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Pelahatchie, MS**

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

ERA breaks State Robotics record

By Susie A. Wolfe

East Rankin Academy (ERA) Robotics broke the Mississippi FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) state record for the 2019/2020 season on Saturday, January 25, with 79 points in the first round of competition, and then went on to break it three more times that day.

The team secured its spot to the State by being the Winning Alliance Captain. The State Tournament will be held on the campus of the University of Mississippi on February 28 and 29.

They also received the "Connect Award" for being the team with the greatest outreach efforts to the STEM and engineering community.

The FTC robotics competition in Mississippi focuses on engaging students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). At last year's state

championship, the ERA team achieved highest honors as part of the Winning Alliance for the final rounds of competition. They also won the "Connect Award."

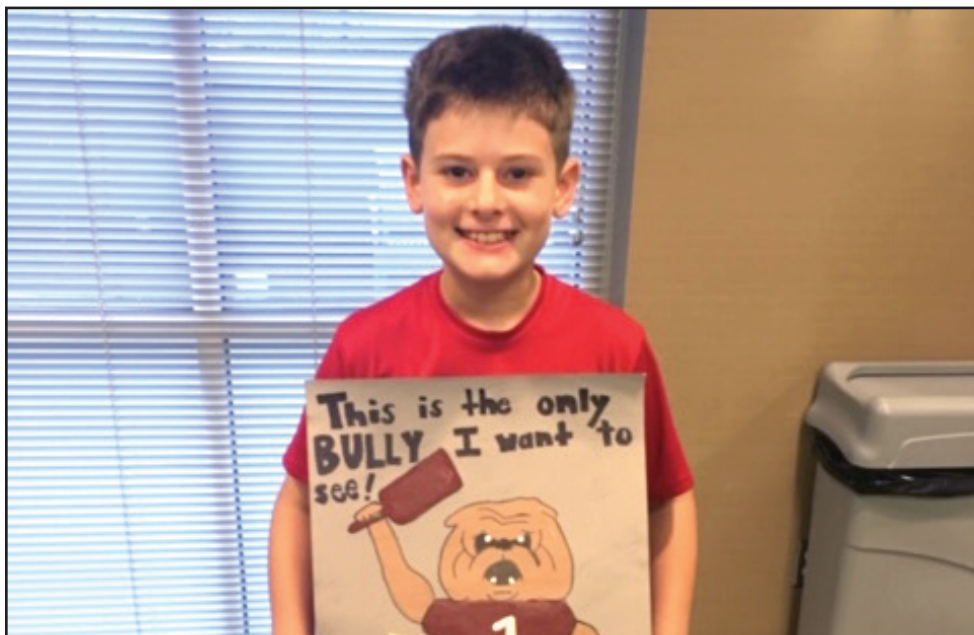
Team members include Matthew Marin, Dana Watkins, Mallory Ellis, Jett Stuart, Brennan Rials, Garrett Duckworth, Jacob Gardner, Jonathan Lamberth, Brandyn Luke, Carson French, Kellar Brown, and Tyler Williams, Elijah Vining, Tyler Betts, Cole Jones, Knox Ross, and Ethan Crain. Coaches are Ward Winstead, Mechanical Engineering student at Ole Miss and former ERA Robotics team member, and Headmaster Robyn Winstead.



Photo by Pelahatchie News

ERA Robotics team members pictured (l to r), first row, are: Matthew Marin, Dana Watkins, Mallory Ellis, and Jett Stuart; second row: Brennan Rials, Garrett Duckworth, Jacob Gardner, Jonathan Lamberth, and Brandyn Luke; third row: Carson French, Kellar Brown, and Tyler Williams; and fourth row: Elijah Vining, Tyler Betts, Cole Jones, Knox Ross, and Ethan Crain.

Parker recognized for his bullying prevention poster



Special to Pelahatchie News

Chase Parker was recognized at the January Rankin County School District Board Meeting for third place in the Bullying Prevention Poster Contest. He is shown with his "Bully" poster.

