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Pelahatchie Chamber holds first meeting August 10

By Susie A. Wolfe

The newly organized Pelahatchie Chamber of Commerce was announced when its social media page showed up on Town feeds the first week of August. Then, its first meeting was held August 10.

The new Chamber officers were announced at the first meeting. Jordan Johnson is the director. An oncologist consultant specializing in compliance, billing and operations, Johnson will be working with operations and development, and Emily, his wife, is chief financial officer, treasurer. She has more than ten years of experience with Biomerieux, a worldwide laboratory instrument company.

Sherelda Jones, chief executive officer, has over 20 years of management and public health experience. She currently serves as a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator. Former Mayor Ryshonda Beechem is the Chamber's president.

Johnson said there have been discussions on this business-focused group for six months. It simply took filing with the State and paying a fee.

According to Johnson, who has acted as a Sky Lake subdivision spokesperson, he is involved "to put action and accountability behind the Town's motto, The Place to Prosper."

Originally from Texas, Johnson said that every city there had a Chamber to promote business. He



Special to Pelahatchie News

The volunteer officers for the new Pelahatchie Chamber of Commerce pictured (l to r) first row, are: Emily Johnson, chief financial officer and treasurer; and Jordan Johnson, director; and second row: Ryshonda Beechem, president; and Sherelda Jones, chief executive officer.

said the Pelahatchie Chamber already has 12-14 people and businesses ready to get started. Their goal is 20 businesses in three months.

The Town responded to the announcement of the new Pelahatchie Chamber with this statement: "It has been brought to our attention that there was a Pelahatchie Chamber of Commerce started here in town. This chamber has no affiliation with the Town of Pelahatchie. The Town of Pelahatchie is working with the Rankin County Chamber of Commerce and Rankin First. Feel free to contact Pelahatchie Town Hall if you have any questions."

Social media feedback on the announcement varied from congratulations to questions on the need for a separate Chamber from the Rankin County Chamber which has many local members.

The Chamber announced that they will hold monthly meetings.

Rankin County's first ATV park planned for Pelahatchie

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At the August 2 Board of Aldermen Meeting at City Hall, the Board approved the construction of an ATV park to be located at I-20 and Highway 43. The first ATV recreational facility in Rankin County is planned for the low-lying property behind the Chevron and Texaco gas stations.

Sam Yarbrough, representing Mud Only ATV Park, presented plans to the Board. He said the park would be a safe place where people can ride their four-wheelers through constructed trails and occasional mud bogs.

"There would also be some camper slots on the property,"



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said Yarbrough. "The camper slots would be for overnight or weekend camping. It would not be an open 24 hours, seven days a week situation. Maybe something like Thursday through Sunday."

Planning also includes a helipad on site as well as having qualified safety and emergency personnel. It will be well lit and be gated when not open.

Mayor Karl VanHorn has talked with the partners seeking to develop the property. These type parks bring on average 1,500 people a weekend, so the benefit to the Town of Pelahatchie is tax dollars. There are parks like this in Scott County and Jackson.

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Bucking Bronc Bash set for October 10

By Susie A. Wolfe

The sixth annual Rankin County Bucking Bronc Bash is set for 2 p.m. Saturday, October 10, at 146 Justin Drive off of Highway 43 North. Funds raised benefit the Leesburg Volunteer Fire Department and the Ever Reaching Community Outreach (ERCO). Approximately \$12,000 has been raised for charity in the 6 years of the event.

There will be bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, barrel racing, bull riding and some surprise audience-participating ranch rodeo events, according to Event Organizer Cole Bilbro, a local rodeo star.

Gates open at 1 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults and those under five are free. There will also be a concession stand. There are bleachers, but attendees can bring chairs and tents.

For more information or to sponsor the event, contact Bilbro at 601-826-2535.



Photo by Natasha Childers

The sixth annual Rankin County Bucking Bronc Bash again raises money for local non-profit ERCO as well as the Leesburg Volunteer Fire Department. Approximately \$12,000 has been raised for charity in the 6 years of the event.



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ERA soccer wins district game



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Kyla Kate Huffman goes for a save against Central Hinds in the August 24 game. The ERA Lady Pats won 6-1 in a district win. Coach Steven Simmons said, "Crucial moment in the game that kept us at 4-1. Outstanding save."

