



PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



April 2025 ■ Volume 14, Issue 4 ■ Pelahatchie, MS

Renfroe named Pelahatchie's new library director

By Susie A. Wolfe

Brenna Renfroe was named library director for Pelahatchie, a town she knows well. She is the 2019 salutatorian of Pelahatchie High School (PHS). She also attended East Rankin for elementary and middle school.

"I will always be a proud Chief, because I had some amazing teachers, plus my mom, who encouraged me to grow and gave me the tools I needed to succeed," Renfroe said.

"Being a librarian, you could say, is in my blood," she said. Her mother, Eles Renfroe, is the librarian at Pelahatchie High School where she has been for the last sixteen years. "Libraries and books have always been my safe space. I want to cultivate that safe space for others."

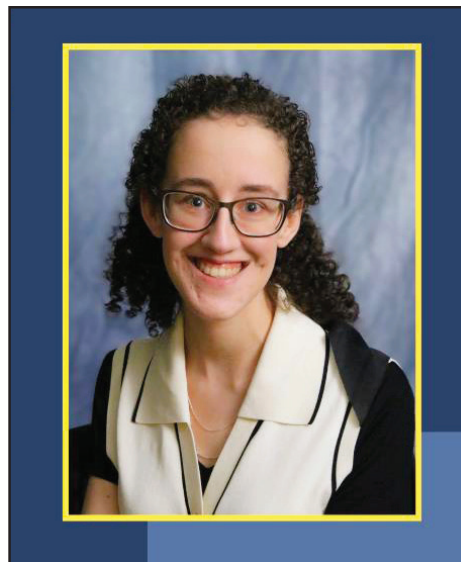
Renfroe grew up with a fierce love of reading. "My mom read aloud to me

when I was very young. One of my earliest memories of falling in love with a book was when I was maybe five or six, and my mom read a chapter of *The Hobbit* aloud to me and my sister each night. It took me to magical, awe-inspiring places, and I have loved books ever since."

"Collaborating with Brenna to build a high school book club feels like coming full circle," Eles Renfroe said "We love books, and we love sharing our joy of reading with people. The Pelahatchie reading community is in good hands with the Renfroes."

Mara Polk, Central Mississippi Regional Library System (CMRLS) Director, said, "Ms. Renfroe is energetic and eager to serve the community of Pelahatchie. CMRLS looks forward to her contributions to Pelahatchie and the field of librarianship."

Renfroe said that her goal in the Pelahatchie



Special to Pelahatchie News

Brenna Renfroe, Branch Manager, Pelahatchie Public Library

hatchie Library is to encourage others to expand their horizon. "I want to work to get a wider range of patrons in

the library, especially teens and young adults," Renfroe said. "I want this library to be a place where they feel seen and welcomed, and that means having programs catering to them as well as materials in the library... to give them the same tools I was given in the hopes of setting them out on a similar path of growth and discovery."

Renfroe graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) with a degree in English and a minor in history. "USM gave me the opportunity to study abroad in Seoul, South Korea for a semester, and that was the best opportunity of my life. I cannot overstate how much I learned about myself and the world through that experience."

Renfroe began her love of travel in 2019 after graduation. She went on a family trip to Ireland to explore Dublin, Cork, Glendalough, Blarney, Rings, and Galloway. "I was instantly

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Local farmers market to embark on second year

By Amy Lyle

The Pelahatchie Farmer's Market is one of few in Rankin County, a point of pride for the city.

Grace Tharpe, Market Coordinator, and Amy Lyle recently attended a Farmer's Market Manager Workshop in Jackson at the Agriculture Museum. They learned many great concepts and got tips to increase community involvement with the market.

The first Pelahatchie Farmers Market (PFM) of 2025 is just around the corner. The dates have been pre-approved

PELAHATCHIE
farmer's market



1 Go Forth Street, Pelahatchie, MS, 39145

and will be the last Saturday of each month from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The market will be located in the same location as last year, Go Forth Street

in downtown Pelahatchie. There is plenty of parking and the area is very accessible. Here are some reasons to come to your local market.

Benefits of Farmers Markets:

Support Local Businesses and Farmers:

Farmers markets provide a place for small-scale farmers to connect directly with consumers, supporting local economies and agriculture.

Fresh and Healthy Food:

They offer access to fresh, often seasonal, produce that is picked closer to the time of consumption, leading to better quality and nutritional value.

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A CARING & FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

Continued from front page

Renfroe named Pelahatchie's new library director



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Brenna and Laura Renfroe studying abroad in South Korea. Shown with the city of Seoul, South Korea in the background. One of Brenna's particularly vivid memories of her time there was the Cherry Blossoms blooming in March. She said the whole city turns pink for one and a half weeks each year. Pictured (l to r) are Laura and Brenna.

hooked and obsessed with travel," she said. Her immediate family also went to Germany, Switzerland, and Austria in 2022, and she sees more travel in her future.

