



PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



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OWN TOMORROW!

February 2024 ■ Volume 13, Issue 2 ■ Pelahatchie, MS

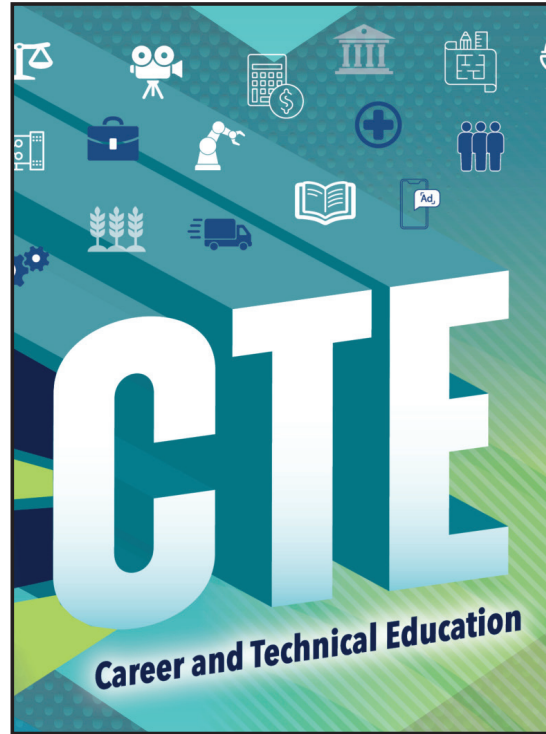
Pelahatchie HS brings focus to CTE Awareness month

Special to Pelahatchie News

During the month of February, Pelahatchie High School along with the career and technical community takes time to honor CTE (Career and Technical Educational) programs. Career and technical education plays a vital role in college and career readiness for our students and their future. Pelahatchie High School takes pride in offering valuable CTE programs such as Computer Science, Ag & Natural Resources, Health Science, Family & Consumer Science, and Engineering.

Computer Science (taught by Kessie Key and Luke Cotnam): Exposure to computer science begins in our elementary school with Mrs. Rebecca Nelson (STEM). As

our students move into junior high (7th and 8th grades), Mrs. Key and Coach Cotnam work alongside them showing them the effectiveness of critical thinking and problem-solving in real-world situations with a focus on computers and technology. We deep dive and learn where computer science is used in their field of interest and how these core concepts of computer science can provide insight into a field of opportunity they may not have considered. Computer Science is also taught in a high school elective we offer, Exploring Computer Science. Students learn a more scoped focus of computer science concepts such as Web Design, Programming, Computing and Data



Analysis, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and E-Textiles. For many of our students, this is an opportunity again to explore career fields they may not have ever considered prior to being exposed.

Ag & Natural Resources (Bob Robinson): This is one of our oldest onsite CTE Programs at PHS. This program has provided ample opportunities for our students to gain hands-on learning experiences and enhanced community involvement. The Ag program at PHS has attracted students from the community because we offer hands-on learning and experiences that may otherwise be missed. The students in this program learn concepts like plant care, welding,

Continued on Page 2

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Top ten tips to save money on energy bill

Special to Pelahatchie News

The annual energy bill for a typical single-family home is \$2,060 in the United States. Have you ever wondered just where that money goes? Well, for the average family, a whopping 42% of that is made up of heating and cooling costs combined. Water heating is another 13% of the total cost. Electronics account for 21% with lighting at 12% and appliances at 12%. What are some ways you can reduce your bill and save money? These top ten money



saving tips can save you a significant amount on your energy bill.

1. Replace any light bulb, especially ones that burn more than an hour per day, with a light-emitting diode (LED) bulb.

2. Seal from the inside. Air sealing is an inexpensive way to lower energy costs and improve comfort. Seal gaps and holes in walls, floors, and ceilings with caulk or foam sealant. Look for cracks around windows and where wires and pipes pass through.

3. Plug electronic devices such as cable boxes, printers and TVs into power strips and turn off during vacations or long periods without use. Smart power strips make it an easy task to save money.

Continued on Page 5



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A CARING & FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

Continued from Front page

Pelahatchie HS brings focus to CTE Awareness month

tool identification, farm life, career exploration, critical thinking, communication and public speaking, and so much more. Mr. Bob Robinson has also successfully operated our school's FFA program for many years. Our FFA students range from 11 years old to seniors in high school. These students plan, prepare, and compete in areas such as creed speaking, officer opening/closing speaking, national creed speaking, tool identification, and welding.

Health Science Academy (Elizabeth Luker): One of the newer academies at PHS has offered a promising future for so many of our students. This pathway prepares our students to become a nurse (RN or specialized), health data management technician, physician, or over 170 other medical related fields. The Health Science Academy has offered the opportunity for our students to gain insight and understanding of the real world expectations of these jobs. Students learn what a day in the life of, as well as a career in the life of, these careers may look

like. Our Health Science Academy has been led by medical professionals that have transitioned to the education setting. Mrs. Elizabeth Luker, a certified Nurse Practitioner and Registered Nurse with a focus in brain and spinal injury patients is currently leading our Health Science Academy. Mrs. Luker is bringing real world experience to teach and guide our students into their future career paths.

Family & Consumer Sciences, Resource Management, Health, Family Dynamics (Mandy Herrington): Students learn concepts that focus on family and home life concepts. The objectives covered in these classes are important to student function in everyday life as a young adult. Students learn how to cook, how to handle financing (including wedding and household budgets), how to handle an infant, as well as how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Students also learn about valuable real-world concepts such as the stock market, money management, and operating a bank account. Students who participated in

the stock market game competition last year placed highest in the state on various teams.

