



# PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



March 2025 ■ Volume 14, Issue 3 ■ Pelahatchie, MS

## Pelahatchie HS CTE thrives with new resources

*Special to Pelahatchie News*

Pelahatchie High School's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are thriving, with both the Engineering and Health Science pathways experiencing remarkable growth. Thanks to the support of the Rankin County School District and funding from the CTE Fund Distribution, students are now engaging with cutting-edge technology and real-world experiences like never before.

### Health Science Pathway Expands with Advanced Equipment

Under the leadership of Mrs. Elizabeth Luker, the Academy of Health Sciences at PHS has seen substantial growth this year, with students gaining hands-on experience in skilled

*Continued on page 3*

## Massey receives 2025 YoungArts Award With Distinction

*Special to Pelahatchie News*

Savannah Massey of Pelahatchie, Mississippi from The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science has been named a 2025 YoungArts winner with distinction in writing, the highest honor of the organization. Massey has been recognized for the caliber of her artistic achievement and joins more than 800 of the most accomplished young visual, literary, and performing artists from throughout the country. YoungArts award winners are selected through a highly competitive application, which is reviewed by panels of esteemed, discipline-specific artists in a rigorous adjudication process. 2025 YoungArts award winners join a community of artists who are offered creative and professional development support throughout their careers. A complete list of the 2025 winners, all 15–18 years old or in grades 10–12, is available online at [youngarts.org/winners](http://youngarts.org/winners).

"We're thrilled to award our largest-ever cohort of artists, selected from a record-breaking number of applications this year," said YoungArts President & CEO Clive Chang. "We hope this recognition provides these young people with the encouragement to keep pursuing their artistry, and the assurance that YoungArts will be there as a source of support and community for the rest of their lives."

As a winner with distinction, Massey was invited to attend the National YoungArts Week, held January 5-12, 2025, in Miami. Reflecting on her experience at the event, Massey shared, "YoungArts was absolutely incredible. Every night, you watch a different group or genre perform their amazing work. Everyone there is so smart and talented." During the week, participants had the opportunity to share their own work, which was further evaluated for cash



*Special to Pelahatchie News*

*Savannah Massey*

awards of up to \$10,000; experience interdisciplinary classes and workshops; and receive mentorship from leading artists in their fields. 2025 winners with distinction were able to learn from notable artists such as ballerina Misty Copeland, dance artists Rashaun Mitchell and Silas Reiner, actress Lorna Courtney, multidisciplinary artist Brian Ellison, and National Bestselling Author and Filmmaker Abigail Hing Wen.

Massey's poetry, in particular, received significant recognition. "The judges' favorite piece of my work was a poem titled Eden, Mississippi," she said. "The poem was a winner of the Ephemera Prize of 2025 here on campus as well as other awards and publications." Her success at YoungArts included a cash prize of \$3000 for her outstanding work.

Following National YoungArts Week, Massey is eligible to be nominated to become a U.S. Presidential Scholar in

the Arts, one of the highest honors given to high school seniors by the President of the United States. YoungArts, the sole nominating agency, nominates 60 artists to the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, from which the 20 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts are selected.

All YoungArts award winners have demonstrated exceptional technique, a strong sense of artistry, and an extraordinary commitment to developing their craft. This year, winners were selected from nearly 11,000 applications across 10 artistic disciplines – classical music, dance, design, film, jazz, photography, theater, visual arts, voice, and writing. Each award winner will receive a monetary award of \$250.

For the duration of her career, Massey is eligible for exclusive creative and professional development support, microgrants and financial awards, and presentation opportunities in collaboration with major venues and cultural partners nationwide. She will become part of an intergenerational network of more than 22,000 past award winners. 2025 YoungArts winners also have the opportunity to participate in YoungArts Labs, all-expenses-paid learning intensives with field-defining artists in Los Angeles, New York, and Nashville.

As a YoungArts award winner, Massey joins a group of accomplished artists such as Daniel Arsham, Jon Batiste, Terence Blanchard, Camille A. Brown, Timothée Chalamet, Viola Davis, Amanda Gorman, Denyce Graves, Judith Hill, Jennifer Koh, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Andrew Rannells, Desmond Richardson, Jean Shin, Hunter Schafer, and Shaina Taub.

The YoungArts competition is open to artists 15-18 years old (or in grades 10–12). For more information about becoming a YoungArts award winner, visit [youngarts.org](http://youngarts.org).

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# Rallying for Reynosa, Pelahatchie ministers in Mexico

By Susie A. Wolfe

Reynosa, Mexico is just across the border from McAllen, Texas. A team of concerned Christians, led by Aubrey Pridgen and Scott Walters, with the non-profit All Things New have been driving the 800-mile, 15-hour trip every year. The trips became more frequent as the needs grew. Groups would go twice a year, and now, they travel every other month on average to minister to poor, desolate people in the Senda Church compound, run by Pastor Hector Silva Luna.

“Angels from heaven” is what Silva



People praying during a recent gathering.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Hector Silva, left, was called to minister to the people in Reynosa, Mexico. Scott Walters has taken numerous mission groups to help him minister to the many needs there by being God's hands and feet. They do whatever the people need, including praying, building, teaching, and leading worship services.

calls these Reynosa teams that gather donated items to take to the people in the camp, pray, and be God's hands and feet. “God is working through these people to meet needs and change lives,” Silva said. “Many of the workers have seen God work with the people they are ministering to.”

90% of the groups that go on mission trips to help the sick and needy in Reynosa are from Rankin and Scott counties. Many churches like Pelahatchie's Cross-

roads Baptist, Pelahatchie Baptist, and Rehobeth Baptist have sent groups to build churches, schools, kitchens, houses, apartments, and dorms. Many businesses, like Born Again Roofing and Jack-Knifed Trailer Repair in Richland, also provide supplies to help with various building projects to minister to the people of Reynosa.



