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December
2022

Volume 11
Issue 12
Pelahatchie, MS

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

Yogi Bear on the Lake in Pelahatchie wins several awards

Special to Pelahatchie news

The National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds (ARVC) presented its highest award to the Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park location in Pelahatchie.

ARVC presents Park of the Year Awards to campgrounds that deliver an extraordinary guest experience because of all-around excellence in operations, professionalism, marketing, customer service and industry involvement. The Jellystone Park location in Pelahatchie won the award in the medium size park category for campgrounds and RV parks and resorts (101 to 250 sites).

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Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Christmas magic with parade

Special to Pelahatchie news

On December 3, the Town of Pelahatchie held a Christmas parade. The Christmas parade tradition in Pelahatchie goes back many decades, and it appears the whole Town participated.

The theme of the Christmas parade this year was Christmas in Toyland. This 2022 Grand Marshall for the parade was Bettye Massey.

Winners of the Christmas parade between the floats and groups are:

- 1st Place-Crossroads Baptist Church
- 2nd Place-Pelahatchie Baptist Church
- 3rd Place-Pelahatchie Band Elf's

Mayor Karl VanHorn and his wife, Felicia, and of course Santa Claus himself joined in on the Christmas parade that brought the Christmas magic.

See more magic on page 16.



Photos by Pelahatchie News

Menasha Packaging increasing footprint

Special to Pelahatchie news

Menasha Packaging, a retail-focused packaging design, manufacturing, and merchandising solutions provider, is expanding operations in Pelahatchie. The project is a \$79 million corporate investment and will create 21 jobs.

Menasha's products include high-graphic displays, boxes and other shipping containers used primarily by consumer product companies. Menasha's investment includes the expansion of its present

continued on page 3



Special to Pelahatchie News

Paul Paprocki, Assets Manager, discusses Menasha Packaging's expansion in Pelahatchie at the November Mayor and Aldermen Board Meeting on November 7.

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PHS Students of Achievement for October

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) recognizes its 2022 October Students of Achievement recipients as “students who work diligently to complete all assignments to the best of their ability.”

The following students are the PHS October Students of Achievement:

- 7th Grade, Lauren Longino
- 8th Grade, Rubyrae Elliott
- 9th Grade, Kyra Bryant
- 10th Grade, Nahgee Hawkins
- 11th Grade, Jaleah Ford
- 12th Grade, Maley Johnson



Lauren Longino, 7th grade



Rubyrae Elliott, 8th grade



Jaleah Ford, 11th grade



Kyra Bryant, 9th grade



Photos special to Pelahatchie News
Nahgee Hawkins, 10th grade

Lindsey is October Student Athlete

Special to Pelahatchie News

Addison Lindsey was named the Pelahatchie High School (PHS) student athlete for October. PHS acknowledges Lindsey “as a leader in the truest sense of the word. She might only play one “traditional school sport,” but she leads in areas that transcend tradition. Charging the field before a football game has been a tradition for longer than most of us have been alive. However, charging the football

field ON A HORSE is tradition brought back to Pelahatchie with our very own Addison Lindsey four years ago. Earlier this month, Addison, riding her beloved Buck, passed the flag to her brother Tucker, who flew solo this past Thursday night in a win against Puckett. Addison plays volleyball and is an active leader in FFA, both in our school as well as our state. Join us in congratulating Addison Lindsey as our Brick House Fitness Student Athlete of the Month for October.”



Special to Pelahatchie News

Addison Lindsey was named the Pelahatchie High School Student Athlete for October. Picture (l to r) are: Athletic Director Ryan Keeton, Lindsey and Brick House Fitness representative Michelle Carter.



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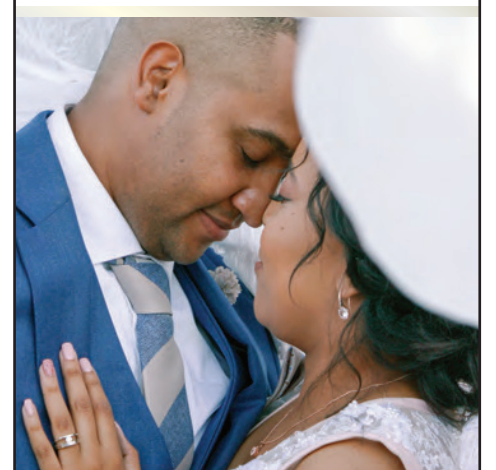
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continued from page 1

Menasha Packaging increasing footprint

manufacturing facility in Pelahatchie Industrial Park and the purchase of additional machinery and equipment.

The Mississippi Development Authority is providing assistance for building construction. Rankin County and the city of Pelahatchie also are assisting with the project.

Menasha Packaging currently employs 95 people at the Rankin County

and in the community," said Mike Riegsecker, President, Menasha Packaging Company.

"We appreciate the assistance provided by the state, county and city in helping us solidify our long-term commitment to Pelahatchie."

Continuing the sentiments regarding the benefit of retaining the business locally, Karl VanHorn, Mayor of



Special to Pelahatchie News

facility.