Engineering (Nikki Nutt): Engineering is one of the newest CTE pathways on the PHS campus. Mrs. Nutt provides teaching and learning opportunities in the fields of applied science and mathematics, engineering, computer science/information technology, and engineering technology. This course creates an atmosphere of innovation and exploration while learning the importance of the engineering design process, critical thinking skills, problem-solving, and trial and error of production. Students within this course are also offered the opportunity to join our TSA student organization which is also new to our campus. The growth and possibilities within this pathway are abundant in the career and technical education field.

Each of these pathways provides exposure for our students that could change their future life course. Career and technical education is a powerful

way of reminding students that their successful future is our goal, whether they plan to attend college, attend trade school, join the military, or go straight to the workforce. Pelahatchie High School's vision is our driving force to ensure every student is safe, supported, and successful. In the realm of CTE here on campus, we pride ourselves on the experiences we offer our students. Those experiences would not be possible without the outpouring of support from our community members and business partners.

During the fall and spring semesters, our CTE department invites local businesses and community members to come together and discuss ways to improve our educational and real-world experiences for our students. The spring CTE community meeting will be held on February 21, 2024, at 7:45 am. If you would like more information on our CTE programs or have an interest in attending our next meeting, please contact our CTE Department Chair, Kessie Key at 601-854-8135 or kessie.key@rcsd.ms.



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Local students named to MC's President's list

Special to Pelahatchie News

Three students from Pelahatchie were recently named to Mississippi College President's list. These students include: Scarlett Castillo-Thompson, Colburn Jones, and Margaret Wingo. The Mississippi College Office of Academic Affairs releases the president's list after the close of fall and spring semesters each academic year. To be eligible for the President's List, a student must maintain a 4.0 grade point average, based on a 4.0 system. The student must take a full course load of at least 12 semester hours of undergraduate credit with all academic courses impacting their grade point average.



Scarlett Castillo-Thompson



Colburn Jones



Margaret Wingo

Photos special to Pelahatchie News



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Local Business Spotlight: Crooked Creek Animal Hospital welcomes new staff

Special to Pelahatchie News

Dr. Jenny Sowell joined the Crooked Creek Family in October of 2023. She graduated from Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2014 after obtaining a B.S. in Animal and Dairy Sciences and a Master's of Public Health. Dr. Sowell has a strong interest in feline medicine, surgery and behavior. She also enjoys performing numerous soft tissue surgeries. She was awarded the American Association of Feline Practitioners Award and the Gentle Doctor Award as a graduating senior in veterinary school. In 2017, she was awarded the MVMA Young Veterinarian of the Year Award.

Dr. Sowell has worked in local veterinary clinics since graduating from veterinary school and she is very excited



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Dr. Jenny Sowell

to be practicing at CCAH. She is married to Kramer Sowell and they have two children, Benton and Lyhney. She resides in Pelahatchie and is a devout member of Brandon Methodist Church.

She enjoys spending time with her family and menagerie of pets.



Dr. Katlyn Henning

Dr. Katlyn Henning is from Lake, Mississippi. She grew up on a beef cattle farm which planted the seed for her love of beef cattle production. She attended high school at East Rankin Academy. She worked at Crooked Creek Animal Hospital through high school and into her undergraduate at Mississippi State University. Dr. Henning graduated MSU with a Bachelors of Animal and Dairy Science in 2019. She completed veterinary school at MSU in 2023. She has interest in food animal production and theriogenology.

Dr. Henning is married to Terry Henning and they reside in Lake. She enjoys reading and working cattle farms in her spare time. She is so excited to continue her career at Crooked Creek Animal Hospital where it feels like home.



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District 36 Senator Rhodes sworn in



Special to Pelahatchie News

Newly elected District 36 Senator Brian Rhodes who was sworn in on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, to represent parts of Rankin and Smith counties, was accompanied by his wife Ashley, and children Lucy, Anna Belle, and Casper.

Local students named to RCSD Elementary Teacher President's, Chancellor's list of the Year: Rebecca Nelson

Special to Pelahatchie News

More than 4,500 students were named to the fall 2023 President's List at Mississippi State University. The following local students are included in this honor:

David Adams, of Pelahatchie, MS
Alana Archibald, of Pelahatchie, MS
Summer Georgen, of Pelahatchie, MS
Trey Rhodes, of Pelahatchie, MS
Dana Watkins, of Pelahatchie, MS
Emma Ward, of Pelahatchie, MS
Jessica Ries, of Pelahatchie, MS
Jason Wuestefeld, of Pelahatchie, MS
Anna Carter, of Pelahatchie, MS
Elijah Rowell, of Pelahatchie, MS

Students on the President's List at Mississippi State achieved a 3.80 or better GPA, based on a 4.0 scale, while completing at least 12 semester hours of coursework with no incomplete grades or grades lower than a C.

Some students may not appear on this list as a result of requests for privacy from publication through the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.



The University of Mississippi announced students named to the Fall 2023 Honor Roll lists, including Chancellor's Honor Roll which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.75-4.00. In order to be eligible for honor roll designation, a student must have completed at least 12 graded hours for the semester and may not be on academic probation during the semester.

Three students from Pelahatchie were named for the Chancellor's Honor Roll. These students include Makaylee Hester, majoring in Political Science; Reagan Sanders, majoring in Elementary Education; and Kaitlyn White, majoring in Elementary Education.

"The remarkable students achieving Chancellor's Honor Roll are among the best and brightest at the University of Mississippi," said Chancellor Glenn Boyce. "I commend them for their hard work and dedication resulting in their outstanding academic achievements and this well-deserved recognition."



