

Pelahatchie hosts dance Show Down

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PES Pre-K collects cans for food drive

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NEWS Pelahatchie

Good News You Can Use

January
2018

Volume 7

Issue 1

Pelahatchie, MS

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

Board keeps water rights to parts of subdivision, increases line of credit

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Board of Aldermen voted to keep the water rights to Phase Two and Phase Three of the Sky Lake gated subdivision at the December 4 Board meeting at Pelahatchie City Hall. Phase One rights were given to Evergreen Water Association, according to Mayor Ryshonda Beechem. Sky Lake, just west of Town, currently has Phase One completed, with work continuing on Phase Two and Three.

The elevator at City Hall does not meet safety standards, according to Pelahatchie Fire Chief Karl VanHorn. He said the Town received a letter from the State informing them that they had thirty days to get the elevator up to ADA standards. It will cost an estimated \$7,239 to bring it up to code. The Board tabled the issue until the January meeting.

Mayor Beechem recognized Hunter

Arnold, who recommended the Board accept TL Wallace for the WWFF Improvement Project with the low bid of \$668,000. All aldermen voted aye.

The Mayor also presented a request from the Mississippi Municipal League for the adoption of a resolution supporting legislation to all allow municipalities to submit debts owed to them and the State of Mississippi as a result of delinquent traffic fines and fees to the Mississippi Department of Revenue for collection through a set off against income tax refunds owned to the debtor. All voted aye.

In other business, the Board held a Special Meeting, where they approved an increase to the Town's line of credit to \$98,000 to pay December bills. The Town's revenue is low this time of year, according to City Clerk Betty Massey. The line of credit is for a twelve-month period at 4.25 interest rate.



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Snow blankets Pelahatchie



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie woke up to a blanket of snow on Friday, December 8. The metro area received four to six inches without ice, and Rankin County schools enjoyed a snow day. It was the largest snowfall in the area in almost 36 years.

Pelahatchie Christmas Parade held Dec. 2



Photo by Pelahatchie News

On Saturday, December 2, Pelahatchie held its annual Christmas parade through the streets of downtown.

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Chief's Comments: Always act responsibly



By Guest Columnist
Chief Kevin Poole,
Pelahatchie Police
Dept.

The snow was beautiful, but be careful on ice. When ice is on the road, please stay home. It's not the time for sightseeing. If you don't have to get out, don't. Check on the elderly, or let us know, and we will

check on them. Also, be careful of falling limbs.

We would like to thank Pelahatchie Elementary for making Christmas cards for us, the aldermen, mayor, Public Works Department, City Hall employees and the Fire Department. It was very heartwarming. See one of the cards shown above.

Remember to be safe on Superbowl Sunday, February 4. There's lots of partying. We are watching to keep you safe.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Classes from Pelahatchie Elementary made Christmas cards for the police department.



Special to Pelahatchie News



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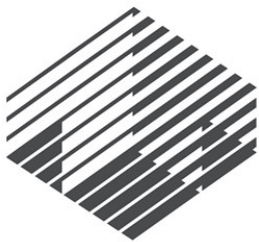
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ERA Robotics teams compete in January



Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Academy (ERA) Robotics teams will compete in the First Tech Challenge Jackson Qualifier Tournament at the Muse Center at Hinds Community College on January 6. First Tech Challenge robotics competition in Mississippi focuses on engaging students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Pictured is the East Rankin Robotics Team I (l to r), front row: Dana Watkins and Maddie Morgan; second row: Cole Jones, Garrett Duckworth, Brennan Rials, and Brandyn Luke; and third row: Andrew Harrell, Will Blossom, Jackson Harper, Andrew Stewart, and Cody Batte.



Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Robotics Team II is pictured (l to r) front row: Taylor Irby and Elijah Rowell; second row: Ethan Crain, Jacob Gardner, Blaine Martin, and Emily Myers; and third row: Tyler Betts, Knox Ross, Daniel Jones, and Thad Webb.

Rhodes-Robby wins decorating contest



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Rhodes-Robby Drugs was named the winner of the Christmas Joy Business Decorating Contest sponsored by the Town. A number of businesses participated, helping bring the Christmas spirit to town. The prize was a quarter-page ad in the Pelahatchie News. Pictured (l to r) are: Sarah Webb, Shelly Miller, Jack Rhodes, Rosie Rhodes, Holly Harper and Justin Rhodes.

Sanders RCSD Employee of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Robin Sanders was named as one of the Rankin County School District's (RCSD) Employees of the Month. Sanders is a dyslexia coordinator at RCSD in Brandon. She lives in Pelahatchie.

