and football season, which is nearing its end. That means basketball and soccer are on the horizon. Girls basketball and soccer made the playoffs last year, and we expect to be better in both sports this year. Boys basketball also looks to be a strong contender this year after a playoff run last year as well. So, there are lots of exciting things going on at Pelahatchie High School.

We are continuing to push our literacy curriculum in all classes, and academically we are seeing some major gains, especially in ACT.

Our school has grown this year as well. We currently have 374 students enrolled, up from 350 students last school year. And, there is no secret that the school district is getting ready to pursue a bond issue. Demographically, Pelahatchie High faces a 16% increase in enrollment projected over the next five years. The projected growth would place our school well above 400 students enrolled for the first time ever. With this said, we currently have three teachers who do not have their own classroom and must float to other teachers' rooms in order to have class. We currently have four portable classrooms on campus as well. To say the least, we don't have any space left to accommodate additional students without building some classrooms. Our school district

has grown by over 4,500 students in the last 15 years without a bond issue, and this has left many of our campuses across the district in need of additions and repairs. The demographic study indicates that there was a plateau of student growth this year and now we should see a leveling of student enrollment growth over the next few years. So, the total enrollment across the district of 19,000-plus students should stay somewhat static, at least for now. This gives Rankin County the chance to make some much-needed repairs, upgrades, and additions. Therefore, not only will our academic success be second to none, or the BEST, but our facilities will also be the BEST facilities in the state.

The school district is still in the planning and development stages of the potential bond issue, and the next step is to again come to each community, and share thoughts about ways to address the concerns in each community. Other facility upgrades besides classroom additions could include security cameras across all campuses, vastly needed roof repair, HVAC upgrades or repairs, bathroom repairs or renovations, and other aspects of the school building facilities that are unique to each school zone. Through this bond issue we want to provide each school zone the facilities to offer the same BEST education available not only in the state of Mississippi but also the BEST education in the United States.

The Pelahatchie Zone Bond Meeting, otherwise known as the Great 2 Best Listening Tour, is October 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the high school. Come out and share your thoughts and opinions, and remember, everything we do in Rankin County is done with students' BEST interest in mind. The tentative date for the bond issue vote is March 7, 2017.

WE ARE PELAHATCHIE and Rankin County School District is definitely headed from GREAT to BEST. GO CHIEFS!

Emily Still awarded the HCC Session Scholarship



Special to Pelahatchie News

Emily Still, center, received the Norman and Suzanna Session Scholarship at HCC. Pictured with her are Dr. and Mrs. Norman Session, of Brandon.

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Hinds Community College Foundation recognized more than 600 scholarship recipients, donors and honorees at a reception on Sept. 28 at the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus.

Among those recognized was Emily Still of Pelahatchie, who received the Norman and Suzanna Session Scholarship.

As Mississippi's largest community college, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational oppor-

tunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills. With six locations in central Mississippi, Hinds enrolled nearly 12,000 credit students in fall 2016. To learn more, visit www.hindscc.edu or call 1.800.HindsCC.

The deadline to apply for a Hinds Community College Foundation scholarship has changed. The new deadline for next year is Feb. 15, 2017. For more information, visit www.hindscc.edu.

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Arrangements
Jimmy Harrison	62	Pulaski, MS	10/1/16	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Marion Benon Haralson	72	Conehatta, MS	10/1/16	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Chris Armstrong	43	Morton, MS	10/4/16	Wolf Funeral Serv.
John Martin	70	Lena, MS	10/11/16	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Regina Moulder	43	Morton, MS	10/11/16	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Larry Walker	70	Edwards, MS	10/12/16	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Dovis Goodwin	78	Lake, MS	10/12/16	Wolf Funeral Serv.
William Neil Hall	77	Lena, MS	10/12/16	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Kenneth Hawkins	63	Pulaski, MS	10/12/16	Wolf Funeral Serv.



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Lessons from a Dojang: What is the most powerful?



By: Leslie Trigg, Youth Minister, Shiloh Methodist Church

What is more painful than a round kick to the head? What has more destructive force than a hammer hand? What is more disabling than a spear-hand punch to the throat? The answer is - your words.