Rankin County School District

TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

BRANDON FLORENCE McLAURIN NORTHWEST PELAHATCHIE PISGAH PUCKETT RICHLAND

By Kenneth McDade

Rebecca Nelson, the recently crowned RCSD Elementary Teacher of the Year, stands out not just as an educator but as a beacon of inspiration for her students at Pelahatchie Elementary. In a heartfelt letter, she expressed her shock and honor upon receiving the prestigious award, recognizing the exceptional quality of her fellow educators.

Nelson, who serves as the STEM teacher at Pelahatchie Elementary, brings a unique perspective to her role. Over the course of a year and a half in this position, she has witnessed the remarkable growth of her students, not just academically but also in their approach to challenges. Her passion for teaching is evident as she describes the honor of being named the Teacher of the Year as the "icing on the cake" in her fulfilling journey as an educator.

One of Nelson's key achievements lies in her ability to foster curiosity among her students. By encouraging them to seek answers through investigations and research, she empowers them to think critically and independently. Rather than providing direct answers to their questions, she guides them with insightful queries, steering them towards the path of self-discovery. This teaching approach is a testament to her commitment to shaping inquisitive minds.

Recognizing the importance of STEM education in today's world, Nelson goes beyond her regular teaching duties to provide students, parents, and the community with opportunities to engage with the field. In her tenure as a STEM teacher, she has organized and led Family STEM night for two consecutive years, achieving great success and attendance. This initiative not only highlights her dedication to her students but also underscores the importance of involving families and the community in the educational process.

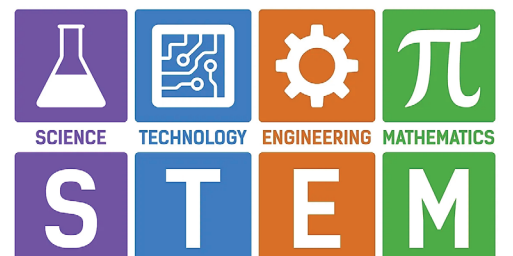
Additionally, Nelson has taken steps to extend learning beyond the regular school hours by creating after-school clubs focused on coding



Special to Pelahatchie News

and robotics. By offering students these extracurricular activities, she provides them with the time and space to delve deeper into the world of STEM, fostering a love for these subjects that extends beyond the classroom.

Rebecca Nelson's impact as a teacher extends far beyond the confines of her classroom. Her innovative teaching methods, commitment to student growth, and efforts to promote STEM education within the community make her a deserving recipient of the RCSD Elementary Teacher of the Year award. As she continues to inspire and shape young minds at Pelahatchie Elementary, Nelson's influence on education is undoubtedly a force to be reckoned with.



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Rankin Deputies Seize Kilo of Cocaine

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On Thursday, January 18, 2024, a deputy with the Rankin County Sheriff's Office Criminal Interdiction Team made a traffic stop on a passenger vehicle on Interstate 20 for a traffic violation. During a roadside interview, the deputy became suspicious of the discrepancies in the driver's story.

During a consensual search of the vehicle, the deputy with the assistance of his K-9 partner "Voodoo" discovered approximately one kilogram of cocaine located in the vehicle. The driver was placed under arrest.

The driver is identified as Miguel Camarillo-Alacala. The suspect was transported to the Rankin County Jail and booked on the charge of Trafficking of Controlled Substances. The preliminary investigation revealed that Miguel Camarillo-Alacala is wanted out of Brownsville, Texas for "Manufacturing and Delivering Controlled Substance/Dangerous Drugs."

District Attorney "Bubba" Bramlett will bring Miguel Camarillo-Alacala before Rankin County Court Judge David Morrow for an Initial Appearance. This investigation continues.

- Sheriff Bryan Bailey, Rankin County Sheriff's Office (MS)



Miguel Camarillo-Alacala, 36 YOA Male, Clarksville, Tennessee



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

One Kilogram of Cocaine



Pelahatchie Library February Events

FREE TERRARIUM MAKING CLASS
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2:00 P.M.

SENIOR CITIZENS SOCIAL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 11:00 A.M.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 11:00 A.M.

ADULT BOOK CLUB
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 11:00 A.M.
DISCUSSING *THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW*
BY A.J. FINN

COME AND JOIN US!

Continued from Front page

Top ten tips to save money on energy

4. Change your central HVAC system filter when dirty according to the manufacturers recommendations. Dirty filters can impact your home's comfort and increase your electricity bill. Make sure to change out every 30 days.

5. A one-degree increase in heating setpoint or reduction in cooling setpoint can increase energy use by 3-5%, so to save money set your HVAC unit to 78 degrees in the summer and 68 degrees in the winter.

6. Have your duct work checked for leaks. Leaks at the return, air handler, and supply can be a major contributor to high bills. Mobile homes should be checked at the grill, cross over duct, and down flow air handler, for leaks.

7. Set both the upper and lower water heater thermostats no higher than 125 degrees.

8. An electric space heater can cost more than \$100 per month to operate. Minimize their use, except for limited or temporary spot heating. Turn space heaters off when leaving a room.

9. Ensure refrigerator door seals are tight. Eliminate unnecessary refrigerators.

10. Close shades and drapes during the day to keep your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

For more ways to save and for the latest member information, visit www.southernpine.coop and follow Southern Pine Electric on Facebook.



