



Mississippi Economic Council
**STAR – Student-Teacher
Achievement Recognition Program**

PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



May 2024 ■ Volume 13, Issue 5 ■ Pelahatchie, MS

2024 Solar Eclipse: A journey to remember



Photo courtesy of Kenneth McDade

Pelahatchie News writer, Kenneth McDade, recently travelled to Texas to observe the April 2024 solar eclipse. The story of his cosmic adventure is continued on page 2.

Stevens named ERA STAR student 2024

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Mississippi Economic Council and the M.B. Swayze Foundation sponsor the Student-Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) Program in an effort to encourage scholastic achievement among Mississippi's high school seniors. To be eligible for the STAR Student honor, a student must have an overall ACT composite of at least 25 and an overall average of 93 or above.

This year, East Rankin Academy is pleased to name Abigail Stevens as STAR student. Abigail is the daughter of Andy and Courtney Stevens of Brandon. Abigail is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (Mathematics Honor Society), and ERA's ACT 30 or Above Team. She is also a member of ERA's Academic Quiz Bowl Team, Mississippi College Science and Math Tournament Team, and our Varsity Girls Softball Team. Abigail was named to the 2024 Clarion Ledger Dandy Dozen in Softball and was also selected as the MVP of the MAIS Fast Pitch All-Star Game.

Abigail will be continuing her softball career at Mississippi State University and will be majoring in engineering. Stevens chose Mrs. Rachel Gordy of Forest as her STAR Teacher.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Abigail Stevens

Blazing a new trail: an interview with Payton Sanders



Special to Pelahatchie News



Special to Pelahatchie News

By Guest Columnists
Voncille Anderson, Principal,
Pelachatchie High School &
Kimberly Watson, World
Language Teacher

In Pelahatchie, the name "Sanders" is synonymous with service, commitment, excellence, and educational leadership.

Mr. Shane Sanders is a graduate of Florence High School and currently serves as deputy superintendent. He oversees the Facilities and Operations Departments for all Rankin County schools.

Mrs. Robin White Sanders is a Pelahatchie native. Her career in education includes a few years serving as a district inter-

ventionist, 504 and dyslexia coordinator, and data coach for Rankin County School District, but most of her time has been in the Pelahatchie zone. Mrs. Sanders is currently the principal at Pelahatchie Elementary School.

Mr. & Mrs. Sanders have two daughters who have attended Pelahatchie schools. Reagan graduated in 2021 as the PHS class Salutatorian and is currently a junior at the University of Mississippi majoring also in education.

Their youngest daughter,



Special to Pelahatchie News

Payton Sanders

Continued on page 5

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A Journey to Remember: Witnessing the Total Solar Eclipse in Texas

By Kenneth McDade

 Let me tell you about a trip that turned into an unforgettable cosmic adventure. Picture this: my buddy and I, setting off from Mississippi on a road trip bound for Texas. Our mission? To catch a glimpse of the total solar eclipse in all its glory. Little did we know, our journey would become a saga of unexpected twists, serendipitous encounters, and jaw-dropping moments.

Our escapade kicked off like any classic road trip, filled with excitement and the promise of new horizons. But as we rolled through the Lone Star State, we stumbled upon one surprise after another. Starting with a greeting of a 67 foot Sam Houston in Huntsville, TX. As we cruised through Texas, we made pit stops in historic towns like Lockhart, Texas, where the tantalizing aroma of Black's Barbeque, reputedly the best in the state, beckoned us to indulge and compare to barbeques past. A stop at the Texas Ranger museum by Baylor University to see some local Texas history. We even stumbled upon a town bearing my family name, steeped in Wild West history that rivaled the tales of the OK Corral. When we arrived at our destination we learned that our pre-booked ac-

commodation fell through, but thanks to a miraculous intervention from my buddy's quick-thinking wife, we snagged a last-minute spot at a nearby hotel in Marble Falls, TX. Talk about luck?

But the real highlight of our journey? The day of the eclipse itself. With clouds teasing the sky and uncertainty in the air, we staked out our spot in the hotel parking lot, armed with cameras, snacks, and a sense of anticipation. While most folks set up their gear facing east, we knew the eclipse would paint the western sky with its celestial dance.

As the eclipse unfolded, we watched in awe as clouds played peek-a-boo with the sun, casting a dramatic backdrop for the cosmic show. Occasionally the clouds would cover the sun and give the impression of a curtain closing for each stage of the event. Then they would open as we watched the next stage. At the time of the moon covering the sun completely we saw the "Baily's beads" effect. This is when the sun shines through the mountains and valleys of the moon and gives the appearance of beads around the moon. Then the beads disappeared and became one bright spot of sunlight resembling a giant diamond ring in the sky, with the Sun's atmosphere forming the ring's

band. Seeing the Diamond Ring is a sign that totality is almost there. Right before Totality the clouds filled the sky and we thought we had seen the last of the spectacular event, but then the clouds parted again and the moon completely covered the sun and the darkness came and you could see the stars and the temperature dropped by several degrees. The birds were flying in circles and screeching their confusions.

