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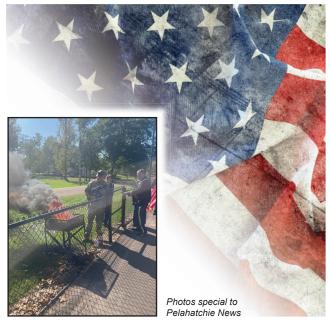
SOCIAL 9

December 2024 ■ Volume 13, Issue 12 ■ Pelahatchie, MS

HS **Pelahatchie** flag honors Veterans Day with

On Veterans Day, the Pelahatchie Chiefs JROTC, band, and 6th grade classes came together to honor veterans with a heartfelt ceremony in front of the school. Also included was a flag retirement ceremony with information about how and why flags are retired. It was a beautiful moment of unity and respect as students showed their gratitude for those who have served our country. Thank you to Dr. Rimes for attending and to all veterans for your service and sacrifice. Please see second Veterans Day article on page 7.





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PHS hosts evening for academics and fine arts



The Pelahatchie school community recently gathered for a memorable night celebrating the achievements of our scholars and fine arts

Voncille Anderson, Principal,

By Guest Columnist

Pelahatchie High School

students. The event, marked by pride and creativity, was a testament to the dedication of our students, staff, and

With a standing-room-only crowd, the evening began by honoring our outstanding scholars for their exceptional performance on the 2023-2024 state assessments. These remarkable achievements played a significant role in elevating our school's rating to a well-deserved Level B. Another significant moment of the evening was the induction of students into the esteemed 99 Club, recognizing those who earned a perfect score on their state assessments. This elite group exemplifies academic excellence and sets a high standard for their peers. The students receiving this

recognition are as follows: Mallerie



Special to Pelahatchie News

Adams - Math; Branch Boyer - Math, Science, and English; Chase Parker -English; and Cameron Henley - English.

Adding to the celebration, several special awards were presented to recog-Continued on page 2

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Pelahatchie High School academics and fine arts showcase

nize exceptional contributions to our school's success. The prestigious Parent of the Year award was given to Twanda Longino, whose unwavering support and involvement have made a lasting impact on our school community. The Teacher of the Year award went to Emily Hayes, honoring her outstanding dedication to inspiring and empowering students every day.

The awards ceremony was followed by the highlight of the evening, our school band with an impressive performance, captivating the audience with their talent and dedication. Musical performances from the 6th grade, 7th grade, and high school bands added to the vibrant atmosphere, demonstrating the depth of our fine arts program.

The celebration didn't stop there. Families and guests enjoyed a stunning art gallery showcasing the creativity and hard work of our students, with pieces reflecting their diverse talents and perspectives.

To make the evening even more special, attendees enjoyed a delicious meal generously sponsored by Crossroads Store and Grill and Sugar Magnolia Takery. The collaborative effort of our staff and administrative team ensured every detail was perfectly executed, creating a night that our students and families will cherish.

Events like this remind us of the incredible spirit of our school community. It's a joy to celebrate not only the academic success of our students but also their artistic achievements and the support they receive from their families, teachers, and local businesses.

We are proud of our scholars and fine arts students for their hard work and accomplishments. Thank you to everyone who made this night unforgettable and for helping us showcase the excellence that defines our school.

Together, we are ALL IN leveling up and building a brighter future!



Photos special to Pelahatchie News













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Pelahatchie Elementary gets special visit from Crooked Creek

Recently, Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) welcomed Crooked Creek Animal Hospital to visit with the kindergarten and second grade students. The clinic staff provided an informative presentation on the role of veterinarians and introduced some special animal guests. PES is grateful to Crooked Creek Animal Hospital for taking the time to engage with the students in this enriching experience.



