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NEWS Pelahatchie

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

2022 Legislative Session starts out with a bang passing historical legislation



*By Guest Columnist
Rep. Tom Miles, State
Representative from
House District #75*

Special to
Pelahatchie News

We gaveled in on January 3 to start the 2022 Legislative Session, and since then, the House passed two historic pieces of legislation.

If you've been following the issue of Mississippi losing about 3,000 teachers over the past couple of years due to low salaries and other issues, the House passed HB 530 on Tuesday, January 11, to help stop the exodus. In fact, under this plan, starting teachers will be paid more than both the national the South-eastern average for starting teachers.

The Strategically Accelerating the Recruitment and Retention of Teachers (START) Act of 2022 would raise the average starting salary of a Mississippi teacher to \$43,000 – a \$6,000 increase.

The measure would also give every teacher a pay raise between \$4,000 and \$6,000, effective at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, and give teacher's assistants a salary bump of \$2,000.

Included in the bill are step increases that are more than what teachers now receive for years served.

Significantly, the bill passed overwhelmingly 114 – 6. I am proud to have co-sponsored this much-needed help for our educators and their assistants. They deserve to be respected, and paying them appropriate to their value to

Mississippi shows our respect.

House Bill 531, the Mississippi Tax Freedom Act of 2022, was introduced on Wednesday. The bill would eventually eliminate the state income tax,

placing Mississippi as the tenth state in the United States to do so. Significantly, it would also eventually lower the sales tax on groceries to 4 percent. Other items will carry an 8.5 percent sales



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tax, up from 7 percent. Farmers will continue to have the same lower sales tax they have now. We've always had complaints about the high price of car tags, and this legislation will also cut car

tags in half by 50% if signed into law. Supporters believe that taking this action will help improve the state's economy going forward. It should eventually put about \$2 billion back into taxpayer pockets. HB 531 passed by a vote of 104-7.

With these two votes, my colleagues and I showed that we are absolutely determined to work together to make things better for our fellow Mississippians.

I expect we will take up the Medical Marijuana issue soon. The Senate passed their version last week 47-5. The medicinal properties of marijuana have been shown to help the pain of chronic conditions and significantly improve the quality of life of certain patients. I expect the House to pass this law out of respect for those who suffer and the 70+ percent of Mississippians who approved of the idea in the 2020 initiative vote.

The first measure I filed during this session
continued on page 6

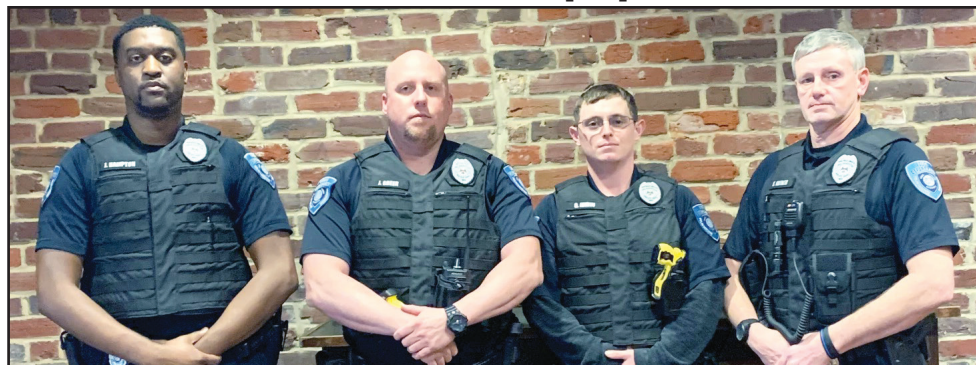
Pelahatchie gets snow on January 16



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Three to five inches of snow fell on Pelahatchie Sunday, January 16, 2022. It did not snow on the whole Metro Area but picked spots east of downtown Jackson. Brandon, only a few miles away, did not have any stick, while Leesburg northeast of Town had the largest amount in the Metro at 11 inches. Here is a sneak peek at photos from around Town plus snowmen crafted by children in the area. See more snow photos on page 9.

Pelahatchie PD receives equipment donations



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie Police did not have the latest equipment needed to serve the Town. That's when the Madison/Rankin County DA stepped in. Pictured (l to r) are: Officer Joshua Hampton, Sgt. Jeremy Greer, Officer Garrett Irwin, and Officer Stephen Koerner.

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The Madison/Rankin District Attorney's Office recently purchased new ballistic vests, flashlights and holsters for the Pelahatchie Police Department. D.A. Bubba Bramlett reached out to Chief of Police Robert Mahaffey in re-

cent months to inquire about equipment needs for the officers. At the time, officers were wearing expired ballistic vests donated by another agency that were lacking some basic needs such as rechargeable flashlights, and modern holsters to accommodate weapon lights.

continued on page 6

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Cross Roads offers GriefShare Ministry

By Guest Columnist 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 16 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 1, at 6:30 PM. 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



Special to Pelahatchie News

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 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 Cross-roads Road, Pelahatchie; 5 miles south of I-20 on Hwy. 43 South. For more information, contact Sheila Bradshaw, GriefShare Ministry Coordinator, at (601) 546-2297 or visit the Cross Roads website at www.crossroadspel.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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EXTRA Xs and Os – We all need love

By Guest Columnist Mika Hartman

My husband and I have been married over 24 years. Celebrating us today is as important as it was our first Valentine's Day. The first one, CJ came to my work and left perfume on my windshield. "Tommy Girl" perfume became my new favorite; I can still smell it. Not because it was the most wonderful smell out there, but because it smelled of love - his love for me. No, I don't still wear "Tommy Girl," but I can't forget how this little box made me feel. We hadn't known each other very long... and 24 years later, I remember that day perfectly.

CJ and I have three children together. Our hopes and daily prayers consist of the exact same thing for all three children, even though they all have a decade between them: True love, passion for life, determination, and success at a level they feel successful (all up to each of them to decide what these are to them) - all with God as the priority. This list is the same for many parents, including mine.

For my two older children, these are achievable milestones, as they should be. They will be on a path of their choosing, and all doors are open to them. They can dream big and do whatever their determination level goes for. It is up to them to achieve the life they desire. I don't have to advocate or change laws to see them reach their full potential or to walk through life with someone they love. Just prayers are needed.

My youngest child, Hudson, has roadblocks set up that many have no idea about. I didn't know all of them until his arrival. He's only 3, and, while the laws may be improving, there is still so much that dictates the life he can have. Hudson was born with Down syndrome, a large hole in his heart and transient leukemia.