Pelahatchie native Adams sworn in as judge



Special to Pelahatchie News

Whitney McKay Adams was sworn in as the first female judge to be elected in Rankin County at the Rankin County Justice Court Courtroom on Thursday, December 19, 2019. United States Congressman Gregg Harper welcomed family and friends who attended the swearing, and Dr. Clarence Cooper, pastor of Brandon Baptist Church, led the prayer. Judge Richard Redfern, far right, administered Adams' Oath of Office. Pictured is Adams, a native of Pelahatchie and graduate of Pelahatchie High School, who took the oath accompanied by husband Jeff, left, while their children, Celeste, 9, and Eli, 12, held the Bible.

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Cross Roads offers GriefShare Ministry

By Sheila Bradshaw

"I'm losing my mind!"
 "I'm tired of trying to be strong for everyone else!"
 "I don't know what to do!"
 "I can't do this! It's too hard!"
 "I can't stop the tears! They just start out of the blue."

That's just a few of the comments I hear when I talk with people who are grieving the loss of their loved one. And I totally get it. I've thought/said most of these things myself in the 14 years since my 17-year old son Trey was killed in a car wreck coming home from baseball practice. The good news is that there is help.

We will begin our spring series of GriefShare at Cross Roads Baptist Church on Tuesday, February 4, at 6:30 p.m. GriefShare provides a safe place to give voice to the thoughts you can't speak about to others because you know they won't understand. GriefShare is a video-based ministry with 13 sessions that address every aspect of the grieving process. Topics include "Is This Normal?", "Why?", "Guilt and Anger" and "Stuck". Participants who attend learn that they are not the first or only ones to face grief and don't have to go through the experience

alone.

Here is what some previous participants have to say about GriefShare.

"GriefShare was a great experience and could not have come at a better time in my life. I have been through the series twice, and both times it was a blessing for me. So if you have lost someone special in your life, I would recommend GriefShare." Carol Duke – Member of Cross Roads Baptist Church

"The GriefShare program is just as the title says: you are able to share your grief with others who understand what you are feeling because they have been there. I found it extremely helpful, and one of the main reasons was that the program is Bible and faith based. I still feel the loss, but with GriefShare and the new friends I have made, I am more able to deal with that loss." Linda Vance - Member of Shiloh United Methodist Church

GriefShare is offered as a ministry of Cross Roads Baptist Church. It is open to everyone, and there is no charge to

43 South. For more information, contact Sheila Bradshaw, GriefShare Ministry Coordinator, at (601) 546-2297 or visit



Photo special to Pelahatchie News

attend. Participants are only asked to be faithful in attendance. Sessions are held on Tuesday nights beginning at 6:30 in the Church Fellowship Hall. Cross Roads is located at 104 Crossroads Road, Pelahatchie; 5 miles south of I-20 on Hwy

the Cross Roads Web site at www.cross-roadspel.org.

GriefShare won't make the pain go away, but you will find helpful tips to making it through your grief journey. Please come join us.



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ERCO voted Rankin County top non-profit



Special to Pelahatchie News

Ever Reaching Community Outreach (ERCO) was voted the Top Non-Profit in Rankin County at the Best of the Best ceremony on January 16. They were recently named one of Mississippi's top non-profits by the Mississippi Business Journal. Pictured (l to r) front row, are: Lynn Loecher; Facilities Director Kathy Jo Latham; and Founding Board Member Tammy Brun; and back row: Founding Board Member Louie Parkman; Julie Parkman; Board Member Bro. Tim Loecher; Board Member Gary Schmitt; Micheal Latham; Founding Board Member Van Brun; and Board Member Rev. Beth Feisel.

