



By Susie A. Wolfe

Pelahatchie will elect a female mayor on June 6, who will take over for Knox Ross, who has been mayor for the past 16 years. The choice is between three professional women who have stakes in the Town, Ryshonda Harper Beechem, Shannon Boyce, and Megan Hall.

Beechem grew up in Pelahatchie and attended school here. As a multi-business owner, she has over 19 years accounting experience. Her experience includes managing campaign financials, grant writing and budget analysis and control. She also owns an educational facility that seeks to nurture and foster children.

Beechem's response to what her priorities would be if elected, and how she would accomplish them, is:

"One of my priorities will be to immediately begin fundraising ef-

forts towards the completion of the Milltown Park project, so the young people can begin reaping the benefits. I will work across the lines, regardless of party, with members of congress to adequately seek funds to support our businesses. I plan to raise money for more rural development projects."

Boyce is the wife of Pelahatchie native Dan Boyce, East Rankin Academy's headmaster. She works with the Rankin County School District, and, in her words, "my job is important, because I make a difference in the life of a child on a daily basis." She said she is qualified because she wants to move Pelahatchie forward in a positive direction.

Boyce's response to what her priorities would be if elected, and how she would accomplish them, is:

"I think our current administration has laid a wonderful foundation for inter-governmental cooperation with

many projects. I would like to continue upon that foundation and complete some projects that are underway. Also, I would like to make our town as attractive as possible to the kind of growth that will enhance the family-first environment. My priorities include insuring that the police and volunteer fire department continue to have the support they need in order to ensure our town is safe. I also will continue to support the completion of Milltown Park."

Hall is currently serving as the Town's Ward 4 alderwoman, and as the president of the Pelahatchie Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary. Her husband, Kevin, is assistant fire chief, and the owner of the local business, H & H Electrical. Her background includes real estate, development, retail management and governmental affairs. Hall will seek to create an official strategic plan to help establish a

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New mayor to be elected Tuesday, June 6

roadmap for the Town. She also wants to create an economic development organization and establish a Mayor's Youth Council, among other things.

Hall's response to what her priorities would be if elected, and how she would accomplish them, is:

"In part, my priorities include our parks, infrastructure, activities for senior citizens and the Pelahatchie Youth Association. Our parks and PYA organization can benefit from volunteer labor and simple additions that make a big impact. Maintaining relationships with our county, state and national elected officials helps to fund infrastructure. Partnering with our police and fire departments and other organizations can help to create senior citizen programs."

Tuesday is election day. Residents are encouraged to take a few minutes to vote for the candidate of their choice.

Padgett, Martin are Pelahatchie Valedictorian and Salutatorian



Special to Pelahatchie News

Cameron Padgett, Pelahatchie High School Valedictorian



Special to Pelahatchie News

Hunter Martin, Pelahatchie High School Salutatorian

Winstead, Evans are named ERA Valedictorian and Salutatorian



Special to Pelahatchie News

Ward Winstead, East Rankin Academy Valedictorian



Special to Pelahatchie News

Brandon Evans, East Rankin Academy Salutatorian



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Chief's Comments: Be aware of kids and noise this summer



Special to Pelahatchie News



Photo by Pelahatchie News



By Guest Columnist
Chief Kevin Poole,
Pelahatchie Police
Dept.

Now that summer is here, kids will be playing outside, so please be aware of their safety on roadways. There is also construction going on in both Muscadine and Milltown parks this summer, so watch kids in the parks,

too.

Our department will be assisting with a Night in the Park on June 15 at Muscadine Park, where the movie *Sing* will be shown. Bring the entire family for a night of fun.

Drive safely through town, remembering to not run stop signs. My officers are watching to make sure that cars' tires and wheels come to a complete stop with no forward momentum.

The July 4 holiday will be here

soon, too. Take care in shooting fireworks, and be aware that the Town does have a noise ordinance with fines up to \$500. Here are a few of types of noises and times of use:

- No power tools are allowed between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- Loud noises from a vehicle are prohibited, like mufflers.
- No yelling, shouting, whistling, hooting on public spaces between 8 p.m. and 10 a.m.
- Use lawn maintenance equip-

ment between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m.

- If planning a loud party, the Chief can give an exception with guidelines.
- During the day, a warning will be given first, then there is a penalty.
- There is no tolerance for noise after 8 p.m. and before 8 a.m.

To complain about noise, call 911. Citizens are welcome to stop by the Police Department to read any ordinances.



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Crooked Creek Car Show held in May



Special to Pelahatchie News

The eleventh annual Crooked Creek Car Show was held May 20 at Muscadine Park. A total of 35 cars and approximately 135 people came out, despite the rain. This year's show was sponsored by the Pelahatchie Masonic Lodge #276. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the local law enforcement. Pictured are the winners of the sponsor awards.