Pelahatchie hosts dance Show Down

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Winter Wonderland Show Down dance competition was held in Pelahatchie in December. The Grand Champs were the Emerald Elites from Natchez, Mississippi.

The Winter Wonderland Show Down is a dance competition that is held every year. This competition is sponsored by The Prancing Ivyz Dance Team which is directed by Ryshonda Beechem. The Prancing Ivyz consists of children ages 5-18 from local towns/cities including Pelahatchie, Jackson and Flowood.

"The style of dance is majorette style in which scholarships are offered to attend college," said Beechem. "The dance competition gives team from near and far a chance to compete against each other to see who has the technique, pose, smile, creativity, etc."

Teams from Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Arkansas compete in competitions. These are considered traveling teams. The Winter Wonderland Show Down consists of four divisions: (1) Field Show (Field Show delivers the team talent as a whole) (2) Creative Dance (Creative Dance is a dance that is performed by theme and this year's theme was Christmas) (3) Call Out (Call Out is when an individual points to a another and wants to battle one on one) (4) Ultimate Stand Battle (Ultimate Stand Battle is when teams as a whole battle against each other to see who has what it takes to win.)

The next competition is Spring Fever Dance Off, Easter Edition pt. 2. On March 31 in Pelahatchie. Teams from everywhere will be competing.



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Emerald Elites from Natchez, Mississippi were the Grand Champs in The Winter Wonderland Show Down dance competition held in Pelahatchie.

Merit Health Christmas Wonderland ends January 6

Special to Pelahatchie News

According to event management company Big South Events, Merit Health Christmas Wonderland at the Braves Stadium in Pearl has thus far proven a rousing success.

Christmas Wonderland has drawn over 50,000 attendees who have enjoyed the skating, sliding and bouncing activities since the event opened mid-November.

"We couldn't be happier with how everyone has turned out for the event," Big South Events Vice-President Scott Steele said. "Our event workers have been asked to pass along countless 'thank you's' to Merit Health from families throughout the metro area excited to have such a fun family event to enjoy."

As presenting sponsor, Merit Health leadership is also pleased with overall attendance and community support the

event has garnered.

"We are proud to present this signature event to our communities," Dwayne Blaylock, CEO, Merit Health Rankin and Merit Health River Oaks, said. "If you haven't attended already, I encourage you to experience Christmas Wonderland. They have something for everyone in your family to enjoy."

In addition to over 7,000 sq. feet of ice rink, and a 120 ft. long double ice slide appropriately titled, The Arctic

Blast, an assortment of inflatables are available upon which even the youngest event-goers can bounce and play. Until the event ends Jan. 6, Christmas Wonderland will operate daily from 10 am - 11 pm Monday thru Thursday, and Noon - 11 pm Friday thru Sunday.

Christmas Wonderland is located near Trustmark Park on One Braves Boulevard in Pearl in the "Big White Tent." For more information, call 601-212-8810.

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PHS uses door competition to promote bright futures

By Jessica White

Pelahatchie High School students joined with their first block teachers to enter a door decorating contest. Participation from each class in the contest was mandatory. The students chose one or several colleges to use a theme for their classroom door. The school has partnered with the Get2College foundation in hopes of promoting the benefits of going to college.

Students and teachers covered their doors with butcher paper and began to draw with markers or colored pencils; some even painted. While some students agreed on a single large college, others opted for a variety to incorporate into their art.

Teachers had the choice of allowing their students to decorate in class. However, if the teachers felt that the assigned project would interfere with educational learning time, they were free

to welcome students to come before or after class to decorate.

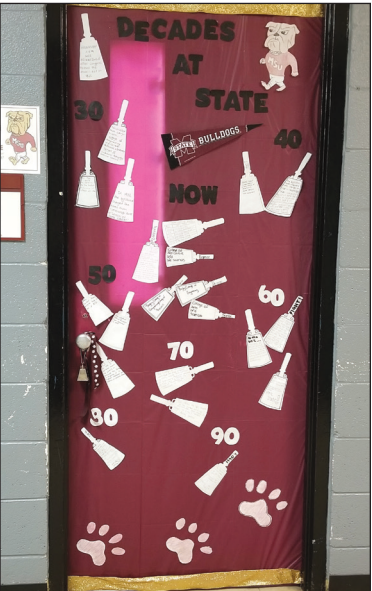
Eric Davis is a junior at Pelahatchie High School. His class, like many others, participated in the contest.