Weather runs in patterns and cycles, yet is unpredictable



By Doug Carter,
Rankin County
Extension Agent

I poured three and a half inches of rain out of my rain gauge one morning in December, and we have seen many more days of rain. I've heard news reports about flooding in various places, and fears of dams failing. I've seen cattle bogging to their knees around hay rings, rutted pastures, and I have seen this since the beginning of December.

El Nino means "little boy," or Christ child in Spanish. El Nino was originally recognized by fisherman off the coast of South America in the 1600's, with the appearance of unusually warm waters in the Pacific Ocean, around December. Warm waters meant they did not catch as many fish.

On a typical El Nino winter, we have wetter than average conditions over the U.S. Coast and Florida. El Nino also

During a La Nina year, winter temperatures are warmer than normal in the Southwest and cooler than normal in the Northeast.

According to the National Weather Service, we are in a neutral winter pattern, neither El Nino nor La Nina. A wet cycle can occur in a neutral year.

The science of meteorology is the study of the weather along with some things that influence it. We now know so much more about the weather than we once did, and some pretty neat predictions have been made in the past. Such as the break in the weather, that was predicted for the D Day Invasion of Normandy in 1944. The weather was so bad that the German commander took a few days off and went home for his wife's birthday. The weatherman told our Generals that there would be a break for an invasion, and he was right.

Then there have been wrong calls through the years, such as the Galveston, Texas hurricane in September 1900, that killed as many as 12,000 people.



Special to Pelahatchie News

brings warmer than average conditions, over the western and northern United States. Drier-than-normal conditions over the Pacific Northwest and Ohio Valley region.

La Nina means "little girl" in Spanish. It is sometimes called "a cold event." La Nina periods bring below-average sea surface temperatures across the east central Pacific.

I've studied information and maps supplied by the National Weather Service that showed typical weather patterns for neutral years, and patterns for moderate to strong El Nino and La Nina years. The one thing that becomes clear is there are patterns and cycles to our weather. It comes down to this, the main thing I've learned is we can't control the weather, but we know who does.

AT THE LIBRARY IN PELAHATCHIE

FEBRUARY LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

February is National Library Lovers' Month. This month we encourage you to show your support for Pelahatchie Public Library with a donation for our upcoming summer reading programs. You may donate in person or through the mail to P. O. Box 959, Pelahatchie, MS 39145. We thank our community for supporting the library and these important summer programs for the children of Pelahatchie.

Family Movie Night - Thursday, February 13, 6:00 p.m.
Call library (854-8764) for more details.

Tween Book Club (5th- 8th grade) - Tuesday, February 11, 4:45 p.m.
Discussing *Neverseen*, Book 4 of the *Keeper of the Lost Cities* series by Shannon Messenger

Adult Book Club - Wednesday, February 19, 9:30 a.m. Discussing *Something in the Water*, a novel by Catherine Steadman. Enter library through rear entrance.

Call the library (601.854.8764) or visit the website (www.cmrls.lib.ms.us) to register.

Pelahatchie School recognizes December bus students and driver



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie schools recognized the December Bus Riders of the Month and the Driver of the Month. Pictured (l to r), front row, are: Jailah Hughes and Christian Wilkerson; middle row: Zanyia Hollis, JaRiyah Eubanks, Cada Magee, Rylie Irby, Kaden Sanders, and Natalie Hand; and back row: Phillip Rainer, Arianna Gipson, Ashton Moore, Baelah Crosby, and Mr. Moress Williams.

PES Spelling Bee winners to compete again Feb. 7



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) Spelling Bee winners include Sam Rogers (right), champion, and Logan Quick (left), runner up. Both will compete at the District Spelling Bee in Brandon on February 7.

Powerlifting team places in meet



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie HS Powerlifting team placed in a January 17 meet. Pictured (l to r) are: Colton Bierman, who placed third in his weight class, and Matthew Day and Mister Lott who finished second in their weight class.