Chiefs win over Sebastopol



Special to Pelahatchie News
The Pelahatchie Chiefs hit the field for the first scrimmage of Friday Night Lights on August 20. The team, led by Head Coach Ryan Keeton, brought home a 7 - 0 win over Sebastopol. Fans are looking forward to a great season.



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NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	ARRANGEMENTS
Marlow Elijah Washington	48	Morton	7/29/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Betty Pair	91	Brandon	7/30/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Mary Crass	74	Morton	7/31/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Stephen Champ Chaney	33	Forest	8/1/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Dolly Latham	81	Lena	8/3/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Allie Mae Munn	85	Lena	8/4/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Michael Walden	61	Forest	8/10/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Laura Boyd	72	Jackson	8/10/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Dennis "Mike" Everett	49	Forest	8/13/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Doyle Weems	49	Forest	8/14/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Bennie Stevens	64	Forest	8/13/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Chancey Dansby	42	Lake	8/20/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Nicole White	48	Morton	8/21/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Donald Maxey	78	Lake	8/22/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Sabion Lopez	64	Brandon	8/23/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Lillie Mae Meador	88	Forest	8/23/2021	Wolf Funeral Services

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Hampton joins Pelahatchie Police Department



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The Pelahatchie Police Department added new Patrol Officer Joshua Hampton to the six-person force. Officer Hampton and his family have been residents of Pelahatchie since 2016. He has previously worked for the Mississippi Department of Corrections and Jackson Police Department with nearly 10 years combined experience in corrections and law enforcement. "Now he's here to serve the community where he lives and we are very pleased to have him," said Chief Robert Mahaffey.

RCSD addresses pandemic mental health issues

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It is important for students, parents and educators to be mindful of the mental health issues facing everyone during this pandemic. Rankin County School District (RCSD) provides resources on their website that address mental health issues. RCSD has employed licensed professional mental health counselors

that will be accessible to all students. Parents, teachers and counselors can refer a student that may be in need of counseling due to a mental health issue. Students who use another mental health service or professional counselor would not be eligible for this service. All referrals are confidential. Please contact your RCSD school for more information.



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East Rankin Academy announces 2021 football team



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The East Rankin Academy (ERA) 2021 football pictured (l to r) front row, are: Will Holbrooks, Nico Stringa, Lucas Cates, Aiden Harrell, Bryson Loe, Tate Owens, Reece Cordell, and Mason Morgan; second row: Ashton Buffington, Haden Arinder, Colin Harris, Brennan McDill, Walker Floyd, Riley Huff, William Woods, and Tanner Rhodes; third row: Tate Fox, Hunter Smith, Liam Wilkerson, Slate Henry, Brayden Warner, Hunter Bearden, Landon Haas, and Kellen Maurer; fourth row: Gavin Moss, Caleb Leach, Hudson Bynum, Curt Burkes, Avery Pryor, Devin Henderson, Curt Smith, and Garrett Gregory; and fifth row: Manager Tyler Williams with Coach Jeff Breland, Head Coach Brad Breland, Coach Jake Pickett, and Coach Dan Davis. Not Pictured is Caiden Hall.



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Manager, Amy Bailey, and Jennifer Quick;
and (L to R) back row, are: Cindy Jo
Weimer, and Brian Hall/Owner.