It's "Love Day" month - did you know many people with disabilities are unable to be married because of the penalties that they would face?

If two persons with Down syndrome fall in love and want to walk in this world together, they are penalized if they officially wed. The Federal Government says that they (the persons living with Down syndrome) will lose needed benefits if they marry, punishing them for seeking love at a deeper level. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid would deem incomes as joint, making the couple ineligible. And all cash gifts to the couple have to be reported as income, as well.

Other helpful programs, like Childhood Disability Benefits (CDB) and Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), would be affected because of the parent connection that automatically goes away upon marriage.

As it stands today for our friends: You can fall in love, but you can't get married. Or, you can get married, and face your challenges with no help. That's not American.

Love is a powerful gift, but it is not so powerful that your medical needs vanish.

When I asked for guidance on this issue, I was told by a good friend that he has a friend who is calling her wedding ceremony "fake" in order not to not lose their benefits. How awful to need to lessen or degrade the most important day in your life as "fake." Heartbreaking. But the person with Down syndrome recognizes that needed benefits trump a real ceremony.

It's also unknown that our friends with Down syndrome can be paid "subminimum" wage.... It's not even a real word, but it happens all over. This program was originally created to help open employment doors for people with disabilities. It was intended to help integrate the disability community and provide income that wouldn't disrupt any health services already provided.

But it worked against them, and it gave society the opportunity to devalue a person based on their disability. We are valued in life by our worth, productivity, opportunity and abilities. When a person is paid as little as 20 cents per hour, the message becomes that they are only worth that. Many states are making changes to this, but Mississippi hasn't yet.

Now, we don't pay 20 cents an hour that I am aware of, but how often do you see a person with a disability like Down syndrome working in your community? I live on the Coast, and I personally know of only one. You read that right! Many families find themselves in this very situation and either choose to keep their adult child at home or create an opportunity for the family to open a business.

Now let's put these two big dreams I have for my children together: Hayden and Henley can get married with a ceremony and a celebration of love; Hudson can't, not legally, at least, and still maintain the benefits he needs. My older children can

do whatever job they seek and be valued and earn raises/have new opportunities; Hudson will be devalued by society and paid under minimum wage for doing his job, or I will have to create him real opportunity.

This is the first time I've typed this, and my heart is skipping beats.

Hudson's diagnosis is Down syndrome. He has a life expectancy of greater than 65 years old. He has a strong will, and he CAN do big things. Every other person in life gets to choose a path. Why can't Hudson? I also want to add this: God gave Hudson his extra chromosome. Hudson didn't ask for it. He was created this way. And he's wonderful. Different isn't bad; his different is beautiful. The world needs the love he gives.

Some will argue that raising the pay to minimum wage across the board for all will lead to unintended consequences; not all good intentions play out as all good. I have heard this one already several times on my path to bringing the needed change. If you force employers to pay more, then they may not hire at all a person with Down syndrome.

And that is the problem.

It is embedded in us that they (people with Down syndrome) don't deserve better and fair wages. If a person has the heart to hire based only on the bottom line, they missed the mark. This wasn't created to make a bottom line better. It was designed to integrate wonderful, loving, happy people into the workplace and provide opportunities for them to grow and learn as active and productive citizens in our communities.

Some will argue that marriage isn't important, either, or that it is not a reasonable request. I disagree. Having someone you love to walk through this world with and be your best friend on the deepest level possible is everything!

Now let's put these two together: Marriage and a great job that values your contributions... the dream for all of us, right?

Now the money part. Better wages and two incomes becoming possible for our friends may deem that all the extra assistance isn't needed. But I want to ask you to think about it this way: a

person living with Down syndrome has many health challenges, ones you'll never face, and the cost of healthcare is very expensive.

Hudson was born with a large hole in his heart that will require multiple surgeries, transient leukemia, hypothyroidism, missing tear ducts, and more. All require medical attention. He also eats by a g-tube. His feeding equipment is over \$2,000 per month. I've recently been denied a wheelchair for Hudson. The cost is thousands for his chair. Hearing that items on a wheelchair are "a luxury" is ridiculous. I need it for his safety on long walks, trips, and doctors' visits, because of his low muscle tone. His adaptive bike was \$9,000. My point in sharing is that even with fair wages and two incomes through marriage, the necessary medical expenses that would no longer be covered by benefits if a couple marries can reach astronomical proportions, and a couple should not have to choose between medical care and love.

Love comes in many forms. It comes in a hand holding yours as you walk; it comes in a smile that cheers you up just when you need it; it comes in looking to the future with that special person.

Love can also be found in a mom moving mountains. I love Hudson so much, I will move these mountains; I have to. My dreams for my children will remain, though my prayers are different for Hudson. I pray I can be the voice he needs. I pray that he won't know all the discrimination that is out there when I am done. I pray he gets the life he deserves. I pray that life gives him the love in return that he gives. With God, all things are possible. Any help moving these mountains is truly appreciated.

February is Congenital Heart Defect (CHD) Awareness Month. Hudson is a CHD Warrior! Celebrate all our little fighters with me; they are heroes!

To help, please contact your local Down Syndrome organizations to find out how to get involved. If you'd like, you can follow Hudson's journey on Instagram at Team-HudsonTheStrong.

Extra hugs and extra kisses this February. Remember that love conquers all.

EDITOR'S NOTE: CJ and Mika Hartman are personal friends of Pelahatchie News' publisher, Clay Mansell. We wanted to use our publication to share Mika's journey as she works to change laws, perceptions and anything else she chooses to tackle to make our state a better, more inclusive one. Her son, Hudson, has Down Syndrome, and she will share his journey and hers as she works with lawmakers to make Mississippi a better place to live for everyone. Please visit our website to view her blog and important information on how we can all help make Mississippi better.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Price wins Mississippi History Bee



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy student Will Price won first place and was declared Varsity Champion of the Mississippi History Bee Winter League Tournament on January 15. He qualified to compete in the National History Bee in Washington D.C. April 21-24, 2022.

2022 MAIS Overall State Spelling Bee



Cason Patrick

Special to Pelahatchie News

R.T. Tate won first place in the MAIS District III Eighth Grade Spelling Bee, and Cason Patrick won first place in the MAIS District III Seventh Grade Spelling Bee.

The two ERA students continued to the overall state competition on January 21, where Cason Patrick finished first place



Special to Pelahatchie News

R.T. Tate

in seventh grade and R.T. Tate finished 1st Place for eighth grade in the MAIS Overall State Spelling Bee.