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Special Feature: Meet the technicians at Crooked Creek Animal Clinic



Adrienne McCurdy joined Crooked Creek Animal Hospital in 2014, and quickly became a beacon of reliability and compassion within the team. Known for her tireless work ethic and dedication, Adrienne's presence is felt in every corner of the clinic. Her favorite part of veterinary medicine is dentistry, where her attention to detail shines. Whether she's performing a routine cleaning or tackling a complex dental procedure, Adrienne's expertise ensures that every pet leaves with a healthier smile.



Melinda Pickle has been a part of Crooked Creek Animal Hospital since 2018. Melinda's calm hands and gentle spirit quickly earned her a reputation for being able to soothe even the most fearful animals that come into the clinic. Whether it's a nervous rescue dog or a cautious kitten, Melinda's presence brings a sense of peace and trust. Her ability to connect on such a profound level makes her an invaluable asset to the team. Melinda's favorite part of veterinary medicine is building relationships with pets and their owners.



Bailee Givens joined Crooked Creek Animal Hospital in March of 2024 and has been making waves ever since. A recent graduate from Hinds Vet Tech School and recipient of the Dr. Bobby Glen Scholarship, she brings her go-getter attitude and dedication to the practice daily. Bailee's favorite part of veterinary medicine is dermatology. With an environmental allergy dog of her own, she has a passion for understanding and treating various skin and ear infections.



Ema Crotwell is the newest addition to our Crooked Creek team. With three years of experience in veterinary medicine, primarily in small animal care, Ema brings a wealth of knowledge and skill to our clinic. Growing up with horses and cattle, Ema has thoroughly enjoyed working with them again here at Crooked Creek. Her versatility allows her to fill in multiple roles, adding valuable diversity to our team. Ema's favorite part of vet med is seeing critical care patients recover and reunite with their owners.



Eric Anderson joined Crooked Creek Animal Hospital in 2022, bringing with him a wealth of 24 years of experience in veterinary medicine. Eric is known for his kindness, gentle demeanor, and unwavering reliability. His favorite part of veterinary medicine is connecting with his patients and getting "on their level".



We're excited to welcome Nicole Weeks to our Crooked Creek family. With three years of experience in veterinary medicine and human medicine, Nicole is constantly growing her skills and making a positive impact on our team every day. Nicole is eager to learn new things and lend a helping hand when needed which is vital in this line of work. Nicole's favorite part of her role as a technician is seeing even the sickest of patients make a full recovery and reuniting them with their owners. These kind of cases are what drive her passion for veterinary medicine.



Hannah Fewell joined the Crooked Creek family in December of 2022 and fit right in from the start. Her numerous talents and strengths benefit the hospital daily, making a significant impact on both the team and the animals. Hannah's favorite part of veterinary medicine is ophthalmology.

Photos special to Pelahatchie News



Since joining Crooked Creek Animal Hospital in May of 2022, Caitlyn has become an invaluable member of our team. Caitlyn's heart truly lies in treating and triaging critical care patients, where her skills shine the brightest. Witnessing these animals make a full recovery and getting to rejoice with their owner, is what drives her passion for veterinary medicine.



Welcome to Katelyn Pennington, affectionately known as "KP," who recently joined our Crooked Creek family. Her infectious smile and love for all animals great and small make her the perfect addition to our team. KP's diverse background, including wildlife rehabilitation, beekeeping, and small animal surgery, brings incredible depth to our clinic. Her favorite part of veterinary medicine is interacting with clients and educating them about their pets' conditions.

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Pelahatchie Middle School and Pelahatchie Library November Events **Elementary Spelling Bee winners**

Congratulations to our Middle School Spelling Bee winners: Runner-Up, Eriana Smith and Champion, Braylan Gardner. They will both compete at the Rankin County School District Spelling Bee on



Congratulations! 1st - 3rd grade spelling bee winners: 1st place: Maci Kate Vanderford, 2nd place: Easton Barnes, 3rd place: Cash Edwards



Congratulations! 4th - 6th grade spelling bee winners: 1st place: Brooklyn Alford, 2nd place: Kinley Simpson, 3rd place: Trace Arnold.