Roberts named RCSD Employee of the Month



Special to
Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) teacher Tina Roberts was named December's Rankin County Secondary Employee of the Month. She received the award at the January Rankin County School District (RCSD) Board of Directors meeting. She was recently named PHS' Teacher of the Year.

Ward recognized by RCSD



Special to
Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Elementary's Assistant Principal Mijia Ward was recognized by the Rankin County School District (RCSD) as Elementary Administrator of the Month for January at the regular monthly board meeting.



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Tracie Bass, LPN

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Pelahatchie VFD 2019 year in review



Pelahatchie Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief Karl VanHorn is shown on one of his trucks. The 2019 stats were recently released.

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) had 405 emergency response calls in 2019 according to the 2019 year in review supplied by the department. There were 1,261.5 manhours of training where two members completed Mississippi Volunteer Certification Level I; nine members completed Mississippi Volunteer Certification Level II; two members completed Emergency Medi-

cal Responder; two members completed Certified Volunteer Driver Operator; and three members completed the Storm Spotter class. Pelahatchie Fire Department also received a 2019 Engine Company by Rankin County. The men and women work hard to support the community in which they serve. Pelahatchie Fire Department is an all-volunteer department serving the needs of Pelahatchie every day.

Faculty and staff, one of our many strengths



Special to Pelahatchie News

By Guest Columnist
Teague Burchfield,
Principal, Pelahatchie
High School

With the Valentine’s Day holiday approaching, we are all mindful of the spirit of the day. On that note, I would like to acknowledge one of the many strengths of the faculty and staff here at Pelahatchie High School. Yes, they are confident in their abilities to provide instruction in their content area. Yes, they are highly capable managers of their classrooms. But above all else, they have a love of service. They truly enjoy this profession; they love meeting each student where they are and taking them to heights they didn’t believe they could. They love their students!

I have always believed that it’s not about what we do but who we do it with. With that being said, I look forward to coming to work every day to witness not only their trade but their true affection to their students. Pelahatchie High School benefits from these fine professionals and I can’t say enough how proud I am of the work they do on a daily basis.



As we move further into the third 9 weeks, I would like to take time to update you on our many extracurricular activities. Soccer has come to a close, and both teams should feel accomplished with the progress they have made over the past season. The Chiefs’ arrows have begun to fly as Coach Cotnam’s Archery team has started competing. Powerlifting has begun and we look forward to seeing the results of Coach Tyler Walters and his lifters as they perform this season. Regarding basketball, Coach Jones and Coach Lyles have their teams prepared for a strong finish. The district tournament is hosted by Pisgah this year (2/10-14) and we would appreciate your support and attendance as we near the postseason. Stay tuned for more specific details as district play comes to an end and seeding is finalized. Thanks for your continued support of Pelahatchie High School and as always GO CHIEFS!

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Arrangements
Jack Armstrong	89	Lena, MS	1/16/20	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Jerry Wayne Craft	59	Forest, MS	1/9/20	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Elaine Hazelwood Laverna	80	Brandon, MS	12/27/19	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Ray Schmidt	69	Pelahatchie, MS	1/21/20	Wolf Funeral Serv.

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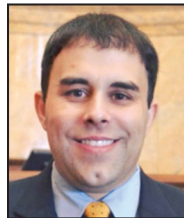
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Legislative Update: Kicking off the 2020 session



By Guest Columnist
Mississippi
Representative
Tom Miles

Special to
Pelahatchie News

When we kicked off the 2020 session on January 8, I had the honor of raising my hand for the third time to be sworn to serve as your State Representative for House District #75. My commitment eight years ago and my commitment today are the same — I will always be your voice in Jackson and put you, the good people, first in every decision that I make and every vote that I take. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue to serve you at our State Capitol.

As our first order of business, I was pleased to vote "yes" on House Bill 1, which corrects the appropriation to fund

the teacher pay raise implemented last year. The Senate voted to pass that bill on January 16.