Tate also finished second place in the combined 4th-8th Grade MAIS Overall State Competition, and Patrick finished first place in the combined 4th-8th Grade MAIS Overall State Competition to be named MAIS Overall State Champion.

Cross Roads Baptist Church



Sunday Schedule:

8:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship Service led by Praise Team
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
11:00 - Blended Worship Service led by the Choir

Wednesday Schedule:

5:30 p.m. - Family Dinner (Call to make reservations)
6:30 p.m. - Prayer Meeting; Youth Worship; Children's Activities, Couples Support Group; College Age Bible Study; Ladies Bible Study

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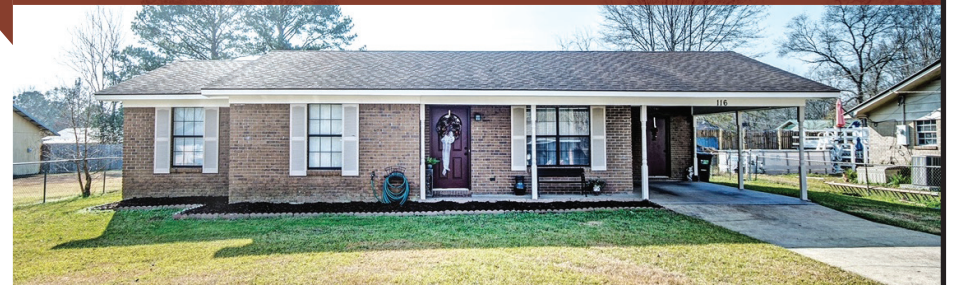
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"More homes sold in Pelahatchie than any other agent."

Goldman named RCSD Student of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Rankin County School District (RCSD) named Oaklee Goldman the Student of the Month for December. Pictured (l to r) are: Mijja Ward, Pelahatchie Elementary Assistant Principal; Goldman; and Robin Sanders, Head Principal.

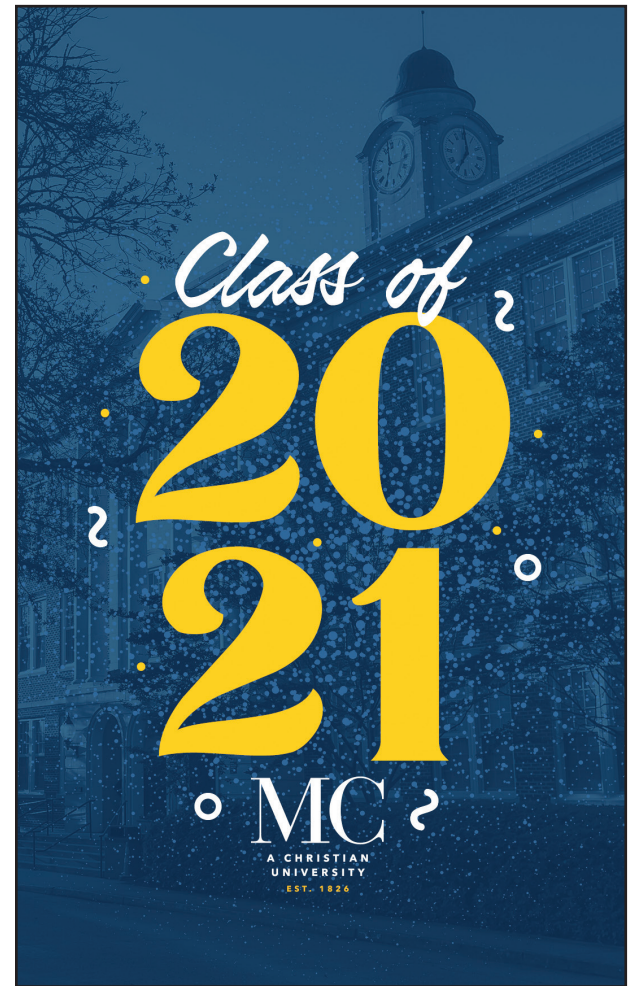
Local students graduate from Mississippi College

Special to Pelahatchie News

Mississippi College (MC) honored the graduates of both summer and fall semesters in three campus ceremonies on Dec. 17. Local students Jessica Dearman, Cody Myers, and Amori Todd graduated.

Dr. Blake Thompson, MC president, welcomed the graduates and gave opening remarks, while Dr. Tommy Leavelle, retired professor in the Department of Mathematics at MC and the 2020-21 Distinguished Professor of the Year, gave the Commencement Address.

Thompson reiterated MC's theme, "Rise Up," for the 2021-22 Academic Year, inviting the MC Family to make this a year built on the "good work" God calls us all to do. The encouragement taken from Nehemiah 2:18 illustrates that, although situations can change at a moment's notice, God will strengthen our hands.



Special to Pelahatchie News

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 - (b) Are known to mental health or state housing agency to have been arrested or incarcerated in the last year due to conduct related to mental illness; or
 - (c) Are known to the mental health or state housing agency to have been homeless for one full year or have had four or more episodes of homelessness in the last three years
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The logo for Rankin County Co-op features the word "RANKIN" in large, bold, white capital letters with a slight shadow. Below it, "COUNTY" is written in smaller, white capital letters. At the bottom, "CO-OP" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. The entire logo is set against a dark background.

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2022 Legislative Session starts out with a bang passing historical legislation

continued from page 1

sion is House Bill 112, which provides that families of first responders who die from exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace are eligible for compensation under the Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters Death Benefits Trust Fund. These individuals are putting their lives on the line as they go about their duties caring for the desperately ill. I believe the least we can do is help relieve the stress of funeral expenses for their families if the worst happens.

Monday, January 17, was the deadline for introduction of general bills and constitutional amendments. We have

until February 1 to pass those measures out of committee. If they don't survive the committee process, they'll be dead for the session.

As always, I invite your suggestions and comments on our work at the Capitol. You can stay up to speed at the Legislature's website www.legislature.ms.us and during the live broadcasts of floor action available through that page or YouTube.

Feel free to reach out to me anytime at tmiles@house.ms.gov, Facebook, or you can call my office at 601-469-7886.

Pelahatchie PD receives equipment donations

continued from page 1

Bramlett, formerly the city judge in Pelahatchie prior to being appointed DA in July, 2015, said, "We are fortunate to have a fund that allows us to assist law enforcement. Chief Mahaffey told us about the needs, and we were glad to provide the necessary equipment. Pelahatchie is very near and dear to me. My office will continue to support where we can."