Many volunteers have made mission trips to Reynosa, Mexico during the last seventeen years to build churches, schools, kitchens, houses, apartments, and dorms.

Mike Thornton of Crossroads Baptist Church recently returned from a trip to Reynosa. He has been traveling there an average of once a year since 2013. “In the Senda Church, we not only build, we provide outreach and evangelism, sports camps, and children's Bible schools,” Thorton said, “We pray and

miracles happen.”

The most important objective of the trips is sharing the gospel. Silva believes God will provide for the 30 to 5,000 people from many countries that come to the Senda Church for food, shelter, medical supplies, etc. While they don't accept clothes, according to Walters, they do need food, hygiene items, medicine, toys, purses, eye glasses and many more items listed in the printed list.

A few of the Pelahatchie Reynosa alumni group include Clay Kendrick, Pelahatchie policeman; Ryan Smith, who worked at NAPA; Walter Hudson of The Service Station; Coach Ryan Keeton, Pelahatchie HS head football coach; Brooke Rhodes, East Rankin ladies basketball coach; and Brian Hall, H & H Electrical.

For more information, to donate or volunteer, contact Walters online at [scottwalters504@gmail.com](mailto:scottwalters504@gmail.com) or call 601-278-4816.

Below: The people at the Senda Church have many needs including food and shelter. Scott Walters will be going back to Reynosa soon and will take these items. If you feel led to give, let him know.

## MISSION ITEMS NEEDED FOR ALL THINGS NEW, INC.

### Personal Care Items:

Brush/Comb  
Chapstick, Deodorant  
Toothpaste, Toothbrush  
Shampoo, Conditioner  
Soap/Bodywash  
Shaving Cream, Razors  
Q-Tips, Lotion, Kleenex  
Maxi Pads, Nail Clippers  
Ponytail Holders  
Wash Cloth/Hand Towel  
Wet Wipes, Towels

### Medical Supplies:

Band-Aids  
Hand Sanitizer  
First Aid Kits (Small)  
Sunscreen, Cough Drops  
Ibuprofen/Motrin  
Children's Cough/Cold Med.  
Headache Relief Med.  
Vitamins (Men & Women)

### Food Items:

Bottled Water  
Granola Bars, Trail Mix  
Vienna Sausage  
Mints, Hard Candy, Gum  
Nabs/Crackers  
Chips(Snack size/  
Multipacks)  
Individually wrapped -  
Packaged Snacks  
Small bags of Beans  
Small bags of Rice  
Dried fruit, Cookies  
Applesauce  
Breakfast bars

### Kitchen Supplies:

Handheld Can Opener

Plastic Cutlery  
Zip Lock Bags (All sizes)  
Brown/White Lunch -  
Paperbags  
Trash Bags

### Misc. Items:

Christian Literature  
Bibles, Pens/Pencils  
Notebooks (Any size)  
Sewing Kits

### Clothing:

White Socks (Men/Women)  
White Tshirts (Men/Women)  
White Long Johns (M/W)  
White Sports Bras (All sizes)  
White Underwear Men  
(All sizes)  
White Panties Women  
(All sizes)  
Knit Hats (Adults & Kids)  
Gloves (Adults & Kids)  
Small Blankets, Ponchos

### Kid Items:

Bubbles, Small Toys  
Children Bibles  
Bracelets, Soccer Balls  
Salvation Bracelets  
Mardi Gras Beads  
Dollar Tree Toys  
Crayons/Markers  
Coloring Books  
Slime, Play-Doh

### Outdoor Items:

Bug Spray, Sunscreen  
Flashlights, Tarps  
Small Tools  
Hand Warmers

*“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:38*

## Southern Pine honored at Foundation luncheon



Special to Pelahatchie News

Southern Pine was honored as the Corporate Partner of the Year at the Pinebelt Foundation's Faces of the Foundation luncheon on February 12. Southern Pine employees attended the event to support the company's partnership with the foundation, which helps administer the Members Helping Members grant program. They were surprised by the honor. “We were completely surprised and honored to receive this award on behalf of our members,” said Darnell Moffett, director of community development. This award belongs to thr members! Your support makes a difference toward lighting the way for stronger communities. #MembersHelpingMembers



P.O. Box 771  
Pelahatchie, MS 39145  
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Publisher/Sales  
Clay Mansell  
[claymansell@pelahatchienews.com](mailto:claymansell@pelahatchienews.com)

Social Media Manager  
Susie A. Wolfe, (601) 566-1932 x2  
[susieawolfe@gmail.com](mailto:susieawolfe@gmail.com)

Writers  
Kenneth McDade, Katie White

Copy Editor  
Emma Ellard

City Beat Writer  
Shaun McInnish, Sr.

Graphic Designer  
Holly Embry  
[designer@swrankinnews.com](mailto:designer@swrankinnews.com)

Office Manager  
Doris Bynum, (601) 566-1932 x0

For submission information, email  
[news@pelahatchienews.com](mailto:news@pelahatchienews.com).

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# Pelahatchie High School CTE thrives with new resources

patient care. A significant enhancement to the program is the addition of the Anatomage Table, an interactive 3D dissection tool that allows students to explore the human body in ways previously only possible in medical schools. With fully rotatable images and virtual dissection capabilities, students can navigate inside the chambers of the heart, examine microscopic tissues, and deepen their understanding of anatomy.

Other notable additions include an ultrasonic Doppler, which helps students locate difficult-to-find pulses, and Virtual Reality goggles that transport students into operating rooms for immersive learning experiences. Additionally, the program has introduced female CPR training mannequins in response to a Duke University School of Medicine study highlighting disparities in bystander CPR administration.

Beyond technology, Health Science



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

students have been engaging directly with medical professionals through field trips and networking opportunities, providing invaluable exposure to various healthcare careers. "These resources and experiences are preparing our students for the future in ways we never imagined possible," said Luker.