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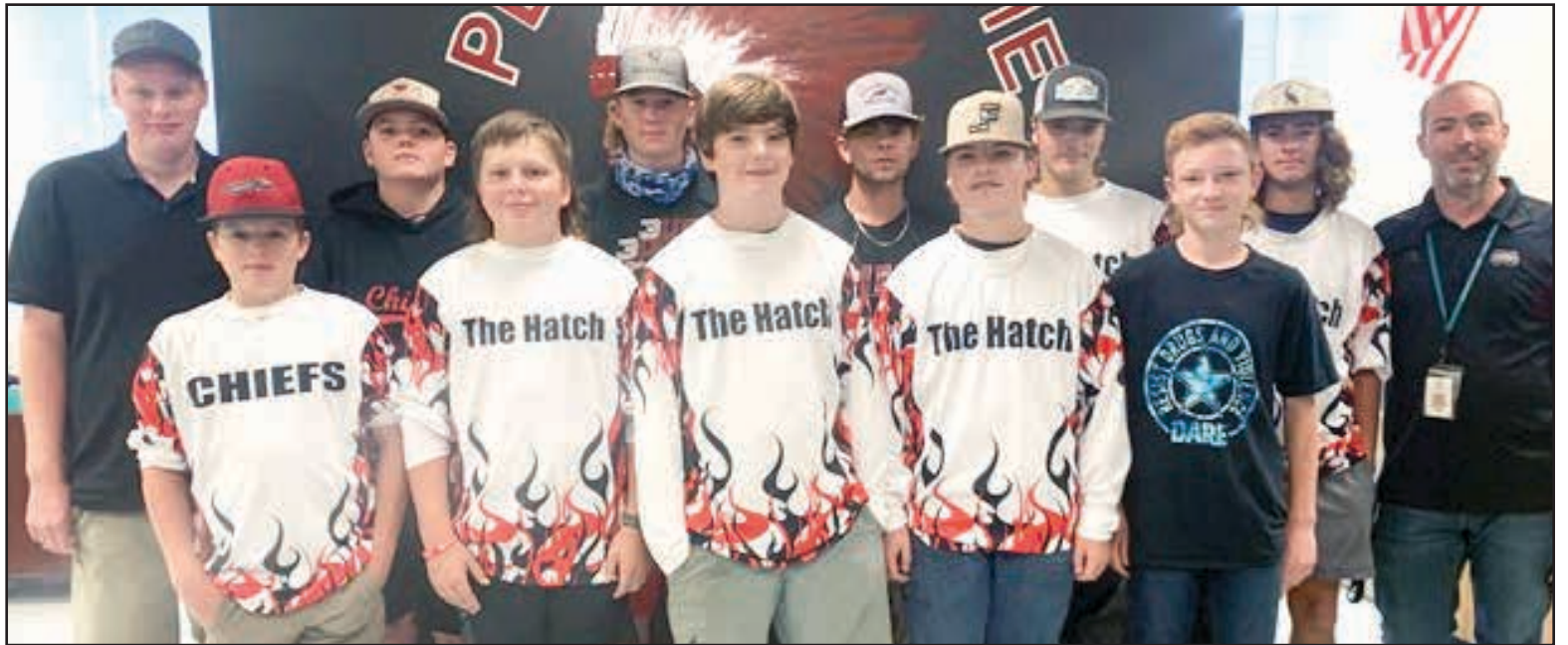
Pelahatchie High School starts Bass Fishing crew

Special to Pelahatchie News

This is the first year that Pelahatchie High School (PHS) has offered Bass Fishing as an activity. The first tournament will be held September 18 at the Ross Barnett Reservoir and will be contested with the North, Central, and South regions. The one with the highest poundage wins.

The 14-year PHS Special Education teacher Sammy Goodin is the coach of the team. He said that MHSA sanctioned Bass Fishing as an activity three years ago, but Pelahatchie hasn't participated until now. We are in the Central Region.

The team is still forming and are still looking for team members and sponsors. Contact Coach Sammy Goodin at sammy.goodin@rcsd.ms for details.



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Members of the bass fishing crew pictured (l to r), first row, are: Peyton Holmes, Blake Hall, Landon Moore, Tyler Johns, and Ethan Stevens; and second row: Stewart, Patrick Walters, Colton Varner, Nick Boykin, Hayden Westbrook, Hayden Huff, and Coach Sammy Goodin. Not pictured are Hunter Cain, Haylee Atkinson, Tristan Burns, Colten Becker, and Joshua Davidson.

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Pelahatchie High School names Students of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School named the August Students of the Month. Pictured (l to r) in the top photo are all around winners: Leslie Hebert, PHS instructional coach; Christian Beeman, Annie Howard, Samantha Adams, Deuce Ward, and Dr. Teague Burchfield, principal; and in the bottom photo are athletic winners: Coach Nikki Nutt, volleyball; Coach Ryan Keeton, athletic director; Adyson Wraight; Breanna War; Collins Doster; Chrystianna Beeman; Addison Archie; Mary Taylor Nutt; Nicole Rainer; and Dr. Teague Burchfield.