"It's already been a banner year for economic development in our state, and Menasha Packaging's expansion is another big win for Mississippi's economy," said Governor Tate Reeves. "The company's decision to invest more capital and create more jobs in Mississippi is a testament to our state's business-friendly environment and the hard-working people who live here."

"I'm excited to see the positive impacts this expansion will have on the lives of our residents," continued Reeves. "Thank you to the entire Menasha team for your continued commitment to Rankin County and our entire state."

Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) Deputy Executive Director Laura Hepp also lauded the company.

"MDA congratulates Menasha Packaging on this expansion. The company's leadership found the ingredients for success in Rankin County, and as a result, Menasha is growing and creating 21 new jobs for the area's skilled workforce."

"We are excited about our expansion into Pelahatchie and the cultural fit that exists with the team here. We are committed to investing not only in the facility, but also in this great team

Pelahatchie, said, "As mayor for the Town of Pelahatchie, I am thrilled to announce the expansion of the facilities now owned by Menasha Packaging Company, LLC, at the Pelahatchie Industrial Park. When we first learned that Menasha Packaging Company had purchased Georgia Pacific's Color Box operations, we were concerned that the new owner might relocate operations out of state. Thanks to the quick action and hard work of our friends at Mississippi Development Authority, Rankin First and Rankin County, and thanks to the good people at Menasha Packaging Company, we are celebrating not only the retention of a valuable employer right here in Pelahatchie but also an incredible \$79 million expansion of operations. The leadership of the town of Pelahatchie has made it clear that we are open for business, and we want to do everything we can to make sure our valuable businesses and industries have a safe, inviting, helpful and business-friendly community to grow and prosper."

"To our friends at Menasha Packaging Company, we welcome you to our town and our county, and we thank you for your commitment to our citizens and community."

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East Rankin Academy Cross Country concludes 2022 season

Special to Pelahatchie News

The MAIS 5A East Rankin Academy (ERA) Patriot Cross Country Team concluded their 2022 regular season on October 24.

The season began last spring as new team members eagerly joined the burgeoning running program for summer training. The team added nine new athletes to include six sixth graders, a seventh grader, a freshman, and a sophomore. Collectively, the close-knit team of distance runners includes eleven different sets of siblings, a testament to the positive energy the group exudes.

The 2022 season brought growth to the Patriot men, many of whom have competed since their sixth grade year. Week after week, the boys set new personal records with the junior varsity (JV) boys soaring to the top of the MAIS JV rankings with multiple team wins. As the JV team is ninth grade and younger, the young men occasionally joined the varsity duo of Grayson Blair and Jackson Fountain to set 5K benchmarks.

The competitive season kicked off on August 13 with the Simpson Early Bird at Neely Farms in McGee. Both JV teams won their respective two mile races, with Emma Raines earning her first ever win for the girls and Jadon McGee taking 3rd in the boys' race. The varsity girls team took 2nd in the 5K behind MAIS 5A division rival, Simpson Academy.

The second meet of the season was hosted by Jackson Academy, featuring the JV boys winning a consecutive meet, with Jadon McGee taking 2nd and Jon Riemann taking 3rd. The varsity girls team won their first 5K meet

of the season with eighth grade, Leah Collipp, taking 2nd overall. The JV girls team took 3rd overall in the two mile race.

The team next took on public and private schools in the MC Watson Opener at Choctaw Trails in Clinton. Due to the size of this meet, the varsity girls' team was divided into multiple races by time standards. Varsity girls in the top division (5K Red) finished 4th out of 18 teams. Varsity girls in the mid-level



Special to Pelahatchie News

The ERA Lady Patriots Cross Country Team competed at the 2022 MileSplit Mississippi Meet of Champions on November 12. Picture (l to r) are: Kaylynn Ramirez, Audrey Mayatte, Leah Collipp, Emily Williams, Arin Hawk and Emma Raines. Not pictured: Katie Lee Tadlock.

division (4K White) finished 5th out of 8 teams. The JV boys running in the 3K took 3rd out of 13 teams, and the JV girls took 5th out of 13 teams.

Three days later, the team was back competing at Neely Farms in the Park Place Invitational. The varsity girls team took home their second win of the season, with Emily Williams taking 3rd as the top varsity finisher. The JV boys got their third win of the season, with Jadon McGee the top finisher in 2nd.

The JV girls team finished 2nd overall.

Next up was a true test of depth, the Patriots taking on Ocean Springs, the No. 2 public school in the state, on their home course. Top varsity finisher Leah Collipp went head-to-head with Ocean Springs senior Ashton Rainey, but fell short of the win. Collipp settled for 2nd individually and a PR of 19:45. Picking up first place team hardware, the varsity girls finished to win by five points in an upset. The JV boys stepped

Invitational. The Lady Patriots went into the meet as the heavy favorite and did not disappoint. Taking her first ever varsity win was sophomore Audrey Mayatte, just outpacing teammate Leah Collipp. The rest of the team combined for the win over the home team. The varsity and JV boys' teams once again combined for improved PRs in an elite men's field. Additionally, the JV girls finished 8th out of 11 schools in the JV 3K.