### Engineering Program Advances with High-Tech Additions

The Engineering pathway, led by Mrs. Nikki Nutt, has also taken a significant leap forward.

With the state's engineering programs receiving a \$26,000 grant, PHS was able to acquire a TroTec Speedy 50 laser engraver, new VEX robots, a workcell robot, industrial cabinets, and utility carts. The department is also eagerly awaiting the arrival of a classroom set of AI robots, further expanding hands-on learning opportunities.

Engineering 1 students have been actively working with the new VEX bots, while Engineering 2 and 3 students have put the laser engraver to work, designing and personalizing coasters and pens for teachers at PHS. This initiative not only enhances technical skills but also aims to generate funds to cover TSA (Technology Student Association) dues for



students each year.

"The new equipment is providing our students with real-world applications of engineering principles, preparing them for both higher education and technical careers," said Nutt. "We are excited to see how these tools enhance their learning and creativity."

### A Bright Future for CTE at PHS

With the continued support of the PHS administration and the Rankin County School District, both the Health Science and Engineering programs are setting new standards in career and technical education. The investment in emerging technology and hands-on learning opportunities ensures that students graduate with the skills and confidence needed to excel in their future careers.

These thriving programs are a testament to the power of innovation in education, and Pelahatchie High School is leading the way in preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals and engineers.



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## East Rankin makes school history, wins state championship

By Robert Wilson,  
mississippi scoreboard.com

East Rankin Academy's boys soccer team lost four of their first six games and headed into Christmas break with a losing record. But East Rankin coach Reid Westover was optimistic about the rest of the season.

"Once we got back from break, I told them we would win out," said Westover, who is in his second season as head coach after one year as an assistant. "We took one loss in January, but it really brought out the best in us. After that loss, we started to get hot, running through the rest of district play."

East Rankin made school history and won the first boys soccer state championship with a 1-0 victory over Heritage Academy for the MAIS Division II title at Jackson Academy, avenging a 4-1 loss to Heritage in the first game of the season.

"Going into the championship game, I was at peace with the fact that I knew our boys would perform," said Westover, who played at Clinton High and won two state championships and played at Holmes Community College. "Our boys were playing their best ball and as inspired as ever. I heard a few chattering about being nervous, but we always say that's a good thing, because it means you care. I told them once the whistle blows, its game time, and all that nervousness will



Special to Pelahatchie News

fade away instantly. We didn't get off to the best start, a ton of turnovers and mistakes, but we did enough defensively to keep Heritage from scoring. At halftime, I told them I had good news and bad news. Bad news, we're not playing our best ball, it's 0-0. Once we lock in and get it going, we're going to win this game. And that's what they did. Defensively, we began winning more challenges, connecting on more passes, stayed calm, and kept Heritage out of our goal. Offensively, we started to click, becoming more dangerous on the attack, getting our key players involved."

East Rankin finally got a score to go up 1-0 with eight minutes to play.

"We got a free kick from 44 yards out and Jonathan

Soto played an absolute beauty of a ball into the box where Nic Riemann had a fantastic touch, which led him putting the ball in the back of the net," Westover said. "It was only fitting that our two captains made this happen. After the goal, we went straight into defensive mode, where we controlled the rest of the game. We stayed locked in, we defended for our lives, and got everything out. With the last save and last punt of the game, the whistle sounded, and it was time to celebrate. So many emotions went through my head as I celebrated and watched our boys embrace each other knowing we reached our final goal. It all came down to us

believing in ourselves, and the drive to win when we knew we were thought as the underdogs. I just want to shout out each and every one of these boys, because we all made this happen together."

Midfielders Riemann, Soto and Toler Logan, forwards Channing Diveley, Jordan Porter and Noah Craig, defenders Calian Hunt, John Riemann, Mike Kanengiser and Chylen Williams and goalkeeper Andy Bowman were the starters for this championship team, which finished with a 12-5 record this season.

Cole Cotnam, Mike Kanengiser, Austin Craig, Cale Cotnam, Alex Ramirez, Jackson Fountain and Landyn Williams were other members of the team.

## ERA Ladies Basketball wins back-to-back District II MAIS Class 5A State Championship



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to East Rankin Academy Girls Basketball for defeating Parklane Academy 53-48 to win District II MAIS Class 5A Girls Basketball State Championship.

## Bowie, receives Aspire Program student award



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Pelahatchie High School student, Ty Bowie. Ty recently received the Outstanding Student Award from the Aspire Program on. Only two students in the county receive this award. Ty is an outstanding athlete and student.

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# Herrington attended the William Carey Honor Clinic



Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, Jack Herrington, a member of the Pelahatchie High School Band, attended the William Carey Honor Band clinic. Madeline McFadden, Sara Myers, and Harmony McGill were also selected but were unable to attend.

# PHS band members attend clinic



Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Central Mississippi Band Directors Association (ECMBDA) Honor Band clinic was held at Ridgeland HS. Six students participated and performed in all three of the honor bands. Middle School Band: Lennon McFadden, 2nd High School Band: Maren McCartney, Sara Myers, Natalie Hand, 1st High School Band: Kyra Bryant, Cameron Henley.

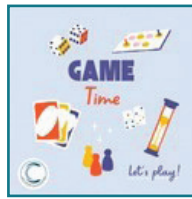
# ERA recognizes NHS Inductees



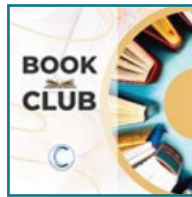
Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy is pleased to recognize students inducted into the East Rankin Academy Chapter of the National Honor Society for the 2024-2025 school year. Front Row, L to R: Emma Aitken, Audrey Arnett, Jensen Baker, Makayla Gainey, Hannah Jackson, Neali Holbrooks, Arin Hawk, Lily Guzman, and Olivia Griffing Second Row: Holly Jackson, Mary Hannah Martin, Paige Mayatte, Ansley Grace Miller, Kaylynn Ramirez, Emily Williams, Kelli Waggoner, Addison Vowell, Millie Tingle, and Savannah Smithers Third Row: Austin Bilbro, Tate Ogden, John Parker Pierce, Gage Crapps, Cole Thompson, R.T. Tate, and Hudson Hawk

# Pelahatchie Library MARCH Events



**Senior Citizens' Social**  
Tuesday, March 11, 11am - 12pm  
Join other seniors in the area to play games and socialize.