"The contest actually has a good bit of advantages. It gives the students time to learn about colleges and even discover colleges they may not have known about before. We researched about the tuition costs, acceptance rate, and so much more. It gives us a sense

of direction and helps us have an idea about what we might want to do in the future," said Davis.

When doors were completed, teachers received a jean pass that was acceptable up until Christmas break. The winning class was awarded a pizza party, and the teacher of the class won a fifty dollar gift card.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jessica White is a Pelahatchie HS student writing for the school online publication, Hatchie News.



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1/16/18	MORTON	HOME	11:00 G	12:30	B
1/18/18	ST. ANDREWS	AWAY	5:30 G	7:00	B
1/20/18	PHILADELPHIA	AWAY	11:00 G	12:30	B
1/22/18	SE LAUDERDALE	HOME	5:30 G	7:00	B
1/26/18	FOREST	AWAY	5:30 G	7:00	B

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Lexile scores: Time to buckle down



Special to
Pelahatchie News

By Dr. Bryan Marshall,
Pelahatchie
High School
Principal

January is the month to buckle down. The holidays are over, and it is time to

grind it out.

We look forward to a fantastic second semester with your

children, and we fully intend to push them academically, socially and emotionally to produce hard-working and dedicated citizens to help our community grow.

Included in the article are several informational items that demonstrate the importance of lexiles and literacy. Take a look at what this all means, and, as always, help us in the endeavor to get kids reading and loving to read.

Let's get ready to work, and GO CHIEFS!

How Do We Get a Lexile?



Lexiles are Based on a Level Set Assessment.

Doing your Very Best on the Level Set is Important to Get a True Lexile Score

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What are Lexiles?

Lexiles are a Way to Measure a Student's Ability to Read and Comprehend a Given Text.

Example: If your Lexile Score is 880L and you choose to read a piece of literature that has an 880L score, then it is understood that when reading the text, you should understand a minimum of 75% of what the text says.

Almost Every Piece of Literature is Given a Lexile Level



Why are Lexiles Important in a Career?

Cluster	Lexile
Agriculture/Natural Resources	1270-1510
Architecture/Construction	1210-1340
Arts/AV Technology/Communications	1100-1190
Business & Administration	1210-1310
Education and Training	1320-1370
Health Science	1260-1300
Hospitality and Tourism	1230-1260
Human Services	1050-1200
Law and Public Safety	1420-1740
Manufacturing	1200-1310
Retail/Wholesale Sales & Services	1180-1270
Scientific Research/Engineering	1190-1250
Transportation, Distribution and Logistics	1170-1350

Why are Lexiles Important in Life?

Life Activity	Text	Lexile Level
Military	Training and Field Manual	1180L
Newspaper	USA Today	1200L
	Chicago Tribune	1310L
	Wall Street Journal	1320L
	New York Times	1380L
Entertainment	CD / DVD Player Instruction	1080L
	Microsoft Windows User Manual	1150L
College	Application for Student Loan	1270L
Vehicle	GM Vehicle Protection Plan	1150L
Federal Tax Form	W-4	1260L
Medical	Insurance Benefit Package	1280L
	AETNA Health Care Discount Form	1360L
Child Safety Seat	Installation Manual	1170L

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Pelahatchie splits games with Morton



Special to Pelahatchie News

Campbell honored for service at MSH



Special to Pelahatchie News

Kaitlynn Ashleigh Campbell was recently honored by Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) for her December anniversary. Pictured (l to r) are honorees, front row: Lewayna A. Hilliard of Jackson, one year; Meagan A. Thornton of Terry, one year; Kaitlynn Ashleigh Campbell of Pelahatchie, one year; and Madison R. Miller-Medina of Pearl, one year; and back row: Matthew Nathaniel Hart of Richland, one year; Stanley Nobles of D'Lo, 25 years; and Jacqueline D. Smith of Mendenhall, 25 years.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie has a rivalry with neighboring Morton, especially during basketball season. They played in December and the Lady Chiefs defeated the Lady Panthers 51-45. The Chiefs lost in a two overtime thriller.

Quick named RCSD employee of month



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Rankin County School District (RCSD) recognized its monthly Great to BEST Award recipients in December. Jennifer Quick, Pelahatchie Elementary, was named Elementary Classified Employee of the Month. She is pictured second row, far left.