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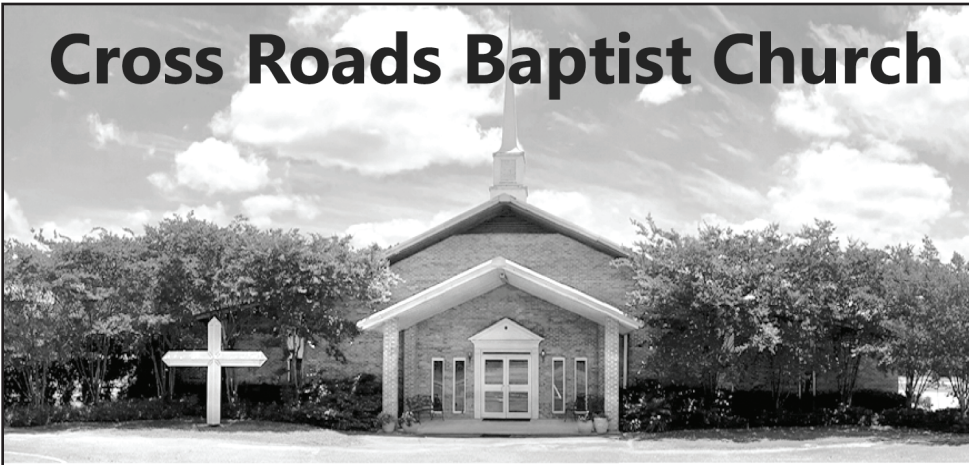


Four local businesses receive Best of the Best Top 5 honors



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

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10:30 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

Wednesday Schedule:

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Crooked Creek Animal Hospital, Inc.



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Jenny Sowell, DVM
Katlyn Hennings, DVM
Susan Thrash, DVM

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Pelahatchie HS students attend RCSD honor band clinic

Special to Pelahatchie News

GREAT job to our students who recently participated and performed in the 2nd Annual RCSD Honor Band Clinic. Pelahatchie was well represented at the Clinic which was held at Brandon High School. It is good to see our young band program continue to grow and showcase the talent our students have. Six students from our junior high band and seven from the high school band performed with students from schools across Rankin County School District. Thank you Pride of Pelahatchie! You make us proud!



Left to right: Kali Redmann, Nolan Stephens, Lennon McFadden, Brooklyn Williamson, Lela Jordan, and Brianna Brown.



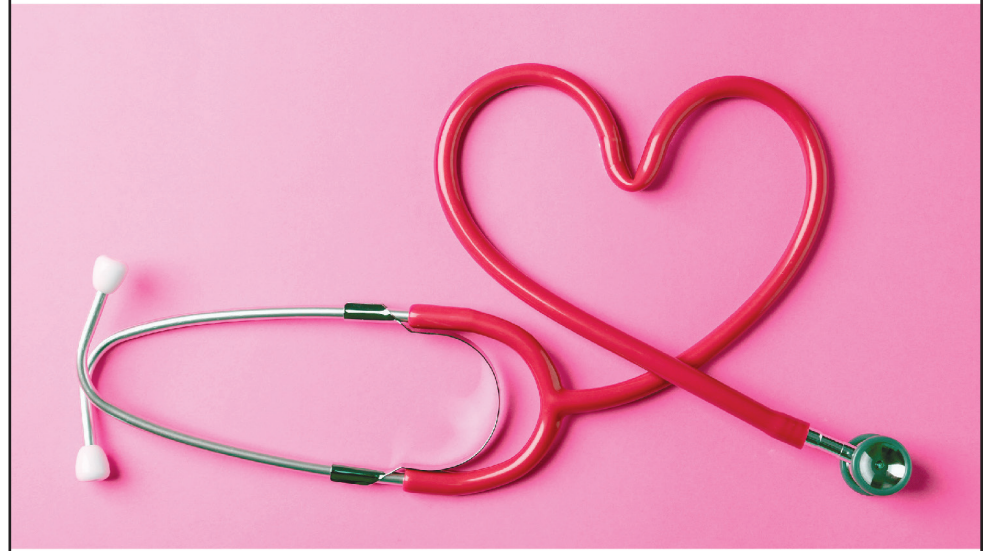
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Left to right: Chloe Pierce, Rayden Piner, Kyra Bryant, Madeline McFadden, Jack Herrington, Cameron Henley, and Danielle Windham.




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6:00-6:45 - Beginner/Intermediate
6:45-7:30 - Adult/Advanced

Engineering students get help with projects from visiting CTE advisor

Special to Pelahatchie News

CTE advisory committee member and RCSD graduate, Tyler McIntyre, P.E. with FC&E Engineering, came to speak in depth about the field of engineering with the Engineering 1 and 2 students.

During our fall advisory meeting, Tyler spoke with Mrs. Nutt, the engineering instructor, and offered some project ideas for class. One of those projects was the 2021 Engineering Challenge to build a paper tower that is as tall as possible and can support a can of food at the top. Today Tyler was able to oversee and make suggestions on the students' projects being made in class.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



ERA wins at tournament



Congratulations to our fifth grade patriots on an awesome season and runner-up finish in the tournament. Take a moment to scan the picture and look at the eyes of each of these young men & feel their emotions. Sports are so special with the lessons they teach & having a group pour countless hours and effort into something to come up just a little short has a way of fueling much greater things in the future.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Sixth grade patriots drop a heartbreaker in overtime of the tournament finals.