**Adult Book Club**  
Wednesday, March 19, 11am - 12pm  
Discussing *The Last Detective* by Robert Crais.



**Garden Club**  
Thursday, March 20, 5:30 - 6:30pm  
The Pelahatchie Petals Garden Club meets the third Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.



**Senior Citizens' Social**  
Tuesday, March 25, 11am - 12pm  
Join other seniors in the area to play games and socialize.

## March is Reading Month

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



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

Special to  
Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie Board of Aldermen held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 3, 2025, at 6:03 p.m. at Town Hall. Mayor Karl VanHorn called the meeting to order, followed by an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. All aldermen were present: Diane Hill, Sandra Harvey, Margie Warren, Eddie Jones, and James Harrell.

## Residents and Visitors' Business:

1. Mr. Joe Lane Kelly and an associate from Harris Law Firm appeared before the board, stating that they had been requesting approval for a conditional use permit to open Fairway Liquor Store since October 2024. They reiterated that the Heritage District allows for conditional use permits and argued that the liquor store would bring additional business and tax revenue to the town. Mr. Kelly cited town ordinances regarding the Heritage District to support their request and asked the board to grant the permit. The city attorney stated that no application for the permit had been filed. The Police Chief clarified that the business owner must submit an application, apply for a permit, and then go through the town's public hearing process before the board can vote on approval.

2. Mrs. Frankie Boyd [209A Clayton Avenue] provided updates on floor plans for her building permit, presenting a final draft of her plans. The Police Chief confirmed that, as stated in the previous meeting, as long as her plans comply with state regulations, he would approve the permit. Boyd stated she would follow up with the chief if any issues arise.



3. Mr. Barry Clark presented plans for a couple of commercial developments. One development is across the street from Los Amigos on Highway 80. Dr. Mary Ann Griffin plans to build a new doctor's office next to the Lampton Love Propane building and Clark requested board approval to begin dirt work. Griffin's office would have its own entrance off Highway 80, and there are additional plans for another office building and another retail building nearby in the future. Alderman Jones made a motion to approve the request, Alderman Hill seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.

## New Business:

1. The board approved the minutes from the January 6, 2025 meeting. Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Hill; the motion passed with all in favor.
2. The board approved the payment of the unpaid claims docket. Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Harrell; the motion passed with all in favor.
3. The board approved a bank draft payment of \$9,002.63 to Blue Cross Insurance. Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Harrell; the motion passed with all in favor.
4. The board approved a bank draft payment of \$5,916.31 to EMC Insurance for property insurance. Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Harrell; the motion passed with all in favor.
5. The board approved and ratified the payroll payments for January 2025, which included \$72,086.41 for the General Fund and \$26,532.56 for the Enterprise Fund. Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Hill; the motion passed with all in favor.
6. The board approved the payment of the claims for the month. Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Harrell; the motion passed with all in favor.

Continued on page 7

## Crooked Creek Animal Hospital, Inc.



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Katlyn Hennings, DVM  
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## City Beat: February 3, 2025

### Executive Session:

The board entered executive session at 6:31 p.m. (Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Hill; the motion passed with all in favor.) The board returned from executive session at 6:54 p.m. and resumed the regular meeting.

### Alderman Discussions:

- Alderwoman Diane Hill asked when American Spirits Liquor Store would be opening. Mayor VanHorn responded that he was told the store is expected to open by the first of March, with an invite-only soft opening happening soon.
- Alderwoman Sandra Harvey stated that she would like to see street lines repainted where they are missing and suggested that the town contact a striping company to complete the work.
- Alderwoman Margie Warren raised concerns about stray cats and dogs near her home. The Police Chief stated that the town has limited options due to the Rankin County Animal Shelter operating

over maximum capacity. Alderwoman Warren also asked for an update on Joe Lane Kelly's liquor store approval and questioned why it was taking so long. The city attorney responded that a public hearing must be held first before a decision can be made.

Mayor VanHorn announced that all tornado sirens in town are now working as of January 31 and were tested on February 3 to ensure functionality. However, the siren located at N. Brooks Street and Lake Road remains inoperable, as it belongs to Rankin County.

Mayor VanHorn also asked for a vote to add verbiage to the town ordinance to include liquor stores. Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Harrell; voted in favor by Aldermen Jones, Harrell, Warren, and Harvey; Alderman Hill voted nay. The motion carried.

### Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. (Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Hill; the motion passed with all in favor.)

## Petals Garden Club celebrates holidays with McCall HeadStart



Special to Pelahatchie News

With Mississippi Arbor Day and Valentine's Day both on February 14, 2025, members of the Pelahatchie Petals Garden Club along with GCM Arbor Day Chairman, Angelia Wade, sponsored a program at McCall HeadStart in Pelahatchie. A brief program about trees and items made from trees was presented by Angelia Wade to the children and parents in attendance. These parents spent time with the children making a valentine craft, and to end the day, each child received a Valentine's bag which contained items made from trees. Pictured are some of the parents along with members of the garden club. Pelahatchie Petals Garden Club is a federated member of Garden Clubs of MS, Inc, Deep South Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

## Fusion Martial Arts

503 2nd St., Pelahatchie, MS

601-941-3937

Michael Harvey - Owner/Instructor



### Now enrolling new students!

Classes held Mondays and Thursdays  
5:30-6:15 - Beginner/Shadow Moogi  
6:00-6:45 - Beginner/Intermediate  
6:45-7:30 - Adult/Advanced



## Griffin Family Medical Clinic

507 Hwy 80 West, Pelahatchie, MS 39145

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Happy  
St. Patrick's Day!