Tennis gets a new start at Pelahatchie High School



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School had their first tennis season this year under the leadership of Ashley and Justin Gough. The team played at Yogi Bear Park and had a 1-4 season. Next year's team will be coached by Shannon Moore and the season will begin February 1, 2018. Front row (l to r) are: Brandyn Luke; Jordan White; Morgan Boyd; Hannah Whitney; Malori Scherer; Katie Belle Boyer; Caitlin Russell; and Ashley Gough, Head Coach; Second row (l to r) are: Justin Gough, Assistant Coach; Harrison Till; Katie Bayliss; Olivia Sirmon; Amanda Trest; Holden Gray; and Tyler Gilliam.

PHS band students set to play college level



Special to Pelahatchie News

Two Pelahatchie High School band members signed to play at the college level. Zach Trest signed with Ole Miss, and Cameron Emmons signed with East Central Community College. Helen Echazabal, Pelahatchie Band Director, is pictured in the middle.

Pelahatchie recognized for stop in Natchez Trace Century Ride



Photos by Pelahatchie News

Special to Pelahatchie News

Spring brings warmer temperatures in Mississippi...the glimmering waters and abundant wildlife around the Ross Barnett Reservoir enhanced the bike journey. Countryside stretches in Madison County and Pelahatchie steady the pedals for reflection, and around town spins delight with discovery of each

place.

Bikers participating in the recent Natchez Trace Centruy Ride could choose between distances from 25, 50, 62 and 100 miles with mild to moderate elevation. And there were "energizer" stops for food and water every 10-15 miles. One such stop was in Pelahatchie on that cool morning of May 9. One rider sent the *Pelahatchie News* a note about their

experience at this rest stop.

"I want to share this with you all. I rode in the Century Ride yesterday too, but only rode a quarter of the century ride. Friday night, when my sister and I were picking up our race packets in Ridgeland, I met a father and daughter from Louisiana. They were riding the whole 100 miles and had ridden it last year. I asked them what they liked best

about the ride and they said, the small town with the tents which was a rest stop. They said it was the friendliest little town and lifted our spirits to finish the course. As they were trying to recall the name of the small town, I helped them out, and said, that sounds like Pelahatchie. Thanks, Pelahatchie, for volunteering and showing these bikers lots of love yesterday."

Winners' circle installment in town's Muscadine Park



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Construction has begun on the Muscadine Park upgrades that will include a Circle of Champions, shown, a walking track, a bicycle rack and air kit, benches and plus public art displays that will include a memorial to former Police Chief Glenda Shoemaker.



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Top 10 Steakhouse Duke's changes ownership

By Susie A. Wofle

Duke's Steakhouse has been bought by Boo Baker, but the Duke's daughter, Judy, will remain the restaurant manager. The good news is that Duke's was recently named to the Top 10 Steakhouses in Mississippi by bestthingsin-mississippi.com, and the menu will stay the same, plus adding brisket, pulled pork, ribs and pork chops to the lunch line.

In "The 10 Best Steakhouses in Mississippi" article author Amy Gremillion said narrowing down a selection of the best steakhouses in Mississippi was a challenging task. "Like some of the other excellent choices on our list, Duke's Steakhouse in Pelahatchie is located in an unassuming building in an out-of-the-way little town. They're known for having delicious steaks, excellent service, and Duke's 72-ounce steak challenge, which grants you a free meal if you finish the steak and sides in 30 minutes."

"We have known each other a long time," said Baker, who has operated Smokehouse Bar-B-Que on Highway 471 in Brandon for 12 years. "We will share the best of both worlds."

Gene and Carol Duke opened Duke's

21 years ago, and have built a reputation that draws customers from all around Central Mississippi. After Gene passed almost three years ago, Carol has run the steakhouse with the help of her daughters, Judy and Lynn, and her sister Shirley.

Baker, a Brandon native, previously owned Bakers from 1976-1978. He was in the construction business prior to opening the bar-b-que restaurant.

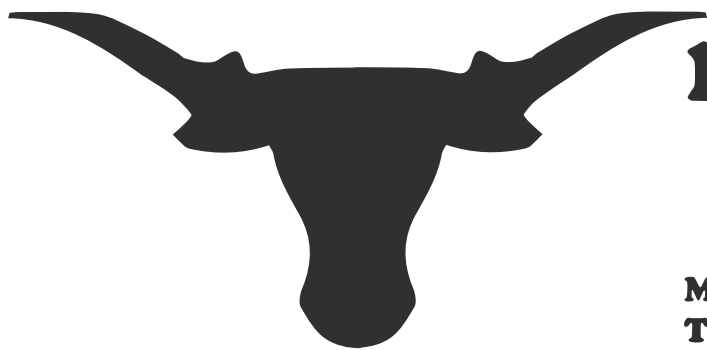
According to Judy Duke, "My family was very selective in who would purchase our restaurant. We are excited about how Boo will run Duke's and treat the customers, who are like our family."

Duke's hours are Monday – Friday, 10-2, and Wednesday – Saturday, 4-8. For more information, call 601-854-5210.