What was different about studying abroad, said Renfroe, was that as an exchange student, there from February until June, she had "complete immersion" in the South Korean culture. She lived on the Sogang University

campus and visited historical districts, palaces, temples, and trendy areas of Seoul, a city of 10-12 million people. She described the city as old and new, with "dynasty history with 2050 technology." On bullet trains, she and her sister Laura, also an exchange student, also visited outside areas and seaside towns.

When you visit the Pelahatchie Library, be sure to ask her more about her travels and tell her about yours!



Families that travel together, grow closer. Brenna has traveled with her family to many places in the United States and abroad. The Renfroes pictured (L to R) are: Laura, Eles, Brenna, and Daniel.

Continued from front page

Local market second year

Community Building:

Farmers markets serve as vibrant community hubs, where people can socialize, meet neighbors, and enjoy a festive atmosphere.

Revitalization of Downtown Districts:

They can help revitalize downtown areas by attracting foot traffic and creating a sense of activity.

Education and Health:

Farmers markets can help educate people about healthy eating and the importance of supporting local food systems.

Sustainability:

Farmers selling at markets often use sustainable practices, reducing waste and pollution.

Reduced Food Miles:

Buying locally reduces the distance food travels, lowering the carbon footprint associated with food transportation.

This year PFM will be looking for sponsors from local businesses, churches, or individuals. All donations will be appreciated and accepted but for a minimum donation of \$200 sponsors can have their logo on PFM advertising and social media posts. Sponsors are also welcome to set up a booth at one of the monthly markets to make connections with local community members and shoppers. Funds raised will go directly back into PFM. The market is always looking for local farmers. If you know of any in the area, please share their names with Grace Tharpe at sandersg750@gmail.com. There are opportunities for farmers to sell without being present at the market. The dates for the Market are: April 26, May 31, June 28, July 26, August 30, September 27, October 25 & November 29. Mark your calendars now!

Branch Manager, Brenna Renfroe shares her thoughts:

I grew up with a fierce love of reading. My mom read aloud to me when I was very young. One of my earliest memories of falling in love with a book was when I was maybe five or six, and my mom read a chapter of *The Hobbit* aloud to me and my sister each night. It took me to magical, awe-inspiring places, and I have loved books ever since. In terms of what inspired me to be a librarian, you could say it is in my blood. My mom is the librarian over at Pelahatchie High School. Libraries and books have always been my safe space. I want to cultivate that safe space for others.

I started my education at East Rankin through elementary and middle school. Then, I transferred to Pelahatchie High School, which is where I graduated. I will always be a proud Chief, because I had some amazing teachers, plus my mom, who encouraged me to grow and gave me the tools I needed to succeed. For college, I attended the University of Southern Mississippi for all four years. I got my degree in English, with a minor in History. I will always look back fondly on my time at USM, because it is where I really was able to soar. USM gave me the opportunity to study abroad in Seoul, South Korea for a semester, and that was the best opportunity of my life. I cannot overstate how much I learned about myself and the world through that experience.

In terms of improvements/programs I want to see at the library, I want to work to get a wider range of patrons in the library, especially teens and young adults. I want this library to be a place where they feel seen and welcomed, and that means having programs catering to them as well as materials in the library. I want to give them the same tools I was given in the hopes of setting them out on a similar path of growth and discovery.

Libraries are crucial these days. Libraries are knowledge. Knowledge is what helps us expand our horizons, in ways both big and small. Without knowledge and without libraries, how do we learn from the past? How do we escape into a fantasy world of dragons and faeries? Libraries are a gateway, and I think it is crucial that that gateway always remain open.

**APRIL:
SCHOOL
LIBRARY
MONTH**

**Celebrate with
a good book.**



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Pelahatchie Elementary hosts Spring into STEAM

By Rebecca Nelson, PES STEM teacher

Pelahatchie Elementary held its annual family STEAM night on March 6th, 2025. This free event united students, families, and the community to explore various STEAM topics through engaging hands-on activities that promote science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. The evening also included an opportunity for families to buy new and gently used books from Impression Books, a bookstore located in Flowood.

This year's theme centered around the season of spring, with numerous activities designed to connect participants with nature and earth. One highlight was a butterfly room where students created devices to view a butterfly hologram, constructed a flying butterfly using elastic energy, and illustrated the butterfly life cycle. Another popular activity was the chlorophyll painting room where participants learned that the process of photosynthesis makes chlorophyll fluorescent, displaying



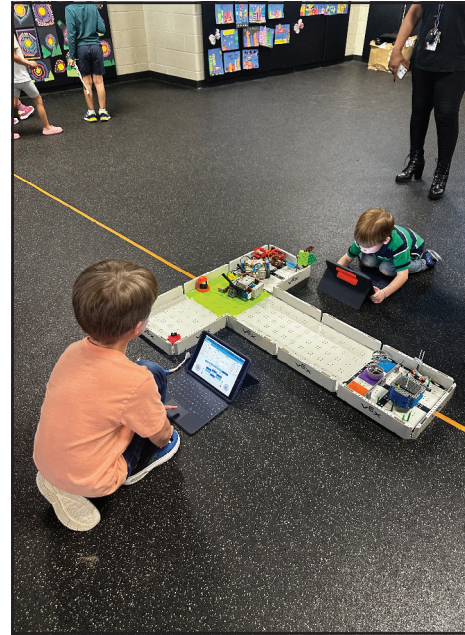
Photos special to Pelahatchie News

a pink light under black lights. The BeeBot robot challenge also generated a buzzing excitement among attendees!