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# East Rankin Robotics wins MS FIRST TECH Challenge State Championship



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to East Rankin Robotics on finishing 1st place in the MS FIRST TECH Challenge State Championship. They also won the Innovate Award for their unique and consistent robot design. The team will next compete April 16-19 in the FTC World Championship in Houston, Texas.

# Johnson named RCSD student of the month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Trinity Johnson, a 4th grader at Pelahatchie Elementary, was recently selected as the RCSD Elementary Student of the Month. Her teacher shared this about her: "Trinity does a great job making sure all her peers feel included daily. Trinity works hard to ensure no one is left out both in and out of the classroom. Trinity is always respectful to her teachers and classmates. Each day she comes in ready to learn with a great attitude. I am so proud of the great role model she is becoming." The Pelahatchie community recognizes her efforts and appreciates her contributions to making the campus a welcoming place to learn and grow.




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## Pelahatchie Elementary students learn about the magic of salt

Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, in Ms. Nelson's class, some PreK scientists dove into an investigation involving some "magic" water and cut-out hearts. With the help of their microscopes, the students used their five senses to explore and observe the changes to the hearts.

As the students examined the hearts, they made incredible discoveries about textures, shapes, smells, and tastes to learn what the magic water had in it - SALT. Their enthusiasm was contagious as they explored and investigated what made their hearts look like snow.

This hands-on lesson not only engaged their imaginations but also sparked a love for science and exploration at a young age. It's amazing to see how learning through play can inspire future innovators.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

## PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



## PAST HEADLINES

### 2015 - 10 years ago

- "RCSD students to receive laptops beginning this fall"
- "MSU to feature prestigious African American collection"

### 2020 - 5 years ago

- "Ward to be inducted into the MAC Hall of Fame"
- "Old Home Place in Puckett opens in March"

### 2024 - Last Year

- "PHS Beta Club wins 2nd Living Literature title at State Convention"
- "City welcomes new Farmers Market a hub for local commerce, community"

## White named Rankin Sheriff's Dept. School Resource Officer of the year



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Pelahatchie High School Alumnus, Officer Chance White, on being named Rankin County Sheriff's Department School Resource Officer of the Year. Officer White serves Northwest Rankin High School, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for students and staff every day. The Pelahatchie Tribe is so proud of you. Once a Chief, Always a Chief.



# Mississippi State University announces Fall graduates and President's List

Special to Pelahatchie News

Approximately 1,500 students are on the fall 2024 Graduation List at Mississippi State University. Students who graduated in December include:

- Alana Archibald, of Pelahatchie, MS. Bachelor of Science from MSU's College of Education.
- Katie Boyer, of Pelahatchie, MS. Bachelor of Arts from MSU's College of Arts and Sciences.
- Brooke Cunningham, of Pelahatchie, MS. Bachelor of Science from MSU's College of Education.
- Dana Watkins, of Pelahatchie, MS. Bachelor of Science Magna Cum Laude from MSU's Bagley College of Engineering.
- Zachary McDonald, of Brandon, MS. Bachelor of Business Adm Magna Cum Laude from MSU's College of Business.
- Javeious Purvis, of Pelahatchie, MS. Master of Science from MSU's College of Education.

Mississippi State University congratulates 4,569 students who were named to the fall 2024 President's List. These students achieved a 3.80 or better grade-point average, 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.

- David Adams of Pelahatchie (39145)
- Alana Archibald of Pelahatchie (39145)
- Trey Rhodes of Pelahatchie (39145)
- Dana Watkins of Pelahatchie (39145)
- Lainey Channell of Pelahatchie (39145)
- Heaven Alvarado of Pelahatchie (39145)
- Lawson Wuestefeld of Pelahatchie (39145)
- Mckinley Goodin of Pelahatchie (39145)
- Anna Carter of Pelahatchie (39145)
- Elijah Rowell of Pelahatchie (39145)
- Paul Hughes of Pelahatchie (39145)



# PES announces 2nd quarter 3-6 Grade Honor Rolls

Pelahatchie Elementary School would like to recognize all of our outstanding students who have achieved All A Honor Roll and A-B Honor Roll during quarter 2. The students' hard work, dedication and perseverance have truly paid off.

## Q2 A-B HONOR ROLL

6th Grade		5th Grade
Cannon Coghlan	Jax Parker	Ayden Hill
Gage Goldman	Morgan Perry	Baylee Jones
Ainsley Grammar	Orby Renfro	Aviyanna Satcher
Henry Hyde	Corban Robinson	Paisley Smith
Kenlee Johnson	Kinley Simpson	Karsyn Vanderford
Aubriana Key	Skyller Snow	Demi Ward
Audrey McFadden	Asa Sullivan	
Brooklyn Merritt	Julian Wash	
4th Grade		3rd Grade
Trace Arnold	Mia Lopez	Claire Burns
Carley Bowman	Landon May	Liam Coleman
Aiden E. Collier	Wylde McCrory	Khloe Conger
Anna Conklin	Jerry McDaniel	Cash Edwards
Bailey Davidson	Castiel McGough	Oaklee Goldman
Gabriela Diaz	Braven McLaurin	Lyric Jolly
Mason Doby	Connor Myers	Ava Kennedy
Merci Rae Echols	Ian Pybus	Major Mapp
Bennett	Becca Robinson	
Whitney Gordan	Kaden Scranage	
Isaac Ingram	Hagen Scruggs	
Karlee Johnson	Lillie Slack	
Trinity Johnson	Lee Swann	
Paxton Kennedy	Kastiel Walker	
Olivia Key		

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## Q2 ALL A HONOR ROLL

6th Grade		5th Grade
Gage Haven	Jaxon White	Maki' Lynn Atkinson
		Dillon Courtney
		Riley Jordan
		Ava Keeton
		Sunnie McCrory
		David Slack
		Aiden Thrailkill
4th Grade		3rd Grade
Tre Adams		Ford Hayes
Ramzey Beechem		Mason Holmes
Swayzie Brooks		Colton Roby
Adelyn Harrell		
Aiden Jolley		
Josey Keeton		
Mackenzie White		
Raelynn Woods		



# When done right there is no wrong time to apply lime



By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

Special to Pelahatchie News

At the Rankin County Extension Office, we handle many soil samples each year. Soil samples involve forages, row crops, food plots, yards, gardens, and pastures. One question I frequently receive is “When is the right time to put out lime”. I probably get this question more often from folks planting food plots. Really, there is not a bad time to put out lime, as long as soil tests indicate the need for it.