Congratulations to our School Spelling Bee winners! Brooklyn Alford and Kinley Simpson will advance to the next round of competition to represent PES at the Rankin County Spelling Bee on January 17th.





City Beat: Mayor, Alderman meeting for November 4, 2024



Special to Pelahatchie News

By Shaun McInnish, Sr., City Beat Writer, Pelahatchie News

The regular monthly meeting of the Pelahatchie Mayor and Board of Aldermen took place on Monday, November 4, 2024, and was called to order at 5:58 PM by Mayor Karl Vanhorn. Mr. Frank Boyd led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call con-

firmed that all aldermen and alderwomen were present: Diane Hill, Sandra Harvey, Margie Warren, Eddie Jones, and James Harrell.

Resident and Visitor Discussions

- 1. Renee Buyner had signed up to raise concerns regarding nuisance issues at College Street and Munsterman Avenue but was not present at the meeting.
- 2. Joe Lane Kelly, of Fairway Foods, along with an associate from Harris Law Firm, presented a request for a variance in the Heritage District and approval to open Fairway Wine and Spirits, a proposed liquor store. His attorney stated they were seeking a variance for the Heritage District. The motion was tabled until next month's meeting.
- 3. Brendan Sartin, owner of Sartin Law Firm, Los Amigos, and several other businesses in Rankin County, addressed the Board with his opposition to allowing any variance or opening a liquor store in the town's Heritage District. (Editor's note: Sartin Law Firm is directly across the street from the proposed

Fairway Wine and Spirits liquor store.) Sartin reminded the Board that the town's liquor ordinance prohibits such proximity to an existing liquor store. Since Kelly's request for a variance was tabled until December, there was no formal opposition to address during this meeting.



- 4. Benchmark Engineering & Surveying, LLC was scheduled to discuss plans for the development of commercial property on Second Street, but no representative was present.
- 5. David Hegwood stated he had purchased property on Highway 43 and paid \$19,800 from his personal funds for sewer line installation, including boring and engineering costs. Due to these expenses, he proposed a 10-year deferral on his sewer bills. The request was tabled for further research until next month's meeting.
- 6. Frankie Boyd requested a building permit to establish a non-profit business at 302 Munsterman Avenue, currently zoned as residential. Boyd sought guidance on the next steps and requested approval to move a

new building to the area for business purposes.

7. Patsy Watson, on behalf of Tiffany Lewis and Julius Lewis, spoke to the Board about housing and community concerns. She highlighted the lack of housing options for young people and emphasized the need for greater diversity in town.

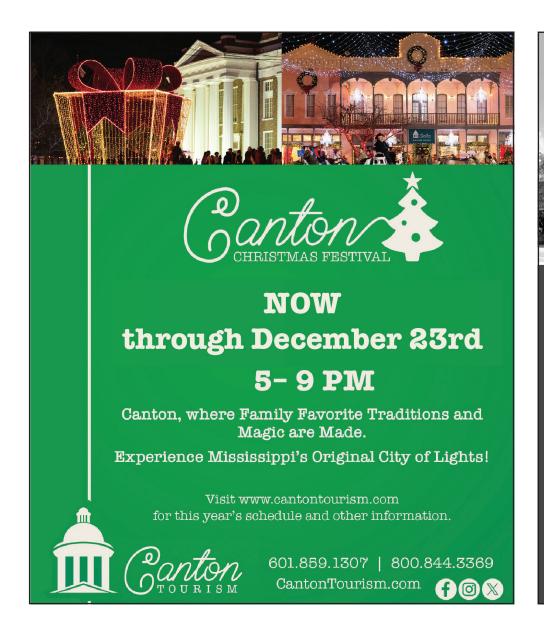
Departmental Updates:

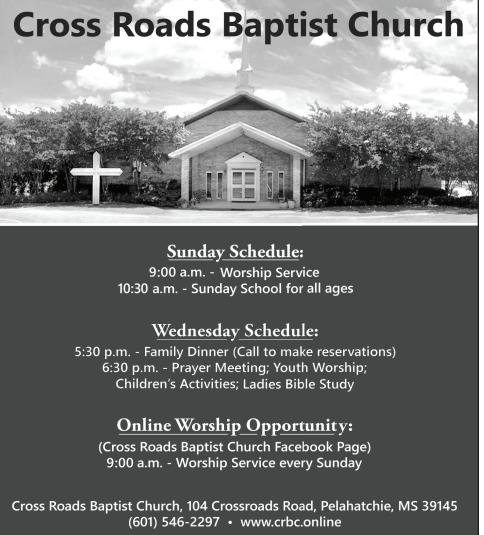
- Police Department: No new business.
- Maintenance Department: No new business.
- Zoning: Police Chief Mahaffey, who also serves as the town's zoning administrator, reported delays in approving new home construction applications. He proposed approving smaller projects on a caseby-case basis without waiting for the town's Comprehensive Plan. Alderman Hill made a motion to approve this approach, which was seconded by Alderman Harvey. The motion passed.
- Clerk's Office: Addressed issues related to a water bill for 204 Clayton Street.

Executive Session:

Alderman Jones made a motion to enter executive session, seconded by Alderman Harrell. The Board, along with the police chief, town attorney, and clerks, entered the session at 6:43 PM. The town attorney announced the executive session at 6:54 PM, citing multiple reasons that required privacy. The session concluded at 7:20 PM.

Following the session, the Board approved the Continued on page 8





(5 miles south of Interstate 20 on Highway 43 South)



Pelahatchie ES students attend Veterans Day panel

This Veterans Day, the Pelahatchie Elementary and High School communities came together to honor and learn from heroes in uniform through two special events. 2nd and 3rd graders attended an inspiring Military Career Panel, where they learned about the diverse paths in the armed forces and the importance of service from community members and parents of our students. Later, the Pelahatchie Chiefs JROTC led a meaningful flag retirement ceremony, attended by 6th graders and joined by the band. Students learned the significance of respectfully retiring worn flags, reflected on the meaning of the flag to our freedoms, and were encouraged to seek ways to serve others in their daily lives.





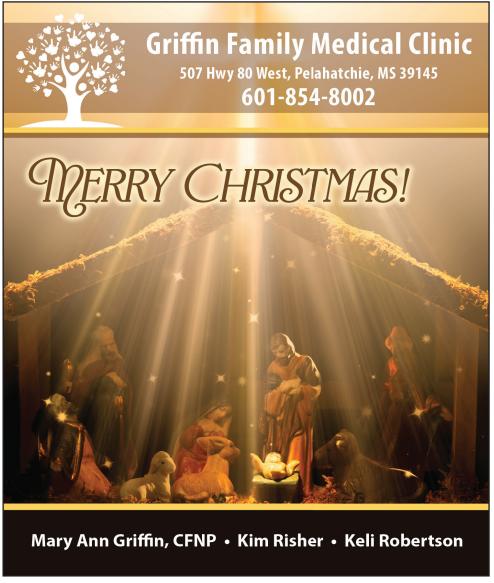






Photos special to Pelahatchie News





Continued on page 6



pre-construction processes for the proposed 45-home neighborhood in town, developed by Scott May of S&S Builders of Mississippi. Alderman Harvey made the motion, seconded by Alderman Harrell. A second matter from the executive session was tabled.

New Business:

- 1. Approval of Minutes: The Board approved the minutes from the October 7, 2024, meeting. Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Hill.
- 2. Payment of Claims: The Board approved payment of the unpaid claims docket. Motion by Alderwoman Warren, seconded by Alderman Jones.
- 3. Insurance Payment: The Board approved a bank draft payment to Morgan and White Insurance for \$1,044.70 (secondary to BCBS coverage). Motion by Warren, seconded by Jones.
- 4. Blue Cross Payment: A bank draft payment to Blue Cross Insurance for \$9,223.44 was approved. Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Hill.
- 5. Payroll Ratification: Payroll payments for October 2024 were approved: General Fund: \$69,194.98 and Enterprise Fund: \$25,409.87. Motion

by Alderman Jones, seconded by Harrell.