House members closed out our second week of the session early last week as we wait for most committee appointments to be determined. A highlight of last week's activities in the House Chamber was the inaugural ceremony for Mississippi's 65th Governor Tate Reeves. The weather didn't cooperate for an outside event, so we were pleased to have front row seats to the historic happening. The week prior, we hosted the swearing in festivities of our other state-wide elected officials.

I think I can speak for my colleagues when I say we are all hopeful for a cooperative session and future with our newly elected officials, one where the needs of Mississippians are put first on the agenda.

The horrible conditions in our Corrections system were front and center on

our minds and in the minds of our fellow citizens. It is clear that underfunding the system has had a huge impact on those conditions. We should keep in mind that not only are inmates being affected, those charged with keeping them safe behind bars are also in danger. I hope that these terrible events will result in a focused effort on proper funding for one of the most important functions of government — public safety. My former colleague in the House, Mayor George Flaggs, was appointed by the governor to lead the investigative task force on the issue. As a former chair of Corrections, Mr. Flaggs should be well suited to understand the various facets of what it will take to clean things up. It has been mentioned that Walnut Grove may be reopened to help house transferred inmates.

We re-elected Rep. Phillip Gunn as Speaker of the House and my good friend

Rep. Jason White as Speaker Pro Tem. At this writing, we are still awaiting committee assignments.

We enjoyed learning from the various groups that came to the Capitol. We met with National Guard Major General Janson D. Boyles and his leadership team, who gave us an update on the over 600 members of our National Guard who are stationed overseas. The county supervisors, city officials and others brought their concerns and ideas to us, as well. Our local officials believe that home rule should be emphasized, because those who are closest to the ground know better what is needed in our counties, towns, and communities.

As always, if you need my help or have concerns, I'm only a phone call away. You can always contact me at my office at 601-469-7886 or email me attmiles@house.ms.gov.

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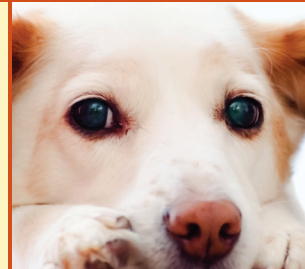
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GIFT CARD: \$100 Visa Gift Card fulfilled by Protect Your Home through third-party provider, Mpell, upon installation of a security system and execution of monitoring contract. \$4.95 shipping and handling fee, gift cards can take up to 8 weeks to arrive after following the Mpell redemption process. **BASIC SYSTEM:** \$99 Installation. 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$1,007.64). 24-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$671.76) for California. Offer applies to homeowners only. Basic system requires landline phone. Offer valid for new ADT Authorized Premier Provider customers only and not on purchases from ADT LLC. Cannot be combined with any other offer. The \$27.99 Offer does not include Quality Service Plan (QSP), ADT's Extended Limited Warranty. **ADT Pulse:** ADT Pulse Interactive Solutions Services ("ADT Pulse"), which help you manage your home environment and family lifestyle, require the purchase and/or activation of an ADT alarm system with monitored burglary service and a compatible computer, cell phone or PDA with Internet and email access. These ADT Pulse services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Pulse equipment. All ADT Pulse services are not available with the various levels of ADT Pulse. All ADT Pulse services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the ADT Pulse features you desire. **ADT Pulse + Video:** ADT Pulse + Video installation is an additional \$299. 36-month monitoring contract required from ADT Pulse + Video: \$58.99 per month, (\$2,123.64), including Quality Service Plan (QSP). **GENERAL:** For all offers, the form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account, satisfactory credit history is required and termination fee applies. Certain packages require approved landline phone. Local permit fees may be required. Certain restrictions may apply. Additional monitoring fees required for some services. For example, Burglary, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert monitoring requires purchase and/or activation of an ADT security system with monitored Burglary, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert devices and are an additional charge. Additional equipment may be purchased for an additional charge. Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. Prices subject to change. Prices may vary by market. Some insurance companies offer discounts on Homeowner's Insurance. Please consult your insurance company. Photos are for illustrative purposes only and may not reflect the exact product/service actually provided. **Licenses:** AL-19-001104, AR-CMPY.0001725 AZ-ROC217517, CA-AC06320, CT-ELC0193944-L5, DC-EMS902653, DC-602516000016, DE-07-212, FL-EC13003427, EC13003401, GA-LVA205395, IA-AS-0206, ID-ELE-S1-39131, IL-127.001042, IN-C.P.D. Reg. No. — 19-08088, City of Indianapolis: LAC-000156, KY-City of Louisville: 483, LA-F1914, LA-F1915, LA-F1082, MA-1355C, MD-107-1626, ME-LMS0017382, MI-3601205773, MN-TS01807, MO-City of St. Louis: CC#354, St. Louis County: 95091, MS-15007958, MT-PSP-ELC-L1-247, NC-25310-SP-FA/IV, NC-1622-CSA, NE-14451, NJ Burglar Alarm Lic # -NJ-348F00021800, NM-353366, NV-068518, City of Las Vegas: 3000008296, NY-Licensed by the N.Y.S. Department of State UID#12000317691, NYS #12000286451, OH-53891446, City of Cincinnati: AC#86, OK-AC1048, OR-170997, Pennsylvania Home Improvement Contractor Registration Number: PA022999, RI-3582, RI-7508, SC-BACS5630, SD- 1025-7001-ET, TN-1520, TX-B13734, AC#-3492, UT-6422596-6501, VA-115120, VT-ES-2382(7C), WA-602588694/ECPROTEYH934RS, WI-City of Milwaukee: PAS-0002790, WV-WV042433, WY-LV-G-21499. 3750 Priority Way South Dr. Indianapolis, IN 46240 ©2017 DEFENDERS, Inc. dba Protect Your Home