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Improve your financial health in 2018



By Guest Columnist
Harvey Lott, Vice President,
PriorityOne Bank

Special to
Pelahatchie News

A new year brings a chance to start fresh with just about anything. Here's how to improve your financial health:

- **Get on a budget.** To get ahead, it's important to know where you stand and to create a plan with realistic goals such as a comfortable retirement, education and home ownership. Budgeting is still one of the best ways to accomplish this. Start by totaling your income and subtracting your monthly expenses for a quick financial snapshot. Then set goals, reduce unnecessary spending and, if the situation calls for it, explore ways

to increase your income. Budgeting doesn't have to be time consuming or complicated. Downloading a budgeting app to your smartphone lets you track spending and financial progress effortlessly in real time. To take the work out of saving toward your goals, you may also want to sign up for an automatic plan that electronically deposits an amount you choose from your paycheck or checking account into your savings account at regular intervals

- **Prepare for the unexpected.** Life can throw you some scary curveballs. Challenges like job loss, medical issues or property damage can leave you drowning in debt for years if you're not prepared. That's why it's essential to build an emergency fund that can cover at least

three to six months of living expenses. Even if you can save only a little each month, with consistent deposits and compound interest you can eventually grow a sizable protective cushion.

- **Break free of debt.** Making just the minimum payments on major debts means you're paying mostly interest and barely even chipping away at balances. One effective approach for eliminating debt is to concentrate your efforts on your highest-interest balance first, while still making timely smaller payments on all other obligations. Once this first debt is paid off, focus on the most expensive remaining balance, and continue this way till you're debt free.
- **Re-evaluate your investments.** Life conditions change over time,

so it only makes sense that investment and retirement accounts should be adjusted periodically. In early years, it's beneficial to favor an aggressive mix of securities, but as retirement approaches, gradually shift toward more conservative choices like bonds, CDs and mutual funds. It's also smart to examine your estate plan and make sure your will, insurance policies and beneficiaries are up to date.

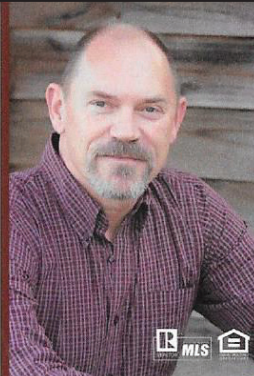
Financial housecleaning kicks off the new year just right. Over time, things that seemed out of reach become affordable, and every unexpected expense won't seem like the end of the world. This change may be gradual, but by the next New Year's Eve toast your improved financial wellness will be something to celebrate.

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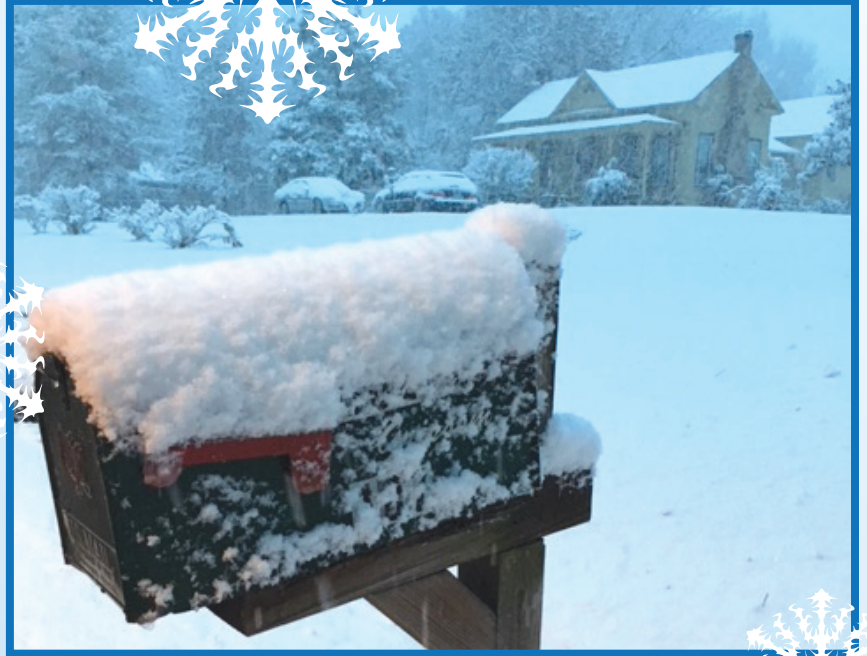
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Snow blankets Pelahatchie



Pelahatchie Christmas Parade held Dec. 2



Photos by Pelahatchie News

When pine trees change color



Special to Pelahatchie News



By Doug Carter,
Rankin County
Extension Agent

We all know leaves turn color in the fall. Deciduous trees grow new leaves in the spring, which will last for the length of that growing season, usually seven to eight months. Then, in autumn, the tree will reabsorb what nutrients it can from the leaves, eventually dropping the leaves and staying bare for the dormant season.