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PHS Chieftain cards awarded ERA track season starts



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to the 29 students who were awarded the Chieftain Tribe Cards this past week. These students have met the criteria of our Tribe cards that include the following: zero tardies to date, one or no absences, zero discipline referrals, overall growth of 5 points on state test scores, or a GPA of 4.0 or higher. The 29 students who were awarded the Chieftain Tribe Cards have incentives such as delivery day rewards, game passes, snack passes, tardy passes, teacher incentives, and more. We are so proud of these students and how well they represent our student body, school, and community. Keep striving for greatness Tribe. #LevelUpChiefs



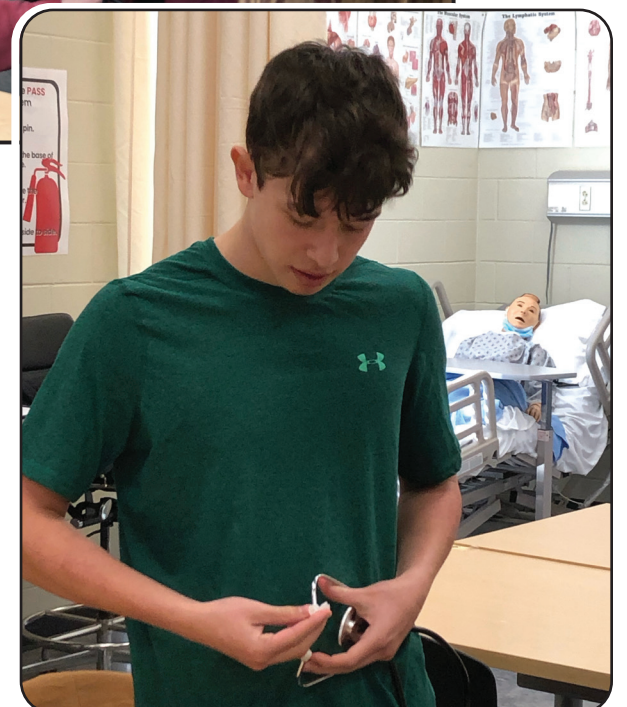
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The East Rankin Academy Patriots opened up the 2024 indoor track season on Monday, January 15th at the Martin Luther King invitational at the CrossPlex in Birmingham, Alabama. Sophomore, Audrey Mayatte, finished 8th out of 72 runners in the 800 meter run. She is currently ranked 4th in the state of Mississippi at that distance. Also competing in the 800, freshman, Leah Collipp, finished 21 out of 72 runners ranking her 9th in the state. Eighth grader, Zack Price, ran the 1600 with a stellar time of 5:04, ranking him 1st in Mississippi and 21st nationally among fellow eighth grade athletes. Lydia Collipp finished 15th out of 77 in the 400m dash, ranking her 13th in the state of Mississippi.

Pelahatchie HS Health class takes vital signs hands on

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Health Science III class recently had a day where they put into practice what they have been learning about taking vital signs (temperature, blood pressure, pulse, respirations, and O2 saturation). The importance of accurate readings was emphasized while maintaining patient confidentiality and always remember to disinfect your equipment!



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

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East Rankin students honored at MAIS competitions

Congratulations!

MAIS District Spelling Bee Winners

Davis Gray-2nd Place, Fourth Grade
Gane Boozer-1st Place, Fifth Grade
Mabry Logan-1st Place, Sixth Grade
Zack Price-1st Place, Eighth Grade



ER

These students will compete in the MAIS Overall Spelling Bee on February 9.

Photos special to Pelahatchie News



Congratulations to the following East Rankin Upper Band Students for selection into the Gold Honor Band at the 2024 MAIS Bandmasters State Clinic held January 6, on the campus of Hinds Community College in Raymond: Front Row, L. to R.: Zhiyi Zheng, Sarah Blake Thornton, Lydia Collipp, Leah Collipp, and Regina Zheng. Back Row, L. To R.: Corbin Cofer, Audrey Hawk, Cason Patrick, Paige Mayatte, and Tate Ogden

PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK






PAST HEADLINES

2013 - 10 years ago

- “Project CHANCE receives donation from Rankin County Bar Association”
- “Business Spotlight: CrossRoads Store and Grill”

2018 - 5 years ago

- “Leadership in the workplace begins with leadership in the home”
- “PHS' Multicraft Academy is coming together”

2022 - Last Year

- “Therapy dog joins DA staff”
- “House bill creates community system to help mentally ill citizens”

RCSD, PHS celebrate Career Coaches



RCSD Career Coaches

Mrs. Shemekka Anderson
Richland High School

Mrs. Patti Lewis
Brandon High School

Mrs. Vallery Temple
Puckett High School

Mr. Eric Brooks
Pelahatchie High School

Ms. Latoyia Compton
McLaurin High School

Ms. Shelby Aulds
Pisgah High School

Mrs. Sharon Young
Florence High School

Mr. Matthew Riley
Richland High School

Special to Pelahatchie News

Your dedication to guiding and empowering students toward their professional dreams is invaluable. Thank you for shaping futures and inspiring greatness! We have said it before, but we will gladly say it again, Mr. Brooks has been a phenomenal asset to our Tribe. His impact on our students and staff has shifted the culture and mindset of our Tribe tremendously. The future of our Senior class is much brighter than it was before.

Understanding meteorology and the cycles of El Nino



By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

The science of meteorology is the study of the weather along with some things that influence it. We now understand much more

about the weather than we once did, and some pretty neat predictions have been made in the past. Such as the break in the weather, that was predicted for the D Day invasion of Normandy in 1944. The weather was so bad that the German commander took a few days off and went home for his wife's birthday. The weatherman told our generals that there would be a break for an invasion, and he was right.

Then there have been some wrong calls through the years, such as the Galveston, Texas Hurricane in September of 1900, that killed as many as 12,000 people.