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Under New Ownership—Duke's Steakhouse is now owned by Boo Baker, right, shown with Judy Duke, whose family has operated Duke's for 22 years. Duke will remain at the Highway 80 restaurant as manager.



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5 oz. Filets with choice of side and a salad and roll **\$19.95**

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Pork Cutlet Sandwich with fries and drink **\$6.95**

Sledge awarded Cattlemen's scholarship



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie resident Shelby Sledge was one of two recipients of the Rankin County Cattlemen's Association \$1,000 scholarships. Pictured (l to r) are Brian Rhodes, president of the association; Zachary McIntyre; Sledge; and Bob Robinson, Pelahatchie High School instructor, who is secretary/treasurer.



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2016-2017 Year in Review



By Dr. Bryan Marshall,
Pelahatchie High School Principal

As this 2016-2017 school year draws to a close, we reflect on the many successes of our students: Both athletically and academically, Pelahatchie students have had a stellar year. As educators, our primary focus this year has been to promote literacy in every subject. The results of that focus led to impressive gains in Lexile growth and ACT scores.

This year, 37% of the graduating class attained a Lexile score of 1185 (an 1185 score denotes a college and career ready student) or higher. Of those seniors, the average ACT score was a 23, which equates to scholarship money for college. When we included all senior ACT scores, the overall average jumped to a 19.23, up from 16.4 as juniors. Grades 7-11 achieved impressive Lexile gains as well. School wide, students grew 72 Lexile points in one year (a feat almost unheard of), and they moved from 27% College and Career Ready in August 2016 to 36% College and Career Ready in April 2017.

Sadly, many students will lose much of what they gained in literacy this school year. In just a few months,

the "summer slide" can set in. I want to share with you some sobering facts concerning summer slide found in the article "10 Critical Facts about Summer Reading" compiled by Scholastic Summer Challenge: Summer reading loss is cumulative. Kids do not typically catch up in the fall. Eventually, these kids usually drop two grade levels behind.

Third graders who can't read on grade level are four times less likely to graduate by age 18 than a proficient reader. The more students read, the better readers they become.

Reading just 4-5 books during the summer can prevent summer slide. Reading as a leisure activity is the best predictor of comprehension, vocabulary, and reading speed.

An overwhelming 92% of kids say they are more likely to finish a book they picked out themselves.

Therefore, we introduce our Summer Reading 2017 options for incoming grades 7-12. This summer, students have more choices than they have ever had: they may read a novel of their choosing or complete sixteen Achieve articles. Detailed information can be found on Pelahatchie High School's website. Parents, please encourage your kids to read and reflect. Read the books with them, so that you can have in-depth discussions about the characters or events. Our goal is to see 100% of our graduating seniors college and career ready. If we can create voracious readers, we can attain this lofty goal.

Seniors receive scholarships



Special to Pelahatchie News

Coach Pearlene Fairley, center, is with two of her basketball players that signed scholarships. Jamiyah Stokes, left, signed with Bay Path University, and Janae Collier signed with Holmes CC.

Excel offers summer camp for grades 1-5

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Excel Learning Center in Morton will provide three weeks of summer camp classes in June for children who were in grades one to five in the 2016-2017 school year. Classes will meet from Monday through Thursday, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. during these weeks: June 5-8, June 12-15, June 19-22.

Reading and math will be part of each

morning, enabling students to keep their skills sharp throughout the summer. In addition, there will be other classes including "The Wild Animals of Mississippi," "Learning to Write in Cursive," "Our Wonderful Heart!" "Making Beaded Necklaces" and other great topics.

The cost per child per week of summer camp is \$25. To registration for summer camp, visit Excel at 383 South Fourth Street, Morton.

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Winstead from East Rankin Academy awarded National Merit Scholarship

Special to Pelahatchie News

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced that Joseph Ward Winstead, a student at East Rankin Academy, is a National Merit Scholarship winner. The 2,500 Merit Scholarship designees were chosen from a talent pool of more than 15,000 outstanding finalists in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program.

National Merit Scholarship winners are the finalists in each state judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. The number of winners named in each state is proportional to the state's percentage of the nation's graduating high school seniors.

These scholars were selected by a committee of college admissions officers and high school counselors, who appraised a substantial amount of information submitted by both the finalists and their high schools: the academic record, including difficulty level of subjects studied and grades earned; scores from two standardized tests; contribu-