Your words are more powerful than any martial arts move. Your words carry with them the ability to build up or tear down another person. Each one of us has experienced both the inspirational and the damaging effects of words that have been spoken. We must be careful with how we use our words.

To help you use your words careful-

ly, I want to give you three questions to ask before you speak: 1. Is it TRUE? Is what you are about to say the truth? Not hearsay, rumor, or your opinion on the matter. 2. Is it NECESSARY? Just because something is true, does not mean you need to say it. Is what you are about to say going to improve or cause a course correct for the other person? 3. Is it KIND? If what you have to say is both true and necessary, but if you can not be kind in how you say it, don't say it. How we say something is just as important as what we say.

If you can't answer YES to ALL three questions, then DON'T SAY IT.

Editor's Note - Dojang is Korean for Taekwondo school. Leslie Trigg is one of the instructors at Pelahatchie's own Dojang - Fusion Martial Arts.

Back-to-School committee says "thanks"

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie Back-to-School committee wants to say "thank you" for all the donations during their 21st Annual Back to School Family Fun Day, on Aug. 9.

The committee wrote an open letter

to the community to offer "a heartfelt thank-you for all donations given to the Back to School Supply Give-Away." Committee members proclaimed the donation program to be a huge success.

The committee is part of The Greater Works Outreach Ministry in Pelahatchie.

Ragsdale leads record-breaking Pisgah Dragons

By Guest Columnist Corey Jones, Pisgah HS Junior

Don Ragsdale, a junior at Pisgah High School, is breaking football records. He is the second in the state for rushing yards and touchdowns. For his school, Ragsdale is the all-time leader in rushing yards and touchdowns, previously held by his older brother, Donatello Lockett. In just ten games, he has rushed for 2,568 yards and 36 touchdowns.

One of Ragsdale's best offensive plays was a 97-yard touchdown during a match against Saint Joe. His best defensive play was a big hit inside the five-yard line against Amite County, consequently; the hit was so hard that the opponent's helmet came flying off.

The one thing that makes Ragsdale's accomplishments great is his humbleness and love for his team. No matter how many touchdowns or yards rushed, Ragsdale gives all the credit to God and his team. He knows that without them, he couldn't have done what has been done. He is the same person on and off the field. Ragsdale is a great athlete, with a great attitude, and is part of an



Special to Pelahatchie News

Don Ragsdale, a Pisgah junior, is having a record-breaking year.

amazing football team.

The Dragons continue to make great progress for the playoffs, for which they already have a guaranteed spot. The students at Pisgah are proud to be Dragons.

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ERA Robotics Team finishes second



Photo by Susie A. Wolfe

The East Rankin Robotics Team finished in second place in the MS BEST Robotics State Competition. The team received the third place BEST Award for best embodying the concept of Boosting Engineering Science and Technology. The ERA Team also received awards for their engineering notebook, team spirit and sportsmanship, and team exhibit. The team has qualified to compete at the South's BEST regional competition at Auburn University on December 3-4.

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Children's International Medical Group opens in Morton

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Children's International Medical Group (CIMG) opened at 3016 Highway 80 in Morton on October 20. The new pediatric practice offers general pediatric sick visits, ADD and ADHD diagnosis and treatment, as well as immunizations and school physicals. The clinic accepts both private insurance and all forms of Mississippi Medicaid, including Magnolia and UHC.

The bilingual staff includes Sylvia Wingo, MD; Courtney Lyle Sanders, APRN, FNP; and Roshanda Shavers, Certified Medical Assistant. Prior to joining the CIMG clinic, Dr. Wingo practiced in Brandon; Stillwater; Oklahoma; and was a medical missionary with her family in Brazil and Bolivia for 16 years.

CIMG is a comprehensive group of pediatric specialists located throughout Louisiana and in Mississippi. Founded in 1996 by CEO Dr. Eduardo Hernandez and delivering the gold standard in pediatric care and services, CIMG is the largest provider of pediatrics in Louisiana with a goal to be the same in Mississippi.

The Morton location is the compa-



Special to Pelahatchie News

At their new location next to Wolf Funeral Home, the Morton staff of Children's International Medical Group is pictured by the sign. From left, Divisional SVP Zach Allen, Nurse Practitioner Courtney Sanders and Pediatrician Dr. Sylvia Wingo.

ny's twentieth pediatric clinic and eighth rural health clinic.