The ERA Lady Patriots Cross Country Team competed at the 2022 MileSplit Mississippi Meet of Champions on November 12 at Choctaw Trails in Clinton. Going toe-to-toe with other state champions and time qualifiers, the Lady Patriots were once again victorious, capping off the 2022 Mississippi cross country season with the MileSplit Mississippi winners' cup and a team average of 20:10.80. The Lady Patriots qualified to the meet in every possible way, winning the MAIS 5A state championship, finishing as the top team in the Jackson Metro region AND by meeting or exceeding the team average of a 21:40 5K.

The Lady Patriots finish included three girls in the Top 21, all now part of the overall All State team. Included in that trio was top finisher Audrey Mayatte, in 7th and part of the First Team All-State team; Leah Collipp, in 8th and part of the Second Team All-State team; and Emily Williams in 20th and part of the Honorable Mention All-State team.

Thus concludes a very successful 2022 cross country season as the athletes look forward to holiday break and preparing for track and field season in the spring.

continued from page 1

Yogi Bear on the Lake receives awards

The ARVC award was the second major accolade received by the Jellystone Park location in Pelahatchie this year. This summer, it was voted the top RV Park in the United States in *USA Today's* 10 Best 2022 Readers' Choice competition.

Also, at the 2022 Camp Jellystone Symposium Awards, Pelahatchie won several awards. Camp Jellystone presented its annual awards to exemplary Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park

Camp-Resorts franchisees throughout the U.S. and Canada during the franchise network's annual symposium conference at the Charleston Area Convention Center.

At the symposium, Yogi Bear on the Lake in Pelahatchie won a Pinnacle Award, awards for outstanding recreation and outstanding customer service, and was nominated for the Southern Region's Resort of the Year.



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Cross Roads to host GriefShare seminar

Special to Pelahatchie News

The holidays are a joyous time to get together with family and friends, eat a lot of good food and celebrate the occasion. But for many people, this is a difficult time, because they miss the presence of a loved one who is no longer with them. The absence of that loved one and the

loved one's death and who offer practical suggestions and reassurance.

The video features other griever who speak openly about the following:

- Being prepared for surprising emotions that may hit over the holidays
- What to do about traditions and other coming changes

Grieving?
Know someone who is?



SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS
When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our *Surviving the Holidays* seminar helps participants prepare for the holidays and even discover hope for the future.

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Sunday, December 4, 2022
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grief that is felt can rob a person of the joy that should be experienced at this time of year.

This may be a first holiday without a loved one for some, or the loved one could have left many years ago. Either way, the pain and grief that is felt is very real. As a part of the GriefShare Ministry, Cross Roads Baptist Church will host a **Surviving the Holidays** seminar on Sunday, December 4, at 2 p.m. The seminar will help those who are grieving to prepare for the holidays. The seminar features video interviews with counselors, grief experts and other people who have experienced the holidays after their

- Special to Pelahatchie News
- How to handle holiday parties and invitations
 - How to survive potentially awkward moments with other people
 - Where to find comfort, strength and hope in a seemingly hopeless time

Those who attend will receive a Survival Guide filled with practical tips, encouraging words, journaling ideas and exercises for daily help through the holiday season. Cross Roads Baptist Church invites everyone to attend the seminar. Cross Roads is located at 104 Crossroads Road, Pelahatchie. For more information, call the church office at 601-546-2297.

EAST RANKIN ACADEMY
LADY PATRIOTS | PATRIOTS BASKETBALL
JAN-FEB 2022-2023

Jan. 3 - VS Lamar School @3:00 | 7th B JV/Varsity

Jan. 6 - @ Winston Academy @4:00 | JV/Varsity

Jan. 10 - @ Simpson Academy @3:00 | 7th G, JV/Var.

Jan. 12 - VS Park Place Christian 3:00 | 7th B | 4:00 JV/Var.