Without warning a noise not associated with the eclipse filled the air and startled me a little until I realized it was some random guy at the church blowing a ram's horn and filling the air with strange harmonics.

Then the totality. The wonderful glow that comes out in rays of light are so different from the sun's rays that we see daily. For four minutes the magnitude of the universe was expressed in the heavens.

It is an emotional event that only the experienced people can describe. The shutter of my camera was working overtime as I tried to capture what my heart was seeing.

In those fleeting minutes of darkness, as stars twinkled and temperatures dropped, the magnitude of the universe revealed itself in all its splendor. It was a moment of profound emotion, a com-

munion with the cosmos that transcended words. Tears welled in my eyes as I beheld the majesty of the universe, a sight that words could hardly do justice.

When totality finally hit, the world around us transformed into a surreal dreamscape. Stars twinkled, temperatures dropped, and for a brief moment, we were suspended in a celestial embrace blending with the chorus of awe from fellow eclipse chasers

The journey home was no less eventful, with storms, traffic jams, and even a close encounter with a tornado. But through it all, we carried with us the memories of that awe-inspiring moment under the Texas sky. It was a reminder of the boundless wonders of the universe and the unbreakable bonds of friendship that had guided us on our cosmic quest.

So, if you ever find yourself on the road to adventure, chasing eclipses or any other marvels the world has to offer, remember this: it's not just about the destination, but the journey and the connections you make along the way. And who knows? You might just find yourself staring into the depths of the universe, with nothing but wonder and awe in your heart.

Photos courtesy of Kenneth McDade



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Jones set to graduate from Alcorn University

Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Tyra N. Jones, an Alcorn graduating senior, who is from "the beautiful small town of Pelahatchie," and is graduating with a B.S in Education and Psychology on May 11th.

Jones is thankful to the university and her degree department for providing the best 4 years of her life at Alcorn and guiding her in the right direction to be great in life after Alcorn. Jones states that she has had some good and some bad days, but the good outweighs the bad and she really appreciate the friends she made along the way and the motivation that they gave to keep pushing and to help achieve the goals that Jones set for herself. Her accomplishments include Miss NSLS: '22-'23, Deans Scholar~ Fall '23, Spring '23 initiate of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated: Historian '23-'24 and Event Coordinator '24.

Jones will be attending the graduation ceremony at Alcorn State University. The ceremony is to be held on May 11th, at 1 pm.



Tyra N. Jones

Special to Pelahatchie News

ERA's Crain honored at Ole Miss awards night



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to East Rankin's Ethan Crain. On Senior Awards Night at Ole Miss, he was honored as a Taylor Medalist. The Taylor Medal is the highest academic achievement award given at Ole Miss. He was also named the Most Outstanding Senior Electrical Engineering Student.

PES honors top Venture class chess winners



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Castiel McGough, Aubriana Key, and Aubrey Hudson, who were the top chess winners in venture this year.

PES celebrates National Assistant Principals Week



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) recently celebrated National Assistant Principals Week by showing appreciation to Mijia Ward for her dedication and commitment to Pelahatchie Elementary.

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PHS takes 2nd place at State Houston Joins Board Of PriorityOne Bank Directors



Congratulations to our Welding team! They recently placed 2nd in the State Competition. Pictured left to right: Hayden Johnson, Lawton Burnham, Ethan Stevens.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Lawton Burnham was also awarded the High Individual Central District Sr. Arc Welding recipient. Lawton is a member of the FFA Welding team. Congratulations Lawton on your continued accomplishments. Thank you, Mr. Bob Robinson, for continuing to pour life skills into our students.

Special to Pelahatchie News

PriorityOne Bank proudly announces the addition of Jamie G. Houston IV to its Board of Directors. Jamie serves as the CEO of Aurora Sustainable Lands, a trailblazing company dedicated to decarbonization, active management, and the conservation of natural hardwoods. With over 15 years of experience in forestry, agriculture, and private equity, Jamie brings a wealth of expertise to the board.

At Aurora, Jamie oversees the carbon offset development, acquisitions, and management of 1.7 million acres of working forests in North America, the 7th largest landowner in the United States. Since joining Aurora (formerly Bluesource Sustainable Forests Company) in January 2022, Jamie has played a pivotal role, leading the merger of The Forestland Group and Bluesource Sustainable Forests Company in October 2022. Prior to Aurora, Jamie served as a Managing Director for The Landmark Companies.