Zach Allen, CIMG divisional SVP, is president of the Louisiana Rural

Health Association, and has been nominated to serve on the National Rural Health Association's Board of Trustees as the Rural Health Care

Constituency Chairman.

For more information, call 601-732-2382 or visit www.cimgpeds.com or www.facebook.com/CIMGpediatrics.

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Kenny



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Reading changes everything



By Lisa Attkisson,
Pelahatchie Elementary
School Principal

Special to
Pelahatchie News

At Pelahatchie Elementary, four types of reading are done with your child each day. They include reading aloud, shared reading, guided reading/literature circles, and independent reading. All of these kinds of reading are vital to helping your child become a successful reader, but we will focus on the importance of independent reading in this article.

The phrase "independent reading" describes any reading a child does of his/her own free will. Reading any material -- books, magazines, newspapers -- that is not part of a school assignment is independent reading. In pre-school and kindergarten, independent reading may consist of little more than looking at the pictures in a book. By elementary school, however, students can read books on their own, and many graduate to longer and more difficult

books by second or third grade.

There is a strong correlation between independent reading and academic success. Independent reading boosts vocabulary, reading comprehension, verbal skills and knowledge. Research has shown that independent reading opens up a world of information and can help children pursue their interests and hobbies. Students who read regularly have better research skills and are more effective writers. Typically students who begin a book in class are more likely to continue reading it on their own. Practices such as daily independent reading time can boost a student's interest in reading.

Being able to read changes EVERYTHING! It allows a child to reach for the stars and to be whatever they choose to be in life. Encourage your child to read, read, read! Please set aside a time for your child to both read with you and to read independently each night.

"The more things you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go." ~Dr. Seuss



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Milltown Minutes



Special to
Pelahatchie News

By Jennifer Poole

Pelahatchie Milltown Park is sponsoring the Family Fall Festival that will be held Saturday, November 5, from 9 to 4 at Muscadine Park. Activities include rides, jumps, games, cakewalk, raffle, trackless train and face painting. There

will be parent/child competitions for different group games like relay races and twister. A magic show will be held at 10 a.m.

Admission is \$2 per person with ages two and under free. Armbands for unlimited rides and games are \$12. There is a \$2 donation requested for the photo booth.

Questions can be emailed to pelahatchiemilltownpark@gmail.com.

Shannon Jones is new PPD Dispatcher



Special to Pelahatchie News

Shannon Jones is the Police Department's new dispatcher. Jones is from Morton and previously worked with the Morton PD. She was introduced at the October board meeting.



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Hinds CC hosts Nov. 8 Career Exploration Day

Special to Pelahatchie News

Students and parents can learn about potential careers and programs that lead to those careers during a Hinds Community College Career Exploration Day at the Rankin Campus.

The Career Exploration Day will feature not only Hinds Community College programs such as Associate Degree Nursing and Diesel Equipment Technology, but also local business and industries that are there to demonstrate their professions and the kinds of skilled employees they hire.

The Nov. 8 Career Exploration Day is sponsored by Baptist Health Systems, Empire Truck Services, Stribling Equipment and Hinds Community College. The event will also feature numerous other employers with interactive displays that allow students and parents to see for themselves the potential for jobs in the community.

"Our goal is not only to inform our community about the many different career and technical programs that Hinds has to offer, but also to demonstrate that there are jobs for those who

