



# PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



January 2025 ■ Volume 14, Issue 1 ■ Pelahatchie, MS

## ERA Lady Patriot achieves career high



Special to Pelahatchie News

Sophomore lady patriot Liz Stevens reaches 1,000 career points.

## Your local public library is the place to be

By Angela Ward, Branch Manager  
Pelahatchie Public Library

Happy New Year from the Pelahatchie Public Library. The Pelahatchie library is a part of the Central Mississippi Regional Library System (CMRLS), which consists of twenty branches located in Rankin, Scott, Smith, and Simpson counties. Your local library card grants you access to a wealth of books. If you would like to increase your reading in 2025, consider attempting the reading challenges suggested by NoveList. For example, read a horror novel in July to chill you while sunbathing by the beach. Brush up on your awareness of social issues in March, then seek a book



Special to Pelahatchie News

Angela Ward, Branch Manager,  
Pelahatchie Public Library

set in the decade of your birth for September. This year, consider trying one of our many digital resources, such as the cloudLibrary, Hoopla, or ComicsPlus, as you complete your reading challenges. Start your new year off by visiting the Pelahatchie library this month.

The NoveList 2025 Reading Challenges can be found at <https://m.ebsco.is/uh-KMx>. Check out the CMRLS resources mentioned above at <https://cmrls.lib.ms.us/>.



## Junior Lady Chiefs achieve undefeated season



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JH Lady Chiefs finish their season undefeated.

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# Pelahatchie celebrates the season with Christmas parade

For the 2024 Pelahatchie Christmas Parade, Della Dunlap was the Grand Marshal. She has been a Pelahatchie resident for 66 years.

Whitney Adams served as MC. Heather Pennypacker, Pelahatchie city clerk, was the organizer.

Judges for the float contest were: Hayden Overby, Waggoner Engineering; Steve Wallace, Insurance Associates; & Judge Josh McCrory

The Christmas Parade float winners were:

First Place:  
Cross Roads Baptist Church

Second Place:  
First Apostolic Church

Third Place:  
Magnolia Dance School



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



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## Hinds Community College honors Foundation scholarship recipients



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pictured left to right: Quenton Spann, Ginger Manchester, Dr. John Manchester, Mariah McGill, and Marty Robinson.

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Hinds Community College Foundation recognized 2024-2025 scholarship recipients, donors and other honorees at a reception on Sept. 20 at the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus.

Among those being recognized were Quenton Spann of Lena, left, and **Mariah McGill of Pelahatchie**, second from right, both of whom received the Manchester Mu-

sic Legacy Scholarship. With them were Ginger Manchester, second from left, and Dr. John Manchester, both of Clinton, and Hinds employee Marty Robinson, right.

The Hinds Community College Foundation will award more than 800 scholarships during the 2024-2025 academic year. The deadline to apply for a scholarship for fall 2025 (academic year 2025-2026), is Feb. 15, 2025. For more information, visit [www.hindscc.edu](http://www.hindscc.edu).

## Colonel Tate retires for US Army

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie native and Northwest Rankin High School graduate Jason Tate, retired from the U.S. Army, November 1, 2024, as a Colonel, with more than 26 years of service.

The ceremony at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala., was officiated by Brigadier General Retired Al Abramson.

Colonel Tate is a decorated combat veteran with tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He is the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal and Legion of Merit Medal. Colonel Tate also holds a PhD in Management from Walden University. During his ca-



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Colonel Jason Tate

reer, he served in a variety of positions culminating with his final assignment as the Search, Track, Acquire, Eliminate (STARE) Project Manager, a job where he managed the Army's Tactical Radars.

Colonel Tate is a 1998 graduate of Tougaloo College with a Bachelor's degree in Biology and is married to the former Kandie S. Stovall, M.D. of Huntsville, Ala. They have three sons, Noah, Nathan, and Nicholas.

Colonel Tate is the son of Joe and Brenda Tate of Pelahatchie.



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**THE BRANCH**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
**2024!**

Rankin County Co-op



# Local business showcases special Christmas tradition

Crossroads Store & Grill once again showcased their Christmas village for the 2024 holiday season. With over 225 man-hours poured into its creation, this year's village was a true labor of love and packed with magical details. From twinkling lights to charming scenes, there was something for everyone to discover. The village even held a secret. Hidden somewhere in the village was their elusive Sasquatch. Crossroad's staff loves to share with everyone the joy and excitement of the holiday season through the magic of the Christmas Village.