- 6. Building Permits Resolution: The Board approved a resolution to lift or repeal the existing order on issuing new building permits. Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Harrell.
- 7. Development Ordinance: The Board approved the development ordinance discussed in the previous meeting. Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Harrell.

Alderman Discussions:

Alderman Hill proposed using leftover town funds to repair streets, ensuring completed sections were repaired in their entirety.

Alderman Jones thanked the town for trimming and cutting trees as needed.

Mayor VanHorn reminded everyone about the town's Thanksgiving dinner for seniors and the annual Christmas parade scheduled for December 7 at 10:00 AM.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM following a motion by Alderman Jones and a second by Alderman Harrell.

City Beat: November 4, 2024 Jellystone wins two awards



Special to Pelahatchie News

Stephanie Goss, left, Yogi Bear Jellystone Park General Manager, and Alana Goss, [Office Manager and Manager in Training] attended the Jellystone Park Symposium 2024 in Knoxville, Tennessee. They returned with notable awards including the Pinnacle Club Award and the Customer Service Award. This marks Stephanie's third year as General Manager. Both have been integral to Yogi Bear Jellystone Park since 2020. They have had a remarkable tenure and fostered meaningful relationships with guests. The off-season will prioritize essential renovations, including the splash pad, pool, mini golf, and outdoor theater, subject to approval, ensuring an exceptional guest experience





council officers and representatives



Students elected as East Rankin Academy Student Council Officers for the 2024-2025 school year are: (L to R) Dalton McDill, President; Truitt Lewis, Vice-President; Jensen Baker, Secretary; and Audrey Hawk. Treasurer.



Students elected as East Rankin Academy Student Council Representatives for the 2024-2025 school year are: (L to R) Walker Sartin, 9th Grade Representative; Elizabeth Thrash 10th Grade Representative; Arin Hawk, 11th Grade Representative; and Audrey Mayatte, 12th Grade Representative.

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ERA announces 2024-25 student | Pelahatchie JROTC cadets attend open hanger event at Air National Guard base

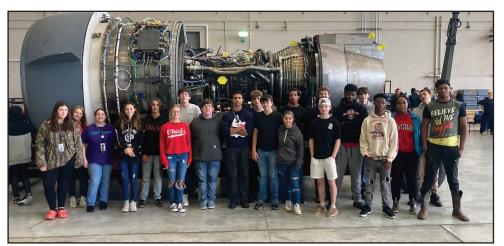
JROTC cadets traveled to the Air National Guard base in Flowood for an open hanger event. Cadets were presented with a wide variety of career opportunities. Sam Rogers set the course record in the firefighter challenge competition.













Pelahatchie HS and ES announce Parent and Teacher of the Year



Mrs. Brittany Coleman is the Pelahatchie Elementary School 2024-25 Teacher of the Year. She creates partnerships with the families of the students she teaches to help them succeed. She is a Jr. Beta Club Sponsor, is an excellent support to het eammates, and is hosting a student teacher this year. She also leads others by serving on many committees at Pelahatchie ES.



Photos special to Pelahatchie New

We are so proud to recognize Ryshonda Beechem as our 2024-2025 Parent of the Year for Pelahatchie Elementary.







This year's Teacher of the Year is Mrs. Emily Hayes. Congratulations, Mrs. Hayes. The role of a teacher extends far beyond the classroom, as evidenced by her remarkable contributions. This year, she is also the Homecoming and Prom Coordinator and serves as the Student Council Sponsor. As a Math teacher, her belief in student success is palpable; she provides individualized support and encouragement, ensuring that every student feels valued and capable of achieving their academic goals.