Jamie holds a Masters of Forest Resources and Forestry from the University of Georgia, as well as an undergraduate degree in Real Estate and Managerial Finance from the University of Mississippi. He is a registered forester in the State of Mississippi and an Eagle Scout.

Upon welcoming Jamie G. Houston IV to the Board of Directors,



Special to Pelahatchie News

Jamie G. Houston

Robbie Barnes, President, and CEO of PriorityOne Bank, expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "We are thrilled to have Jamie join our Board of Directors. His extensive experience and innovative approach will be invaluable as we continue to grow and serve our communities."

PriorityOne Bank, based in Magee, Mississippi, operates seventeen offices in thirteen Mississippi communities: Collins, Seminary, Sumrall, Hattiesburg, Purvis, Magee, Mendenhall, Richland, Brandon, Flowood, Ridgeland, Gluckstadt, Pelahatchie, and Morton. The bank has assets of approximately \$1.1 Billion.

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Continued from Front page

Blazing a new trail: an interview with Payton Sanders



Special to Pelahatchie News

Reagan, Robin, Shane, and Payton Sanders

Payton, is blazing her own trail while continuing to live up to the Sanders' standard of excellence. Unlike her family of educators, however, Payton is planning to pursue a career in the medical field.

Payton has created history by becoming the first District IV Lindy Callahan Scholar Athlete recipient at PHS. In addition, Payton is a semi-finalist for the prestigious U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. She is one of two Rankin County students (and one of seven in the state) selected for this recognition and is among the top high school seniors nationwide recognized for their academic excellence and community contributions. A few of Payton's other accolades include Star Student, class of 2024 Valedictorian, and recipient of the Ms. Laquita Steen Scholarship from the Rankin County Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Kimberly Watson, who Payton selected as her Star Teacher, spoke with Payton about her achievements, motivations, and aspirations. Below are Ms. Watson's reflections from her interview with Payton.

Payton and I would not formally meet until her 10th grade year, and it wasn't until 11th grade that she officially became one of my students.

Recently, the Pelahatchie High School 2024 Valedictorian made history not only at Pelahatchie, but in the state with numerous academic achievements and honors. At the top of that list is the honor of being named a semi-finalist for the United States of America's Presidential Scholars Program. The first in Pelahatchie High School's history. The eighteen year old Pelahatchie native is an honor student, multisport athlete, and student-leader. She has volunteered at Pelahatchie Elementary School as a student mentor and a S.T.E.M. night student-leader. She also has a job at one of the local businesses in town, where she works before coming to school.

Watson: What advice would you give students that are inspired by your accomplishments?

Sanders: I want people to know that small schools can achieve great things. Just because you are not at a big school does not mean you cannot achieve greatness. Be

ambitious, don't be scared to apply and go for something; don't doubt yourself.

Watson: What are your thoughts about being named a semi-finalist for the U.S. Presidential Scholars program?

Sanders: It's exciting. I looked at the list and all the other student's attend 6A or 7A schools. Pelahatchie is a 2A school and really small. I am so excited.

Watson: You plan to attend The University of Mississippi in the fall. What led you to Ole Miss and what do you plan on studying?

Sanders: Reagan and two of our cousins attend Ole Miss and it feels like a second home for me. I want to study Nursing and Ole Miss has a really good Nursing program. They have started a program that will allow me to complete the program in Oxford. I am excited about the new challenges and meeting new people.

Watson: I know you are still a senior in high school, but, what are your plans after graduating from Ole Miss?

Sanders: Smiling brightly and without hesitation, "I want to return to Pelahatchie to live, work, and raise a family here."

Watson: Reflecting on your journey, thus far, what is something you value the most?

Sanders: Leaning back and flashing a quick wit smile, as if she just remembered something. "My Dad's 'Daddy-isms.'" "He has these big quotes and pictures that he will tell or send me - like motivation. One that I really love is, 'Control what you can control, which is your effort and your attitude.' Those are really special to me." Her smile is still beaming as she repeats it for me.

That's just it. She contributes her success to her family roots. Her mom is a Pelahatchie High School graduate and educator. Her sister is a Pelahatchie High School graduate and future educator. Her dad, a Florence native, invested into the Pelahatchie community as an educator. While there will be three educators in the family, Payton is taking educator values into the next chapter of her journey - striving for excellence and embracing learning.

It has been a privilege to get to know Payton, to teach her and be a part of her journey at Pelahatchie High School, and to see her chart her own course.