If we lived in a perfect world, we could schedule all our tasks to be done, stay on schedule, and our lives would be much simpler. But this is not the case. We have to work with the time and conditions we have been given. Lime needs to be put out 3 months ahead of time, and for row crop farmers, fall is the preferred time to apply lime. This way, it will have the winter months to get into the soil solution and neutralize acidity, but this is not an absolute requirement.

The first consideration is to use quality lime that is finely ground so that it can quickly react with soil acids and do its job. One must also consider that the lime and the water in which it is carried must move into the soil profile, by infiltration by way of pores in the soil. It may need to be incorporated into the soil.

Another factor that some people forget is that when lime has been applied to the surface, the application



of most types of nitrogen fertilizer following it, leads to the loss of nitrogen as ammonia gas. When nitrogen must be applied following a lime application, it should be injected or incorporated in order to avoid nitrogen loss. Lime and nitrogen applications should be separated by as much time as possible and at least one good rain.

I often get questions about poultry litter. Some people have come to believe that poultry litter is a good substitute for lime, but this is not true. Poultry litter does contain small amounts of the basic element’s calcium and magnesium. The lime value of a ton of good quality broiler litter may range from 200 to 400

pounds per ton. This is not enough to correct a low pH problem, although it may be sufficient to maintain soil pH in the preferred range after it has been corrected. Simply put, poultry litter will not fix the problem, but it may help prevent it. Regular soil testing is necessary to monitor soil pH and other factors.

Lime is important to the availability of most plant nutrients. Soil pH levels below around 5.6 or above 7.0 may significantly reduce the availability of some of the plant nutrients including nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, calcium, and magnesium. Another issue in most of our soils is that when pH falls below about 5.5, aluminum and magnesium enter the soil solution and are toxic to plant growth. The take home message, is that we need to do our best to keep soil pH in the range between 6.0 and 6.5 if possible.

Lime is important enough to apply almost anytime you can get it done, and crops will begin to gain benefits from it as soon as it begins to go into solution. About the only time one might want to avoid liming is when the crop is nearing maturity.

Good soil pH is the foundation of a sound soil fertility program. Most of the soils that need lime will show benefits from it as quickly as from fertilizers. If a soil test recommends lime, get started and apply as near to the recommended amount as possible. If you can’t handle the entire amount, go with as much as you can, retest after about a year, and apply more as the soil test recommends.



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# Pelahatchie Tornado Sirens Repaired



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

According to Mayor Karl VanHorn, Pelahatchie's tornado sirens are now fully operational following the final repair on January 31. VanHorn states that the sirens underwent a successful test on February 3, confirming that all town-owned warning systems are in working order. During the February 3 Board of Aldermen meeting, officials announced the completion of repairs, ensuring that residents are protected ahead of peak storm season. When severe weather swept through the area on February 15, all town sirens activated as expected, marking the first time in over a year that Pelahatchie's tornado warning system functioned at full capacity.

The only siren that did not sound was located at N. Brooks Street and Lake Road, which



Mayor VanHorn says falls under Rankin County's jurisdiction. While town officials continue to emphasize the importance of staying informed, residents can now rely on the fully restored siren network for immediate tornado warnings. Additionally, residents are encouraged to sign up for Rankin County's weather alert text system, which provides real-time updates and can be accessed through their website at <https://www.rankincounty.org/>. With these upgrades, Pelahatchie is better prepared for the upcoming storm season, providing residents with an added layer of safety when severe weather strikes.

# Pelahatchie HS honors school Resource Officer



Special to Pelahatchie News  
Pelahatchie High School recently showed appreciation for School Resource Officer, Amy Divine. Saturday, February 15th, was National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day

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# Pastor's Perspective: In a moment, at just the right time



By Guest Columnist  
Spencer Sullivan, Pastor,  
Pelahatchie Baptist

Special to  
Pelahatchie News

As the calendar has turned to March, that means baseball season is here! Our high school teams and college teams have begun competing and MLB Opening Day is later this month. However, before we get too excited about baseball season, the college basketball season is building toward its yearly climax, affectionately dubbed March Madness. What makes March Madness so thrilling to watch are the inevitable upsets and down-to-the-wire finishes that happen each year. Cinderella will get the invite to the Big Dance and take on the elite of college basketball. David will knock down Goliath. Without question, once again, we will see several buzzer-beating shots that will keep one team alive, sending their team and fans into a frenzy, while dealing heartbreak to the opposition. Perhaps our favorite teams will make deep runs. Perhaps, new heroes will emerge that hit the big shot at just the right time

to keep the season alive.

We all have moments that require a hero to come through at just the right time to deliver just what we need. Paul experienced this during his second major missionary journey as he took the Gospel of Jesus to Europe. Everywhere he went, many people would hear and believe the Good News of Jesus and churches would be started. At the same time, many would reject and at times create serious conflict and difficulty for Paul. As he brought the Gospel for the first time to the city of Corinth in Greece, his ministry experience had already included death threats, beatings, a stoning, and imprisonment for the sake of the Gospel. Now in Corinth, though many had believed, opposition was rising once again. Paul was tired. He was likely overwhelmed. Perhaps, he was anxious and afraid at what he would face next. Have you been in that space before? Is that where you are right now? In Acts 18, we read where in that anxious and fearful moment for Paul, Jesus showed up and entered that space with Paul. In a vision at night, Jesus said: "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for



I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." This is an incredible word that's easy just to read past and not give much thought. Here, Jesus revealed Himself to Paul in his anxious and fearful moment and gave him a promise that would calm his fears at just the right time. Paul would end up staying in Corinth, boldly preaching the Gospel for 18 months, believing and knowing that Jesus was with him and that for this season, no one would harm him.