Chief Mahaffey said, "Smaller police

departments such as Pelahatchie Police Department (P.D.) often struggle to fund some of the most basic equipment for its officers. D.A. Bramlett recognized that, and his contribution will aid these officers in the performance of their duties, allowing them to work safer and more effectively. We are very grateful for D. A. Bramlett's donation and support of the Pelahatchie Police Department."

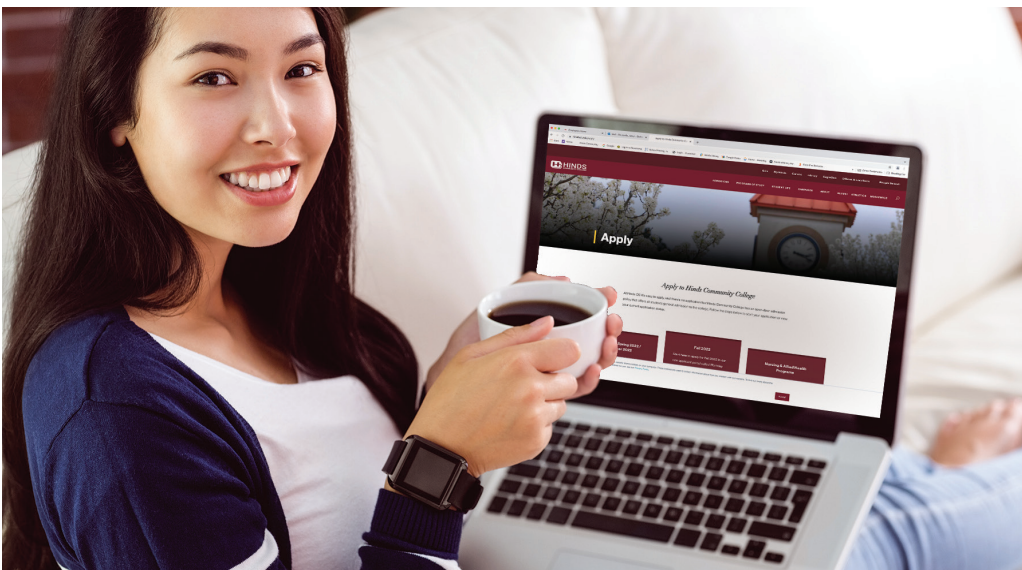
PHS Pair win at MHSAA Fishing Tournament



Special to Pelahatchie News

At the MHSAA Central Region Bass Fishing Tournament held January 22, two Pelahatchie High School anglers finished fourth and lunker. Pictured (l to r) are Hayden Huff, Coach Sammy Goodin, and Tyler Johns.

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7th grade Lady Patriots finish the season undefeated



Special to Pelahatchie News

The seventh grade East Rankin Lady Patriots finished the regular season with a perfect record. Coach Rhodes said that she is really proud of these girls. "They work so hard everyday and have the willingness to be coached and do what it takes to be great every day. I am excited that their hard work paid off and resulted in an undefeated season. They are going to be a special group one day if they stay together and keep working hard." Pictured (l to r) front row, are: Cami Owens, EllaGrace Fortenberry, Leah Jernigan, Brooklynn Woitt, Ali Beth Wilbourne, Andi Mohr, Macy Jones, Callie Thomas Eichelberger, and Cayleigh Gatewood; and back row: Krissi Joe Simmons, Jayla Wedgeworth, Claire Cole, Coach Brooke Rhodes, Audrey Brown, Elizabeth Thrash, Liz Stevens, Brynlee Davis, and Hayden Faulkner.

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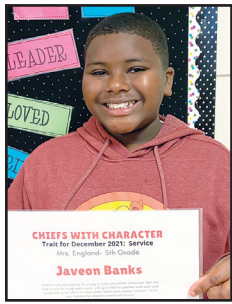
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December Character Trait Students at Pelahatchie Elementary