Additionally, this event featured an art display showcasing works by students in STEAM and Pre Kindergarten, alongside some projects completed throughout the year during engineering design challenges in STEAM. This space also showcased some of the work done by the Robotics Club.

The success of Spring into STEAM would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our

dedicated staff, engaged community members, and the enthusiastic involvement of the PTO. Their commitment to fostering a love for learning and collaboration creates an enriching environment for our students. Together, we continue to inspire curiosity and creativity in our young learners, making events like this both memorable and impactful.



Longino named PHS Star Student



JAMAAL LONGINO
STAR STUDENT

ANGELA SKINNER
STAR TEACHER

Special to Pelahatchie News

Jamaal Longino III has been named STAR Student for the 2024-2025 school year by the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program, sponsor of the Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program. Jamaal selected Mrs. Angela Skinner to represent us as our 2025 STAR Teacher.



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GENERAC

Pelahatchie High School Archery: A Program on the Rise

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School's archery program has soared to new heights under the dedicated leadership of Coach Luke Cotnam. Now in his seventh year, Coach Cotnam has witnessed a remarkable transformation, growing the program from a modest 14 student-athletes to an impressive 52 participants in the current season. This growth is a testament not only to the success of the team but also to the culture of acceptance, mentorship, and teamwork that defines Pelahatchie's archery program.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Sara Myers, Analiese Brown, Mary Taylor Nutt

A key factor in this success has been the team's em-

phasis on peer-to-peer coaching, a philosophy that fosters skill development and camaraderie among its members. This was especially evident at the season's first match, held at Pisgah High School. Throughout the event, high school archers could be seen mentoring their junior high teammates and providing encouragement and guidance after each flight.

For instance, Cooper Conn, an 11th grader, was frequently seen coaching Dawson Edwards, an 8th grader, helping him refine his shooting technique and better understand scoring calculations. Likewise, Mary Taylor Nutt, in 10th grade, took Makayla Lee, a 7th grader, under her wing, offering praise and support in her very first competitive match. Meanwhile, 8th grader Gabe Becker was seen celebrating and encouraging Hunter Sanders, a 7th grader, highlighting the spirit of unity and encouragement that fuels the team's progress.

The growing program reached a milestone moment on March 17th when Pelahatchie High School hosted



Cooper Conn and Dawson Edwards

its first-ever home archery match. On this special night, the team, led by standout archers Kaden Alvarez and Isabel Brown, secured a significant victory over Pisgah. Adding to the excitement, Coach Cotnam and the Pelahatchie community honored their seniors, recognizing their contributions and celebrating their bright futures.

Pelahatchie's archery program is not just about competition—it is about developing discipline, focus, and precision in student-athletes. The program's success is already yielding tangible results, as evidenced by last year's graduating class, where two archers earned scholarships following Pelahatchie's South State Championship victory and an impressive third-place finish at the state level.



Senior: Ben Burnham

Coach Cotnam's leadership, combined with the dedication of his athletes, has created a thriving program that continues to elevate Pelahatchie High School's reputation in the world of archery. With each arrow shot and each lesson learned, the future of Pelahatchie archery looks brighter than ever. We are Pelahatchie, and we are proud.

Pelahatchie welcomes new librarian just in time for library month

By Kenneth McDade

The Pelahatchie Library has a new face at the helm, and she's ready to breathe fresh life into this beloved community space. Brenna Renfroe, a proud graduate of Pelahatchie High and the University of Southern Mississippi, stepped into her new role at the beginning of the month.

With her background in English, a minor in history, and even a stint working for Walt Disney World through their college program, Brenna is bringing a dynamic mix of knowledge and creativity to the library.

Brenna's mission? To get kids, teens, and families excited about all the library has to offer. She hopes to create a welcoming space where everyone in Pelahatchie can find something they enjoy. "I want to make the library a lively, hopping place," she says with a smile, and she's already hard at work making that happen.

Exciting Programs on the Horizon

Get ready for an action-packed summer! Brenna has

lined up some fantastic events that are sure to get the whole family involved. Mark your calendars for a Star Wars Family Night in May, where you can enjoy



snacks and crafts inspired by a galaxy far, far away. Then in June, every Thursday at 2:00 PM will bring new adventures for the kids, including a Foam Party,

a visit from the Freedom Ranch Petting Zoo, and a Chalk Walk to unleash their creativity.

More Than Just Books

The Pelahatchie Library isn't just about books - although there are plenty of those! Patrons also have access to audiobooks, movies, video games, and free apps like Hoopla, Cloud Library, EBSCO, Magnolia, and Comics Plus, which offers graphic novels and manga. For those who prefer a different way to enjoy stories, there's something for everyone. Brenna also has a heart for connecting with those who may not be able to enjoy traditional reading and wants to make sure they know the library is here for them too.