Jan. 13 - @ Pillow Academy 4:00 | JV/Varsity

Jan. 17 - VS Leake Academy 4:00 | JV/Varsity

Jan. 20 - @ Lamar School 4:00 | JV/Varsity

Jan. 24 - VS Winston Academy 4:00 | JV/Varsity

Jan. 27 - @ Canton Academy 4:00 | JV/Varsity

Jan. 28 - JH Dist. Tournament | Park Place | TBA

Jan. 30 - Feb. 4 - Varsity District Tourney | ERA | TBA

Feb. 6-13 - North State | TBA | TBA

Feb. 13-20 - 5A State Tournament | TBA | TBA

Feb. 23-28 - Overall State Tournament | MC | TBA



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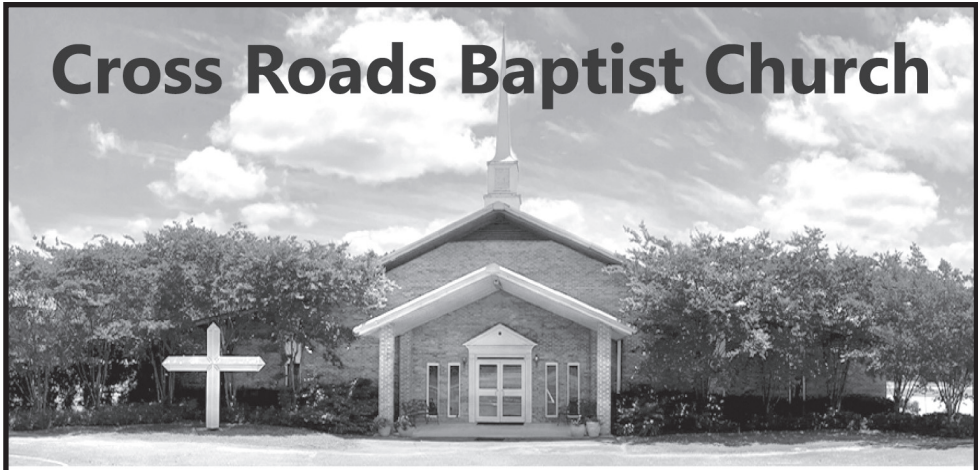
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Sunday Schedule:

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

Online Worship Opportunities:
(Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook Page)
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7:30 a.m. - Morning Devotion every weekday morning

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Jan. 6 - VS Puckett @6:00/7:30

Jan. 10 - @ Scott Central @6:00/7:30

Jan. 13 - VS Velma Jackson @6:00/7:30

Jan. 17 - VS Pisgah @6:00/7:30

Jan. 24 - @ Puckett @6:00/7:30

Jan. 27 - VS Scott Cent. (Senior Night) @6:00/7:30

Jan. 31 - @ Velma Jackson @6:00 /7:30

Feb. 3 - @ Pisgah @6:00/7:30

Feb. 7-11 - Dist. Tourney | Pisgah HS | TBA



HCC honors Foundation scholarship recipients



Special to Pelahatchie News

Among those being recognized were Kayla Evans of Brandon, Aubrey Brooke Frazier of Florence, Katelyn Walter of Pearl, Trekilah Roberts of Richland, Chole Walters of Pelahatchie and Tanner Wixon of Raymond, all of whom received the Vicksburg Medical Center Foundation Scholarship. With them was Hal Gage Jr. of Vicksburg, center.

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Hinds Community College (HCC) Foundation recognized 2022-2023 scholarship recipients, donors and other honorees at a recent reception at the George-Oakes Building on the Vicks-

burg-Warren Campus.

The HCC Foundation will award more than 900 scholarships during the 2022-2023 academic year. The deadline to apply for a scholarship for fall 2023 academic year 2023-2024, is Feb. 15, 2023. For more information, visit hindscc.edu.



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The power of traditions



By Guest Columnist
Voncille Anderson,
Principal, Pelahatchie
High School

Special to
Pelahatchie News

Actress Viola Davis, in her book *Finding Me* states, “The potency and power of traditions is deep.” Returning to Pelahatchie this year, I am reminded of so many great traditions and introduced to a few new ones that I am proud to continue.



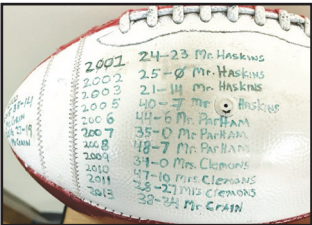
Football season brings a wealth of traditions, including tailgating, band performances, and homecoming with the election of maids, the parade, the community pep rally and the crowning of the Homecoming Queen.

One of my favorites is the Chieftain rider astride a horse who leads the Chiefs onto the field. This tradition became even more special this year with the passing of the torch from Addison Lindsey to her brother Tucker. Addison is a senior, while Tucker is a seventh grader who is more than willing to continue the tradition.

Seniors are honored with their own traditions. Each year, seniors have the official senior pep rally, a slideshow event, and the senior recognition night on their last home game of the season. This tradition gives the school the opportunity to thank our seniors for their

participation in various sports over the years and their families the chance to join in the celebration.

Another really interesting tradition that many people may not know about is the official game ball between Pelahatchie and Puckett. This tradition dates back to the year 2000, when Mr. Joe Howell was principal of Pelahatchie and the first to sign the ball. Every year since that time, the principals from Pelahatchie and Puckett, flanked by JROTC cadets, meet at the 50 yard line and present the



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

game ball to the lead referee. The winning team keeps the ball for a year. The principal signs the ball and indicates the score and year. This year, I was honored to present the winning ball to the Chiefs after their 40-16 defeat over the Puckett Wolves. On Monday, we raised the victory flag in our courtyard and will keep the game ball in a trophy case on display until next year’s contest.

As we move into the frenetic holiday season, I am sure many families will practice their own traditions. As you prepare to celebrate the holidays, take time to savor each special moment and enjoy one another. Focus on faith, family, and fellowship.

Happy Holidays and Go Chiefs!



December Activities:
\$5 per person entry fee
Christmas activities each Saturday from 10am-2pm
Ride through the lights at 5pm
Christmas movie at 6:30pm
Pictures with Santa from 2pm-4pm
(Pictures will be purchased from the photographer.)