This year's Parent of the Year is Dr. Twanda Longino. She serves as Co-Leader of the PTO. Her role as the sponsor of the "Student of the Month" program highlights her dedication to acknowledging and encouraging student achievement. Her involvement in various career opportunities for students exemplifies a holistic approach to education, equipping young individuals with the necessary skills and experiences to navigate their future paths confidently.

PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK









PAST HEADLINES

2014 - 10 years ago

- "New awareness campaign encourages people to reduce Sodium"
 - "Make sure Christmas doesn't go up in smoke"

2019 - 5 years ago

- "PHS Cheerleaders named Grand Champions
- · "PHS Ag donates wagon to Ag Museum"

2023 - Last Year

- "Jellystone honored with multiple awards"
 - "ERCO and Cutting Edge highlight good neighbors"

NEWS elahatchie

How agriculture is interwined with the story of Christmas



Special to

By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

Having been raised on a farm in rural Rankin County, I can easily say that Christmas is a very important time of the year for those of us involved in Agriculture.

Some of us are finished with gathering crops, fall tillage and are anticipating next year's crop. Some are feeding livestock daily. For many of us, Christmas comes in the middle of hunting seasons. Most of us are from Christian families, so the reason we celebrate Christmas is no big surprise. As I look back, it seems the whole time I was growing up, Christmas was such a magical time of the year.

The setting of the Christmas story is in a stable, in a town in the Middle East called Bethlehem. A stable is something that we can easily refer to, since many of us grew up around farm animals. I can remember as I grew up, both of my grandfathers had stalls in their barns, with feed troughs in them.

Those in agriculture understand that a manger was not a bad place to be used as the resting place for a newborn child. According to the dictionary, a manger is a structure used to hold food for farm animals. The word comes from French managier (meaning "to eat"). Mangers or troughs, as they are called today, are mostly used in raising livestock.

We all know the story. The time came for the baby to be born and Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in clothes and placed him in a manager, because there was no room for them in an inn.

Inns during that time were nothing like they are today. The occupants slept in rooms together, probably without any heat, except what was produced by their own bodies. Try to imagine all the snoring and other sounds, not to mention the smells, the diseases and the pests the travelers carried with them from all over the Roman Empire.

I believe the innkeeper did them a huge favor by placing them in a stable, away from the other travelers. He placed them with the animals, where there was hay for bedding, and the warmth of the animals could help take the edge off the cold of a long winter night. It is hard to



imagine a more peaceful place.

It is so easy to see that all of this had to have been planned, and it came to set the stage for the story we know so well today.

After Jesus's birth, a very bright star was seen in the eastern sky. There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch of their flocks, and an angel appeared to them. This part of the story confirms to me the apparent importance of these lowly people, who as shepherds, were producing sheep for the sheep's wool. These shepherds were regarded as highly important members of society.

The actual story sounds like they all left their sheep and traveled to see the child. However, anyone that understands sheep will understand that some went, and some stayed with the flocks to guard them from the predators of the night. Just think of the story they had to tell their fellow shepherds when they returned to the fields.

During this time, agriculture was the occupation that sustained society, just as it does today. Then, it required most of the population to do all the work required, to produce the food and clothing they

needed.

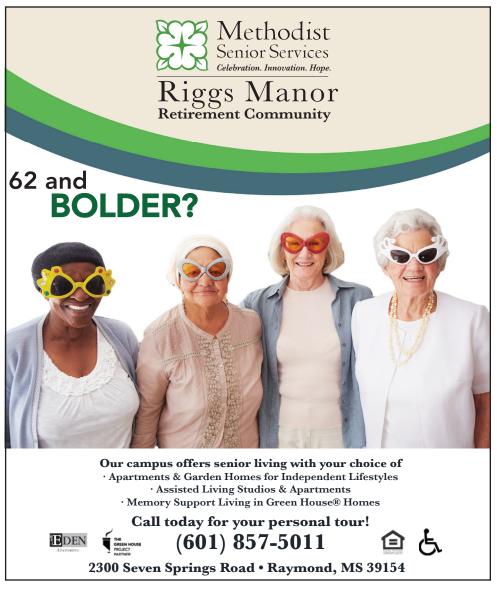
Jesus went on to live his life. The week he was crucified, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey, a beast that was used to transport farm products.