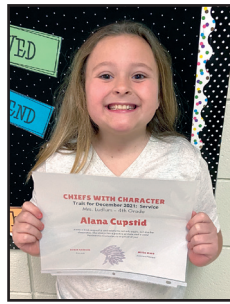
Javeon Banks



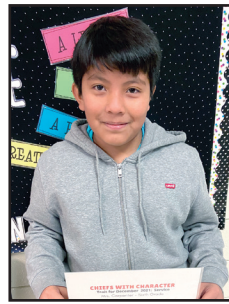
Liam Coleman



Hannah Cooper



Alana Cupstid



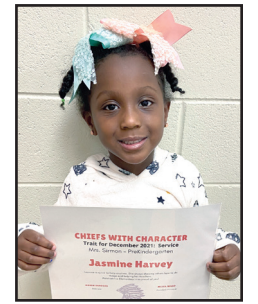
Carter Edwards



Karley Griffin



Kylie Griffin



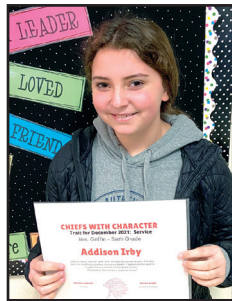
Jasmine Harvey



Julia Henderson



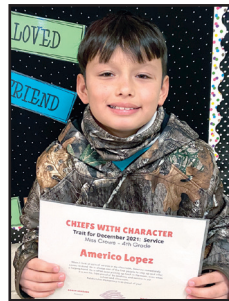
Mahogani Hollis



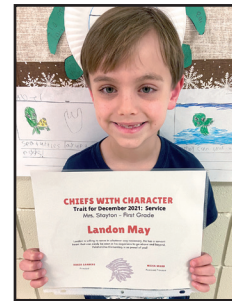
Addison Irby



Mikayla Lee



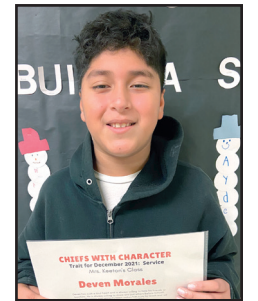
Americo Lopez



Landon May



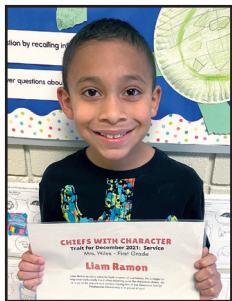
Jakyan McLaurin



Deven Morales



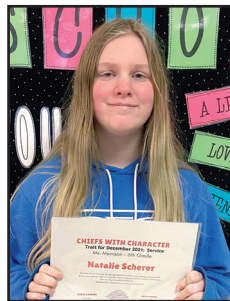
Haylee



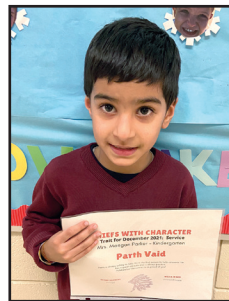
Liam Ramon



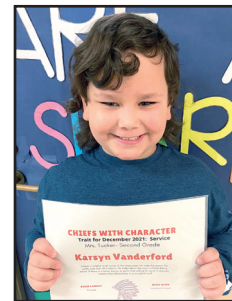
Macy Renfroe



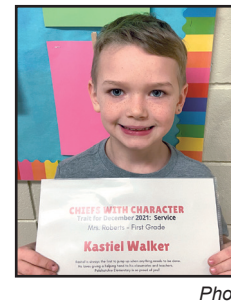
Natalie Scherer



Parth Vaid



Karsyn Vanderford



Kastiel Walker



Lexi Wilkerson

Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) named the December 2022 Chiefs with Character Trait students of the month. The students who earned this honor are shown above.

Harper named to UA Deans List



Photo by Jennifer Rodrigues

Special to Pelahatchie News

Jackson Harper was named to The University of Alabama Deans List for Fall Semester 2021.

A total of 11,979 students enrolled during the fall 2021 term at The University of Alabama made the dean's list

with academic records of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale), or the president's list with academic records of 4.0 (all A's).

The UA dean's and president's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or to undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.



of Rankin County

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Snow, snowmen and snow woman cover Pelahatchie



Photo by Pelahatchie News
Trees behind Rhodes and Robby near
railroad tracks



Special to Pelahatchie News
Asher Davis and his snowman



Photo by Pelahatchie News
Knox Ross Jr.
Community Center



Photo by Cammi Faulkner



Special to Pelahatchie News
Braydon's little snowman he
built in Pelahatchie Ms on
Sunday January 16, 2022.



Special to Pelahatchie News
Stephanie Goss at Yogi
Bear's



Photo by Pelahatchie News
Mimosa Street house before dawn.



Special to Pelahatchie News
Joseph and Carlyle Grogan



Photo by Pelahatchie News
Heslip Street mailbox

OBITUARY

Ted White
June 20, 1939-January 19, 2022

Ted White, a native of Rankin County, MS and a resident of Elberta, AL, passed away on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at the age of 82.

Ted was a home builder in Baldwin County, AL since 1980. He enjoyed designing and building custom projects. He loved working and teaching others how to build. Ted was always smiling and supportive of everyone. He loved his family and friends and greatly adored his grandchildren. He was a member at City Hope Church in Foley.

Ted is preceded in death by his parents, Charlie and Mildred White; his only son, Mark; brothers, Ned, Jack and Joe White; sisters-in-law, Evelyn White, Brenda White; nephews, Jackie White, Bob White and Ryan White

He is survived by his lovely wife of 62 years, Mary White; two daughters, Alison (Wade) Stanford of Orange Beach, AL and Amanda (Damon) Stewart of Spanish Fort, AL; grandchildren Leslie (Matt) White-Brantley, Tamara White, Jamison Stewart, Jordan (Sam) Holt, and Jaclyn Stewart; great-grandchildren, Forrest White, Trinity King, Lola Heaton, Blaine White, Bailey Nickerson and Bentley Stewart; siblings, Tommy (Ann) White, Kenneth White; sisters-in-law, Lanell White, Jo White and Evelyn McMillan; many nieces, nephews, cousin and friends; and his beloved



Special to Pelahatchie News

son's pet, Runt Runt.

A celebration of life service was held on Saturday, January 29, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. at Hughes Funeral Home, 26209 Pollard Road, Daphne, AL. The family received friends for a time of visitation beginning at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made to City Hope Church in Foley.

Expressions of condolence for the family may be made at www.hughesfh.com. Hughes Funeral Home, Daphne, AL, is assisting the family.

Bilbro family named January Farm Bureau spotlight



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Farm Bureau Board Member spotlight for January is Cole Bilbro and Hanna Bilbro. They are shown with their children Lodi, four, and Prescott, 2.

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Pelahatchie Elementary practices kindness



By Guest Columnist
Robin Sanders,
Principal, Pelahatchie
Elementary

Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) participated in the 11th annual GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE January 24-28. Our students joined nearly 17 million youth in 115 countries to create a kinder world. Our world can certainly use some extra kindness right now.

This Challenge, presented by the global nonprofit Kids for Peace, was launched with three Carlsbad, California schools in 2012 to address bullying and to foster connection, inclusion and compassion. The annual program has multiplied in enrollment each year, having grown to nearly 17 million students in 33,000 schools, reaching across all 50 states and 115 countries. Jill McManigal, co-founder and executive director of Kids for Peace, explains, "We are living through a global pandemic which is hugely impacting our families, students, communities and the world. We are truly grateful for all educators who not only ensure safe school environments but are also committed to creating school cultures that promote equity, community, empathy and social-emotional wellness. The Great Kindness Challenge provides educators and students the tools, oppor-

tunity and encouragement to actively create a positive, respectful and inclusive school culture for all."

Schools and students are drawn to the program for its positive and proactive approach to creating kinder school climates through a simple checklist of intentional acts of kindness. The checklist was distributed to students at the beginning of The Great Kindness Challenge week. While the excitement of The Great Kindness Challenge is enormous, it is the simple acts of kindness that prove to be the biggest hit. Some of the items on the checklist are: wave at 25 people, help your teacher with a needed



Special to Pelahatchie News

task, read a book to a younger student and safely sit with a new group of kids at lunch.

Big or small, every act of kindness makes a difference. We can all help make a positive difference. Let's join together, lift each other up, cheer each other on and do our part to create a kinder Pelahatchie and a more compassionate world. For more information about the Great Kindness Challenge visit www.greatkindnesschallenge.org.