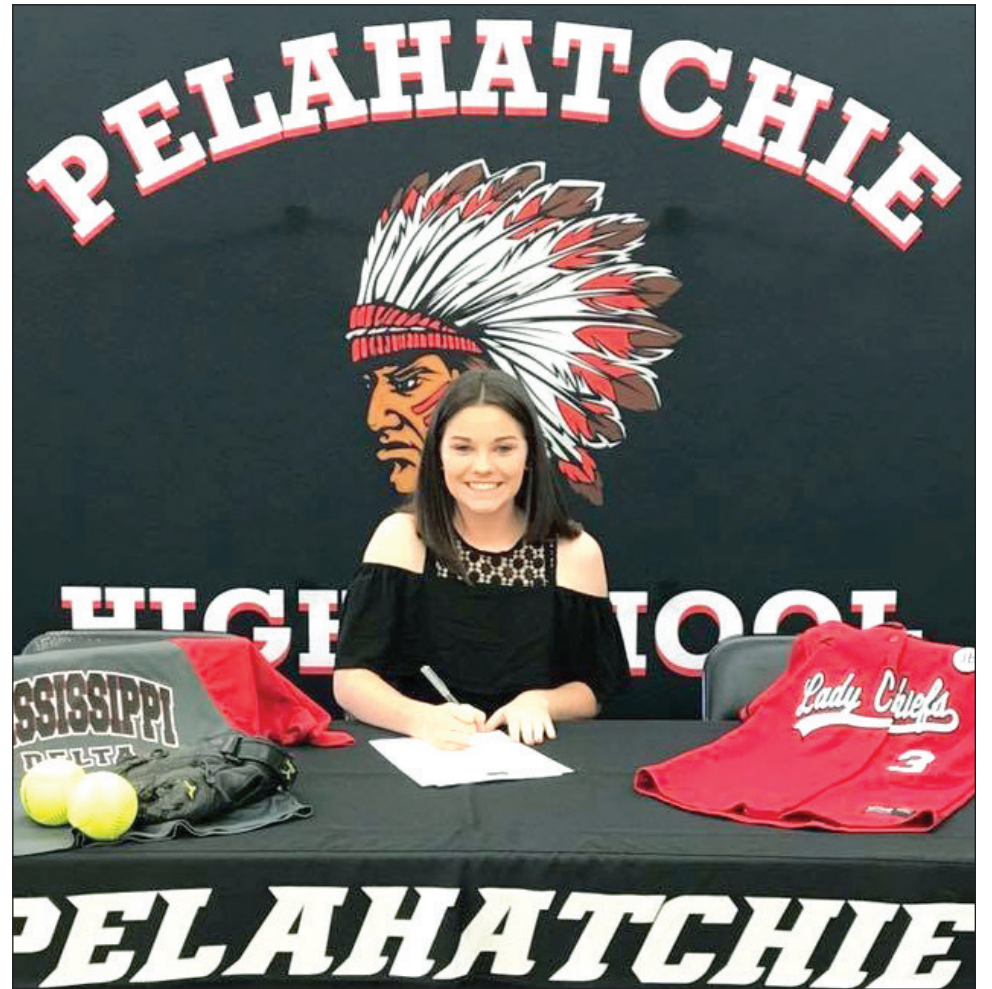


Special to Pelahatchie News

tions and leadership in school and community activities; and an essay written by the finalist.

Winstead is the son of John and Robyn Winstead.

Ferguson signs with Mississippi Delta



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Breanna Ferguson signed to play softball with Mississippi Delta Community College in May.

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Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Arrangements
Gloria Havard	76	Little Rock, MS	5/2/2017	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Thomas Graham	54	Morton, MS	5/5/2017	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Edith Harman	94	Morton, MS	5/7/2017	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Cybil Mallernee	75	San Antonio, TX	5/7/2017	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Kenneth Franklin	85	Forest, MS	5/7/2017	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Leon Fitzhugh	74	Lena, MS	5/8/2017	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Elizabeth Sessums	57	Morton, MS	5/12/2017	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Geogia Anderson	83	Morton, MS	5/13/2017	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Randy Jones	58	Lawrence, MS	5/15/2017	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Hines Lofton	65	Morton, MS	5/16/2017	Wolf Funeral Serv.
James Reid	80	Forest, MS	5/16/2017	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Helen Manley	87	Forest, MS	5/18/2017	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Rebecca Irby	73	Lena, MS	5/20/2017	Wolf Funeral Serv.
ClydeThomas Parsons	70	Lake, MS	5/21/2017	Wolf Funeral Serv.

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Schroeder and Winstead named ERA STAR Students

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Mississippi Economic Council and the M.B. Swayze Foundation sponsors the Student-Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) Program in an effort to encourage scholastic achievement among Mississippi's high school seniors. To be eligible for the STAR Student honor, a student must have an overall ACT composite score of at least 25 and an overall average of 93 or above. If a school has more than one senior with an overall ACT composite score of 35 or above with the required grade point average, each student is designated a STAR Student. East Rankin Academy recently named two STAR Students--Christine Schroeder and Ward Winstead.

Christine Schroeder is the daughter of Doug and Cindy Schroeder of Brandon. Schroeder was a member



Special to Pelahatchie News East Rankin had two STAR students and teachers for the 2016-2017 school year. Pictured, (l to r) are: Mrs. Gerry Britt, Christine Schroeder, Ward Winstead, and Mrs. Rachel Gordy.

of East Rankin Academy's Choir, Varsity Tennis Team, and was recently voted Most Spiritual Vision. She was also a member of Mu Alpha

Theta (Mathematics Honor Society), National Honor Society, First Tech Robotics, Science Bowl Team, and Mississippi College Math and Sci-

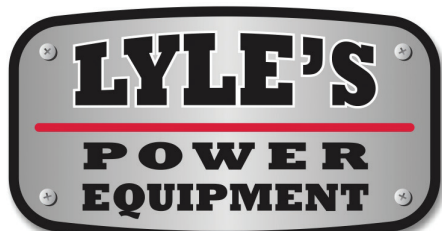
ence Tournament Team. She plans to attend Mississippi State University.