Community Connection and Giving Back

Brenna's passion extends beyond the shelves. She's encouraging everyone to keep the library's Blessing Box stocked with pantry items for those in need. She's also thrilled to work alongside local organizations like the Garden Club and Senior Social Club, helping them find a welcoming space within the library's walls. Get involved!

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Pelahatchie goes to the Capitol



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Photo (L-R): Representative Fred Shanks, Jillion Breland, Speaker Jason White; Jillion Breland recently served as a page for the Mississippi House Representatives. Pages generally run errands for officials and House staff. Breland, 15, a freshman, is the daughter of Shellie Breland. She attends East Rankin Academy. She was sponsored this week by Representative Fred Shanks (R-Rankin). When asked about her experience as a page, Breland said "I had an amazing time serving as a page this year. It has been a great opportunity. I am so blessed to be able to do this and would love to do it again next year!"



Ansley Miller of Pelahatchie served as a page for the Mississippi Senate. Ansley is pictured with Lieutenant Governor C. Delbert Hosemann Jr. and Senator Brian Rhodes, who sponsored her visit. Ansley is the daughter of Matthew and Evangeline Miller and attends East Rankin Academy. When asked about the week, Ansley said, "Being able to page at the Capitol this week was a fantastic experience. I enjoyed listening to the senators and learning more about their work, especially voting on bills. All the senators were so kind and allowed us to sit in and listen to some of their speeches. I had an amazing time, and this experience taught me even more about our Capitol and state."



Walker Sartin of Pelahatchie served as a page for the Mississippi Senate. Walker is pictured with Senator Josh Harkins, Senator Brian Rhodes, and Lieutenant Governor C. Delbert Hosemann Jr., who sponsored his visit. Walker is the son of Brendan Sartin and attends East Rankin Academy. When asked about the week, Walker said, "I am thankful to Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann and Senator Josh Harkins for giving me the opportunity to page this week. I have enjoyed the experience of being around the legislative process, seeing how our laws are made and watching my senator, Brian Rhodes, represent our district. I have also had a fun time getting to meet new friends and the chance to explore our state Capitol."



Reverend Jeff Nesbit, (2nd from left), pastor of Refuge 16-Flowood Ms., and Holly Bush Church in Pelahatchie, delivered an opening prayer to the Mississippi Senate on Friday, March 21, 2025, at the invitation of Senate Sgt. At Arms Larry Waggoner, (2nd from right). Senator Brian Rhodes led the Pledge of Allegiance before Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann guided lawmakers through the day's agenda.

Pelahatchie Library April Events

HUMANA

April 7 @ 11:00 a.m.
"Give Your Brain a Boost"
healthcare geared towards senior adults
Snacks provided, sign-up on library website

SENIOR SOCIAL

April 8th @ 11:00 a.m.

THE ADULT BOOK CLUB

April 16th @ 11:00 a.m.

GRIEF CLUB APRIL 17th @ 4:00 p.m.

GARDEN CLUB APRIL 17th @ 5:30 p.m.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

BRUNCH & BOOKS

with author, Michael Farris Smith
April 12th @ 10:30 a.m.
Flowood Public Library
*sponsored by the Rankin County
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SENIOR SOCIAL

April 22nd @ 11:00 a.m.



NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK - APRIL 6-12, 2025



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City Beat: Mayor, Alderman meeting for February 3, 2025



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

The Pelahatchie Board of Aldermen held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 3, 2025, at Town Hall. Mayor Karl Vanhorn called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

New Business:

The board approved the minutes from the previous meeting held on February 3, 2025. Alderman Jones made the motion, Alderman Harrell seconded it, and the motion passed with all in favor except Alderman Harvey.

The board voted to approve the payment of the unpaid claims docket, with Alderman Warren making the motion and Alderman Jones seconding it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The board approved a bank draft payment to Morgan and White Insurance for \$971.27. Alderman Jones made the motion, Alderman Hill seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

A payment of \$8,293.24 to Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance was approved, with Alderman Harrell making the motion and Alderman Jones seconding it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The board also approved a payment of \$5,916.31 to EMC Property Insurance. Alderman Jones made the motion, Alderman Harrell seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Additionally, the board approved the February 2025 payroll, which included \$72,526.23 from the Gener-

or zoning departments.

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderman Hill for the board to enter an executive session at 6:07 p.m. to address personnel matters within the Police Department and Election Commission. Details of the discussions were not disclosed. The board returned to the meeting room at 6:18 p.m.

Discussions:

Mayor Vanhorn announced that three town public hearings were scheduled for the following day. (Editor's note: Due to weather conditions, these hearings have been rescheduled to Monday, March 31, 2025.)

Alderman Jones thanked the town for the new asphalt that had recently been poured.