Pelahatchie Library May Events

Mother's Day Flower Arranging
Wednesday, May 8, 11:00 a.m.
Free - title: "Flowers for Mom"
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Senior Citizens Social
Tuesday, May 14, 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, May 28, 11:00 a.m.

Adult Book Club
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Discussing *The Sixth Day*
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Pelahatchie HS names recipients for awards of the month



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to our Students of the Month. Each of these students resemble what it means to be a Chief. They are involved in clubs, sports, and student life at PHS and show others daily the importance of enjoying every moment. Thank you students for making our campus and Tribe better today than it was yesterday. Pictured: 7th Grade - Somaya Hillie, 8th Grade - Kaiah Myers, 9th Grade - Lucas Gardner, 10th Grade - Chloe Pierce, 11th Grade - Ethan Stevens, 12th Grade - Lucas King.



Sam Rogers was awarded the Character Student of the Month for his character trait of resembling peace on our campus. Sam is a strong, resilient young man who leads other students by showing them the benefits of handling situations and day to day campus life with a sense of peacefulness and calmness. Thank you Sam for guiding our Tribe and showing others the importance of peace.



Congratulations to Lawton Burnham, a Senior here at PHS, on being awarded Athlete of the Month. Lawton makes the most of his time here at PHS. He is a top shooter for the PHS Archery team, he is a member of our Chiefs District Champ soccer team, one of our top welders for FFA, and so much more. Thank you, Lawton, for your leadership within our school and community.



Congratulations to Coach Jeremy Corley for being awarded teacher of the month at PHS. From the classroom to the Drivers Ed car to the football field to the weight room and every other job between that Coach Corley does for our campus, you will find him giving his all. Thank you Coach Corley for investing in our students and community.



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PHS Band Feature: Yes, students you can be both



Photo courtesy of Jaden Powell, Mississippi State Athletics

Curt Carman

By Bethany Shipp MSU

It's not often you find a student who is both a Mississippi State athlete and member of the Famous Maroon Band.

Thankfully, Curt Carman didn't have to choose between his love for music and sports when he came to MSU. The sophomore aerospace engineering major plays in the band's alto saxophone section and runs with MSU's Track and Field team.

An Iuka native whose parents met in their high school band, Carman grew up in a musical family and started playing the keyboard at a young age. Eager to join the band himself, he picked up the saxophone in the sixth grade, followed by the xylophone, marimba, guitar and more.

At the same time, Carman played as many sports as possible and was inspired to start running by his dad, who ran triathlons. Carman became faster and faster and eventually won the state 800-meter championship in his junior and senior years, setting a record Class 4A time in each event — and earned a spot on MSU's team.

"When I got the call from MSU after my last race in high school, I was so excited," he reflected. "I'm so grateful for the opportunity to run for Mississippi State and am trying to make the best of it every day.

"It's inspiring to be around so many great athletes at MSU and see how hard everybody works. We even have an Olympian who trains with us and helps coach us, which has been very encouraging."


Carman is also surrounded by a hardworking, talented team in the halls of the Famous Maroon Band and expressed great appreciation for the band directors and fellow musicians.

"The staff knows how to challenge us, but they're also so kind and write such great music," he shared. "We're all working toward a beautiful sound, and I think the energy we bring is unmatched. The sound is so beautiful that sometimes I walk a little slower up to the band hall just to listen to it because it never fails to give me chills."

When asked how he juggles band, track and pursuing his degree, he said it can be difficult but comes down to time management.


"It probably wouldn't be possible if we didn't have directors who are so mindful of everyone's time and efficiency," said Carman. "The more you put on your plate, the smarter you have to be with your time. People just don't realize how much time they waste during the day. When it comes to the things you care about, you'll make it work."





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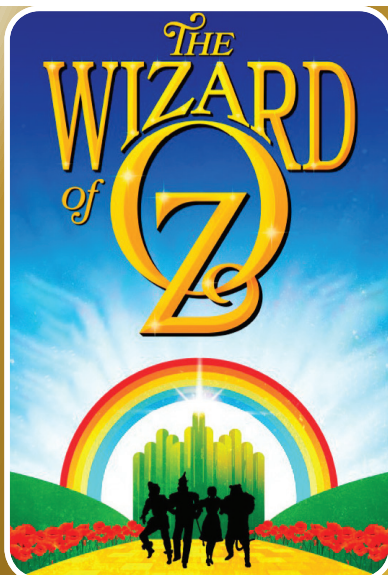
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Highlights from the Wizard of OZ Knox named to Kettering Dean's List

East Rankin Academy took a stroll down the yellow-brick road with its recent presentation of the musical theatre production of the movie classic, *The Wizard of Oz*. Two performances took place each day on Friday, April 5th and Saturday, April 6 which also included a matinee for 3rd-6th graders at 1 p.m. on Friday afternoon.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



Special to Pelahatchie News

Kettering University

Special to Pelahatchie News

Knox Ross was named to Kettering University's Winter 2024 Dean's List.