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# PHS students inducted into 99 Club

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) is excited to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of the students who have earned perfect scores on their state tests and have become the first members of our PHS 99 Club. These outstanding students have worked hard, represented Pelahatchie High School with excellence, and shown what it means to be #ALLINCHIEFS.

Their dedication and success will be honored with banners proudly displayed in the hallways—a lasting tribute to their achievements and inspiration for all. Students with multiple banners are showcased for scoring perfect scores on multiple content areas.



**MALLARIE ADAMS**

Photos special to Pelahatchie News



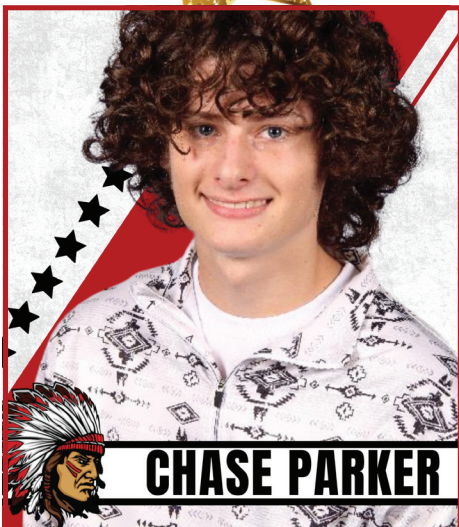
**BRANCH BOYER**



**CAMERON HENLEY**



**LAYNE TUCKER**



**CHASE PARKER**



**JACKSON FAYETTE**

# Pelahatchie Library January Events

**"A TIME TO REMEMBER"**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 5:00 P.M.**  
**SHARE MEMORIES AND SUPPORT**  
**WITH OTHERS EXPERIENCING**  
**LOSS OF A LOVED ONE**

**SENIOR CITIZENS' SOCIAL**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 11:00 A.M.**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 11:00 A.M.**  
**JOIN OTHER SENIORS IN THE AREA**  
**TO PLAY GAMES AND SOCIALIZE**

**ADULT BOOK CLUB**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**JANUARY 15, 11:00 A.M.**  
**DISCUSSING *DEJA DEAD***  
**BY KATHY REICHS**

**PELAHATCHIE PETALS GARDEN CLUB**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 5:30 P.M.**  
**THE PELAHATCHIE PETALS GARDEN**  
**CLUB MEETS THE THIRD THURSDAY**  
**OF EVERY MONTH AT 5:30 P.M.**



**Pelahatchie Public Library**  
**will be closed**  
**January 13 - 17**  
**for inventory.**

We will reopen on Tuesday, January 21.  
 Digital media and resources can be found 24/7 on our website at [www.cmrls.lib.ms.us](http://www.cmrls.lib.ms.us).

 Pelahatchie Public Library  
 718 Second Street, Pelahatchie, Mississippi 39145 | 601-854-8764  
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# City Beat: Mayor, Alderman meeting for November 4, 2024



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

The Pelahatchie Mayor and Board of Aldermen convened for their regular monthly meeting on Monday, December 2, 2024, at Town Hall. Mayor Karl Vanhorn presided over the meeting, which featured discussions on local business developments, police department upgrades, and financial matters.

**Fairway Wine and Spirits Seeks Approval:** Joe Lane Kelly and an associate from Harris Law Firm addressed the board, requesting a variance for the Heritage District and approval for establishing Fairway Wine and Spirits, a proposed liquor store. The presentation was met with some discussion, but the matter was yet again tabled until next month's meeting.

**ARPA Funds:** A motion was then made to amend meeting agenda and that motion was approved by Alderman Jones and Alderman Hill. The motion was to approve an engineering agreement for the town to secure up to \$6.5 million in ARPA funds. The presented amendment was stated to move Pelahatchie from preliminary work to actual work being done. It was stated that this motion was made because the ARPA allocation deadline is 12/31/24.

It was also added to include allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. A motion to approve was made by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderman Harrell and the motion carried.