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ERA names 2019-2020 class officers



East Rankin Academy has named its 2019-2020 class officers. Pictured (l to r) are the ninth- grade class officers: Jonas Vining, president; Eli Bowman, vice-president; Judson Giordano, secretary; and Lindsey Watkins, treasurer.



ERA tenth grade officers are pictured (l to r): Reese Harper, president; Cole Moudy, vice-president; Brooke Renfro, secretary; and Neely Hawthorne, treasurer.



ERA eleventh grade officers are pictured (l to r): Brandyn Luke, president; Brodie Rials, vice-president; Barron Burnham, secretary; and Brennan Rials, treasurer.



ERA twelfth grade officers are pictured (l to r): Neely Brunt, president; Maile Tubbs, vice-president; Cole Jones, secretary; and Tyler Betts, treasurer.

Photos special to Pelahatchie News



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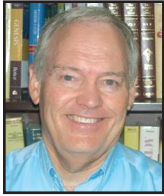
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Pastor's Perspective: CRBC celebrates 20th Upward season



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

Special to Pelahatchie News

At Cross Roads Baptist Church, we are celebrating the twentieth season of Upward basketball.

The records from early years are incomplete, but we can safely say that the cumulative total of players participating approaches 3,000, since we have averaged about 150 kids each year over the 20 years. We have several second generation children playing this year. Those are kids who have a parent that also played Upward basketball at Cross Roads.

This is the seventeenth year that I have been involved with Upward at Cross Roads. So I usually spend my Saturdays in January and February at the Cross Roads' gym, helping where needed and enjoying the games. My favorite job with Upward is serving as a referee for the kindergarten games. What fun it is to be on the court with these little people! Sometimes, especially at the beginning of the year, it seems more like herding cats than playing basketball!

While we always have a few natural athletes who do very well, most of the children have never played basketball and obviously don't know the rules nor have the skill sets to play correctly. But it always amazes me to watch each child improve from week to week. Granted, even at the end of the season, there are always one or two that still think they are playing football and run all over the court carrying the ball!