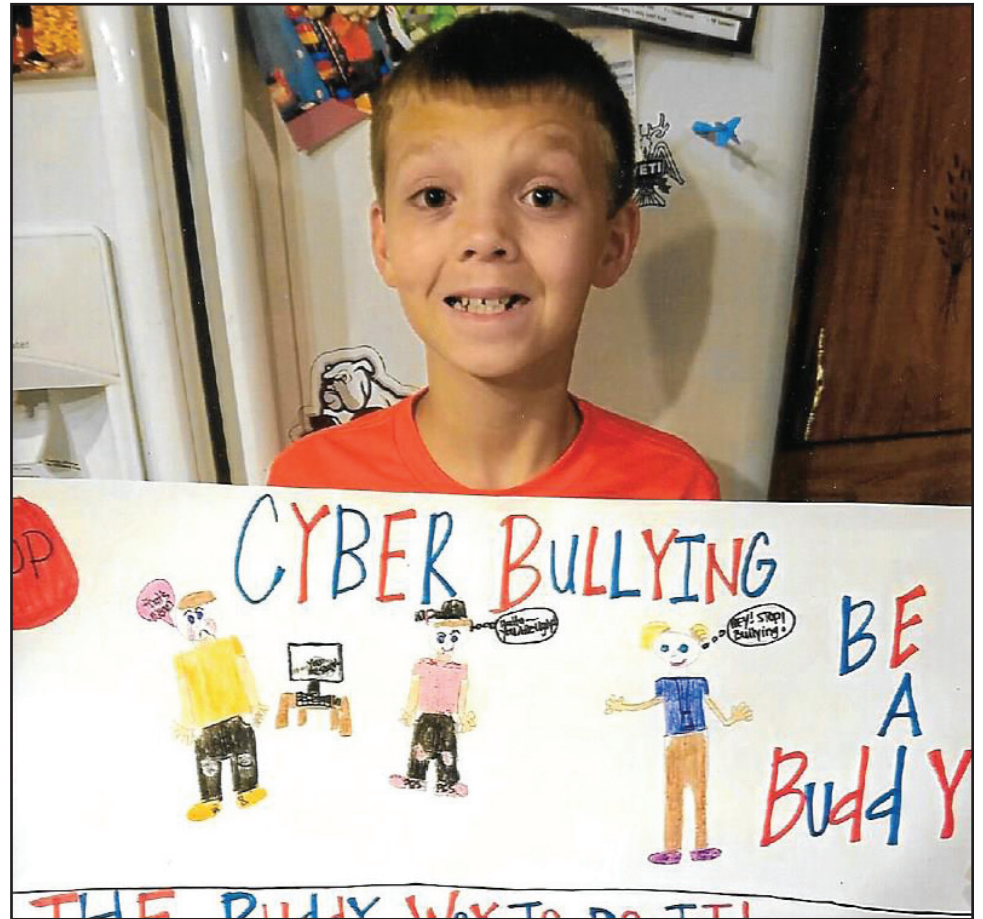
are ready and willing to be trained," said Kathryn Cole, director of Enrollment Services. "We want students to touch, feel and experience the jobs that can be theirs with the right education and training."

The Career Exploration Day is open to the public from 12 noon to 3 p.m. on Nov. 8 at the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus.

The morning will focus on students beginning in eighth grade in the Pearl and Rankin County school districts who will participate in the Career Exploration Day.