**Police Department Bodycam Upgrades:** The board reviewed a proposal for a five-year contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. for the purchase of new body cameras for the Pelahatchie Police Department. Police Chief Mahaffey stated the department was currently running with partial camera availability. The contract would provide the Pelahatchie Police Department with body cameras, cloud-based storage for video footage, and maintenance services. The deal is for 60 months and \$50,000 and would be paid upon yearly. Axxon would also provide full warranty during this period. Police Chief Mahaffey added that their past camera deal was an outright purchase,

but this new deal would be paid over a period of 5 years. Alderman Jones added he was open to passing the motion, but added he wanted cameras in police vehicles, too. Jones then made a motion to pass the agreement and Alderman Hill seconded the motion and the motion carried.

## New Business:

1. Motion was made by Alderman Jones to approve minutes from previous board meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hill and all were in favor and the motion carried.

2. The board reviewed the unpaid claims, with a motion by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderman Harrell and all were in favor and the motion carried.

3. The board approved a bank draft of \$1,044.70 to Morgan and White Insurance (for secondary insurance). Alderman Harrell initiated the motion, Alderman Jones second and the motion carried with all in favor.

4. A bank draft payment of \$9,223.44 to Blue Cross Insurance was also approved with Alderman Jones making the motion and Alderman Hill seconding the motion and the motion carried with all in favor.

5. Payroll for November 2024 was ratified,

*Continued on page 8*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
Crooked Creek Animal Hospital, Inc.

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Staci L. Rhodes, DVM  
Jenny Sowell, DVM  
Katlyn Henning, DVM  
Susan Thrash, DVM

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**Cross Roads Baptist Church**

**Sunday Schedule:**  
9:00 a.m. - Worship Service  
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

**Wednesday Schedule:**  
5:30 p.m. - Family Dinner (Call to make reservations)  
6:30 p.m. - Prayer Meeting; Youth Worship;  
Children's Activities; Ladies Bible Study

**Online Worship Opportunity:**  
(Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook Page)  
9:00 a.m. - Worship Service every Sunday

Cross Roads Baptist Church, 104 Crossroads Road, Pelahatchie, MS 39145  
(601) 546-2297 • www.crbc.online  
(5 miles south of Interstate 20 on Highway 43 South)



# Holiday season brings Christmas decor to Pelahatchie

The town of Pelahatchie joined in the holiday spirit with many decorations that could be seen throughout the area.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

## Fusion Martial Arts

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## Griffin Family Medical Clinic

# HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR!



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in heaven.

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## Town meeting Nov. 4

totaling \$77,207.36 for the general fund and \$25,926.62 for the enterprise fund. Alderman Jones made the motion and Alderman Harrell seconded the motion and the motion carried with all in favor.

### Aldermen Discussions:

1. Alderwoman Diane Hill highlighted the need for new signage and improved street lighting in key areas.

2. Alderwoman Sandra Harvey focused on road maintenance and infrastructure challenges.

3. Alderwoman Margie Warren shared concerns about stray dogs that had appeared near her home recently.

4. Alderman Eddie Jones emphasized long-term financial planning for the town and hoped everyone had a good Thanksgiving holiday.

5. Alderman James Harrell addressed ongoing concerns from residents about street conditions (potholes from construction area).

6. Mayor Karl Vanhorn provided updates on town projects, including plans for community development initiatives and other ongoing efforts to improve Pelahatchie. He mentioned the town's upcoming Christmas parade and Breakfast with Santa events.

The board concluded the meeting at 6:35 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2025.

## OBITUARY

### Betty Lou Cordell Gilliam

(October 7, 1941 – December 18, 2024) Betty Lou Gilliam, 83, passed away Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at home in Kosciusko.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 am on Saturday, December 21, 2024, at Culpepper Funeral Home. Burial will be held at a later date. Visitation was held Saturday from 9:00 am until 11:00 am at Culpepper Funeral Home.

Betty was born in Washington County, MS. She attended Chatham Schools for her earlier school years and later graduated from Riverside High School in 1959. She married James Paul Gilliam on April 1, 1961, and they later moved to Fort Benning, GA while Paul was in the U.S. Army. After his discharge, they moved to Greenville.

Betty was a homemaker while the family moved around with Paul's jobs. They finally landed back in Greenville to which Betty started employment with Kmart. While at Kmart she worked in numerous positions, her last being in Human Resources. While in Human Resources, she volunteered with the Salvation Army on several community projects which led her to a meeting and photo op with the legendary NFL Hall of Famer, Jerry Rice. She enjoyed her work for the reason it allowed her to meet all kinds of people, and she loved to talk with people.