I'll always remember one incident that happened during a game a number of years ago. One of the little players approached me and said "Bro. John, I need to tell you something." He cupped his hand to his mouth so I knew it must be a secret that he wanted to share. I leaned over to listen and he said softly, "your zipper is down." I thanked him for that

important bit of information, and, after verifying that it was accurate, I quickly corrected the situation.

I've often thought about that day, and the way that my little friend responded to my dilemma. He didn't laugh or shout out. Nor did he point or try to draw attention to my unfortunate situation, he quickly and quietly addressed the issue and did so discreetly so as to not cause me any embarrassment.

I think there are several important lessons that we can take away from that day.

First of all, we all face issues from time to time that are unfortunate. I had no idea that my zipper was down that day, nor for how long that had been the case. Nor do I know how many other people may have noticed, but didn't say anything. So sometimes we experience

situations that can be uncomfortable or awkward.

There are also lessons for us in the way that my little friend handled the situation. If we notice that someone is in a situation that could be embarrassing or potentially damaging to them, we should approach them discreetly to make them aware of what we have observed. We must be careful not to draw undue attention to the situation, put them down, or otherwise make them feel uncomfortable. But we should approach them privately to tell them about the situation that they may not be aware of. We all need that kind of friend; one who will tell us the truth.

Ephesians 4:32 instructs us to "be kind one to the other..." Kindness goes a long way toward establishing and maintaining peace and tranquility in society. And among believing people it is not an option! So be kind to someone today! Give them an encouraging word. Help them through a difficult situation. Let them know your shoulder is available to lean on. Your kindness may change a life!

Be sure to take your family to church on Sunday. (And don't forget to check your zipper!)



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pastor John Vaughn is shown refereeing an Upward game in the church's gym this year. He is pictured in the back right.

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

104 Crossroads Road • Pelahatchie, MS 39145
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601.260.9161

Jeff Jones, Pastor
Parker Jones, Student Pastor
Joey White, Music

Please join us.

Service Times:

Sundays:

10:00 am - Sunday
11:00 am - Morning Worship
6:00 pm - Evening Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 pm - Prayer Meeting,
Adult Bible Study and
Youth "JAM" Session



Pelahatchie
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300 Church Street • Pelahatchie, MS 39145 • 601.854.8809
www.pelahatchiebaptist.com

Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am, 6:00 pm • Wednesday Youth & Children 6:00 pm Adults 6:30 pm

First Apostolic Church

508 Heslep St.
Pelahatchie, MS 39145
Phone: 228-219-1972

Pastor: Rev. Jerry Hamilton

Services:

Sunday - 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.



Critical Retirement Choices-Paying for Health Care

Special to Pelahatchie News

Anticipating the cost of health care after you retire is much more difficult than estimating your living expenses. And you have less flexibility in managing medical bills if you become seriously ill or disabled than you do in managing many of your variable costs.

As you begin retirement planning, you'll want to pay particular attention to the health coverage available through your employer, if that's how you're insured. You need to know what will happen to the coverage if you retire before you're eligible for Medicare at 65, whether your employer pays the cost of supplemental, or Medigap, coverage, and what arrangements you could make to continue health insurance if your spouse has been covered under your plan and you're eligible for Medicare before he or she is.

You may want to investigate long-term care insurance, especially if there's a group plan for which you're eligible. If you decide it's a good idea for you, purchasing the coverage in your late 50s or early 60s is likely to cost less than waiting longer.

How Do I Make My Wishes Known?

A living will is a document that describes the kind of medical treatment you want—and don't want—if you are terminally ill or in a permanent vegetative state (which means you're unconscious, not able to communicate, and unlikely to get better). In writing your living will, you should be as specific as possible about the kinds of drugs and medical procedures you have in mind and the situations under which they should—or should not be—used.

Though almost all states accept living wills, the laws of each state are a little different, so you want to be sure that the living will you sign meets local requirements.