New Year's Eve Activities:
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Sat, Dec 31, 10am-2pm
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Trunk or Treat at Muscadine Park

Photos by Pelahatchie News



Waiting for the costume contests to begin and eating candy. It's definitely Trunk or Treat night in Pelahatchie, October 31, 2022.



Pelahatchie Library



Rhodes and Robby Drugs



Wickedstangs (WS)



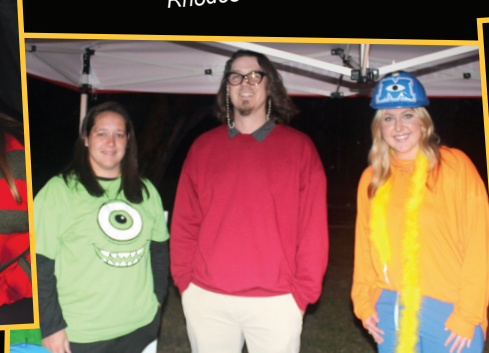
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Fairytale fun



Families have fun at Trunk or Treat



Holly and Stella Harper of Rhodes and Robby



Pelahatchie Police Department



Lampton Love

ERA Quiz Bowl Team advances to semi-finals



Special to Pelahatchie News

On November 2, the East Rankin Academy (ERA) Middle School Quiz Bowl Team competed in the MAIS Middle School Quiz Bowl Tournament. ERA Team A competed against Hartfield Academy in the semi-finals and advanced to the finals to finish 2nd place in the 16 team MAIS Overall Middle School Quiz Bowl Tournament. Pictured (l to r) are: Elizabeth Thrash, Irby Rawson, Henry Johnson and Cason Patrick.

Anderson selected as Secondary Administrator of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Voncille Anderson was chosen as the Secondary Administrator of the Month by Rankin County School District. Anderson was appointed High School Principal at Pelahatchie before the 2022-2023 school year began. Anderson is a 27 year educator. Pictured above (left), Anderson presents the winning ball to the Chiefs after their 40-16 defeat over the Puckett Wolves.

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ACA open enrollment through Jan. 15

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Open enrollment through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace began November 1 and continues through January 15, 2023. Five health insurance companies will offer plans in Mississippi. They are Ambetter from Magnolia Health, Molina Healthcare, Vantage Health Plan of Mississippi and UnitedHealthcare. Cigna also joined the Marketplace in 2022. “Carefully review the options available to you and in your area,” said Mis-

HealthCare.gov

Special to Pelahatchie News

issippi Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney. “Make sure that the plan you are considering provides the coverage that you need. While low monthly costs are attractive, you also need to consider copays and deductibles that you may have to pay later. Check with the provider to see which facilities are in-network.” Mississippians can see plan options, monthly premiums and more by visiting www.healthcare.gov/see-plans/. For other insurance-related questions, contact the Mississippi Insurance Department at 601-359-3569.

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	ARRANGEMENTS
Winnie Wooten McMullan	59	Lake	11/7/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Stacey Ray Holmes	53	Morton	11/9/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Angeline Roland	80	Carthage	11/13/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Bobbie Jean Shoemaker	82	Forest	11/13/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
James C. Nicholas	80	Forest	11/16/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Inez Usry Sims	80	Morton	11/17/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Bobby Moore	68	Sebastopol	11/17/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Billy W. Alexander Sr.	83	Morton	11/15/2022	Wolf Funeral Services

OBITUARY

Wesley Drew Hall

November 13, 1937-November 24, 2022
Wesley Drew Hall passed peacefully into eternal rest on November 24, 2022, at Lackey Memorial Hospital. His visitation was held 5 p.m.-8 p.m., Monday, November 28, 2022, and 1 p.m.-2 p.m., Tuesday, November 29, 2022, with service immediately following at Ott & Lee Funeral Home in Morton. A graveside service and burial was held at Cross Roads Baptist Cemetery. Brother John Vaughn and Reverend William Ellis Cook officiated the services. Arrangements were entrusted to the care of Ott & Lee Funeral Home in Morton. Drew Hall was born November 13, 1937, to Robert Ellis and Myrtle Irene Hall of Ripley, Mississippi. He attended Buena Vista School in Tippah County, Mississippi. After finishing school, Drew worked for Big Eight Brake and a number of other jobs before taking a job at TG and Y in Pearl, Mississippi. There, he met the love of his life, Martha Bynum. They were married in 1970 and moved to Pelahatchie in 1982. In 1989, they moved to their permanent home place in Pelahatchie. Drew and Martha could regularly be found on their front porch, laden with Drew’s prized massive hanging ferns, rocking in their chairs and watching the traffic on the highway. In their later years of porch sitting, they were accompanied by one of their many faithful Dachshunds over the years, Teenie Weenie. Hall spent the bulk of his career in the heating and air trade. He worked for several local companies and eventually retired from Capitol City Heating and Cooling in 2000. After retirement, he filled his days helping friends and family with their heating and air needs. His will to help (and a heavy dose of stubbornness) had him climbing into attics and changing units even when he was well into his 80s. Hall also enjoyed