After her retirement from Kmart, Betty and Paul moved to Pelahatchie. While residing in Pelahatchie, Betty began working with Trustmark National Bank as a teller and remained there until her final retirement.

Betty was fun-loving, opinionated, loud, and family oriented. Family was important to her, and she loved having big gatherings. The bigger the better. She loved laughing, joking, and talking. She loved her family and told them all the time. She bragged on her grandchildren, and later her great-grands, and was proud of each one. She enjoyed watching them do whatever they participated in.

Betty is survived by her daughter Cindy Glazier (Gary), daughter-in-law Laurie Gilliam Bowman, seven Grandchildren, and seven Great-Grandchildren, sisters Shirley Shamoun (Charles) and Cathy Nokes, and brothers Ricky Cordell (Anne) and Bill Cordell (Diane).

She is preceded in death by her parents Rueben and Maudine Threadgill Cordell, husband James Paul Gilliam, sons James Paul Gilliam, Jr. and Joseph Sean Gilliam, sisters Imogene Simpson and Ann Wigley, brothers John, Allen, Louie, Neal, and Joe Cordell.

For online condolences, please visit the Culpepper website at [culpepperfuneralhome.com](http://culpepperfuneralhome.com).



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# Pelahatchie FFA win awards



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pictured left to right: 1st place National FFA Creed - Chase Parker; 1st Jr Prepared Speaking - Lou Ellen Wilson; 1st Sr Prepared Speaking - KatieBelle Herrington; 2nd Jr Creed - Bailey Key. All four FFA members will move on to District on March 5.

# PHS band goes to MBA clinic and gets new band uniforms

Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, the Mississippi Bandmasters Association held its 2024 All-State Band Clinic which took place on December 11-14. Three students from PHS were chosen to participate including Kyra Bryant (1st Chair Bass Clarinet, Blue Band); Cameron Henley (4th Chair Percussion, White Band); and Lennon McFadden-Junior High (8th Chair Trombone, Blue Band). The concert took place on Saturday, December 14th at 11am in the Natchez Convention Center. PHS congratulates these students on a job well done.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Left to Right: Kyra Bryant, Cameron Henley, Band Director, Mr. Jack Smith and Lennon McFadden

## PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



## PAST HEADLINES

### 2015 - 10 years ago

- “BBB warns consumers to beware of Social Security Scammers”
- “Fourth-grade students learn how harmful tobacco products are”

### 2020 - 5 years ago

- “Shannon McKay Grand Marshal of Pelahatchie Christmas Parade”
- “Resolutions for a better financial plan”

### 2024 - Last Year

- “Coach Brooke Rhodes, ERA Girls with 20th game”
- “ERA robotics team, breaks record, qualifies for state competition”

The Pelahatchie High School band also ran a campaign this year for new uniforms. Thanks to an anonymous sponsor in the community, the band was fortunate enough to order the uniform tops to help complete the campaign. The band members were excited to be able to showcase the new full uniforms during the Christmas parade.





# ERCO and Yogi on the Lake hold community Christmas

Recently, Ever Reaching Community Outreach (ERCO) and Yogi on the Lake held a Community Christmas night. The festive evening offered free activities and refreshments.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

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from the staff at  
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# Pastures Benefit from a Timely Prescribed Burn



By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

Special to Pelahatchie News

Prescribed burning is a widely used and effective tool for managing pastures. Most pastures are burned in late winter to early spring (late January to early March). Fire is useful on pastures

that are overgrown with dead biomass, that has accumulated over the years. Dead biomass can choke out desirable plants and new seedlings, causing stands to thin and create habitats for invasive species. A well-timed burn can injure or kill undesirable species such as invasive wood plants, or weeds, and reduce soil seed banks of invasive species.

Prescribed burning in the spring is an important part of grass management. Burning a pasture will require having enough dead growth as fuel to support a fire. A hot fire will require at least 1,500 to 2,000 pounds of dry matter per acre that is dead and burns easily to provide enough heat to destroy undesirable species during the burning process. Burning hayfields or pastures can reduce insect and disease pressure the following summer. Reducing the thatch layer increases sunlight penetration to new growth in the spring



and helps warm up soil temperatures and plant roots quicker, resulting in earlier green-up in the fields. Also, burning helps release nutrients into the ground that can be used by the new growth. Timely late winter burns can offer benefits to a hay or livestock producer.