Mayor Vanhorn also noted that only four months remained in the town's current administration and emphasized that no agreements would be binding on the next administration after July 1, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m. The next regular board meeting is set for Monday, April 7, 2025, at Town Hall. Residents are encouraged to attend and participate in local governance. Additionally, the three public hearings will be held at Town Hall on Monday, March 31, 2025.



al Fund and \$26,913.84 from the Enterprise Fund. Alderman Jones made the motion, Alderman Harrell seconded it, and the motion passed with all in favor.

Department Discussions:

Pelahatchie Police Chief Robert Mahaffey requested a reimbursement of \$150. Alderman Jones made the motion, Alderman Hill seconded it, and the motion passed with all in favor.

There were no reports from the maintenance, clerk,



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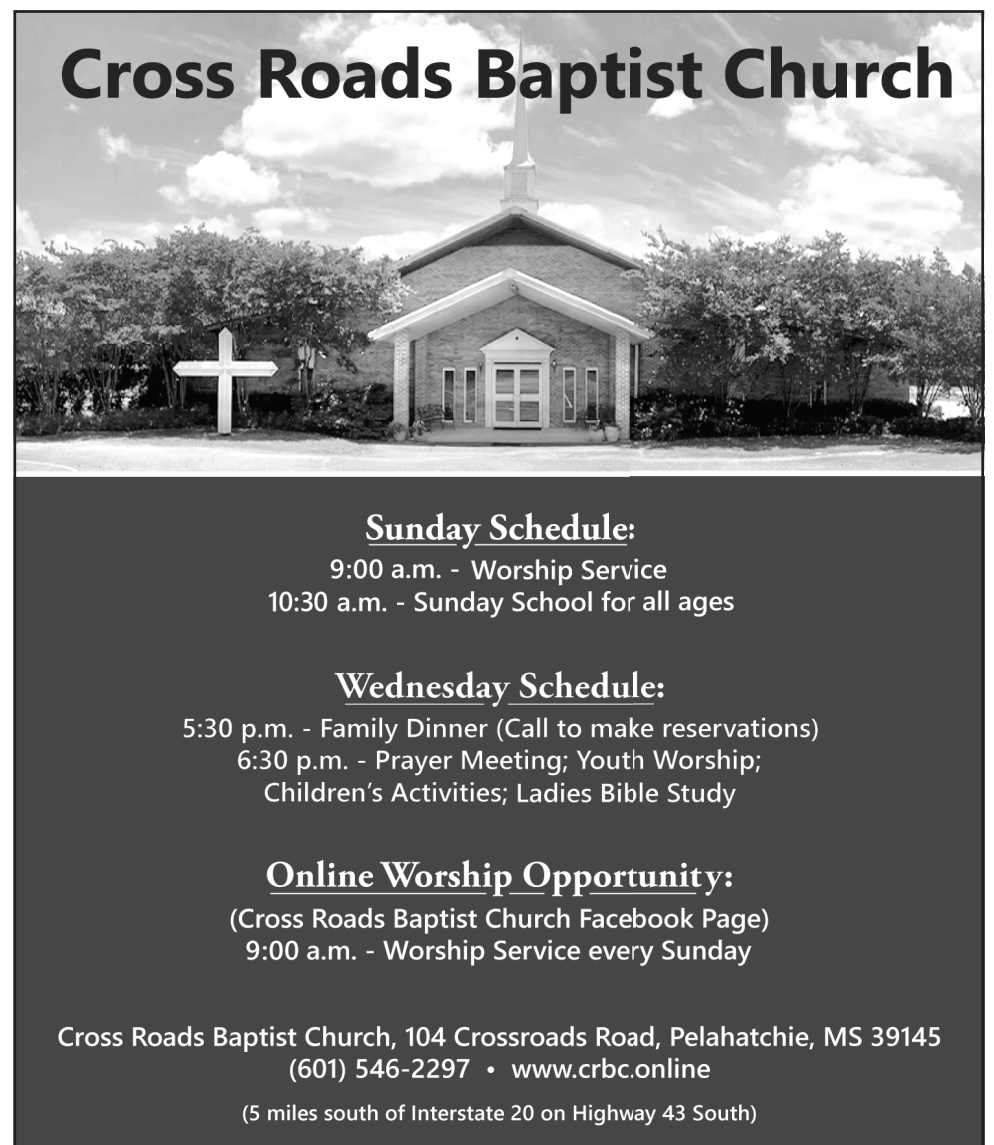
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Cross Roads Baptist Church

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:

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Southern Pine youth leaders awarded at workshop

Recently, Southern Pine's six Cooperative Youth Leaders had a good experience as they joined students from across Mississippi for three days of leadership and teamwork training at the 2025 Cooperative Leaders Workshop. They toured the state capitol, met with their legislators, and more.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Brenna Lintner-Davis, representing Southern Pine Electric, participated in the Youth Leadership Workshop in Jackson and ranked in the top 10 candidates.



Jayden Smith, representing Southern Pine Electric, participated in the Youth Leadership Workshop in Jackson and ranked in the top 10 candidates.