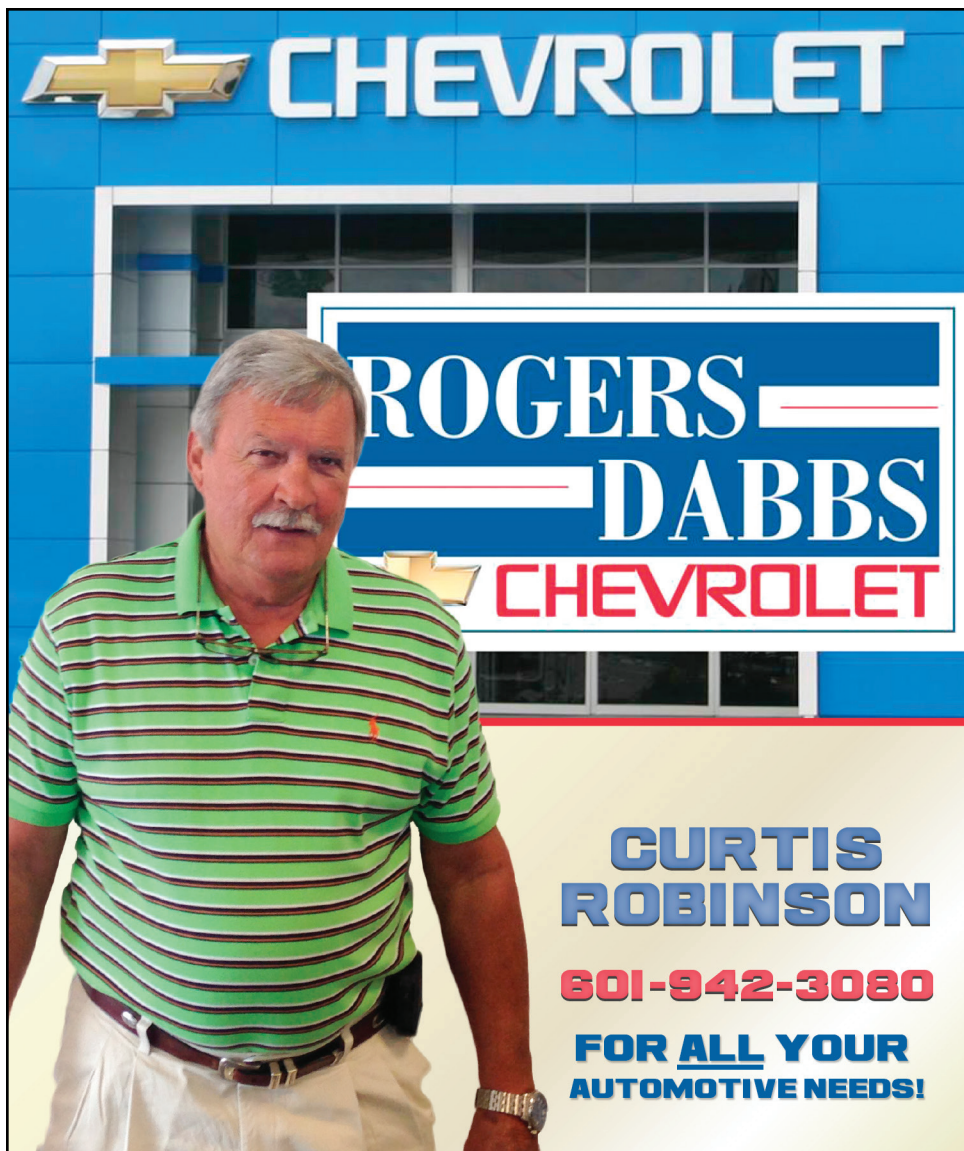
As Mississippi's largest community college, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills. With six locations in central Mississippi, Hinds enrolled nearly 12,000 credit students in fall 2016. To learn more, visit www.hindscc.edu or call 1-800-HindsCC.

Kids against bullying



Special to Pelahatchie News

Kaleb Evans, PES fifth grader, is shown with the poster he created for the school's anti-bullying poster competition.



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The 2016 Pelahatchie Junior High Chiefs includes 15 seventh graders and 17 eighth graders. Pictured, in jersey order, are: Jamal Johnson, 2; Julian Slocum, 3; Nick Boykin, 4; JaDeryk McKinnis, 5; Blake Ferguson, 6; Matthew Day, 7; Cameron Watkins, 8; Chance Irvin, 10; Mikilan Taylor, 11; Cass Walters, 12; Garrett Day, 14; Matthew Smith, 15; Cooper Sirmon, 16; Colby Henderson, 20; Quay Ragsdale, 21; Hayden Westbrook, 22; Jacob Jordan, 23; Ashton McIntyre, 24; Morgan Dawson, 45; Carlos Felix, 50; Caleb Moore, 51; Jakaris Stokes, 52; Nathan Atwood, 60; Jared Goodin, 61; Cody Watson, 62; Tariq Dampeer, 63; Justin Beeman, 65; Kenner Doster, 70; Noah Till, 72; Jesse Phillips, 75; Jacob Thompson, 77; and Matthew Harper, 81.

Cross Roads Baptist Church



Sunday Schedule

8:30 - Contemporary Worship Service
10:00 - Bible Study for all ages
11:00 - Blended Worship Service
6:00 - Evening Worship

Wednesday Schedule

6:00 Family Dinner
7:00 - Children's Mission Activities • Student Worship
Ladies Bible Study • Couples Support Group
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

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Pastor's Perspective: Be thankful for all things



By John Vaughn, Pastor,
Cross Roads Baptist Church

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Thanksgiving is one holiday that is uniquely American. The holiday is traced back to the celebration held by the pilgrims at Plymouth colony in 1621 to give thanks for a bountiful harvest. The day of thanksgiving was observed on an annual basis by the different colonies, often at different times. Then, President George Washington proclaimed the first nationwide thanksgiving celebration in America marking November 26, 1789, "as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God."