trips in their camper, going to church, taking his grandsons hunting and fishing and watching his grandchildren play ball.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Hall was an unwavering supporter of Brian and Kevin when they started their heating, air and electrical company in 2000. He was always on hand to run material, help with installations, advice or anything else that needed to be done. In recent years, his primary roles with the company were making breakfast at the shop every morning, keeping the coffee made, going to the post office and taking naps in his recliner in the front office. Drew or “PawPaw,” will be remembered for always greeting you with a smile and leaving you with a hug. Hall is survived by: sister, Faye Stanford of Ripley; sons, Mike Hall of Olive Branch, Brian Hall of Pelahatchie, Kevin Hall (Megan) of Pelahatchie; grandchildren Blake, Mason, Courtney, Valerie, Bradley, Lyndsay, Jacob and Jaxon; a host of extended family, his H&H family, his church family and friends, all whom he loved dearly. Hall was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Ellis and Myrtle Irene Hall; his wife of 47 years, Martha Bynum Hall; siblings Wayne Hall, Leone Stanford, Helone Cook, Arah Hall, Robbie Roberts, Carlton “Buddy” Hall, Priscilla Goolsby and Robert Hall. Memorials may be made in his name and honor to the Cross Roads Baptist Church Young at Heart, 104 Cross Roads Rd., Pelahatchie, MS 39145.

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Bald eagles spotted in Walters

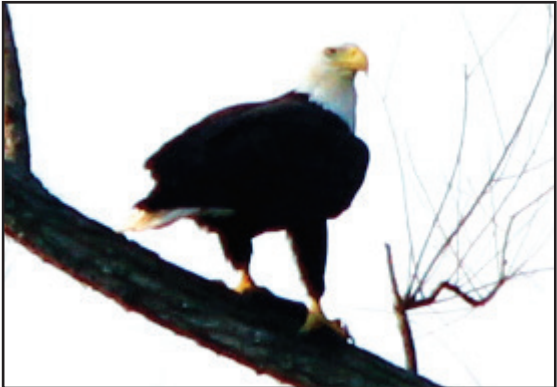
Special to Pelahatchie news

Two bald eagles have excitedly been spotted in the Walters community. It is a rare sight for many. The Walters community is south of Pelahatchie, driving on Hwy. 43 east, heading towards Puckett. In this area, the bald eagles have been spotted perched at the top of trees, and it is thought that they may be nesting.

According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Nation's bird, the bald eagle, was removed from the extinction list in 2007. It was then that they estimated there were "at least 9,789 nesting pairs of bald eagles in the contiguous United States."

Although no longer extinct, the bald eagle is protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The act states that it "provides criminal penalties for persons who take, possess, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell, purchase or barter, transport, export or import, at any time or any manner, any bald eagle, alive or dead, or any part (including

feathers), nest or egg thereof." And, "a violation of the Act can result in a fine of \$100,000 (\$200,000 for organizations), imprisonment for one year, or both, for a first offense."



Photos by Pelahatchie News

Two bald eagles have been spotted in the Walters area. Pictured here is one of the two.

The history of the Christmas tree



Special to Pelahatchie News

By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

Around Christmas, usually when we are putting up a Christmas tree, I often wonder, where did the Christmas tree tradition begin? A Christmas tree is a decorated tree, usually an evergreen conifer, such as a fir, spruce or pine, or an artificial tree of similar appearance, associated with the celebration of Christmas.

The winter solstice is when the sun travels the shortest path through the sky, and therefore that day has the least daylight and the longest night. In ancient cultures, the winter solstice was heralded as the beginning of brighter days ahead, and an indication that the Sun God was gaining strength. In ancient Egypt, a similar mindset was adapted. This Sun God typically grew weak as conditions became colder and darker. This solstice was seen as a turning point in seasons, so Egyptians decorated their homes with palm leaves and branches.

Evergreen trees became part of Christian

rites in Germany and, in the Middle Ages, "paradise trees" began to appear. These trees were traditionally decorated with roses made of colored paper, apples, wafers and tinsel. Martin Luther reportedly first hung lighted candles on a tree in the 16th century, and paradise trees evolved into Christmas trees.

According to Wikipedia, a Hessian soldier put up a Christmas tree while imprisoned in 1777 in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. The First Christmas Tree in America is also claimed by Easton, Pennsylvania, where German settlers erected a tree in 1816.



Special to Pelahatchie News

August Imgard, a German immigrant living in Woodster, Ohio, is said to be the first to popularize the practice of decorating a tree with candy canes. It is said Mr. Imgard cut a spruce tree for a Christmas tree and had a star constructed and decorated the tree with the star, paper ornaments, gilded nuts and candy canes.

Sources: *Christmas Tree*, Wikipedia Encyclopedia; *The History of the Christmas Tree Goes Back Farther Than You Might Realize*, by Amy Mitchell, Countyliving.com, 2021; and *How Did the Tradition of the Christmas Trees Start*, Britannica.com.