In my experience walking with Jesus, I can testify that He is certainly always

with us, but He is also always faithful to show up in greater, more tangible ways when we need Him the most. I can't say that I've ever heard His voice audibly, but I've had experiences when He has shown up and spoken just as clearly as if His voice had been audible. In a season of severe anxiety, He spoke to me clearly through His Word. In a life and death situation, I heard Him speak clearly through the words of a song. In a moment of not knowing what to do next, I heard Him speak clearly as though He whispered in my ear through His Spirit. I wish I had the space to flesh out each of those experiences. But, know this: whatever you are walking through or carrying right now, He is aware of you and all that is going on in your life, even if no one else in the world is. Expect and believe Him to show up with the word that you need at just the right time. He is faithful and trustworthy. Be encouraged and strengthened as you hear His Word from the prophet Isaiah in chapter 41, verse 10: "fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

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# PHS Anderson named RCSD Administrator of the Month



Photos special to Pelahatchie News


Mrs. Voncille Anderson is the head principal at Pelahatchie High School where she has spent most of her educational career. Her passion and dedication to PHS are evident in everything she does. Anderson leads her staff with a vision that ensures every student and faculty member is safe, supported and successful. Under her leadership, PHS has advanced, demonstrating what it means to be all in for the Chiefs. The Pelahatchie community recognizes her leadership and commitment, making her deserving of this honor.

# Pelahatchie ES Student Spotlight

Pelahatchie Elementary School is proud to recognize these students for their kindness and hard work. Go Chiefs.




**James Kelly**



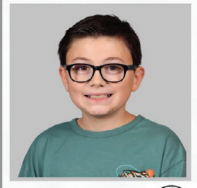
James Kelly is such a polite and respectful student! Everyday in the lunchroom, he thanks the staff for what they do. There hasn't been a day this year that he has failed to thank them! Thank you James for showing kindness and appreciation to our awesome cafeteria staff! Your kindness has not gone unnoticed!

**Arianna Maradiaga**



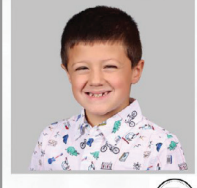
Arianna has a servant heart. She is always aware of other people's needs, and she jumps to meet them. She never misses an opportunity to greet our staff and students to make them feel welcome each day. Anytime she sees something in the wrong place, she puts it where it belongs. Arianna is a star student.

**Lee Swann**



I just wanted to take a moment to commend Lee—for his kindness and patience with a fellow student. I asked Lee to collaborate on a partner activity with a student who struggles with math, knowing he had done so before with great success. Lee not only demonstrated patience but also ensured that his partner actively participated rather than simply completing the work himself. This is incredibly valuable, as students often respond better to guidance from a peer than from a teacher. I truly appreciate Lee's willingness to support his peers in such a meaningful way. His kindness and leadership do not go unnoticed!

**Avery Franklin**



Avery Franklin demonstrates persistence. He never gives up. Even when the task is difficult, he keeps on trying. His reading has improved SO much! His handwriting is neat and legible. Avery has even begun writing in a journal at home. He records the activities he did at school. Avery, I am so proud of your determination!

Photos special to Pelahatchie News



*After much thought and prayer, I am excited to announce that I am running for mayor of Pelahatchie. As a fourth-generation resident and business owner, I care deeply about our town and see many opportunities for growth. I believe we can work together to make Pelahatchie an even better place to live, work, and raise a family. Pelahatchie is full of potential, and I believe we are in a prime position for growth in many areas.*

One of my priorities is creating more safe and affordable housing. Developers want to invest in our town, and I want to help make that happen in a way that benefits our community. With our Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinances in place, we can work together to make the most of the opportunities while preserving the character of our town.

Our local schools play a huge role in our community, and I want to support them in every way possible. Having attended both schools in town, I know how important they are to our future. I am committed to working alongside our schools to encourage growth and community involvement.

As a small business owner, I understand the challenges of operating in a small market. That's why I believe we must do everything we can to promote, assist, and support our local businesses. A strong business community means a stronger Pelahatchie for everyone.

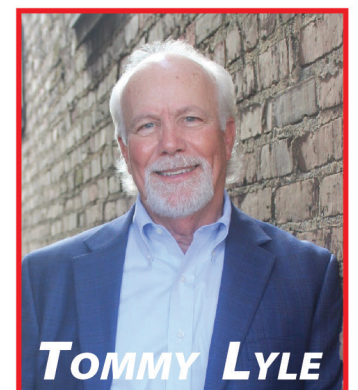
Additionally, we need more activities and recreation opportunities for our youth. Completing Milltown Park will give our kids a safe place to play and participate in sports. Improving our parks will not only benefit families but also enhance the overall quality of life in our town.

I truly believe that when we improve one aspect of our town, it has a positive impact on all others. If elected, I will work diligently to address these issues and ensure that Pelahatchie is not only a great place to do business but also a wonderful place to call home.