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Destructive fall armyworm epidemic going on now



By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

Special to Pelahatchie News

Fall armyworms are the most damaging insect pests of Mississippi hayfields and pastures. These caterpillars can destroy a field of bermudagrass in just a few days. Fall armyworms are unpredictable pests. Some years, high populations do not occur until fall, and the most heavily infested fields require only two sprays. Other years, like seems to be the case this year, damaging infestations appears as early as June, and some fields require 6 or more treatments.

Armyworms cannot survive the winter here in Mississippi. Populations rebuild every year from moths that fly in from locations farther south, places such as South America, the Caribbean Islands, and Southern Florida. Some years, the moths arrive earlier than others or find better growing conditions once they get here. This is also why infestations usually occur earlier in the southern part of the state, and populations are highest in late summer and fall. After they arrive from the south, it usually takes them a few generations to build damaging numbers.

Fall armyworm caterpillars vary in color depending on their stage of devel-

opment and diet. Most are green or tan, some can be dark brown or almost black, especially later in the year. The body has dark spots. Most notably, there are four spots at the rear of the body that form a square, and a distinct white inverted Y shape on the head. Mature caterpillars are about 1 ½ inch long.

Fall armyworm caterpillars take about 14 days to complete their larval development, and it takes about 1 month to complete a generation. Development rate can vary depending on temperature and other factors. As with most caterpillars, about 80 percent of total leaf consumption occurs in the last 2-3 days of the caterpillar stage. This is why fall armyworm damage can occur so quickly. Grass that looked fine on Friday morning can be nothing but stems by Monday afternoon.

Newly hatched caterpillars are too small to feed all the way through a leaf blade. So, they begin by feeding on the underside of a leaf, but they leave the clear upper epidermis intact. This creates tiny "windowpanes" in the grass blades that appear silver or white. When large

numbers of small larva are just beginning to feed in a field, the grass often has the frosted appearance because of thousands of "windowpanes."

Producers also watch for egrets and other birds feeding in a hayfield as an indicator of fall armyworm problems.

If you see lots of birds in your hayfield, you may want to check to see what they are feeding on.



Photo by MSU Extension Service/Blake Layton

Producers also become concerned about fall army worms if they see large numbers of moths flying in the headlights, as they drive across a hayfield after dark. Seeing large numbers of

moths in headlights after dark is a good reason to check for armyworms. Learning the early signs of army worms can help save a cutting of hay.

The best way to avoid losing a cutting of hay to fall armyworms is to visit fields every 3 or 4 days and check for fall armyworms. It is best to get out of the truck and get on our hands and knees and look closely. Count the larvae that fall to the ground in a 1-square foot area. Do this at several locations in each field.

Treatment is recommended when

counts exceed three caterpillars that are one-fourth inch or longer per square foot.

Fall army worms are primarily pests of grasses, including ag crops such as corn, sorghum, rice and millet. They especially like bermudagrass. It does not matter to them if the bermudagrass is in a yard, golf course, or is grown for hay. They also like some wide-leafed weedy grasses, such as barnyard grass, and broadleaf signal grass.

Fall army worms will attack early planted winter grazing crops, such as wheat and ryegrass, and can destroy stands as these crops are emerging.

Over the past few years, there have been improvements in treatment options for fall army worms. Traditional products include Sevin and malathion, which are still available. Newer products, which are cheaper, more effective, and longer lasting, are now available. These include several pyrethroid insecticides (Mustang Maxx, Baythroid, and Karate), and the insect growth disruptors Intrepid and Dimilin.

When selecting insecticides for Fall Armyworms, please pay attention to the preharvest interval. The preharvest interval can vary depending on whether the grass will be grazed or cut for hay. Also, "days to harvest" means days to cutting, not bailing.

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Pastor's perspective: Take a day of rest from labor



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

Special to Pelahatchie News

"And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done." Genesis 2:3 (NIV)

In 1882, U.S. cabinet maker Peter McGuire introduced his idea for a new holiday saying, "Let us have a festive day during which a parade through the streets of the city would permit public tribute to American industry."

Several states designated a day to recognize workers with a holiday. Then on June 28, 1894, by an act of Congress, the first Monday of September was designated as "Labor Day," creating a Federal holiday. President Grover Cleveland signed the act into law. Labor Day marks the unofficial end of summer vacation and provides many Americans with the opportunity to have a long weekend for an end of summer trip, or a cookout with friends.