Ross, of Pelahatchie, is majoring in Mechanical Engineering and is a member of the class of 2026.

Ross was among more than 225 students named to the Winter 2024 Dean's List.

The Dean's List recognizes overall academic performance based on the student's term grade point av-

erage (GPA). To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must satisfy the following requirements: be a degree-seeking student with a minimum term grade point average of 3.5, no grades below B, and a minimum of 16 earned credits for the term.

Kettering University, formerly GMI, is a Flint, Michigan-based private, STEM-focused university recognized as one of the nation's premier engineering, computer science, and business leaders in higher education.



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Love Out Loud Event at Jellystone: A Community Gathering for Hope and Help

By Kenneth McDade

The Ever Reaching Community Outreach (ERCO) is thrilled to announce their upcoming Love Out Loud event at Yogi on the Lake, inviting everyone to join in the fun-filled day. Scheduled for Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., this event promises a day of con-



nection, joy, and support for the whole community. And here's the best part: all activities and lunch are completely free of charge!

ERCO, a faith-based nonprofit organization, is known for its multifaceted approach to community service. Serving as a Mississippi Food Network food pantry, a donation center offering clothes, housewares, furniture, and more, as well as a resource center collaborating with other ministries, ERCO is dedicated to spreading hope and faith in Jesus Christ.

The Love Out Loud event will feature a range of activities tailored for young participants, including bounce houses, games, face-painting, and more. It's an opportunity for children to have fun and build connections within the community while parents enjoy a day of relaxation and camaraderie.

One of ERCO's key initiatives is Hope Rising Mississippi, a program aimed at providing comprehensive support to children and families in need. Tammy Brun, Founding Member and Director of ERCO, highlighted the various aspects of Hope Rising Mississippi, emphasizing its focus on housing, transportation, opportunities for treatment, and economic security.



According to Brun, Hope Rising Mississippi is committed to addressing the root causes of adversity faced by children and families, offering housing assistance, access

to treatment services, and support for economic stability. Through collaborative efforts with organizations like All Things New and Celebrate Recovery, Hope Rising Mississippi strives to create lasting positive change in the lives of those it serves.

Furthermore, ERCO's Love Out Loud event isn't just about fun and games; it's about connecting people with the resources and support they need to thrive. By fostering communi-

ty engagement and providing access to vital services, ERCO hopes to empower individuals and families to overcome challenges and embrace hope for the future.



Exciting updates have emerged from ERCO's ongoing efforts to support the community. In addition to their existing programs, ERCO is now partnering with the Baptist Children's Village to provide services such as childcare for families in distress. This collaboration aims to offer practical support and assistance to families in need, further extending ERCO's





reach and impact within the community.

As the event approaches, the anticipation is growing among Pelahatchie residents. It's a chance for the community to come together, support one another, and embody the spirit of love and compassion that defines ERCO's mission.

For more information about ERCO and their Love Out Loud event, please contact 601-665-5720 or visit ERCO's website at ERCO@everreaching.net. Join us at Yogi on the Lake, located at 143 Campground Rd, Pelahatchie, MS, for a day of fun, fellowship, and hope.




Photos special to Pelahatchie News


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ERA band ranks all superior



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to the East Ranking Upper School Band for earning All-Superior at the MAIS Spring Band Concert.

Highlights from PHS Prom



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK






PAST HEADLINES

2014 - 10 years ago

- “Severe weather leaves imprint in Pelahatchie”
- “Camping facility for special needs children in the planning stage”

2019 - 5 years ago

- “Hales and Henderson named overall winners in MAIS district art competition”
- “Hatchie News newspaper named finalist as MSPA convention”

2023 - Last Year

- “Mississippi insurance brokers can now sell pet insurance”
- “Ross and Spain celebrate merger of railways”



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By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

Special to Pelahatchie News

Fire ants are the most common insect pests of home lawns. They occur in nearly every lawn in Mississippi. Even if you can achieve a totally fire ant free yard, it probably won't stay that way for long, because newly mated fire ant queens will quickly recolonize it. New colonies seem to thrive in areas that are free of other competing colonies. Fire ant control can be an on going battle, but there are steps you can take to keep your yard relatively free of fire ants.