Addison Barry, representing Southern Pine Electric, participated in the Youth Leadership Workshop in Jackson and was awarded the \$500 scholarship.

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Happy
Easter



Mary Ann Griffin, CFNP • Kim Risher • Keli Robertson

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ERA Miller and Thompson MAIS MVPs

Three East Rankin players hit homeruns

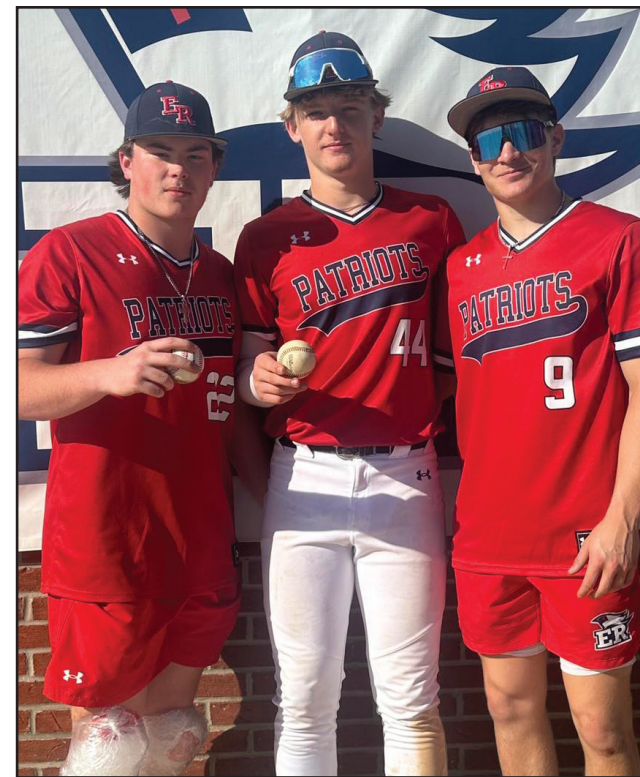


Photos special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy student Presley Thompson was awarded MAIS 2025 All-Star Most Valuable Player.



East Rankin Academy student Ansley Miller was awarded MAIS 2025 Futures Most Valuable Player.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Will McGee, Brayden Ingram & Luke Wesson, who recently hit home runs contributing in ERA's recent 10-2 victory over Copiah.

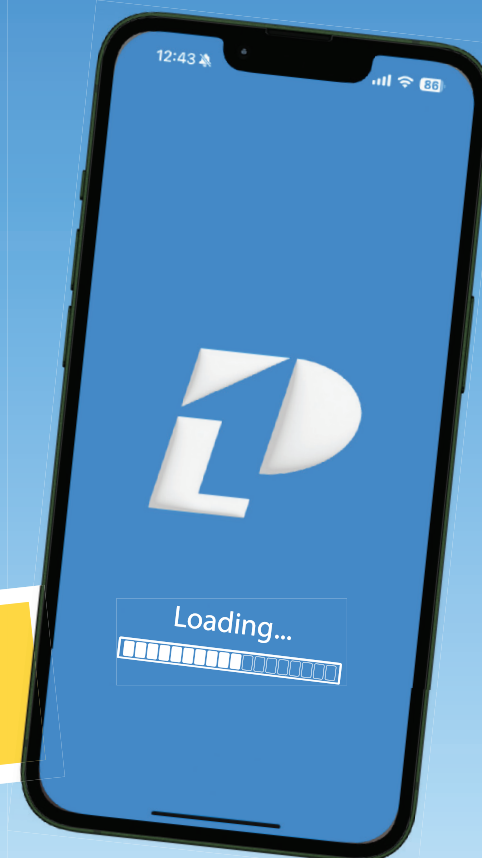


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PES's Ellzey honored as Rankin Chamber Teach of the Year



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Elementary School Special Education Teacher, Mrs. Brittany Ellzey, was recently honored as the Rankin Chamber Teacher of the Year.

PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



PAST HEADLINES

2015 - 10 years ago

- "Deputy rescues nine-year-old girl"
- "MDES confronting fraudulent claims"

2020 - 5 years ago

- "Miles recognized for supporting MSH and Hudspeth Center"
- "Banker's Notes: Banking and COVID-19"

2024 - Last Year

- "PHS Coach Nutt 2024 All-Star"
- "PHS concert band all-superior rating at state evaluation"

MSU CVM students Walters, Garcia meet with MS Senate committee



Special to Pelahatchie News

Gabbi Walters (from Pelahatchie) and Natalie Garcia from the DVM Class of 2028 had the opportunity to meet with members of the MS Senate Appropriations Committee to express their appreciation for the Dr. Mac Huddleston Rural Veterinarians Scholarship Program. The MSU CVM hopes to receive state funding to support two additional scholarships for veterinary students in the incoming DVM Class of 2029.

PES's Ward honored as RCSD Administrator of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Pelahatchie Elementary School Assistant Principal, Mijia Ward (center). Ward's dedication, leadership, and passion for education helps to make a lasting impact on students, staff members, and the community.