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December fun at Pelahatchie Library

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The Pelahatchie Library invites those who wish to begin Christmas in a special way or join them in programs designed with the Town's citizens in mind.



Senior Social Hour

The library will host a weekly event for senior citizens in the area. The programs are set for December 6, December 13 and December 20. There is one additional program on January 10. Refreshments will be served at the first program. Games and puzzles will also be available.

Join the Pelahatchie Library for the first event on December 6 and participate in the discussion about upcoming programs.

Adult Book Club

The Adult Book Club will meet again on Wednesday, December 14, 11 a.m., to discuss Kristin Hannah's

novel, *Comfort & Joy*.

KristinHannah.com describes the book as, "a very special gift: the heartwarming story of a woman at a crossroads, caught between two lives, who finds a second chance at happiness."

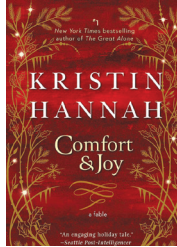
Christmas Open House

On Thursday, December 15, 12 to 6:30 p.m., the Pelahatchie Library will host a Christmas Open House. Guests can come and go, and refreshments will be served in the meeting room.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Find out more about the Pelahatchie Library by visiting them online at cmrls.lib.ms.us/cmrlsbranches/pelahatchie/. Tina K. Mauney is the Branch Manager. She can be contacted at 601-854-8764. The Pelahatchie Library is located at 718 Second St., next to Muscadine Park.



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Pastor's Perspective: Christmas traditions around the world



Special to Pelahatchie News

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

As the old song goes, this is “the most wonderful time of the year!” With Christmas just a few weeks away, many people are already in the Christmas spirit. And if you are not there yet, with all the decorations, parades, shopping, holiday music and the excitement of children, it’s hard not to slip into “Christmas mode.”

I thought it would be interesting to learn about some of the specific Christmas traditions that are practiced in other countries. And it seems that every country has their own. There are even variations among the regions of some countries.

Here are a few examples that I found most interesting.

In Ethiopia, Christmas Day is listed as an official Public Holiday. Many Christians in Ethiopia fast for 40 days prior to Christmas. It’s called the “Fast of the Prophets.” Then, they head to church at dawn on Christmas morning. Throughout Christmas Day, there will be colorful musical celebrations which involve the priests dressed in their best

robes performing rituals, including dancing and playing drums and other instruments. Late in the afternoon of Christmas Day, there will be the traditional game of “Gena,” a kind of Field Hockey. According to an Ethiopian legend, the game was being played by the shepherds who were tending their flocks on the night that Jesus was born.

Christmas for El Salvador still carries a strong meaning that brings families together. Despite the business on the streets and the red, green and white colors flooding the environment, Salvadoran people try to honor what they consider to be the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus. Families have parties in which they dance and eat. Santa Claus is known for appearing in TV and print ads, but people ask children if they already wrote a letter to little baby Jesus. At 12 a.m. on December 25, everyone gathers around the Christmas tree and opens their presents.

Christmas is a statutory holiday in Mexico, and workers can have the day off with pay. One of the traditions in Mexico is that over the nine days before December 25, groups of towns-

people go from door to door to symbolize Mary and Joseph, the parents of the unborn baby Jesus Christ, looking for shelter to pass the night when they arrived at Bethlehem. Often, they will be invited inside for snacks and fellowship. Another custom followed by many is to have a Nativity scene in their home, minus the baby Jesus. Then at midnight on Christmas Eve, the figure of baby Jesus is placed in the manger of the Nativity scene, to symbolize His birth.

Japan does not have a Christian orientation, therefore there is generally no celebration associated with the Birth of Jesus. However, encouraged by commerce, the secular celebration of Christmas is popular in Japan, even though Christmas

is not a national holiday. Gifts are sometimes exchanged, and Christmas parties are held around Christmas Day. Christmas lights decorate cities, and Christmas trees adorn living areas and malls. Christmas Eve has become a holiday for families to spend time together and exchange gifts. A successful advertising campaign in the 1970s made eating at Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) around Christmas a national custom. The chick-

en meals at KFC are so popular during the season that stores take reservations months in advance.

In the Czech Republic, Christmas Eve is known as “Generous Day” and the giving of gifts is encouraged, especially to those who are less fortunate. According to tradition, gifts for children are brought by the “baby Jesus.” Other Czech Christmas traditions involve predictions for the future. Apples are always cut crosswise: if a perfect star appears in the core, the next year will be successful, a distorted star means a bad year or illness, while a cross may suggest death.

What Christmas traditions or customs do you follow? If you don’t have any, maybe this year you can start some. Resolve to listen only to Christian music stations during December; provide supplies to a food ministry like Ever Reaching Community Outreach, right here in Pelahatchie; surprise a struggling family with gifts for their children; serve at a soup kitchen; contact and make amends with someone; send a “thank you” note to the Fire or Police Department; say “Merry Christmas” a lot! There are a lot of things you can do to make sure this will be the best Christmas season you have ever had. And it should include taking your family to church!