What about pine trees? We rake pine straw or put pine straw in our flower beds, but we only see a few pine needles on pine trees turning color in September and October. The life cycle of needles on our pines is a little more complicated than our broadleaf deciduous trees.

This September, I got a few phone calls from concerned trees owners about why their pine trees were turning brown. Was it pine beetles or the average life cycle of pine trees? To understand this, we need to know a little about the life cycle of needles on our pine trees.

Each needle on a pine tree lives roughly one and a half years. Each spring, when the tree begins to grow new tissue, they add new needles to the

ends of each tree branch, roughly doubling the number of needles on the tree. These new needles are stuck out on the ends of the branches, out beyond the old needles. The tree uses both the old and new needles during the growing season. Then in the fall, the pine tree reabsorbs the nutrients from the old needles only, and then the pine tree drops the old needles. This is noticeable in late September and October as the portion of each turf of needles closest to the trunk turns brown. The new needles, those that were newly grown the previous spring, stay on the tree all through the winter. In the spring, a new batch of needles will be grown on the ends of the branches and the cycle continues.

In the summer, pines have two ages of needles: one set a few months old (located on the ends of the each branch), and another 15-18 months old (located on the trunk end of each branch), each doing photosynthesis. In the winter, all their needles are the same age - the older needles being dropped the previous fall.

Our pines don't ever go into true dormancy. Any time the conditions are right, think of those warm, sunny days with temperatures in the 60s and 70s, the tree will absorb sunlight, just like it does in the spring.

Workforce Development: Why it works



By Speaker of
the House Phillip
Gunn

When we first began recruiting businesses to Mississippi, incentives played a big role. Many companies wanted to know, "What will you do for us?"

That is changing. The number one thing businesses want to know now is, "Do you have a trained, reliable, educated workforce?"

If Mississippi is to prosper, we must be able to provide a solid answer to that question. A strong, educated workforce is the backbone of Mississippi. It directly impacts our level of prosperity. If our workforce is strong, we prosper. If it is weak, we suffer.

Over the last six years, your legislature has focused on workforce development. We have passed legislation to create:

- **Mississippi Works Fund**, which provides training to unemployed people, giving them skills to prepare them to enter the workforce.
- **Mississippi Works Dual Enrollment Option**, allowing potential or recent high school drop outs to dually enroll in their local school district and the local community college in dual credit programs.
- **MDA Job Training Grants** that authorize MDA to make grants to colleges to pay a portion of the costs associated with training or retraining employees for businesses that expand or locate their operations in Mississippi.

- **Districts of Innovation**, allowing local school districts to implement innovative ideas in their schools to increase performance and explore different ways to prepare students for either college or careers. Many of these districts have teamed up with manufacturers to ensure that they are teaching the appropriate curriculum and training the students on quality equipment.

- **Appropriations and bonding.** In 2012, we appropriated \$38.5 million for the Workforce Education Program and Industrial Training. We have steadily increased the appropriation for the program over the last six years, and this year we appropriated \$51 million, an increase of 32%. We also appropriated \$4 million in bonds for the MDA Workforce Training Fund.

As industry changes and progresses, so must education. We want to be responsive to the needs of industry. We want to be nimble. We want to provide that skilled workforce. This is one of the motivations behind our efforts to seek a new K-12 funding formula. Our goal is to move to a student-centered formula, one that provides funding tailored to the specific needs of the student. I have also recently appointed Sean Suggs, Vice President of Manufacturing for Toyota Mississippi, to our state board of education. He will bring a much-needed perspective to the role education plays in our workforce.

Your legislature believes a strong workforce is the backbone of Mississippi and that the prosperity of our state hinges on how well we put forth a trained and educated workforce.

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Arrangements
Harold Dennis	91	Forest, MS	12/15/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Shirley Hart	54	Lena, MS	12/10/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Lum Jacobs, Jr.	91	Lawrence, MS	12/1/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Tommy Robinson	64	Brandon, MS	12/12/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Roger Stephens	53	Brandon, MS	12/12/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Flora Weaver	88	Morton, MS	12/6/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.

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Kevin Hall

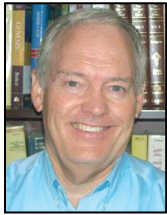
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Pastor's perspective: How to keep your resolutions



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

Special to
Pelahatchie News

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Often, people make resolutions about things they want to

accomplish in the New Year. An article by Kendra Cherry gives some tips for keeping your resolutions this year. (The article has been edited for space purposes)

"The start of a New Year is the perfect time to turn a new page, which is probably why so many people create New Year's Resolutions. A new year often feels like a fresh start, a great opportunity to eliminate bad habits and establish new routines. Of course, resolutions are much easier to make than to keep and by the end of January many of us have abandoned our resolve and settled back into our old patterns.