On December 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a joint resolution of Congress establishing the fourth Thursday of November as the national Thanksgiving Day. Thanksgiving is observed in a few other countries, but it is commonly associated with the harvest, and does not carry the aspect of gratitude to God for His blessings.

In Brazil, where we lived for 16 years, there was a holiday on the na-

tional calendar known as "The Day of Grace." It is said that many years ago, the Ambassador from Brazil to the United States was impressed by the observance of Thanksgiving Day, and so tried to establish a similar day in Brazil. While he was successful in having a day established, it never became popular with the general population. Some evangelical churches would observe a special day, including many Baptist churches.

Recently, I received a Facebook post from a Brazilian friend that talks about the importance of being thankful. I have translated it as follows:

"Have you ever thought what it would be like if everything you complained about in life was suddenly taken from you?"

Just think for a moment....."My hair is terrible! I can't do a thing with it." OK. You are suddenly bald. "I just can't stand my job!" Fine. You are now unemployed. "My parents (children) are driving me crazy!" No problem. Go plan for the funeral. "This heat is more than I can stand!" From now on, every day will be raining or snowing. "My husband is like a plague!" All right. You're now a widow. "My house is terrible." So, you're now homeless. Go



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live on the street.

The list could go on, but you get the idea.

Be thankful for all things. When you wake up in the morning, give thanks. When you lie down at night, give thanks.

Scripture has a lot to say about being thankful, as well.

In Psalm 9:1, the writer says, "I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds."

And I Thessalonians 5:18 tells us to "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

This year, as we approach Thanksgiving, may we all have grateful hearts for all His wonderful deeds in our lives. And let us remember that, in spite of any situation we might find ourselves, there is much to be thankful for. Remember that what you have comes from the Lord, and express your thankfulness to Him!

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TelehealthONE kiosk opens at local fred's pharmacy



Photo by Pelahatchie News

A ribbon cutting was held in September to launch the opening of the TelehealthOne kiosk at the fred's Pharmacy. The kiosk provides fred's customers with access to a healthcare practitioner, without driving a long distance or waiting in an office. Through telemedicine, a TelehealthOne provider can treat common conditions, such as strep throat, ear infections, sinus infections, seasonal allergies, nausea and more. Shown are Rankin County Chamber members with fred's and TelehealthONE staff cutting the ribbon.

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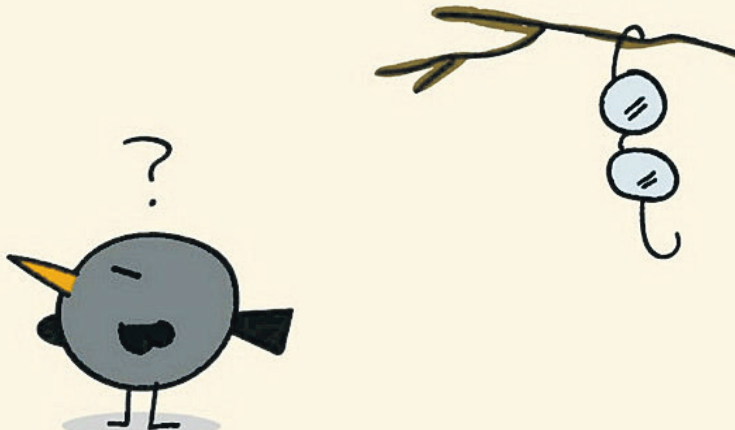