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Coming Up Rosies, honoring kids who are making the world a better place



By Guest Columnist
Robin Sanders,
Principal, Pelahatchie
Elementary

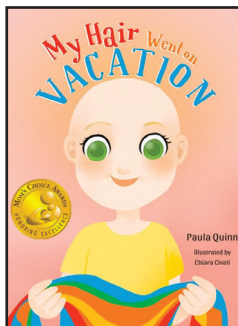
Paula Quinn is the author of the book *My Hair Went on Vacation*. The character in the book has alopecia and is based on Paula's daughter Rosie. The book is a favorite of Taylor McInnish's. Taylor is a kindergarten student in Maegan Parker's class at Pelahatchie Elementary School, who also has alopecia. On Wednesday, November 16, Taylor and her class were able to zoom with the author, Paula Quinn, and her daughter Rosie. Taylor and her classmates were able to meet Rosie and ask questions about the book or how Rosie handles her alopecia. Rosie also was able to share about her family's charity Coming Up Rosies.

Coming Up Rosies is a non-profit organization that was launched in 2016. Since that time, they have given 3,000 smile kits to children with alopecia or other health conditions that cause baldness. Each Smile Kit contains paint, a canvas and paintbrush, and a personal note from Rosie. After a child paints their canvas, Rosie and her mom print the child's design on a scarf or cape.

The non-profit works with over 30 hospitals across the country. Rosie won the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes in September 2019. The award honors kids ages 8 to 18 who are making the world a better place. "I don't wear them a lot now that I'm already confident," said Rosie.

"And all the kids who are bald like me... I'm trying to help them to love your body, and not be scared to go outside and have fun!"

Taylor received a smile kit from Coming Up Rosies. Mrs. Lee, the school counselor, worked with Paula Quinn and Taylor's mom, Christina McInnish, to come up with a way the whole class could participate with Taylor. On Thursday, November 17, Taylor and her class created works of art. Mrs. Lee will scan all artwork to Coming Up Rosies, where they will have them printed for



My Hair Went on Vacation, by Paula Quinn, a book about alopecia.



Taylor McInnish and her class create works of art.



The McInnish Family: Shaun, Shaun Michael, Christina, Avery and Taylor.

each student, and they will also print head scarves from each piece of artwork for various children's hospitals around the United States.

Taylor was able to choose between a head scarf, neck scarf, or superhero cape, and she chose a head scarf. Coming Up Rosies will send her a head scarf with her very own artwork. We are so thankful for Paula Quinn, Rosie Quinn, and Coming Up Rosies and the work they are doing to promote confidence in children with alopecia. Pelahatchie Elementary will continue to read *My Hair Went on Vacation* to students to promote awareness of alopecia.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

In November, Taylor McInnish creates art with her family.



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October Pelahatchie High School Chieftain Awards recognized

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) recognizes the Chieftain Award as an award that goes beyond academics and looks at the character of an individual. PHS teachers nominate students for behavior, attendance, citizenship and other characteristics

that exemplify what it means to be a Chief. Octobers Chieftain Awards go to:

- 7th Grade, Amya Wynn
- 8th Grade, Richard Sudduth
- 9th Grade, Leighanna Merritt
- 10th Grade, Colton Varner
- 11th Grade, Jake Clark
- 12th Grade, Mariah McGill

PHS also recognize Coach Nikki Nutt as PHS’s Teacher of Innovation for October. PHS writes, “Coach Nutt has built a highly competitive volleyball program here at Pelahatchie; they even competed for the district playoffs this year! Additionally, Coach Nutt has begun building our engineering program. She

challenges these students every single day to explore solutions to real world problems. Coach Nikki Nutt is not only an innovative teacher, but she is also creating innovative learners! Help us congratulate Coach Nikki Nutt as PHS’s Teacher of Innovation for October.”



October Chieftain Awards were awarded to: 7th Grade, Amya Wynn; 8th Grade, Richard Sudduth (not pictured); 9th Grade, Leighanna Merritt; 10th Grade, Colton Varner (not pictured); 11th Grade, Jake Clark; and 12th Grade, Mariah McGill (not pictured). Photos special to Pelahatchie News Coach Nikki Nutt was recognized as PHS Teacher of Innovation for October.

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Pelahatchie High School ROTC



Pelahatchie Mayor, Karl VanHorn and Felicia VanHorn



Pelahatchie High School Band



DEM Drummer Boys



Caroline Gilbert and the Grinch



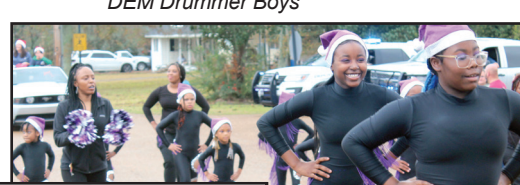
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Santa Claus



Pelahatchie Junior High School Band



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Haley Atkinson, Muscadine Queen



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Jared Morrison and Sheila McAlister Morrison



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Haley Atkinson, Muscadine Queen



Tractors at Christmas parade



First Apostolic Church



Cross Roads Baptist Church



Pelahatchie Baptist Church



Brian Rhodes and family



Photos by Pelahatchie News
Staci McNinch and family

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