El Nino means Little Boy or the Christ Child in Spanish. El Nino was originally recognized by fisher-



Special to Pelahatchie News

man off the coast of South America, in the 1600's with the appearance of unusually warm waters in the Pacific Ocean, around December. Warm waters meant they did not catch as many fish.

On a typical El Nino winter, we have wetter than average conditions over the U.S. Coast and Florida, and warmer than average conditions, over the western and northern United

States.

La Nina means Little Girl in Spanish. It is sometimes called a "Cold Event". La Nina periods bring below-average sea surface temperatures across the east central pacific. During a La Nina year, winter temperatures are warmer than normal in the Southwest and cooler than normal in the Northeast.

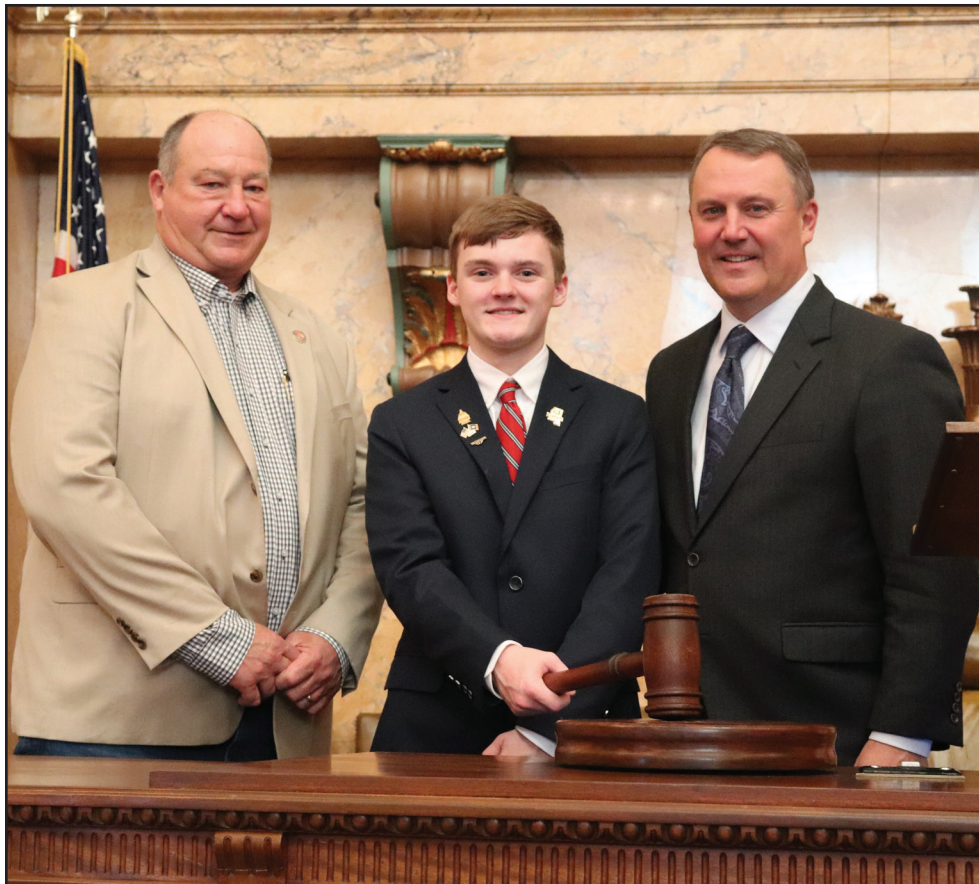
We are entering an El Nino Cycle.

All my life, and especially recently, I have heard, "One extreme follows another". If this is correct, we will go from a dry spell, to a wet and possibly a very cold winter. Previous El Nino winters have contributed to some of the coolest annual temperatures and wettest winters on record.

This is not to say that we will see record rain or temperatures, but chances are better for a cooler and wetter winter, which is much needed to help dig us out of the current drought.

I have taken time to study information and maps supplied by the National Weather Service, that showed typical weather patterns for neutral years, and patterns for moderate to strong El Nino and La Nina years. The one thing that becomes clear, is there are patterns and cycles to our weather. It all comes down to this. The main thing I have learned, is we can't control the weather, but we know who does.

Blair, student page in MS House



Special to Pelahatchie News

Grayson Blair of Brandon recently served as a page for the Mississippi House of Representatives. Pages generally run errands for officials and House staff. Blair, 17, is the son of Julie and Chris Blair, and he is a senior at East Rankin Academy. He was sponsored for the week by Representative Price Wallace (R – Mendenhall). When asked about his time at the Capitol, Blair said, "I loved getting to serve as a page in the Mississippi House of Representatives. I am so thankful to Representative Wallace for this experience. I wish I could do this again!"

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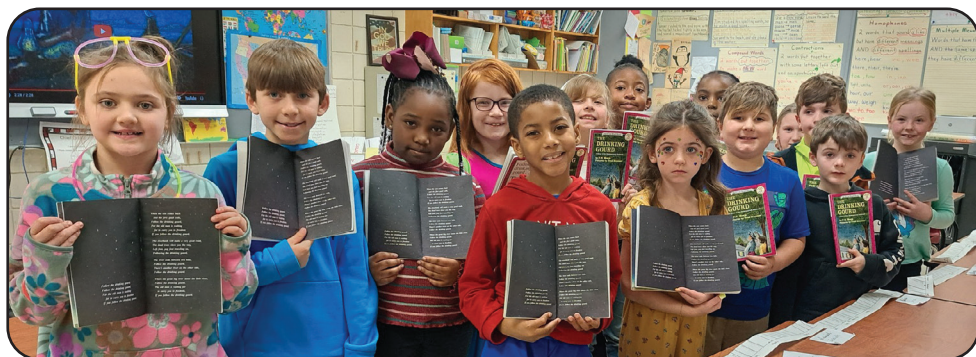
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Pelahatchie Elementary School celebrates 100 days brighter



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Exceptional Education classes learn lessons about from Farm to Table

Special to Pelahatchie News

Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Walsh's Exceptional Education classes recently had lessons on Farm to Table. Students spent the morning harvesting greens from their winter garden and then prepared the greens to cook them with cornbread and yams during their cooking class later that day.