Schroeder chose Mrs. Gerry Britt of Brandon as her STAR Teacher.

Ward Winstead, the son of John and Robyn Winstead of Pelahatchie, graduated as Valedictorian of East Rankin's Class of 2017. He was named a Finalist and Winner of a National Merit Foundation Scholarship. Winstead was Senior Class Vice President and was voted Most Likely to Succeed. He was a member of East Rankin's Choir, Varsity Track, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He was also a member of Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, First Teach Robotics, Science, History, Government, and Mississippi College Math and Science Bowl Teams. Winstead plans to attend the University of Mississippi.

Winstead chose Mrs. Rachel Gordy of Forest as his STAR Teacher.

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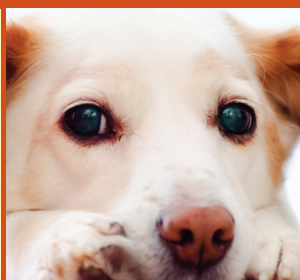
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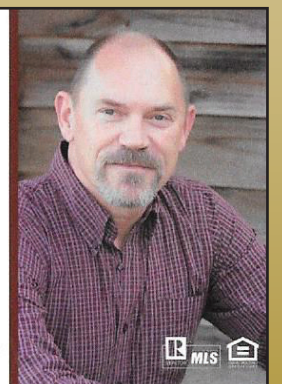
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Sherelda Jones recognized at MSH



Special to Pelahatchie News

Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) recently honored employees with May anniversaries for their years of service to the hospital. Sherelda Jones of Pelahatchie received a certificate of appreciation and her one year pin. Pictured (l to r) are, first row: Monica Kline of Raymond, five years; Inez Harris of Jackson, five years; Joanne Fletcher of Brandon, 30 years; Linda D. McLaurin of Brandon, 25 years; second row: Elizabeth Bain of Brandon, five years; Valentina Beard of Brandon, 10 years; Latasha Niekedra Pusha of Flowood, 10 years; third row: Bart Uharriet of Pearl, five years; Justin Sudduth of Ridgeland, one year; Eddie Ephform of Crystal Springs, five years; and Sherelda Jones of Pelahatchie, one year.

An Official Mississippi Bicentennial Celebration Event

CIVIL WAR RELIC SHOW



Brandon City Hall 1000 Municipal Dr., Brandon, MS 39042

June 17th, 2017 Saturday | 9am - 5pm

June 18th, 2017 Sunday | 9am - 4 pm

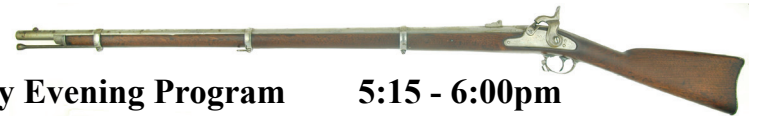
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Pastor's perspective: Choose the right path



By Guest Columnist John Vaughn, Pastor, Cross Roads Baptist Church

Special to Pelahatchie News

On a previous occasion, I wrote about Bella, my Teddy Roosevelt Terrier. She continues to bring much joy to our family. In recent months, she has been joined by Docey and Duke, increasing our pack to three.

They enjoy running and playing in our back yard. Of course, they always follow the same route from one side of the house to the other when chasing people or other animals, and because they do, they have made a path that is clearly visible. They also enjoy going out to the shed, where my rabbits and chickens are, and have worn a path out there too.

Paths have played an important role in the history of our country. It is said that our own Natchez Trace Parkway started out as a path that was followed by bison as they moved through the area. Then, Choctaw Indians used the same route, further marking the path. Finally, early settlers and traders followed the same path during the westward expansion of our country. Other major roads throughout our nation

started out as simple paths that were worn by frequent use.

Of course, it is easier to follow an established path than to blaze a new trail. And frequent use makes it even easier to travel that way. Always, when you choose to follow a path, it takes you in a certain direction, and if you stay on the path, you will end up at the destination the paths leads you to. Paths can go in many directions and the path you choose can lead to good things or bad things. So choosing the paths we follow is very important.

There are a number of Biblical passages that speak of the paths of life. Jeremiah talks of following the "old paths" of our Fathers. And the writer of Hebrews speaks of level and straight paths. The Bible provides both words of encouragement as well as those of caution when it comes to choosing the path we will follow.