1) Granular Baits: The easiest, cheapest, and most effective way to control fire ants is to use baits. Learn to use baits properly and preventively and the number of fire ants in your yard can be reduced by 80 to 90 percent. The key to success with baits is applying them as broadcast treatments instead of treating only individual mounds. When properly applied, granular fire ant baits are low cost, quick and easy to apply, they are safe to children and pets, and give up to 80% control. Baits are "fire ant-edible" granules that contain low doses of slow acting insecticides or insect growth disruptors.

It may take two to six weeks to see the full benefits of a bait. Early spring is the best time to apply fire ant baits because fire ants are actively foraging for food at this time of year. If you are just going to treat one time of year, do it in the spring. But you can improve control by treating in midsummer and a third time in the fall. A rule of thumb is to broadcast a granular bait over your yard three to four times a year; around Easter, around Independence Day, and around Labor Day, and you should not have very many fire ants in your yard.

2) Dry Mound Treatments: Can't wait a few weeks for a bait to control that big mound by the edge of the patio? A dry mound treatment is the most convenient way to kill fire ant mounds. Keep a can of dry mound treatments on hand to spot treat the mound you see in your yard. As you find fire ant mounds, just sprinkle the labeled amount of the product on the mound and walk away. The use of a combination of granular baits and dry mound treatments are very effective in controlling fire ants.

3) Liquid Mound Drenches: This is the fastest way to kill individual fire ant mounds, but they are the most time consuming to mix and apply. Use a watering can to mix and apply liquid drenches. Just mix the specific amount of insecticide in water and pour over the mound. The key to success with liquid drenches is to use enough liquid to thoroughly soak the mound. Depending on the size of the mound, it could range from 1 to 2 gallons of mixed drench.

Begin by applying about 1/4 of the total volume to a 10-12 inch band around the outside of the mound. This will help prevent the queen from escaping through those underground foraging tunnels and improves control of workers. Then apply the rest of the drench directly to the mound. Failing to use enough drench to thoroughly soak the mound is the main reason for problems or failure with mound drenching fire ants.

4) Broadcast Insecticide Treatments: Broadcast insecticide treatments are contact insecticides that are



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applied over the entire lawn. These are generally more time consuming and more costly than baits. These are used more in highly managed areas such as athletic fields and golf courses, than home lawns. Broadcast insecticide treatments may be formulated as liquids, which are mixed according to label instructions and then sprayed over the lawn areas, or as granular treatments, which are spread over the lawn areas using an appropriate spreader.

Don't get granular insecticides and granular baits confused. Baits are impregnated with oil or some other food substance and a small amount of slow-acting insecticide. Worker ants actively collect the bait granules and carry them back to the colony. Granular insecticides are simply granules that are impregnated with insecticide. These are not attractive to ants. Instead, the insecticide in the granules moves into the soil and controls foraging ants and newly settled queens by contact activity. Obtaining uniform coverage is more important when applying broadcast insecticide granules than when applying granular baits.

One benefit of applying insecticides used as broadcasts treatments for fire ants is the insecticides also control other lawn pests, such as chinch bugs, white grubs, and mole crickets. Choose the right insecticide and you can control mole crickets, fire ants, and white grubs. Before purchasing a broadcast insecticide, read the label carefully to be sure that the insecticide you choose controls the particular group of pests you need to control.

Source, "Control Fire Ants in Your Yard". Extension Publication 2429

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Walters FD fish fry is almost here

Yogi nominated for best RV Park



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It's fish fry time! Join us at Walters Fire Dept on May 4th, 4-7 p.m. for our spring fish fry featuring Mississippi farm-raised catfish, crispy hushpuppies, fries, and cole slaw. Eat in or take your plates home for just \$13 each. Please make plans to join us for some delicious catfish and sides, but more importantly, support your volunteers. The two fish fries we hold each year are our primary source of operating funds. We hope to see you then.

Cast your vote now! We're so excited to announce that Jellystone Park™ Pelahatchie - Yogi on the Lake has been nominated for Best RV Park in USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Awards! Your support means the world to us as we strive to make every camping adventure unforgettable. Check out the link below and show your love for Jellystone Park Pelahatchie! <https://shorturl.at/gBEV9>

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East Rankin Athletics triumph at MAIS District

The East Rankin Academy Patriots contended for the MAIS 5A, District 2 championship on April 17-20, at Canton Academy. Despite severe weather, to include heavy wind, rain and hail, both the varsity teams were victorious, fending off challenges from fellow district schools, Simpson Academy, Lamar School, Park Place Christian Academy and Wayne Academy. Highlighted in the team's efforts: • The varsity boys swept all four team relays (including a new school record of 9:04.86 in the 4x800). • Senior, Brayden Warner, remained undefeated in discus, picking up his 11th win on the year (to include a season best personal record of 173-9). • Eighth grader, Zack Price, broke a 24-year-old school record with his 2nd place finish in the 3200 meter in a time of 10:43.69. Price also took 1st in the 800 meter and 1600 meter races. • Sophomore, Addison Derrick, broke a nine-year-old school record in discus with a throw of 110-11. • Junior, Audrey Mayatte, broke her own school record, lowering her 3200 meter time to 11:56.30.