Agriculture cannot be removed from this great story, and it has translated into the faith of so many people of the world today.

From the Rankin County Extension Service, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sources: Dr. Ernie Flint, "Christmas and Agriculture Have Always Been Close Allies," Field Notes.









Congratulations to PHS 8th grader Julius Wash (left) on his recent graduation from the English Learner program. Julius has not only mastered the English language but has also demonstrated academic excellence along the way. Our Tribe is incredibly proud of Julius and all that he has achieved.

RCSD awards students for PES receives RCSD October completion of the EL program employee of the month



Congratulations to Regina Ferguson of Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES). She is the RCSD Elementary Classified October Employee of the Month, recognized for her service and dedication to PES.

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Pastor's Perspective: The Holiday Season - What is Advent?



By Guest Columnist Spencer Sullivan, Pastor, Pelahatchie Baptist

For many, the Christmas and larger holiday season is the absolute best part of the year. Certainly, count me among those who love

the season! Without question, there is this natural and radiant joy that fills the air. Perhaps it is generated by all the special traditions associated with Christmas. Personally, I love Christmas lights and decorations. I love driving around town and to different neighborhoods to see all that people put out and decorate. I love listening to Christmas music. There is just something about the carols and songs that fill my heart with hope, joy, and peace. I love the special gatherings with friends and family as we communicate our love for one another, perhaps more than any

other time of the year.

Did you know that this season and build up to Christmas Day actually has a name? Yes-Advent. I understand that not everyone who enjoys the Christmas season necessarily recognizes Advent, but the traditional themes of Advent are hope, joy, peace, and love; all words that I have used to describe the emotions that this season produces.

The season of Advent is always comprised of the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas Day. But, what is the meaning of Advent? Why do we recognize and celebrate it? The word Advent literally means 'coming' or 'arrival.' Therefore, the Advent season is when followers of Jesus, celebrate and remember His humble birth. But Advent is not only about remembering Jesus' birth and first

coming. As His followers, the Advent season also leads us to look forward with eager anticipation of His promised return. It's a time for families and the church to reflect together on God's faithfulness throughout history and also to await Christ's second and final coming with hope.

It makes a lot of sense that one of the major emphases of Advent is remembering the birth of our Lord, since it leads up to Christmas Day. Though He came as a humble baby, Jesus came to bring hope for the hopeless. He came so



that lost sinners can once and for all be reconciled to God. For those who have called upon the name of Jesus to save us, we are forever grateful for His sacrifice—so yes, of course, we remember and celebrate that first arrival of the Savior of the world. However, the other emphasis that many may be unaware of is this eager anticipation of His second and final coming. For those that call Him Lord, we love Him. We worship Him. We long to be in His physical presence forevermore. Therefore, this season of Advent is a reminder that while He already came and purchased

for us the best gift of all—eternal life—He is coming again to take His people home for eternity where we will worship Him forever! And when He comes again, it won't be as a humble baby. When He arrives the second and final time, it will be as a glorious Warrior King who will reign on His throne forever and ever.

I hope that you will recognize and celebrate the Advent season with these two emphases in mind. Enjoy your time with friends and family. Enjoy the music, the lights, the food, the traditions. Soak up all the joy, hope, peace, love, and all the other warm and

hopeful emotions the season produces. I encourage you to remember the humble birth of the Son of God and worship Him as you do. But, also remember that His return is imminent. If you follow Him, I encourage you to eagerly anticipate His return with a desire to see Him and worship Him. However, if you've yet to surrender to Him, recognize His lordship, and receive the precious gift of eternal life, may all the reminders of the season draw you to see Him for who He truly is-Lord of all and Savior of the world!