Proverbs 4:10-13 gives the following encouragement, "Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many. I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it



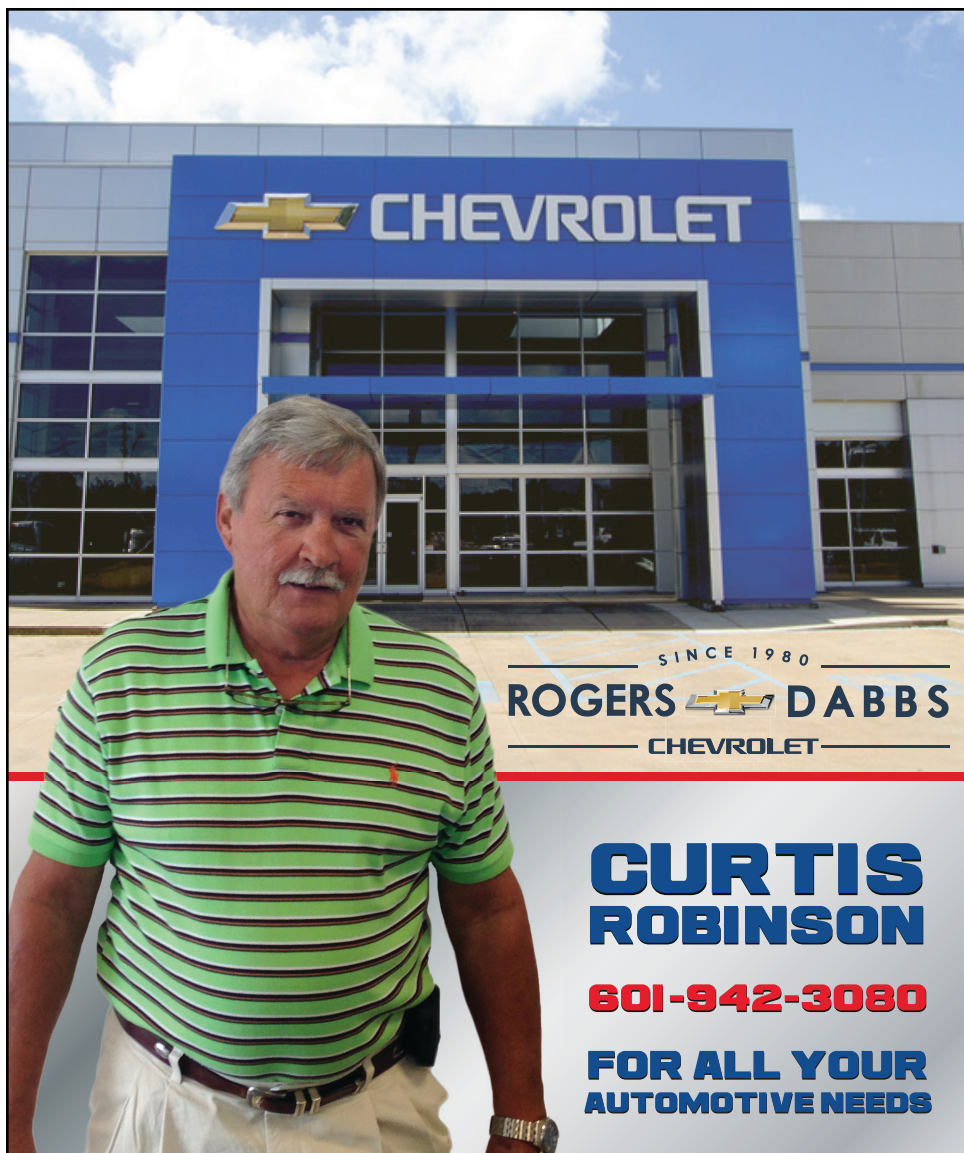
Photo by Pelahatchie News

well, for it is your life."

Then the passage in Proverbs 4:14-17 goes on to issue a warning concerning choosing the wrong path, "Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evildoers. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way. For they cannot rest until

they do evil; they are robbed of sleep till they make someone stumble. They eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence."

So, choose carefully the path you follow, because you will certainly end up where it takes you! Be sure to take your family to church on Sunday!



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Pelahatchie High School Class of 2017