ERA shooting sports MSSP champions for 6th year in a row



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



Congratulations to (left to right): Gabe Nutt - Top Gun South Male HOA \$1000; Olivia Griffing - Top Gun South Female HOA \$1000 and State Championship Sporting Clay Female 1st place \$1000; Evan McIlwain - State Championship Sporting Clay Female 3rd place \$500.



Congratulations to (not in order): South Qualifier squad First Place and State Championship squad First Place - Abram Rowell, Gabe Nutt, Parker Davis.



Congratulations to (not in order): State Championship squad Second Place - Grayson Williams, Irby Rawson, Garreth Barham.



Congratulations to (right): Branton Miller - South Qualifier JV HOA.



Congratulations to (not in order): South Qualifier squad Second Place - Evan McIlwain, Chylen Williams, Olivia Griffing.



Congratulations to (not in order): South Qualifier squad Third Place - Branton Miller, Peyson Knight, Seth Peden.



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Happy Easter
From
Pelahatchie News

Luke 24:4-6
John 3:16

The life of pine needles: two stages and turning colors



By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

Special to Pelahatchie News

We all know leaves turn color during the fall. This is because chlorophyll, which is the green pigment that gives leaves their

green color, breaks down and disappears from the leaves. Yellow and orange pigments, which were once hidden, are now visible. Trees like hickories, oaks, birches, sycamores and cottonwoods turn brilliant shades of yellow and orange.

What about pine trees? We remember the Fall and Winter of 2023, when so many pine trees died because of the drought, pine beetles, or both.

However, every year we rake or buy pine straw to put in our flower beds. Now we see a few dead needles on pine trees turning brown in September and October. The life cycle of needles on our pine trees is a little more complicated than our broadleaf deciduous trees.



Each fall, I get phone calls from concerned tree owners about why their pine trees are turning brown. We hope it is not pine beetles again. To understand what is going on, we need to know a little about the life cycle of needles on our pine trees.

Each needle on a pine tree lives roughly one and a half years. Each

spring when the tree begins to grow new tissue, they add new needles to the ends of each tree branch, roughly doubling the number of needles on a pine tree. These new needles are stuck out on the ends of branches, out beyond the old needles. The tree uses both the old and new needles during the growing season. Then, in

the fall, the pine tree reabsorbs the nutrients from the old needles only and then the pine tree drops the old needles. This is noticeable in late September and October, as the portion of each turf of needles closest to the trunk turns brown. The new needles, those that were newly grown the previous spring, stay on the tree all through the winter. In the spring, a new batch of needles will be grown on the ends of the branches and the cycle begins all over again.

So, in the summer, pines have two ages of needles, one set a few months old (located on the ends of each branch), and another 15-18 months old (located on the trunk end of each branch), each doing photosynthesis. In the winter, all needles are the same age—the older needles being dropped the previous fall.

Also, our pines do not go into dormancy. Any time the conditions are right, the tree will absorb sunlight just like it does in the spring.

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PHS fishing team place at Bassmaster

Congratulations and special thanks to team members and to each team's captain for volunteering their time to help these boys have fun on the water. Thank you, Coach Goodin, for coaching these athletes in this sport.



Ethan Stevens and James White finished 3rd with 11.01.



Malachi Macklin and Cameron Harvey finished 6th with 9.72

Photos special to Pelahatchie News

ERA Baker competes at New Balance Nationals



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Jewel Baker, finishing 30th out of 85 middle schoolers at the New Balance Nationals in the indoor mile. Seventh best 7th grader of the group.

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Pastor's Perspective: The greatest gift of love is for anyone



By Guest Columnist
Spencer Sullivan, Pastor,
Pelahatchie Baptist

Special to
Pelahatchie News

John 3:16 is without question considered to be the most popular, most widely known, most read, most memorized verse in the Bible. It can be seen driving down the highway on billboards, and also at sporting events, on posters or on the eye black of players. If you ever visit an In-and-Out Burger, the most famous fast-food restaurant on the west coast, you can find the reference "John 3:16" printed on the bottom rim of every one of their drink cups. The magazine Christianity Today reported from research done in the year 2022 that John 3:16 is by far the most widely Google searched Bible verse each month. The magazine acquired Google search data from 172 countries around the world and looked at the average monthly volume of Google searches for the 100 most read Bible verses. John 3:16 had 2.1 million searches, followed by Jeremiah 29:11 and Philippians 4:13 in a joint second at just 82,000. So, that begs the question: "Why does this verse get so much attention?" To help answer that question, the great reformer Martin Luther once referred to John 3:16 as "the heart of the Bible, the Gospel in miniature."