A good indication of a possible needed prescribed

burn in your pasture is observed when the field starts to show bunches of grass in the pasture and the cattle graze around them. They try to avoid these areas where the grass is thicker with lower forage quality and then they overgraze other areas. This causes uneven utilization of the pasture and the formation of these grass clumps. It is recommended to burn your pasture only once every two or three years to maximize the health and sustainability of the pasture. Producers that have never burned a pasture might not realize how hot and fast a fire can travel. Before planning a prescribed burn, especially for pastures surrounded by wooded areas, landowners should consult with the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC). The Mississippi Prescribed Burning Act of 1992 codified prescribed burning as a property owners right. Liability is limited if the landowner follows the guidelines outlined in the law. Principally, prescribed burning should be in the public interest. Currently, MFC requires a landowner to get a burning permit before burning. If burning conditions are not favorable, MFC will not grant a burning permit.

Source: *Pasture Benefit from a Timely Prescribed Burn, Forage News, volume 13, Mississippi State University Extension, January 2020*



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## Pelahatchie HS 2024-25 tech team



Special to Pelahatchie News

Front row: Loryn Boulton, Christian Beeman, Melanie Ball, Zion Jennings, and Braylon Jordan; back row: Jeremiah Sullivan, Matthew Wilson, Jamaal Longino, and Logan Quick

## Toal Mississippi State Hospital October Employee of the Month

Dana Toal of Pelahatchie, MS has been named Mississippi State Hospital's October Employee of the Month for Support Services.

Toal serves as an Administrative Assistant IV in Support Services and has been employed at MSH since 2020.

The MSH Employee of the Month award recognizes employees who have made outstanding contributions to the hospital through their work. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital Inc.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Dana Toal

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# Pastor's Perspective: New year, facing forward, what's next?



By Guest Columnist  
Spencer Sullivan, Pastor,  
Pelahatchie Baptist

Special to  
Pelahatchie News

As the Advent and Christmas season have wrapped up 2024, a new year is now upon us. I hope that you experienced the Lord's blessings in the year that is now behind us. I imagine as we look back on 2024, we can all identify the highs we experienced, some of which will be cherished, lifelong memories. Yet, without question, some of you have experienced significant lows and are perhaps eager to turn the page to 2025. As I have written previously, a new year can represent a fresh start to certain aspects of life. With that in mind, many people often make resolutions or set personal goals for a coming new year. Personally, I look forward to turning a page from one year to the next and consider how certain aspects of my life can be improved upon over the course of the next year. So, what's next for you as we consider 2025?

Personally, I know the aspects of my life for which I consistently set goals in

order to help facilitate personal growth and improve my health. At times, I hit those goals and I can feel really good about achieving success in certain areas of life. It always feels good to set a goal and achieve it. As a follower and disciple of Jesus, we can set certain practical goals that can help lead us toward spiritual growth, but the overall goal is always the same: to grow in Christlikeness. Paul wrote about this in his letter to the Philippian church. He wrote: "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:12-14) The 'this' Paul is referring to at the beginning of the quote is a righteousness that is only obtained through faith in Christ. (from Philippians 3:9) While the righteousness itself is actually God's own righteousness and is obtained by His people only by His grace given only through faith in Christ, it is



Special to Pelahatchie News

clear that Paul's goal was to be as much like Christ as possible. Notice his strategy in pursuit of this goal: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. This strategy could apply in really any goal that we set for ourselves, but Paul recognized the importance of not looking back and being laser focused on what was in front of him. As Paul wrote these words, he subtly paints the picture of a runner racing toward a finish line. A competitive runner knows he or she cannot look back upon other runners or perhaps portions of the course that caused them to stumble. Looking back slows us down or

causes us to veer off course. In order to win, the runner must be laser focused on the prize that awaits beyond the finished line. And for those that follow Christ, we know that we will never truly obtain the prize until we cross the finish line and this life is over. Until then, we will still have moments in which we stumble or get distracted. But by His sovereign grace, He keeps us and leads us to the priceless prize of eternal life with Him. Until that day, by that same grace, we must forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead. We press on toward the goal—to be as much like Jesus as possible!