The following Patriot athletes finishing in the top four of each event qualifying to the North State Championship to be held in Cleveland, MS.

FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Lydia Collipp — 200 meters ❖ Emma Raines — 300 hurdles ❖ Liam Wilkerson — 400 meters ❖ Lydia Collipp — 400 meters ❖ Zack Price — 800 meters ❖ Zack Price — 1600 meters ❖ Brayden Warner — Discus ❖ Addison Derrick — Discus ❖ Boys 4x100 Relay ❖ Boys 4x200 Relay ❖ Girls 4x200 Relay ❖ Boys 4x400 Relay ❖ Girls 4x400 Relay ❖ Boys 4x800 Relay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Aiden Harrell — 100 meters ❖ Emily Williams — 100 meters ❖ Jon Riemann — 400 meters ❖ Zack Price — 3200 meters ❖ Savannah Smithers—Long Jump ❖ Brayden Warner—Shot Put ❖ Addison Derrick—Shot Put ❖ Girls 4x800 Relay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Taylor Woods — 200 meters ❖ Abby Raines — 300 hurdles ❖ Audrey Mayatte — 800 meters ❖ Audrey Mayatte — 1600 meters ❖ RT Tate — 3200 meters ❖ Audrey Mayatte — 3200 meters ❖ Jillian Breland—Discus ❖ Luke Wesson—High Jump ❖ Luke Wesson—Long Jump ❖ Jack Boyd—Shot Put ❖ Colin Harris—Triple Jump ❖ Girls 4x100 Relay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Taylor Woods — 100 meters ❖ RT Tate — 800 meters ❖ Emma Raines — 800 meters ❖ RT Tate — 1600 meters ❖ Jewel Baker — 1600 meters ❖ Jewel Baker — 3200 meters ❖ Aiden Carlisle—Long Jump ❖ Jillian Breland—Shot Put



Front L-to-R: Taylor Stroh (8th Grade), Aiden Harrell (Junior), Zack Price (8th Grade), RT Tate (Sophomore), Jon Riemann (Freshman), Cade Vowell (8th Grade), Coach Austin Banes. Back: Coach David Hopper, Aiden Carlisle (Sophomore), Luke Wesson (Freshman), Gage Crapps (Sophomore), Jack Boyd (Senior), Brayden Warner (Senior), Liam Wilkerson (Senior), Taylor Woods (Sophomore), Colin Harris (Senior), Coach Steven Boozer.



Front L-to-R: Leah Collipp (Freshman), Katie Simpson (Junior), Edie Tate (8th Grade), Addison Vowell (Sophomore), Emma Raines (8th Grade), Alibeth Wilbourne (Freshman), Savannah Smithers (Sophomore), Coach Austin Banes. Back: Coach David Hopper, Jewel Baker (6th Grade), Emily Williams (Sophomore), Audrey Mayatte (Junior), Jillian Breland (8th Grade), Addison Derrick (Sophomore), Jensen Baker (Sophomore), Lydia Collipp (Junior), Abby Raines (Junior), Breland Moulds (Freshman), Coach Steven Boozer.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

But our varsity boys too, 2nd at MAIS 5A North State, bringing home a trophy and a few new ERA school records. LtoR (front): Taylor Stroh, Walker Sartin, Aiden Harrell, Zack Price, RT Tate, Aiden Carlisle, Coach Austin Banes. (back): Coach David Hopper, Luke Wesson, Liam Wilkerson, Brayden Warner, Colin Harris, Taylor Woods, Coach Steve Boozer (not pictured: Jack Boyd).

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Pastor's Perspective: "Leaving a legacy of faith"



By Guest Columnist, Spencer Sullivan, Pastor, Pelahatchie Baptist

Special to Pelahatchie News

My grandmother, known as Granny to me, went to be with Jesus over 20 years ago now. It doesn't seem like it can be that long ago. I have so many memories of my Granny. She was from the tiny community of Tomnolen, near the town of Eupora in north Mississippi. I loved going up to visit her in the summers and every memory of Christmas from my childhood has her house as the setting. She was locally famous for her cinnamon rolls. You could say that her cinnamon rolls are her legacy. It is nearly impossible to have a conversation with anyone that knew her without those melt in your mouth, delectable cinnamon rolls being remembered and talked about. Today the cinnamon rolls are made by my mom, so in a sense, my Granny's legacy lives on through those cinnamon rolls. My mom will always give her the credit whenever she is complimented today. But for me, my Granny's legacy is far greater than her delicious cinnamon rolls. What I remember and cherish most about my Granny was her kind, sweet spirit and her love for Jesus. For those that knew her best, that is my Granny's long-lasting legacy. That was her impact on me and those that knew her best.