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie High School class of 2017 graduated on May 18, at 7:00 p.m., at the Hinds Community College Clyde-Muse Center in Brandon, Miss. The graduating class includes: Mya McKenna Ainsworth; Darcy Renee Atkinson; Aubree Christina Beeman; Brianna Renay Bennett; Harley Lane Bierman; Alexis Starr Boykin; Ashley Marie Cannon; Brittanie Michelle Chancey; Micheal; Roshay Coleman; Janae Nicole Collier; Maegan Nichole Crow; Lee Daniel Dawson; William Cameron Emmons; Noah Cale Evans; Luis Angel Felix; Breanna Marie Ferguson; Parker Thomas Garletts; William Tyler Gilliam; Damarah Joy Goodhart; Walter Travis Hamilton; Rachel Marie Harrell; Alecia Jean Harvey; Kristian Hayley Jefferson; Jared Thomas Henderson; David Lee Jennings III; Jayla Michele Jennings; Chloe Danielle Jones; Haley Danielle Jones; Idarias Antawn Jones; Courtney Dakota Lum; Jacolby Desean Magee; Hunter Matthew Martin; Cameshia Shanta' McCurdy; Courtney Michelle McGee; Bianca Patreece McKinnis; Cameron Lee Padgett; Kirkland Lee Phillips; Jamarius Kershun Reynolds; Caitlin Mae Russell; Katherine Lee Russum; Cody Tyler Shoemaker; Shelby Grace Sledge; Bethany Gracelyn Smith Kristofer Levi Stevenson; Nicholas Sean Stevenson; Ja'Miyah Marshae Stokes; Keldrick Javonta Stokes Dyllan Atavious Taylor; Jacoby Elijah Taylor; Jacobie Reese Thornton; Zachary Timothy Trest; Katlyn Elizabeth Tucker; Elisa Danielle Walker; Lavarious J'Quan Ward; Jerry Lavon Weems; and Katie Marie Winstead.

East Rankin Academy Class of 2017



Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Academy class of 2017 graduated on May 14, at 2:00 p.m., at Crossgates Baptist Church in Brandon, Miss. The graduating class includes: Shelby Autry; Payton Baker; Austin Baner; Katie Brown; Madison Brunt; Kate Busby; Reed Carter; Joseph Crawford; Kaley Crotwell; Chandler Denton; Brandon Evans; Madyson Gibson; Claire Harris; Connor Harris; Hayden Hawk; Lilly Herring; Blaine Hill; Branden Hines; Hayden Hornsby; Jace Laird; Will Langford; Marygrace Lee; Claire Lindsey; Kyle McMillan; Paula Morehead; Mickenzie Myers; Corban Nutt; Noah Parker; Jaimee Poole; Jean Ross; Christine Schroeder; Katie Beth Simmons; Anna Beth Slay; Zach Smith; Marilee Stuart; Mackenzie Thompson; Cade Thornton; Jared Vardaman; Brittany Wade; Luke Warren; Trevor Williams; Ward Winstead; Noah Wolfe; Reid Wuestefeld; and Tripp Wyatt.

Farm safety for kids working during the summer



By Doug Carter, Rankin
County Extension Agent

Special to
Pelahatchie News

Farming and hay season are in full swing. Workdays are now long and tiring. It's not a job for the slothful, and certainly not for children.

Every year across this nation, youngsters under 16 are seriously and often fatally injured due to farming accidents. Although the odds for an accident may not be great, if it does happen, the likelihood of a crippling injury or death is enough to make any parent do some serious thinking, before they allow their child to tag along or take the wheel.

Machinery-related farming accidents tend to be among the most physically devastating—mere flesh is no match for horse power and cold steel. A small child's body can't withstand the weight of a tractor, if he or she fell off and under when riding along. Children are not miniature adults and cannot be expected to always successfully cope with situations that call for adult's foresight, judgement, experience, skill and strength—situations that often con-



Special to Pelahatchie News

front those farming.

Perhaps a 10-year-old can guide a tractor down a furrow, but it's never that simple, since something can al-

ways happen that requires a quick decision and a critically correct response.

Every farm parent must decide when their children are ready to help and

what jobs are appropriate for their level of development. Perhaps the extra help is really needed to get through the bulk of the work, but there is too much risk in pushing a child into work, that he or she simply isn't fully capable of doing it safely.

Children are all different, just because one child of a certain age can successfully complete the work, doesn't mean another child of the same age can do the same. We need to keep in mind that physical development may be misleading—"big enough" doesn't necessarily constitute "old enough."

Maturity, willingness to learn and take direction, the ability to focus on the task at hand, taking pride in doing a good job and being a part of the family work force are all necessary. Children who regard driving a tractor as a time to "goof around" and have their minds on fun or games are not yet responsible enough to operate machinery. We need to make certain that young workers are properly trained for all jobs they are given and are provided with needed protective equipment. Make wise decisions in regard to your children's safety, and watch them grow up to do the same.

AT THE LIBRARY IN PELAHATCHIE

Pelahatchie Library Summer Library Programs

K-6

June 6	11:00 a.m.	LEGO Power
June 13	11:00 a.m.	Reach Out & Touch Something
June 20	11:00 a.m.	Dianne Butler, Storyteller
June 27	11:00 a.m.	Upcycle It!

Teen

June 27	2:00 p.m.	Chieftain Chapters Book Club
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Adult

June 13	2:00 p.m.	Coloring: Quilt Squares
June 21	9:30 a.m.	Adult Book Club - Discussing Ann Patchett's Commonwealth

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
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Southern Pine names Siegfried new president

Special to Pelahatchie News

Southern Pine Electric has named Jason S. Siegfried as president and chief executive officer.

Siegfried replaces Donald L. Jordan, who retired May 1. He becomes the fifth CEO in Southern Pine Electric's nearly 80 years of operation.