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Title IX: Associate Vice President Student Services, Title IX Coordinator P.O. Box 1100 Raymond MS 39154; Phone: 601-857-3353 or Email: Title IX@hindscc.edu



Pelahatchie ES hosts Thanksgiving family lunch

Pelahatchie Elementary School recently hosted a special Thanksgiving lunch, welcoming parents and grandparents to join our students and staff for a heartwarming meal.

















PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK









WRITERS NEEDED

PELAHATCHIE AREA

• COMMUNITY FEATURE WRITER

If you enjoy writing, working with the public, and are interested in being a part of what is going on in our town and local community please contact Clay Mansell

claymansell@pelahachienews.com





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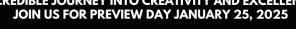
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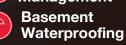


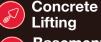
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Try a make-ahead dinner for busy holiday seasons

Make-ahead and freezer meals can be a lifesaver during the holiday season. This recipe is almost fool-proof, and it can be scaled up or down, if you'd like to have leftovers to freeze for later. It's also a good one to make the night (or a couple of nights) before and have ready to pop into the oven when you get home from work. If freezing a batch, be sure to let it thaw thoroughly in the fridge for a day before baking.

Toss some garlic bread (or even some not-as-fresh hamburger or hot dog buns spread with butter and garlic powder) into the oven for the last few minutes of baking, and use a bag of salad mix as a quick side, and dinner will be ready in no time!

Baked Ziti



INGREDIENTS

16 oz. ziti pasta 1 package (4) Italian sausage links, casing removed 2 lbs. ground beef 1 large onion, diced 1 Tblsp. minced garlic 2 Tblsp. dried Italian seasoning 1 large jar spaghetti sauce 1 small container ricotta cheese 2/3 cup Parmesan cheese 2 Tblsp. garlic salt
2 cups finely shredded mozzarella cheese

PREPARATION

- 1. Boil ziti until just slightly past al dente stage, then drain.
- 2. Toss ziti with 1/3 of the spaghetti sauce (while noodles are still hot) and set aside.
- 3. Brown sausage and ground beef with onion and garlic in large skillet, until cooked through and tender. Break/chop meat into small pieces while cooking.
- 4. If there is more than 1-2 tablespoons of grease in the skillet, drain the meat, then return it to the skillet.
- 5. Add Italian seasoning and remaining spaghetti sauce to meat mixture skillet and mix.
- 6. Mix ricotta with garlic salt and Parmesan cheese, then stir in 1/2 cup of the mozzarella cheese.
- 6. Put a thin layer of the meat mixture in the bottom of a 10" x 15" (3 qt) casserole dish.
 - 7. Layer the ziti noodles on top of the meat in the dish.
 - 8. Top the ziti noodles with half of the remaining meat mixture.
 - 9. Dollop the ricotta mixture over the top of the ziti, spreading it out gently to cover as much of the ziti as possible.
- 10. Top the ricotta mixture with remaining meat sauce, then cover the entire top with mozzarella.
- 11. Bake, covered with foil, at 325 degrees for 30 minutes, or until heated through. Let stand for 5 minutes before serving.

PES names October character trait award recipients

Congratulations to our amazing students who were selected for the October Character Counts trait of Self-Control. These individuals show remarkable discipline and focus in their actions, setting a fantastic example for their peers.



Dakota Shaw pre-K







Rosie Pasqua K



Jaiden Antoine 1st





Waylon Todd 1st



Brantley Richardson 2nd



Macy Renfroe 2nd



Miracle Dominguez 2nd



Brixton Martin 3rd



Katie Phillips 3rd



Levi Pope 3rd



Hagen Scruggs 4th



Logan Myers 4th



Ramzey Beechem 4th



Bailee Goodin 5th



Cameron Banks 5th



Tori Kilgore 5th



Britani Lee 6th

FOR CHRISTMAS!



Gage Haven 6th



Kylie Griffin 6th Jamie Phillips SP





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