When I was young, I remember my father saying that every day was a "labor day" for him! And I also remember that school always started classes the day af-

ter Labor Day!

A day off from labor, however, was not a new concept when Labor Day was officially designated as a holiday. The concept of a day of rest was first declared by the Lord in Genesis. Scripture tells us that God rested the seventh day



Special to Pelahatchie News

after creating the world, and He deemed the day of rest as holy. He didn't call it Labor Day - He called it the Sabbath.

Sabbath is not a day of tribute to workers, it's a day of tribute to their Maker. It's a day to rest your body while renewing your mind. It's a day to focus

on your Maker and your relationship with Him. In the Jewish tradition, the Sabbath is the focal point of the week - not just a day of laundry or list-making to gear back up for the week ahead. The Jewish people spent three days preparing for Sabbath, and then, three days re-

freshing on your 'schedule,' but on the opportunity to meet with God."

Kent also writes: "We are created in the image of God, and he modeled for us a way of life that makes sense for how we are created. Here's how to dance the dance of life," he said: "Work, be creative, use your imagination, throw yourself into it, whether you are washing dishes, reading to your kids and running a household, working at your job, or running a business. At the end of each day, stop. Take a rest, eat a good meal, get enough sleep, and refresh yourself. Take time to think about your day, to notice where God was in it and where you were blessed, and to say, 'It's good.'" Then go back at it the next day. And after six days, take a whole day off. And say, 'It's really good.'" Spend a whole day just pausing, just reflecting on how really good God is, and then start the dance again, at a sustainable pace."

That sounds really good to me. So, may this Labor Day mark the day that you and I decide to rest and become God-focused people. Happy Labor Day! Be sure to take your family to church on Sunday!

(Parts of this devotion were taken from an article by Rachel Olsen.)

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Another great start to the school year



By Guest Columnist
Dr. Teague Burchfield,
Principal, Pelahatchie
High School

The start of the 2021-22 school year brought us an unexpected surprise as we saw the COVID-19 virus show its ugly face again. While our experiences over the past year have given us valuable insight for planning and preparation for this year, there are still many uncertainties that have forced us all to continue to tread lightly in this environment. We appreciate your patience and grace as we continue to successfully navigate the 2021-22 school year.

As always, safety comes first, and we ask that you continue to assist us by practicing daily health checks with your children, promoting the use of masks while inside our facilities, and by continuing to meet the current social distancing expectations. Doing so will allow us to continue providing a



Special to Pelahatchie News

first-class education for your children. On that note...Have you checked your child's grades yet? One of the greatest challenges that teachers face in today's school environment is incomplete assignments and grades. We are constantly coaching our students to stay current in their studies and assignments.

To curb these concerns, you can be a huge influence as an observer of your child's grades. Unlike my high school experience, today's parents have access to attendance and grades in real time through the Powerschool app. Downloading this app allows you to stay ahead of any issues involving attendance, tardies, assignments, and grades. As parents, you are a tremendous force in your child's education; help us help them stay current with all of their class-

work and assignments! Now back from the Labor Day Weekend, let's continue to work together to ensure our students (your children) are successful through the first nine weeks and beyond. Go Chiefs!

Pelahatchie Elementary welcomes six new teachers

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Elementary School

welcomed six new teachers for the 2021-2022 school year, teaching K5 to sixth grade.



Regan Harrell, Third Grade



Adrianne Manning, Kindergarten



Anna Morrison, Sixth Grade



Maegan Parker, Kindergarten



Jessica Shamburger, Third Grade



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Sarah Skaggs, Sixth Grade

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Pelahatchie Library names August winners



The Pelahatchie Library announced the winners of games held during August. Helen Watkins (top, right), won the candy guessing game; Toy Wolfe and Rachel Wolfe (left) won four M-Braves tickets; and Cameron Massey (bottom, right) won the Beanstack summer reading challenge for Pelahatchie.

Photos special to Pelahatchie News

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FREE \$10 GIFT CARD

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A collage of four images: a golf course, people relaxing on a beach, a woman getting a massage, and a casino scene with people playing at a table.

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