According to one survey, only around nine percent of people who make New Year's Resolutions felt that they were successful in achieving their goals. Some of the most common resolutions included losing weight, making better financial choices, quitting smoking and spending more time with family.

So, why do millions of people resolve to change at the beginning of every year? A recent series of studies into what researchers have dubbed the 'fresh start effect' has looked at how temporal landmarks can motivation aspirational behaviors. The beginning

of a new year seems like an opportunity for a fresh start, which is why so many people set sometimes overly lofty resolutions during these times. While this can sometimes lead people to bite off more than they can chew, such moments can also present great opportunities to overcome struggles with willpower. So what can you do to make it more likely that you will keep your next resolution?

1. Choose a specific, realistic goal. Every year, millions of adults resolve to "lose weight" or "get in shape" during the next year. Instead of selecting such an ambiguous goal, focus on something more concrete that you can realistically set your sights on. For example, you might commit to losing 10 pounds or running a mini-marathon. Choosing a concrete, achievable goal also gives you the opportunity to plan exactly how you are going to accomplish your goal over the course of the year.

2. Pick just one resolution. While you might have a long list of potential New Year's Resolutions, you should pick just one and focus your energies on it rather than spreading yourself too thin among a number of different objectives.

3. Don't wait until the last minute. Planning is an essential part of achieving any goal. Experts suggest that you should spend some time planning out how you will tackle a major behavior change. If you start working toward a goal without any type of plan in place, you might quickly find yourself giving

up any time you face any sort of obstacle, difficulty or resistance.

4. Start with small steps. Taking on too much is a common reason why so many New Year's Resolutions fail. Dramatically slashing calories, over-doing it at the gym or radically altering your normal behavior are sure-fire ways to derail your plans. Instead, focus on taking tiny steps that will ultimately help you reach your larger goal.

5. Avoid repeating past failures. Another strategy for keeping your New Year's Resolution is to not make the exact same resolution year after year. If people think they can do it they probably can, but if they've already tried and failed, their self-belief will be low.

6. Remember that change is a process. Those unhealthy habits that you are trying to change probably took years to develop, so how can you expect to change them in just a matter of days, weeks or months? It may take longer than you would like to achieve your goals, but remember that this is not a race to the finish. Once you have made the commitment to changing a behavior, it is something that you will continue to work on for the rest of your life.

7. Don't let small stumbles bring you down. Encountering a setback is one of the most common reasons why people give up on their New Year's Resolutions. If you suddenly relapse into a bad habit, don't view it as a failure. The path toward your goal is not a straight one and there are always going to be challenges. Instead, view relapses

as learning opportunities.

8. Get support from your friends and family. Having a solid support system can help you stay motivated. Explain what your goals are to your close friends or family and ask them to help you achieve your objectives. Better yet, enlist the help of others by joining a group that shares your goal.

9. Renew your motivation. During the first days of a New Year's Resolution, you will probably feel confident and highly motivated to reach your goal. With time, your motivation to keep your New Year's Resolution may start to dwindle. When you face such moments, remind yourself of exactly why you are doing this. What do you have to gain by achieving your goal?

10. Keep working on your goals. By February, many people have lost that initial spark of motivation that they felt immediately after making their New Year's Resolution. Keep that inspiration alive by continuing to work on your goals, even after facing setbacks. If your current approach is not working, reevaluate your strategies and develop a new plan."

If you follow Ms. Cherry's tips, it is more likely that you will be able to keep your resolutions.

Here's another tip that is great to follow every year: Micah 6:8 says "The Lord has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Another good tip is to be sure and take your family to church on Sunday!