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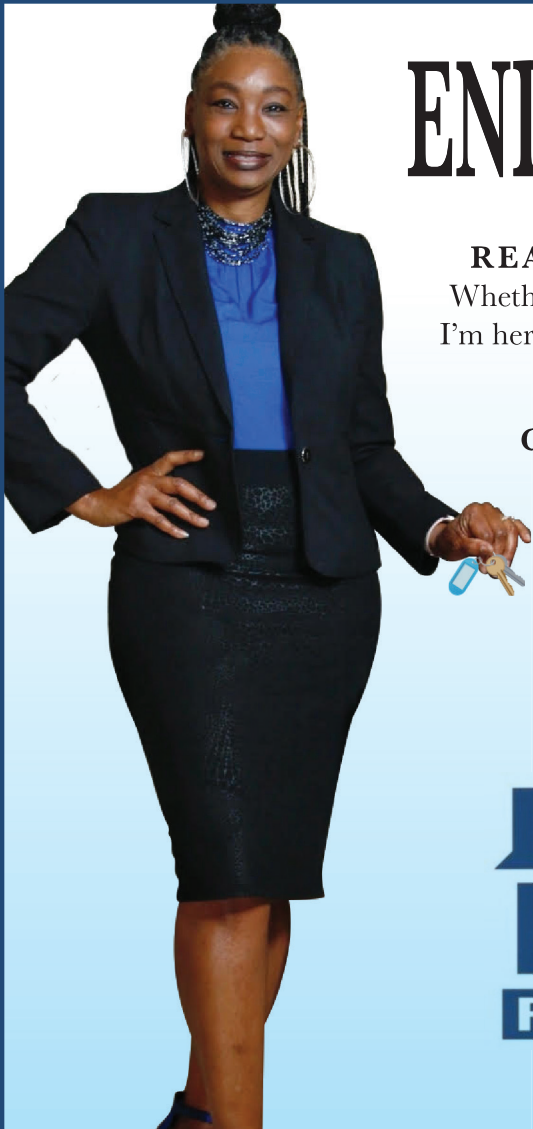
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Chieftains move on to the district spelling bee



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Middle School students advanced to the district spelling bee to be held at Brandon High School, February 11, 2022. Carson Conn (right) was the overall winner, and the runner up is Anthony Nelson (left).

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 NEWS
Pelahatchie


Pastor's Perspective: Important lessons from the Olympics



Special to Pelahatchie News

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

The 2022 Winter Olympics will be held this month in Beijing, China. From February 4 –20, around 3,000 athletes from almost 100 countries will compete for the gold, silver and bronze medals. It is interesting that Beijing will become the first city in the history of the Olympics to host both the Summer and Winter Olympics. They hosted the Summer Games in 2008.

The athletes will compete in 109 different events. There will be skiing, sledding and skating events. Most people choose their favorite events to watch. One of the older events that is gaining in popularity is curling. That is the event where they slide a 40 pound granite rock on the ice and try to get it to stop on a target on the other end of the rink. One of the techniques is for two members of the team to "sweep" the ice in front of the rock to affect its direction and speed. On a side note, our two oldest grandchildren got to meet and learn some curling techniques from the Kazakhstan National Curling Team. I think I know who they will be cheering for in that competition!

We can learn some important lessons from the Olympics that can help us in our daily lives.

1. You Can't Do This Alone
Proverbs 27:17 tells us, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." As Americans, we tend to put a

high value on independence. We believe everyone should solve their own problems, and asking for help is usually seen as a sign of weakness. At first glance, the Olympics appears to reinforce this idea. Athletes in individual events seem to perform amazing feats all on their own. But take a moment to listen to their stories, however, and you'll realize this is far from true. All of these athletes had coaches to train them, teammates to encourage them, and families to support them throughout their journey. Regardless of the sport, nearly all of them would say that they could never have gotten this far on their own. The same rules apply to Christians. We need each other for leadership, fellowship, encouragement and inspiration. Alone, we can do very little, but together, we have the ability to become so much more!

2: We All Start Somewhere
"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." II Peter 3:18
Olympic athletes can be intimidating. They're strong, fast, agile, and seem almost superhuman at times. Still, none of these champions started out as the people they are now. It took years of dedication and training for them to reach this point. And it takes a lifetime of work for

someone to follow Christ. But all Christians begin somewhere, whether it's in a Sunday school class, sitting in a worship service, or picking up a Bible after years of apathy. Living as a believer takes time and study, but even the oldest and wisest of us are discovering how little we still know about God. Don't be afraid of humble beginnings, this is where Jesus meets everyone.

3: Failure is Inevitable
"For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again, but the wicked stumble in time of calamity." Proverbs 24:16

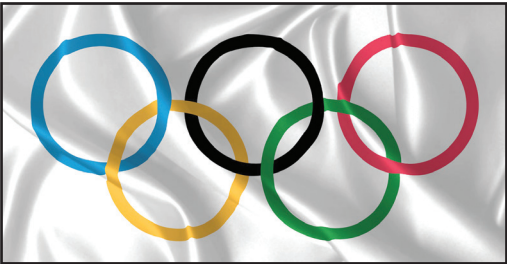
If the Olympics teach us anything, it's that even the best athletes don't always win. A skier can get off course, or a skater can fall. No matter how good you are, nobody wins every time. It's a hard lesson many Christians still struggle to accept. There is going to come a day when you fail as a Christian. When that day comes, what's important is that you accept your mistake and learn from it. True Olympic winners remember their faults and use them to get better. Christians should do likewise.

4: Give it Your All
"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize." I Corinthians 9:24
When someone qualifies for the Olympics, you know they're not just going for

the scenery. This is the highest point of competition, a literal once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most contestants. So when their moment comes, do you think they're going to give a halfhearted performance? Of course not! Even if they don't expect to win, these athletes give everything they have to achieve their goal. For Christians, every day is our Olympic event. The world is watching, and we have to decide how we are going to live. We can choose to be token believers, to say the words but withhold the actions, or we can give everything we have to God. We don't compete for gold medals, but by living for Jesus, the world will see His victory in our lives.

5: Winning Isn't Everything
"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33
While dozens of athletes compete in each of the events, only three medals are awarded. To make it to the medal stand, the winners must do their best to the end of the competition. Those who don't, won't make it to the winners stand.

How we finish the race of life is vastly more important than winning it. As Christians, we need to live every day as if it's our last, and be mindful of the legacy we'll leave behind. Remember, God does not judge a man by his strength or glory, the Lord looks at the heart.
So tune in and watch some of the Olympic events. And remember that as a Believer, you are competing every day for the medal the Lord has for you! Be sure to take your family to Church on Sunday.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	ARRANGEMENTS
Mark Quick	62	Pelahatchie	12/31/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Earnest Lee	90	Polkville	12/31/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Barbara Spatz	88	Morton	1/4/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Manuel Harris	80	Lake	1/4/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Willie Shoemaker	75	Pelahatchie	1/9/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Edgar Jones	81	Lake	1/9/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Peter Rowse	78	Lake	1/11/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Henry Holmes	71	Morton	1/14/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Edna Ficklin	88	Morton	1/17/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Harold Wolfe	82	Lake	1/17/2022	Wolf Funeral Services

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Rankin County youth excel at January Livestock Show



Bailey Key



Maddie Grace Walters



Mary Taylor



Addyson Nutt



Camden Patton



Dawson Edwards

Special to Pelahatchie News

By Guest Columnist Kessie Key

At the January 15 Rankin County Livestock Association Show at the Livestock Pavilion in Brandon, many Pelahatchie students of all ages displayed their expertise in the show ring. Here is a summary of the students' awards and future shows.