Siegfried has more than 15 years of experience with the cooperative working in engineering, operations, economic development and rate-making. The last five years he has served Southern Pine as assistant general manager overseeing all day-to-day operations.

He graduated from Mississippi State University in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He then completed the Robert Kabat Management Internship Program at the University of Wisconsin. In 2008, he received a master's degree in business administration from the Else School of Business at Millsaps College. Since graduating from college and throughout his career, Siegfried has focused his time and energy on the electric utility industry.

Siegfried is a graduate of Mississippi Economic Council's Leadership

Mississippi. He received the Business Leaders of Mississippi's Top 40 Under 40 award, and has been the recipient of the Paul Harris Fellow Recognition for his work as a Rotarian. Additionally, Siegfried has served as a director for the Mississippi Burn Foundation, the president of the Rankin County Rotary Club and the president of the Engineering and Operations Division of the Electric Power Associations of Mississippi.

In his new role, Siegfried will serve on the board of directors for Cooperative Energy, the wholesale power supplier for 11 distribution cooperatives, including Southern Pine. Also, he will join the board of directors for the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi, a statewide service organization serving the state's 26 electric cooperatives.

Siegfried was born and raised in



Special to Pelahatchie News

Jackson County and currently resides in Hattiesburg with his wife, Marie, and their children.

"The history of growth and resilience at Southern Pine Electric is a wonderfully inspiring story. It's truly

a humbling honor to be entrusted with this opportunity. I feel very blessed to be given such a powerful platform for helping people have a better quality of life," Siegfried said.

Siegfried said his vision for Southern Pine Electric is to continue to be member-focused and raise the bar with higher standards for reliability and innovation.

"There will be a high level of focus on strengthening the connection we have with our members. Today's modern world does everything it can to undermine people-on-people connections. We will work hard to connect with our people," he said.

He added, "Mr. Jordan and the others before me laid a foundation of leadership that is a tough act to follow. Southern Pine is well positioned to become the flagship cooperative in the southeastern United States."

In 1938, Southern Pine received its charter to serve just under 500 homes and farms. Now with over 10,000 miles of electric distribution lines across an 11-county service territory, the cooperative serves over 66,000 members making it one of the largest electric cooperatives in the nation.

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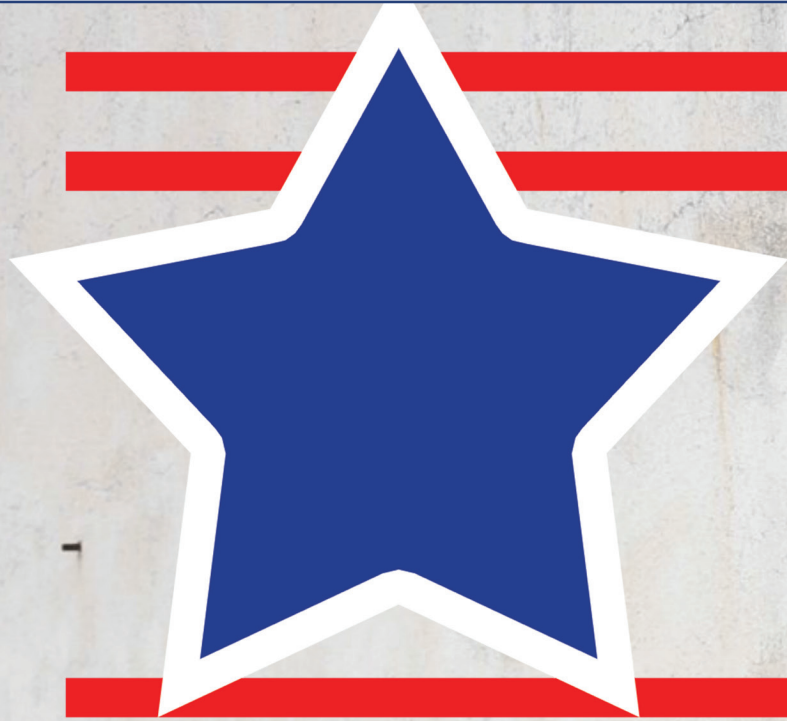
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- Pelahatchie Ward Four Alderwoman
- Certified Municipal Official
- Co-Founder and President, Pelahatchie Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary
- Member, Pelahatchie Baptist Church
- Small Business Owner in Pelahatchie
- Mississippi Business Journal 2017 Top 50 Under 40 Business Leaders

"My top priorities include improvements to our parks, reestablishing the Pelahatchie Youth Association, creating a Mayor's Youth Council, repairing our roads, bringing in new businesses and restaurants while keeping our "small town" feel, activities for senior citizens, making sure our police, fire and town employees have the best equipment possible and so much more. My relationships with local, state and national elected officials will help bring much-needed resources to our town.

Let my experience work for you!"

Need a ride to the polls? We can help!

Our friendly team of volunteers will have a handicap-accessible van available for free on June 6th. Give us a call to schedule your time.

601-540-4084