November PHS Students of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

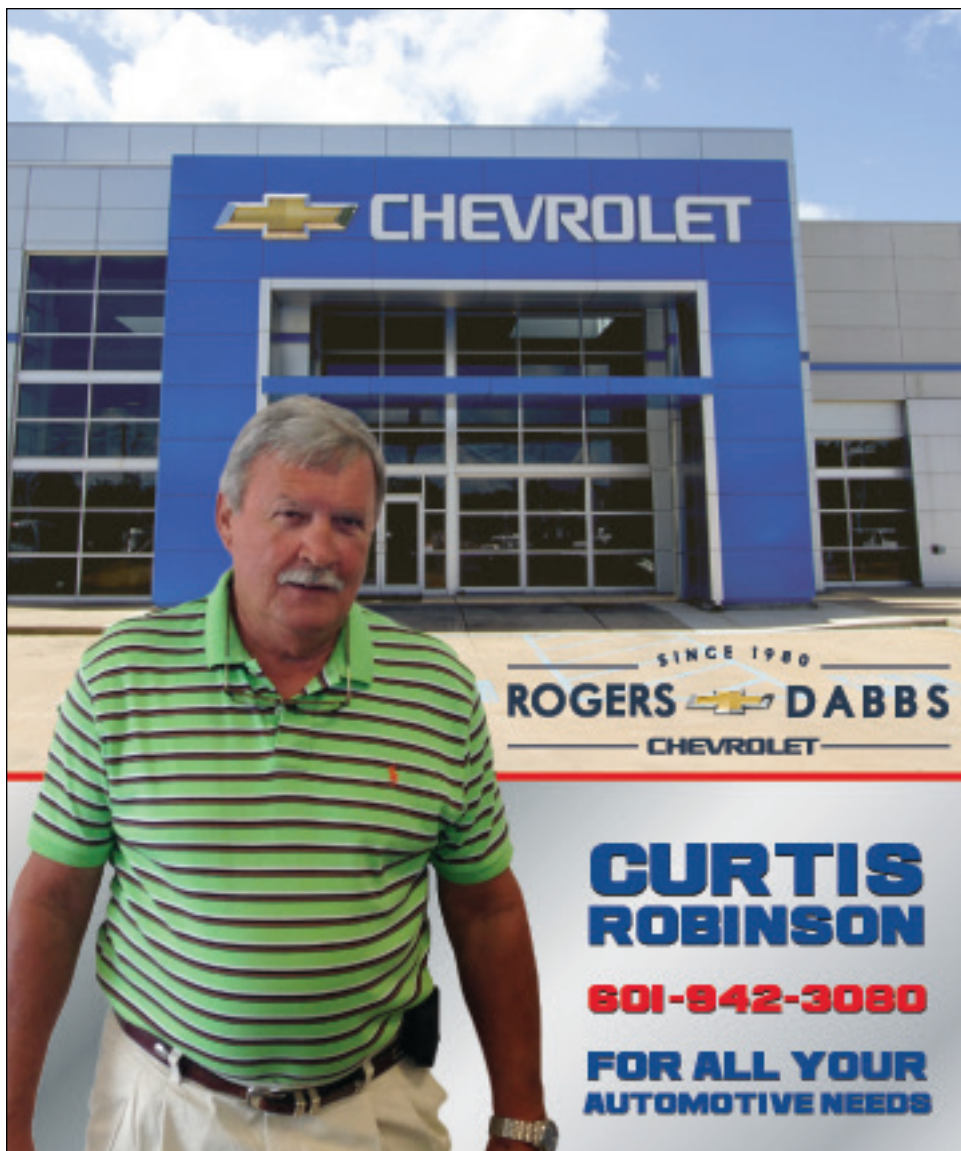
Pelahatchie High School has named the Students of the Month for November. Pictured (l to r), front row, are: Kenner Doster, Eli Boyer, Camden Patton, Kaitlyn White, Kayla Hobson and Teacher of the Month, Ms. Megan Goss; and back row: Ben Wohlon, Bryce Jones, Will Goss, Maleigh Edwards, Maria Banuelas, Kiaieshi Stokes, and not pictured: Jacob Davidson.

PES Pre-K collects cans for food drive



Special to Pelahatchie News

The pre-kindergarten class at Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) collected two hundred cans of food for those who need it. Eighty-two cans were donated to food boxes before Thanksgiving, and the remaining were donated to the PHS food drive. Brother Guy Hughes, Gary Carpenter, Shannon Boyce, Kayla Winstead, and the families of the kindergartners helped.



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- 10:00 - Bible Study for all ages
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- 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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Student Council makes wishes come true



Special to Pelahatchie News

The PHS senior Beta Club adopted Mrs. Sirmon's pre-K class for Christmas. Pre-K students shared their wish list with the Beta Club, and their wishes were granted. The club is pictured here sharing the gifts they purchased for the children.

Check out a mystery at the Library



Special to
Pelahatchie News

By Guest Columnist Tina Mauney, Branch Manager, Pelahatchie Public Library

Looking for a good mystery? Last January, we highlighted self-help books to start the year. There are so

many mystery/thriller readers in our area, I thought someone might enjoy trying a new author to start 2018. Below is a list of the best 2017 mystery/thriller novels as voted by readers through Goodreads, a website that launched in 2007 to help people find and share the books they love.