*With my experience as a lifelong resident, small business owner, and former city government member, I believe I am uniquely qualified to serve as your mayor. I would be honored to have your support and your vote in the Republican primary on April 1. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant Pelahatchie.*

## My Priorities as Mayor:

- 1. Transparency in city government:** Keeping citizens informed about decisions at City Hall.
- 2. Improved communication:** Reestablishing the town's Facebook page and keeping the city's website updated.
- 3. Business development:** Forming a business development committee to support existing businesses and attract new ones.
- 4. Youth involvement:** Establishing a Mayor's Youth Council to engage young residents in local government.
- 5. Economic growth:** Collaborating with Rankin First and state leaders to promote business expansion.
- 6. Public safety:** Strengthening partnerships with police and fire departments to enhance community safety.
- 7. Parks and recreation:** Improving Muscadine Park, completing Mill Town Park, and creating a small dog park.
- 8. Infrastructure improvements:** Seeking grants to upgrade aging infrastructure.
- 9. Animal welfare:** Repairing or rebuilding the town's animal shelter to better care for stray animals.
- 10. Preserving our small-town charm:** Enhancing the overall quality of life while maintaining Pelahatchie's unique character.





# Pelahatchie back in 2A title game for first time in 58 years, celebrates winning season

By Brandon Shields,  
www.capitalsportsms.com

It's been awhile since Pelahatchie has played for a state championship.

Behind a fast start along with a very balanced offensive attack the Chiefs held off Northside 59-49 in the Semi-final Round of the MHSAA Boys Class 2A Basketball playoffs at the Mississippi Coliseum on Wednesday afternoon.

Pelahatchie (29-2) will face Bay Springs for the Class 2A State Championship on Saturday at Noon. The Chiefs are back in the state title game for the first time since 1967.

"They made us go faster than usual, but we made some adjustments on the defensive end and held on at the end," said Pelahatchie coach Jerrick Porter. "We're excited to get to state championship game. It's been a long time coming and we're just going to do what we do."

The Chiefs never trailed. Pelahatchie led 15-5 at the end of the first quarter, 25-17 at halftime, and 45-31 at the end

of third quarter.

In the fourth quarter Northside went on a 14-4 run to cut the Pelahatchie lead down to 49-45, but the Chiefs ended the quarter on a 10-4 run to seal the game.

Zion Grant had 18 points to lead Pelahatchie, while Caleb Gray added 17 points and Laterrion Irvin chipped in 16 points for the Chiefs.

"We had to come out, play hard, and just out work the other team and end up on top," Grant said. "I've never been in this position before, so it feels good and got to be ready for Saturday."

Jermarius Jackson had a game-high 20 points to lead Northside (22-12).



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

# PHS weightlifting team competes at South State







Special to Pelahatchie News

This past weekend, Korbin Boydston and Lucas Gardner competed in South State. Lucas placed 3rd in his weight class, and Korbin placed 1st in his weight class and won the South State Champion award with highest overall weight lifted. Both will advance to State in late March.

**PHS basketball MHSAA District 6-2A Champions, the Pelahatchie Chiefs! They won the Quarter and Semi-finals! Congratulations on a great season!**

**PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK**

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

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## Pelahatchie ES honors School Counselor Lee



Special to Pelahatchie News

In celebration of National School Counselor Week (February 3-7), Pelahatchie Elementary School wanted to take a moment to honor an incredible school counselor, Dana Lee. Her unwavering support, guidance, and compassion has made a world of difference in the lives of the students. Thank you for being a listening ear, a trusted mentor, and a constant source of encouragement.

## Rep. Hurst pledges support for Term Limits

Special to Pelahatchie News

U.S. Term Limits (USTL), the leader in the national, non-partisan movement to limit terms for elected officials, is gathering support from state lawmakers across the nation. Its mission is to get 34 states to apply for an amendment proposal convention specific to term limits on Congress. 2025 Mississippi state house Rep. Celeste Hurst (District 75) has committed support for term limits on Congress by signing the term limits convention pledge.

The U.S. Term Limits pledge is provided to candidates and members of state legislatures. It reads, "I pledge that, as a member of the state legislature, I will co-sponsor, vote for, and defend the resolution applying for an Article V convention for the sole purpose of enacting term limits on Congress."

In the 1995 case Thornton v. U.S. Term Limits, the Supreme Court of the United States opined that only a constitutional amendment could limit the terms of U.S. Senators and House Representatives. According to Nick Tomboulides, Chief Executive Officer of USTL, the best chance of imposing term limits on Congress is through an Article V Proposal Convention of state legislatures.

"The Constitution allows for amendments to be proposed by either 2/3 of Congress or 2/3 of the states," Tomboulides said. "While we'd like for

Congress to take the high road and propose term limits on itself, we know they are too self-interested to do that without external pressure. That is why it is important to get buy-in from state legislators," he added.

Once proposed, the amendment must be ratified by 38 states.

Tomboulides noted, "More than 87% of Americans have rejected the career politician model and want to replace it with citizen leadership. The way to achieve that goal is through a congressional term limits amendment. Celeste knows this and is willing to work to make sure we reach our goal."

According to the latest nationwide poll on term limits conducted by Pew Research, term limits enjoy wide bipartisan support. Pew's analysis states, "An overwhelming majority of adults (87%) favor limiting the number of terms that members of Congress are allowed to serve. This includes a majority 56% who strongly favor this proposal, just 12% are opposed."



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## MARCH

**FOOD**

FOODIE FRENZY  
WEEKEND  
FEB. 28 - MAR. 2

THEMED ACTIVITIES

ZOMBIE  
APOCALYPSE  
WEEKEND  
MAR. 7 - MAR. 9

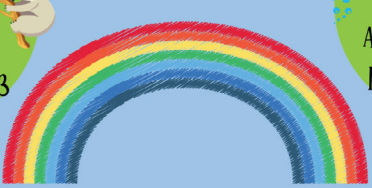
**LUCK**


SHAMROCKS &  
SHENANIGANS  
WEEKEND  
MAR. 14 - MAR. 16

BUBBLES, BOWTIES,  
& BOO BOO  
WEEKEND  
A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
MAR. 28 - MAR. 30

*Australia*


DOWN UNDER  
ADVENTURE  
WEEKEND  
MAR. 21 - MAR. 23





MARCH  
\* 17 \*

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