As you consider this ultimate goal, what is it that you need to forget or finally let go of so that you can move forward? Is there a sin pattern in your life that you need to leave behind and walk away from? Perhaps, you have gotten complacent in your pursuit of living for Jesus. Let me encourage you to heed Paul's words and leave all that behind. And instead, move forward, laser focused on the goal, of which Jesus is our standard. What's next for you in 2025? May all of it be informed and shaped by your relentless pursuit of Jesus!

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# Sanders named Rankin County District Administrator of the Year



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Congratulations to the District Administrator of the Year, Robin Sanders. Mrs. Sanders is the administrator for Pelahatchie Elementary School. Thank you for all that you do to support Pelahatchie Elementary and the RCSD.

# Brooks RCSD Employee for the month of November

Mr. Brooks was recognized at a recent board meeting as the RCSD Secondary Certified Staff Member of the Month!

Pelahatchie High School has been fortunate to have Mr. Eric Brooks as the Career Coach! Each day, Mr. Brooks dedicates his time to helping students discover their unique gifts, talents, and aspirations for the future.

Whether it's aligning students with job shadowing opportunities, hands-on experiences, or exploring potential career paths, Mr. Brooks is a guiding light for the Tribe. For students considering college, he works tirelessly to identify the best fit, ensuring their goals align with their chosen institutions.

Our students have gained invaluable insight and confidence under his mentorship, realizing the endless possibilities for their futures. Thank you, Mr. Brooks, for all you do to empower the students at Pelahatchie and show them how bright their futures truly are!



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## 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

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PREVIEW DAY  
01.25.25

## Get comfort food AND enjoy minimal cleanup time

Comfort food can come in many forms, but comfort food that can be made in less than an hour and with easy preparation can be a little harder to find. This recipe uses only a single skillet, which makes cleanup a breeze, especially if you serve it right from the stovetop! In addition, the spices can be modified to your liking and preference. The cream cheese provides a tasty shortcut to deliver a nice, smooth pasta sauce. If you like a meat-heavier dish, simply add more chicken cubes! If time allows, you can let the chicken sit in the spice mix for longer, to achieve a deeper flavor.

### One Skillet Cajun Chicken Pasta



### INGREDIENTS

2 tsp. smoked paprika  
1 tsp. oregano  
1 tsp. thyme  
1/2 tsp. garlic powder  
1/2 tsp. onion powder  
1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper  
1/4 tsp. black pepper  
1/4 tsp. salt

1 Tbsp olive oil  
1 Tbsp butter  
1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breast  
1/2 lb. penne pasta (uncooked)  
15 oz. fire roasted diced tomatoes  
OR 1/4 cup diced fresh tomatoes  
2 cups chicken broth  
4+ oz. cream cheese  
3 green onions, sliced

### PREPARATION

1. Combine the first eight ingredients (spices) in a small bowl (or use your own preferred blend).
2. Cut the chicken into 1/2 to 3/4-inch cubes.
3. Place the cubed chicken in a bowl, pour the spice mix over the top, and stir to coat the chicken in spices.
4. Add the olive oil and butter to a large, deep skillet. Heat the oil and butter over medium-high until the skillet is very hot and the butter is melted and foamy.
5. Add the seasoned chicken to the skillet, and cook for a couple of minutes on each side, or until the outside gets some color. The chicken does not need to be cooked through at this point.
6. Add the pasta, tomatoes (with juices), and chicken broth to the skillet. Stir slightly, until everything is evenly combined.
7. Allow the broth to come to a boil at medium-high heat.
8. Reduce heat to medium-low, and cover skillet with a lid.
9. Let pasta simmer for 10-12 minutes, stirring frequently, until the pasta is tender and the liquid is thick and saucy.
10. Add the cream cheese to the skillet in chunks, then stir until it has melted into the sauce.
11. Top the pasta with sliced green onions and serve.



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# Perry 2024 Firefighter of the Year



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Kevin Perry was named the Walters Volunteer Fire Department's 2024 Firefighter of the Year.

# JROTC holds military ball

Pelahatchie High School JROTC cadets recently executed their annual military ball and dance. The event consisted of a program of toasts, memorials, a guest speaker, and a dance afterward.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

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