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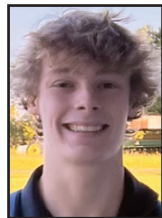
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ERA Patriots soccer finish regular season, clinch playoff berth

By Cooper Lytton



Special to Pelahatchie News

On Wednesday, January 31st, the East Rankin Patriots Boys Soccer team completed their soccer regular season with a 2-0 win over Park Place Christian Academy, finishing with an 8-4 record. Forward Jonathan Soto finished the game with both of the goals. Additionally, Cooper Loper and Cale Cotnam finished with one assist each. With this win, East Rankin will enter the MAIS Division II Playoffs as a #2 seed in the Central district and will face the #1 seed team from the South district in the quarter-finals. This will be the first time the Patriots have been in the playoffs since 2021.

Some of the most notable games by the Patriots include wins over Madison St. Joe, Brookhaven Academy, and Lamar School. Madison St. Joe finished 2nd in

the MAIS 5A playoffs during the 2022-23 season, with Brookhaven finishing right behind. During East Rankin's first meeting against Brookhaven, the Patriots ended Brookhaven's undefeated season in a penalty shootout with the final goal scored by Jon Riemann. If the Patriots won over Brookhaven Academy during their second meeting, that would put the Patriots in as the #1 seed in their district. Lamar School also played in the MAIS 5A playoffs, entering in as a #1 seed in the East district. East Rankin defeated Lamar 3-1, collecting their first goal within the first ten minutes.

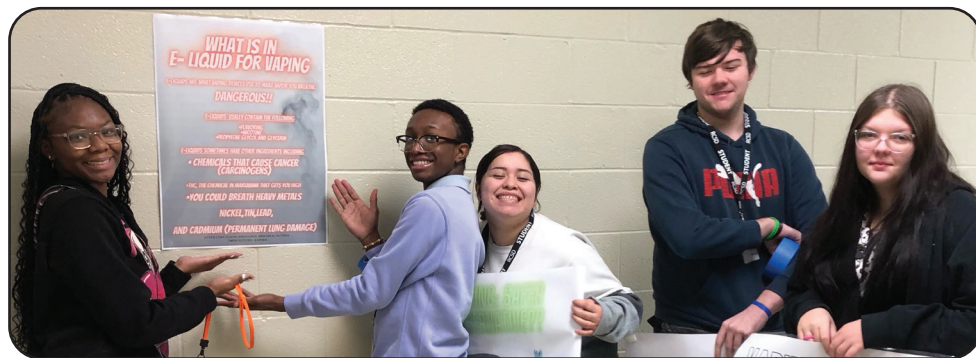
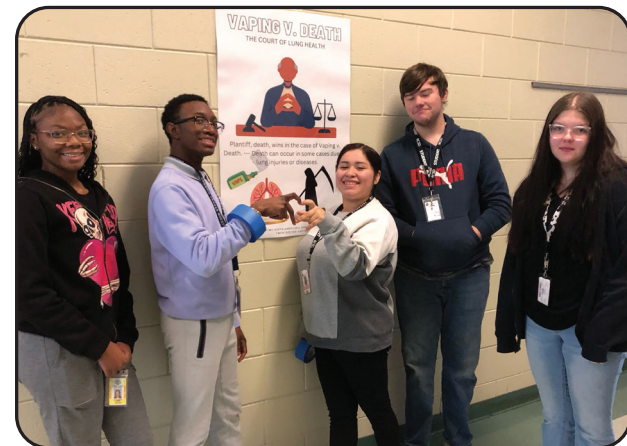
The Patriots will square off against one of the teams from the South district in the quarter-finals on Thursday, February 8th. With East Rankin's current momentum and strong record against historically good competition, the Patriots could see themselves moving on. With quality play, the Patriots might even sneak into the championship. Look out for the East Rankin Patriots in the playoffs.



Health class tarts poster campaign about the dangers of vaping

Special to Pelahatchie News

Ms. Luker's Health Science II class set out today to put up educational posters about the dangers of vaping. They have recently launched The Vape Project campaign which aims to educate students and others about the dangers of vaping. This project will last until May and includes vape facts during morning announcements. The informational posters are displayed around the school and will be rotated periodically to ensure everyone will have a chance to see them on their regular walking routes.



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Pastor's Perspective: January Calls for a New Year's Resolution



By Guest Columnist, Spencer Sullivan, Pastor, Pelahatchie Baptist

Special to Pelahatchie News

Who are your people? Who are those closest to you? Why are they your people? I feel fortunate to have many good friends in my life. Some of those relationships span decades, some not nearly as long. But there are similarities in each one. Beyond shared interests and similar personalities, what creates the bonds that grow stronger over time? Is there a common characteristic that can be found in each of your closest relationships? For me, while a shared interest or similar life situation may have helped spark the relationship, the reason for the strong bond is far deeper than that. Deep relationships are built upon trust. Your closest friends may share your love for sports, reading, music, hunting, or whatever it is that brought you together, but the reason they are your people is because you can count on them when life goes sideways. You can depend on them. You can believe them when they make a promise because they are faithful to keep it.