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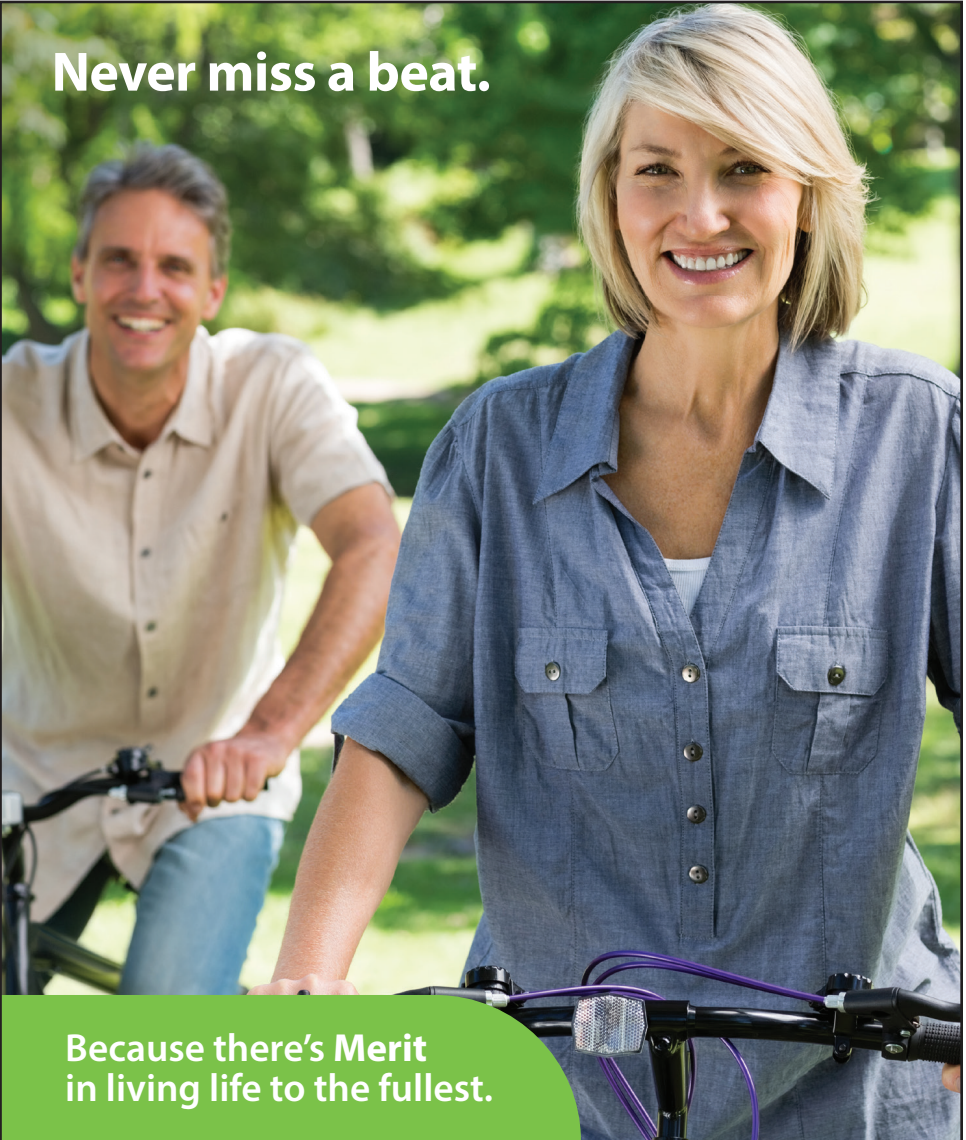


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Norwood serves town for 20 years as alderman-at-large

By Susie A. Wolfe

Jerry Norwood serves as alderman-at-large, one of two city-wide elected officials, along with the mayor. Norwood has been an alderman for 20 years.

Forty years ago, Norwood and his wife Mary Ann chose Pelahatchie as the place to purchase their first home and as the place to raise their future family. Their son, Clay, has served as pastor of Superior Avenue Baptist Church in Bogalusa, Louisiana, for 12 years. He and his wife, Kim, have two children Ethan, 12, and Olivia, 10. Their daughter, Dee, is a pharmacist at Walgreens in Hattiesburg.

Both Jerry and Mary Ann are Southern Miss graduates, but that's not where they met. It was on a blind date when they both worked at Columbia Training School in Columbia, Mississippi. They have been married 44 years.

Now retired, Norwood worked as Inside Sales Manager at O'Neal Steel in Pearl for 37 years. He has enjoyed watching Pelahatchie grow. He was part of city leadership in developing



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Jerry and Mary Ann Norwood have lived in Pelahatchie 40 years.

Milltown and Muscadine parks, the Community Center, a museum, the new library, remodeling the second floor of City Hall, and city WiFi. He believes that, working together, we can continue to make Pelahatchie a place we can all be proud to call home.

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