All of these titles may be found at Pelahatchie Public Library or may be requested from one of our branches in

the Central Mississippi Regional Library System.

1. *Into the Water* by Paula Hawkins
2. *Origin* by Dan Brown
3. *Glass Houses* by Louise Penny
4. *The Good Daughter* by Karin Slaughter
5. *The Dry* by Jane Harper
6. *Secrets in Death* by J. D. Robb
7. *The Girl Before* by J. P. Delaney
8. *Stillhouse Lake* by Rachel Caine
9. *Mississippi Blood* by Greg Iles
10. *The Breakdown* by B. A. Paris
11. *Never Let You Go* by Chevy Stevens
12. *Golden Prey* by John Sandford
13. *The Marriage Lie* by Kimberly Belle
14. *Behind Her Eyes* by Sarah Pinborough
15. *The Night Bird* by Brian Freeman

Smith is PHS Army JROTC Cadet of the Semester



Special to Pelahatchie News

Cadet Major Jessica Smith was selected as Cadet of the Semester for the fall term from among 85 cadets within the JROTC program at Pelahatchie High School.

Special to Pelahatchie News

Cadet Major Jessica Smith of the Pelahatchie High School Army JROTC program has been selected as Cadet of the Semester for the fall term for the 2017-18 school year. Smith was selected among over eighty-five cadets within the JROTC program at Pelahatchie High School.

The criteria for being selected for Cadet of the Semester includes overall academic performance, JROTC knowledge, leadership, citizenship and display of the Army values. Smith will represent Pelahatchie in the Rankin County District Cadet of the Semester board competition, where she will com-

pete among all of the Rankin County high schools. Smith is currently the cadet battalion operations officer, a junior at Pelahatchie High School, and in her third year in the JROTC program.

PHS Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) is a program offered to high school students that teach cadets character education, student achievement, wellness, leadership and diversity. Collectively, the lessons motivate cadets to be better citizens, which is the main focus and mission of JROTC. In addition to promoting citizenship, JROTC also prepares cadets for college while providing service opportunities involving school and community.

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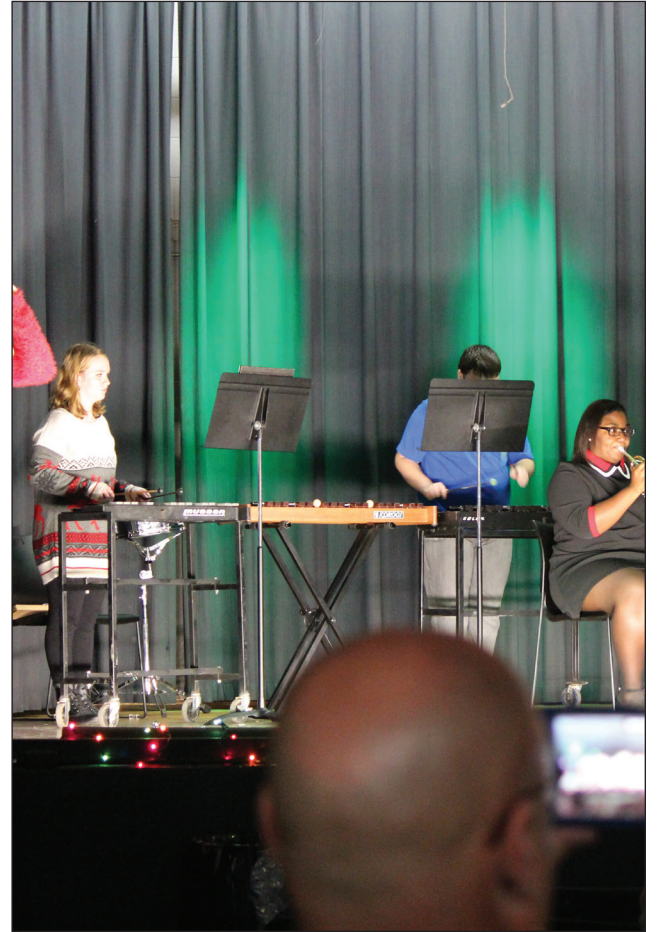
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Pelahatchie Band performs Third Annual Winter concert



Special to Pelahatchie News

On December 5, 2017, the Pelahatchie Beginner Band, Intermediate Band, and High School Concert Ensemble performed the 3rd Annual Winter Concert at the Pelahatchie High School auditorium. The band played such classics as Sleigh Ride, Away in the Manger, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, The First Noel, All I Want for Christmas, Merry Christmas and All that Jazz, and more.

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