Similarly, for those that believe in and worship the Creator God and follow His Son, Jesus, we do so because we have found Him to be true, faithful, and trustworthy. But, we do so by faith. The Bible defines faith in Hebrews 11 as the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. It is believing in something or someone without tangible, physical proof. For



Special to Pelahatchie News

example, salvation through Jesus is completely dependent upon faith. We are called to believe in faith that Jesus bled and died a horrible death as a sacrifice, so that we can be forgiven of sin and set free from our deserved punishment. God gives us the faith to believe, but our faith grows stronger when we see evidence of what we believe by faith. For example, in the Bible, we read about prophecies fulfilled. We read about promises made by God that He faithfully kept. When we see and experience that God is faithful and trustworthy, it builds our faith to believe Him for more.

This was Abraham's story. He was called by God and

promised that he would be the father of many nations. An incredible promise to be sure, but there was one major issue. At age 75, he didn't have any children and his wife, Sarah, was 65 and barren. Yet, they believed. Skipping a lot of details to the end of that story, when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old, God kept His promise and blessed them with a son. They kept believing and God proved Himself faithful and worthy of trust. In Romans 4:20-21, Paul writes concerning Abraham's faith in God's promise. He writes: "No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised." When God makes a promise, He keeps it.

In our world today, it is not necessarily easy to find the kind of friends that are faithful, that you can trust, that keep promises, and that you can count on, no matter what. If you have friends like that, consider yourself blessed, and furthermore, prove yourself to be that kind of friend. In Jesus, we have that kind of friend. God is faithful to keep His Word. His Word is bound to His holiness and character. He does not lie. He cannot break a promise. He is faithful to the end. You can trust Him. I challenge you to give Him a chance to confirm this in your life today!



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Hardin Named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Mississippi College

Special to Pelahatchie News

Carson Hardin was recently named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Mississippi College. To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must maintain a 3.5 grade point average, based on a 4.0 system. The student must take a full course load of at least 12 semester hours of undergraduate credit with all academic courses impacting their grade point average.

Mississippi College, is a private, co-educational, Christian university of liberal arts and sciences serving more than 4,100 students from approximately 35 states and more than three dozen countries. MC offers 84 areas of undergraduate study, 45 degree programs in graduate studies, more than 10 certificate programs, two educational doctoral degrees, a doctor of jurisprudence, and a doctor of professional counseling. MC seeks to be a university recognized for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ.



Carson Hardin

Special to Pelahatchie News

Milesplit Mississippi Future Stars features East Rankin's Jewel Baker

By Bennett Ferguson

In this week's edition of Milesplit Mississippi Future Stars, we are highlighting Jewel Baker of East Rankin Academy!

Baker is a sixth-grade distance runner who is already making waves in the running community. She collected two wins in her 2023 season and played a monumental role in securing East Rankin's MAIS 5A Team Title. Despite being in the sixth grade, Baker only raced two JV races and acquired a two-mile record of 13:23. Instead of dominating the middle school scene, she took to the varsity courses and ran a 20:08 in the 5000m race. At the MAIS Overall XC Meet, she placed third on the East Rankin squad and was a key factor in their victory that day. East Rankin Academy beat out Simpson Academy by two points for the team title, a feat that could not have been accomplished without Jewel Baker.

Baker's talent and hard work made

her the fastest sixth-grader in the state this year, and the second fastest sixth-grader to ever touch the 5000m race in Mississippi. Outside of Mississippi, she is ranked as the fourth fastest sixth-grader in the nation for the 5000m.

Be on the lookout for Jewel Baker in the coming years, as her running career is just getting started.



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Legislature completes fifth week, two special sessions

By Clay Mansell

This was the fifth week of the 2024 Legislative Session. Because it is early in the session, committees are just starting to meet as bills are still being drafted, so floor action has been light. Bills must be passed out of committee before they are considered by the entire House. The deadline for bill introduction is Monday, February 19, and the deadline for bills to be out of committee is Tuesday, March 5. Despite most work still happening in committees, two bills reached the House floor.

House Bill 539 would allow presumptive eligibility for prenatal care under Medicaid for pregnant women whose household incomes are 194% below the federal poverty line. These women could receive care for 60 days while the Mississippi Division of Medicaid is reviewing their applications. A qualified provider (e.g., the Health

Department, a doctor trained in the process, etc.) would have to deem the woman eligible to receive the benefits by confirming the pregnancy and determining her income level. The bill passed the House by a vote of 117-5.

Online sports betting would become legal in Mississippi under House Bill 774, or the Mississippi Mobile Sports Wagering Act. The bill would require online sportsbooks like BetMGM, FanDuel or DraftKings to partner with an existing casino in Mississippi. This would ensure that money is staying at brick-and-mortar locations. In-person sports betting at physical casinos is currently legal. Gaming Chair-



Clay Mansell

Special to SW Rankin News



Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Fund, and the amendment passed on a voice vote. Representative Robert L. Johnson, III introduced Amendment 2, which would have given the gross revenue from a wager to the casino within a 40-mile radius from the placed bet instead of the casino with which the platform has partnered. Amendment 2 was tabled by a vote of 77-35. The bill passed the House by a vote of 98-14.

Visitors this week included Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Mississippi Occupational Therapy Association, Hancock Youth Leadership, Miss Capital City Becky Williams and the Mississippi Podiatric Medical Association.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Clay Mansell is the State Representative for House District 56. He is also the owner of Pelahatchie News Network.

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March 18-24 Spring Soiree Weekend
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March 29-31 Easter Eggstravaganza Weekend
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