You should also be sure your family and your doctor know that you've signed a living will and where they can find a copy. You don't need a lawyer to draw up the document, although if you're in the process of preparing a regular will, you can sign both at once, probably for little or no additional charge.

A living will makes your health care wishes known, but it does not always guarantee they will be followed. Some-

one will still have to authorize treatment, or make a decision not to continue it. You can appoint a health care agent or surrogate in a signed and witnessed document known as a health care proxy, or you can grant a durable power of attorney for healthcare to someone who



Special to Pelahatchie News

will make the decisions you would have wanted.

You should be sure to ask permission of the person you name and describe your feelings about your care in detail. Without understanding what you want, it would be very difficult for your surrogate to see that your wishes are carried out. Because there are still unresolved legal questions about the extent of a surrogate's authority, it probably makes sense to get legal advice in preparing

these documents.

Gradual Retirement

An alternative to moving abruptly from working one day to retirement the next may be working gradually less over a period of time.

Gradual, or phased, retirement can take different forms. You might reduce the number of days you work each week—from five to four to three—or the number of hours a day. Or you might find a new job with a flexible schedule.

There may be some roadblocks to staying where you are. Qualified employer plans have strict rules limiting your ability to collect retirement income while you're still employed at the same company. Your reduced schedule would have to provide enough income for you to maintain your standard of living if you didn't want to begin tapping your retirement savings.

If retiring slowly sounds appealing, it's probably smart to start investigating your alternatives sooner rather than later. If your employer values your work, he or she may consider rehiring you as an independent contractor or consultant or find some other way to keep you on board. But you'll probably have to take the initiative.



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Pastor helps build PHS lockers



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Pastor David White of Pelahatchie Baptist Church helped build lockers for both the girls and boys basketball teams. Pelahatchie High School (PHS) students in Bob Robinson's Ag /Shop Class helped build the boys' lockers for Coach Lavadius Lyes, boys' basketball coach. Pastor White had personally already built the girls' lockers for Coach Alexia Jones, the girls' coach. Pictured (l to r), left, with the lockers are: David White, Morgan Dawson, Caleb Moore, and Greg Beeman. The bottom photo features students who helped. Pictured (l to r) front row, are: Kenner Doster, Hayden Huff, Madelyn Cain, Marie Valentine, and McKinley Goodin; and back row: Lucas Jordan, Ethan White, Jacob Davidson, Caden Stansberry, Levi Goldman, Colten Nickles, and Jake Warren.



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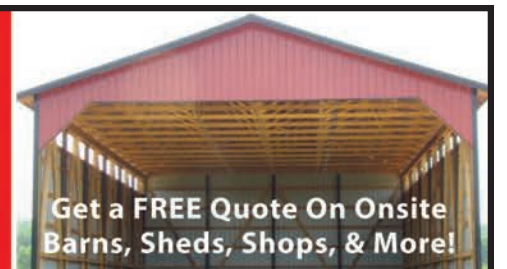
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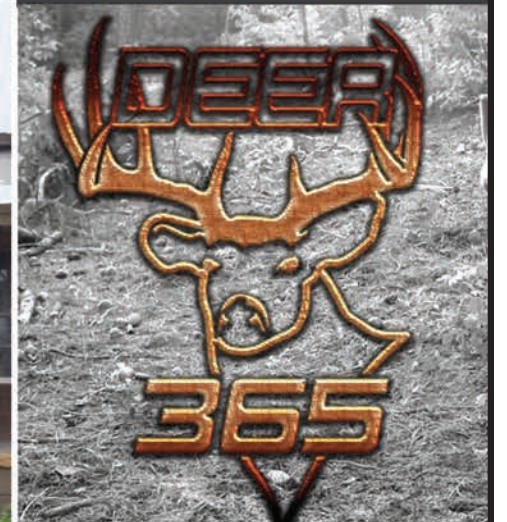


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