John 3:16, as much as any one verse in the Bible, declares the Good News of the Gospel. Jesus' most



famous words are: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him, should not perish, but have eternal life." The Greatest Gift ever given is without question God the Father's gift of love to the world in the person of God the Son, Jesus Christ. The reason Jesus is the greatest gift is because only He is uniquely able to be the solution to mankind's greatest problem, which is our sin against God. Sin causes us to be separated from God (Isaiah 59:2) and in the path of His wrath against sin itself (Romans 2:5). Jesus is able to be the solution because He is both God and man. Being fully God and fully man enables Him to be the perfect lamb without blemish, to be sacrificed for our sins. He absorbed the wrath of God's punishment so that we are able to escape. You hear terms like 'salvation' and 'being

saved' when you think about the Gospel. This is why! We are literally saved from the penalty and punishment by God upon sin. The only One who didn't deserve the wrath of God is the One who endured the wrath of God so that we can escape the wrath of God, but not only so we can escape, so that we can inherit eternal life with God. This is the Greatest Gift. But it is only the Greatest Gift for those that actually receive the Gift.

Jesus said that this gift is given to the world and that anyone who believes is saved. Anyone! So, what does it mean to believe? Just before the words of John 3:16 were said, Jesus said in verse 3: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Jesus was saying we need a new life. Our lives are marked by sin and shame. Being born again and receiving this new life comes through believing upon Jesus to save you. Based upon the whole of Scripture, believing means recognizing your sin before God, turning away from that sin, and putting every ounce of your hope in Jesus and what He did on the cross to save you from your deserved punishment of the wrath of God. We believe in Him and we believe upon Him. Jesus did for us what we could not do for ourselves. It is truly a gift, but that gift can only be received by turning from our sin and turning to God through believing in Jesus and what He did for you. Have you received this priceless gift?

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PHS Beta Club earns multiple awards at MS State Beta Convention



The Pelahatchie High School Beta Club Living Literature team received fourth place for their presentation of a scene from *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller. Front row: Harmony McGill, Savannah Carlino, Melanie Ball, Christian Beeman, and Bethany Tucker; middle row: Tate Hopson, BB Crosby, Lauren Longino, and Rylee Watson; back row: Evan Ellis, Talia White, and Cameron Henley; not pictured: Maren McCartney.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



PHS Beta Club member Melanie Ball - Champion in Drawing - Division II.



PHS Beta Club member Sara Myers - Second place in Onsite Cake Decorating - Division I.



PHS Beta Club member Isabel Avella - 4th place in Spanish - Tenth Grade.



PHS Beta Club member Vittoria Pozzobon - 5th place in Spanish - Eleventh Grade.



PHS Beta Club member Blanca Malenco - 4th place in French - Eleventh Grade.



PHS Beta Club member Laura Pohlyova - 4th place in Mixed Media - Division II.

Pelahatchie holds on to victory

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie took a eight-run defeat the last time they faced off against Mendenhall, but this time they managed to keep it close and that made all the difference. Pelahatchie sure made it a nail-biter, but they managed to escape with a 4-3 victory over Mendenhall on Tuesday. The win was some much needed relief for the Chiefs as it spelled an end to their three-game losing streak.

The team relied heavily on Ben Mosley, who scored a run while going 1-for-2. Another player making a difference was Peyton Homles, who scored a run while going 2-for-3.

Pelahatchie's victory bumped

their record up to 6-12. As for Mendenhall, their loss dropped their record down to 4-7.

Pelahatchie will have a chance to go back-to-back against Mendenhall: the pair's next game is a rematch scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 28.





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Pohlyova new ICES MS Youth Exchange Program Student of the Month

Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Pelahatchie High School student (PHS) Laura Pohlyova for being chosen as the newest ICES Mississippi Youth Exchange Program Student of the Month. This is a huge honor and the school is proud of Pohlyova. She has been an asset to our PHS student body this school year.

Since arriving at Pelahatchie High School in Mississippi, Laura has embraced every opportunity with dedication and heart.

- **Academics:** Laura has excelled in her senior-level courses - especially in English - showing incredible work ethic and creativity. She recently earned top-five honors in mixed media art at the State Beta Convention!
- **Athletics:** Laura is a standout athlete on both the soccer and tennis teams, contributing to the school's success and earning respect from coaches and teammates alike.

• **Cultural Exchange:** Laura has fully immersed herself in American culture while proudly sharing her Slovak heritage. Her kindness, leadership, and positive energy have made her a beloved part of the school community.

Laura's teachers describe her as hardworking, thoughtful, and an inspiration to those around her.

Her lasting impact on the PHS campus will be felt long beyond her time here. Thank you, Laura, for your investment in making PHS better today than it was yesterday.



Laura Pohlyova

Special to Pelahatchie News

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Pelahatchie Baptist Church offers Soccer for young students



By Guest Columnist
Spencer Sullivan, Pastor,
Pelahatchie Baptist

Pelahatchie Baptist Church just finished their 2025 soccer season. The league has 108 players, ages 4-12, competing in four different age groups. There were 13 teams overall that competed against one another. The teams practiced on weeknights, while the games were played each Saturday morning from February 22 – March 29. During their weekly practice times, the teams were led in devotions from the Bible.

This year's theme was the Greatest Commandment, found in Mark 12:28-31: "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

We are grateful for another great season and look forward to 2026. PBC will start soccer registration for 2026 in January.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



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