Bailey Joy Key, a ten-year-old fourth grader at Pelahatchie Elementary School, won her division of Showmanship alongside her Red Angus heifer, Layla. Key and Layla are trained by Gabbi Walters, owner of Hilltop Cattle in Pelahatchie. Key began competing in December 2021 and has found a true passion for the cattle industry as well as all animals. She is currently a member of the Rankin County 4H and the Red Angus Association. The countdown is on for when she can join the Junior FFA at Pelahatchie under the direction of Bob Robinson. She is the daughter of Kessie and Austin Key of Pelahatchie. Key will be showing in Showmanship and the Beef show during the district show as well as Dixie Nationals.

Maddie Grace Walters is a junior at Pelahatchie High School (PHS) and an established member of the PHS FFA under the direction of Bob Robinson. Walters is no stranger to the show ring, as she has won multiple banners and titles over the past years. At the Rankin County Livestock Show, Walters and the Red Angus cattle of Hilltop Cattle brought home numerous banners. Elvira, a late fall calf, won Reserve Champion Breeding Heifer and Grand Champion Red Angus Heifer. Troubador won Supreme Champion Bull and Grand Champion Red Angus Bull. Alana won Reserve Champion Red Angus Heifer. She will in action at the district show and Dixie Nationals. Walters is the daughter of Gabe and Lacie Walters.

Mary Taylor Nutt, a 13-year-old seventh grader at Pelahatchie HS known to most as MT, competed for the first time with her commercial heifer, Buttercup. Together they won Reserve Championship Commercial Heifer at the Rankin County Show. Nutt is a member of the PHS FFA under the direction of Bob

Robinson. She looks forward to representing Rankin County at the district show and then on to Dixie Nationals. Nutt is the daughter of Nikki and Tip Nutt.

Addyson Nutt, Mary Taylor's sister, is an eight-year-old who, along with her heifer, Milkshake, took home second place in Showmanship in her division. New to the show ring, Nutt excels with her confidence and control of Milkshake. This duo will also be representing Rankin County at the district show and Dixie Nationals in February.

Camden Patton is a senior at Pelahatchie HS and an established member of the PHS FFA under the direction of Bob Robinson. Patton has been showing for nine years. Friday night, January 14, during the Celebrity Showmanship Dinner, Patton was awarded the Junior Board Scholarship. During the Rankin County Livestock Show, she placed first in Showmanship for her division. Her cattle racked up on the banners as well with an Overall Heifer, Overall Steer, Champion Angus, Champion Percentage Simmental, and Champion

AOB.

Patton has had the pleasure over the past couple of years to bring her little brother, **Dawson Edwards**, into the ring with her. He is learning from one of the best and it shows. Edwards placed first in his Showmanship division and his cattle brought home a banner for Reserve Angus and Reserve Percentage Simmental. Edwards is an 11-year-old fifth grade student at Pelahatchie Elementary. They are the son and daughter of Misty and Brian Edwards. They will represent Rankin County at the district show and Dixie Nationals.

Wylde McCrory is the six-year-old first grade son of Kyle and Kaila McCrory. McCrory has been following the guidance of Camden Patton and Dawson Edwards in the show ring. As a younger addition to the cattle world, he is eager to learn and not afraid to get the job done inside the ring. McCrory won his class in Showmanship during the Rankin County Livestock Show and plans to represent Rankin County at any PeeWee Open Shows until he can step into the big ring in two years.



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



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February PHS events: What's ahead



PELAHATCHIE HIGH SCHOOL CHIEFS HOST THE 2022 REGION 6 2A DIVISION TOURNAMENT

FEBRUARY 7 - 11

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Special to Pelahatchie News



Special to
Pelahatchie News

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

The second semester is in full swing! Several academic events worth noting are ahead of us.

On Tuesday, February 1, our juniors will attend a bootcamp to begin preparing for the Workkeys Test a week later on Tuesday, February 8. The week after, on Tuesday, February 15, our juniors will attend another bootcamp to begin focusing on the ACT test two weeks later on Tuesday, March 1. Last, please help us prepare all of our students for Progress Reports on Thursday, February 10.

Regarding Chiefs' athletics, programs are nearing the end of their seasons while others are beginning. The soccer season, led by first-year Coach Matthew Bobo, saw promising growth from our

teams. With that said, we are looking forward to what is to come from our boys and girls soccer programs.

At this point in the year, we have transitioned into the boys and girls powerlifting season. Led by Coach Tyler Walters and Coach Anna Kilpatrick, our powerlifters are anxious to compete this year and look forward to a "STRONG" year!

Last, and as the Pelahatchie High School Basketball regular season comes to a close, we would like to invite you all to come support our Chiefs as they host the 2022 Region 6 2A Division Tournament. Play begins on Monday, February 7 and continues through Friday, February 11. As soon as region play ends, the tournament bracket schedule will be set and released. Tickets will be available through Gofan. We hope to see you all there; for any questions, do not hesitate to call.

Go Chiefs!



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Understanding forestry basis: What is it and how is it used?



By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

Special to Pelahatchie News

Hundreds, if not thousands, of forest acres are transferred to the next generation every year in Mississippi. One thing essential for forestry landowners to understand, especially with tax season upon us, is what forestry basis is, and how it is used.

Basis is the amount of your invested money or the cost of your property, such as timber or land. Forest owners may have a basis in their timber, in their land, or in other capital assets. Basis is not usually the current value of your property. Many people have no basis in their property, especially in timberland, depending on how they initially acquired the timber, and if the timber has been harvested and the basis already used.

To determine net taxable income, basis is subtracted from gross sale income. Forest owners who sell timber do not pay taxes based on gross proceeds. Forest landowners pay taxes (generally at the long-term capital gains rate, if the property is owned long enough) on the net taxable income. Net taxable income equals gross proceeds, minus sales ex-

penses and minus the basis in the property. Subtracting basis from gross proceeds is called basis recovery, and it can reduce taxes significantly.