Our church is currently walking through the book of Acts on Sunday mornings. If you're unfamiliar with Acts, it records the beginning and early history of the church, following Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. While the early church grew very quickly,



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she was not without opposition. In fact, even in the first few chapters, we read of arrests, imprisonment, threats, and even severe beatings. However, in spite of the persecution and suffering, the church continued to grow! For me, the reason is captured in one verse that describes the apostles' response to having just endured a severe beating. Acts 5:41 says: "...they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name." They rejoiced in their suffering! Why? In summary: because Jesus was (and is) worth it! This is significant, but chapter 6 introduces us to a man named Stephen. The Bible describes him as being full of grace and power. God was using him in powerful ways and predictably, opposition came against him. He was lied about and falsely accused, much like Jesus following his own ar-

rest. Stephen's defense was proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus to those that wanted to silence him. This led to Stephen's death and he will forever be remembered as the first Christian martyr. This is Stephen's legacy: He was willing to die because Jesus was worth it. For all those that came to faith in Jesus during Stephen's life and ministry, how many more have come to faith, at least in part, because of his death?

I don't know that many of us ever really consider our own legacy as we move through our lives. I'm sure we want to make a difference and for our lives to count for something. But life can be incredibly busy and we are all mostly focused on what we need to get through today. For a moment, consider this question: What impact am I having on those in my life, especially those closest to me? To be honest, it may be hard for us to answer that question. I don't really know what my legacy will be to those closest to me. My hope is that they are truly impacted by Jesus. The reason I remember my Granny the way that I do is because she knew Jesus to be greater than anything else this world has to offer. The reason the apostles rejoiced in their suffering and that Stephen was martyred is because they found Jesus to be the greatest treasure that could ever be found. Knowing Jesus and making Him known was worth the price they paid. This is still true today. Regarding your legacy, I encourage you to find a way to leave a positive, lasting impact on those in your life, especially those closest to you. I implore you to consider Jesus as the greatest treasure you can know now and the greatest treasure you can pass to others. He is worth everything!



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Pelahatchie students experience recent solar exclipse

The recent solar eclipse had students and faculty in awe. Coach Nutt could not wait to put his shades on while in the cafe. Safety first, of course. During fourth block, teachers took students that had completed permission forms in their class to view the solar eclipse. The clouds parted long enough for them all to enjoy great views of the eclipse. Our office staff also joined in the viewing. Making memories with our Tribe is the best.



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PES receives RCSD awards



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Congrats to Ina Jordan! She was selected as the RCSD Staff Member of the Month. Thankful for her dedication to Pelahatchie Elementary.



RCSD Reading Fair Competition: The Rankin County School District hosted the 2024 District Reading Fair Competition. Fifty school-level champions submitted reading fair projects across eight categories. In each of the eight categories, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners were awarded. Recently, Freddchechia Ficklin of Pelahatchie Elementary (Kindergarten) won first place in Family Literary Fiction PReK-K.



PHS powerlifting teams place at State



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to the Lady Chiefs on a successful powerlifting season! We want to especially congratulate these 2 individuals for medaling at the State Meet in their respective classes: Ja'Leah Ford: 2nd; Erin Winder: 2nd.



Congratulations to the 2024 2A South State Girls Powerlifting Champions! Congratulations to the 2024 2A South State Girls Powerlifting Champions! Individual results in their respective class: Idaja Beemon, 1st place; Leighanna Merritt, 4th place; Lela Jordan, 2nd place; Melanie Ball, 2nd place; Alice Lopez, 3rd place; Jaleah Ford, 1st place; Erin Winder, 1st place. Thanks to their amazing coaches (Coach Corley and Coach Pittman) on working with these girls to make it to this point, and as they now prepare for state competition.



Congratulations to these Pelahatchie Chiefs for moving on to the State Boys Powerlifting 2A South State meet. Congratulations to these Pelahatchie Chiefs for moving on to the State Boys Powerlifting 2A South State meet. Results from Boys Powerlifting 2A South State: Roshea McCoy - 3rd place, 148 weight class; Korbin Boydston - 2A South State Champion, 181 weight class; Damarion Snow - 3rd place, 220 weight class.

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