Basis recovery is a "use it or lose it" opportunity. If basis is not recovered when a property or timber is sold, then the basis in that property is lost. To avoid this financial loss, we need to be aggressive in recovering basis. Besides property or timber sales, recovery of basis also can occur following a casualty or theft loss. If a casualty loss, such as a tornado, occurs having a basis in the timber is necessary for the landowner to receive a tax write off for the storm damage.

Land and timber are properties that can be bought and sold separately. Therefore, it will be to a landowner's advantage to set up different accounts for land and timber and keep separate records of basis. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations also require landowners to keep separate land and timber accounts.

Inflation will reduce the value of basis every year. To minimize this financial loss, one will need to be aggressive in basis recovery.

The way a forest landowner acquires property is important in establishing the initial value of basis. One becomes a property owner in one of four ways: 1)

one purchases the property, 2) one inherits the property, 3) one receives the property as a gift, 4) the landowner plants trees on the property.

Purchases Property: When you purchase timberland, the initial value of basis is equal to the purchase price. Include with the purchase price any legal, surveying, and consulting fees paid.

The allocation of purchase price into land basis and timber basis is guided by the percentage of fair market value, attributed to land and timber.

Inherited property: The initial value of basis for inherited property is equal to the fair market value (FMV) at the time of the donor's death. If the estate distribution is delayed, the owner may use instead the FMV on the date of acquisition.

Most inherited land and timber property subject to estate taxes will receive a step-up basis, equal to the Fair Market Value. However, this is not the case for a surviving spouse of jointly owned timberland. Only half of the property is assumed to be inherited, so only half of the FMV is the initial basis.

An appraisal is needed to establish the FMV of the land and timber. The most accurate appraisal occurs when the landowner acquires the property.

Sometimes an appraisal is not made un-

til the property or timber is sold. In this case, a retroactive appraisal to establish basis is allowed by the IRS, if it is done by a consulting forester. The FMV for the date the land was inherited is established by projecting backwards for the land and timber values.

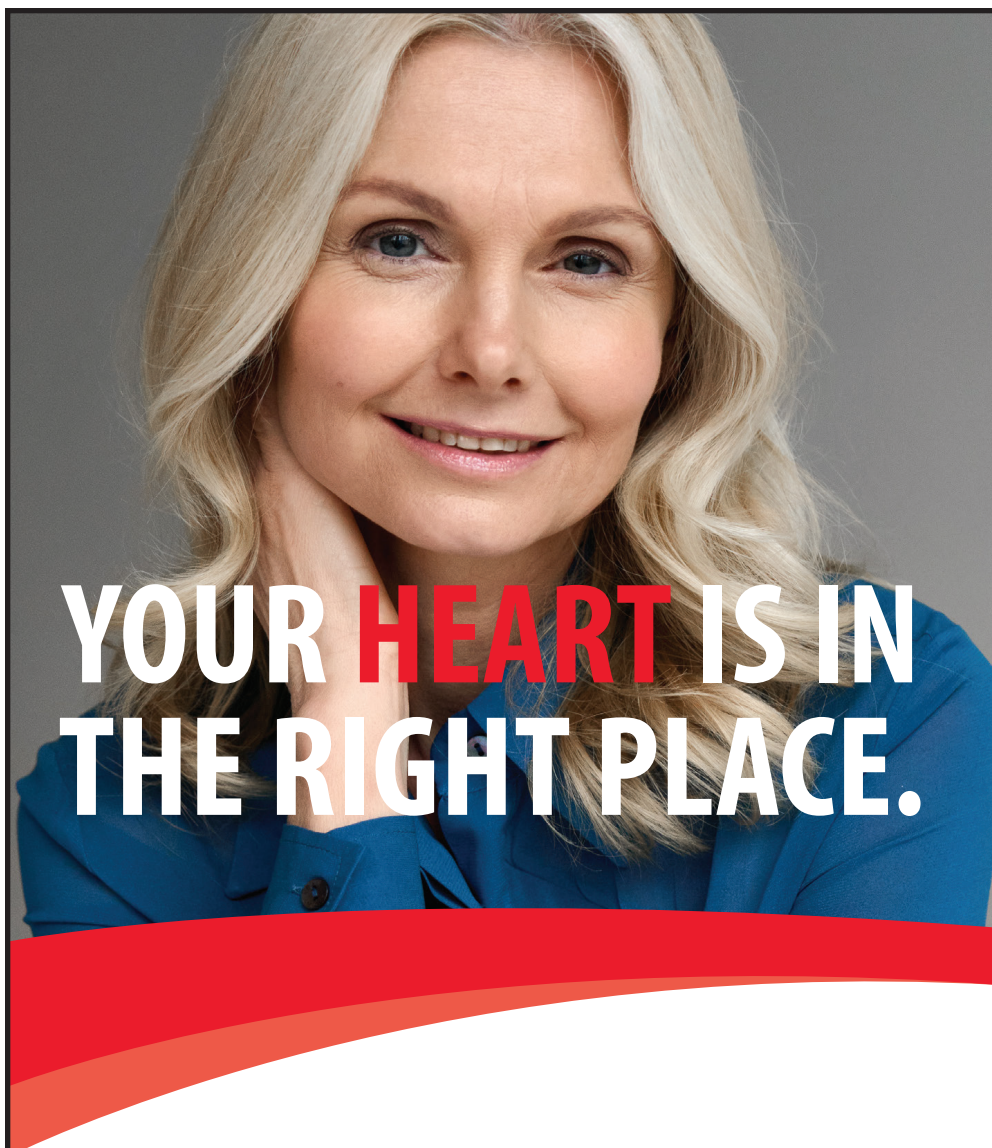
Property Receive as a Gift: Timberland given to heirs before death avoids estate taxes. Because of estate avoidance, your initial entry in basis will be the same as your donor's basis in the property. Donor basis is established by how the donor acquired the property.

Planted Trees: If a landowner establishes their own trees, initial value of basis is equal to reforestation costs and includes tree planting and site-preparation cost. There are options when using reforestation costs.

One option is to keep reforestation basis in the timber account until the timber is sold. Another option is to use investment tax credit and amortization. Reforestation costs of up to \$10,000 each year can qualify.

Amortization tax credit allows a 10 percent tax credit for reforestation cost. Credit is taken the same year costs are paid.

Source: "Basics of Basis," *Mississippi State Extension*, Publication 1983



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If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 911.