



# PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



June 2026 ■ Volume 15, Issue 6 ■ Pelahatchie, MS

## Jellystone Park™ Pelahatchie Named a Top RV Campground in the U.S.

Special to Pelahatchie News

Jellystone Park Pelahatchie has done it: The park has been ranked #5 Best RV Campground in the country in the 2026 USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Awards.

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## Pelahatchie HS celebrates student achievements

### Valedictorian



Congratulations to Christian Beeman, Pelahatchie High School's recipient of the 2026 Foundation for the Rankin County Public Schools Scholarship. Thank you to the Foundation for supporting the Class of 2026.

Beeman is also the valedictorian for Pelahatchie High School's Senior Class of 2026. He is noted for receiving both distinguished academic and career and technical endorsements. His accomplishments include honor graduate, Mississippi scholar, distinguished service, Pelahatchie High School Hall of Fame, ACT honors, chemistry award, English IV award, health science IV award, student council, tech team, and Beta Club. His future plans are to attend Tougaloo College to major in Computer Science and Math Education.

### Salutatorian



Congratulations to Kyra Bryant! She is the salutatorian for Pelahatchie High School's Senior Class of 2026. She is noted for receiving distinguished academic and career and technical endorsements. Her accomplishments include honor graduate, distinguished service, ACT honors, economics award, engineering IV award, and Beta leadership award. Her future plans are to attend North Arkansas College and major in Aeronautical Engineering.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Just call: 601-566-1932

# ERA Girls State 2nd and Boys 4th Overall in 2026 MAIS 4A, Division I Championship

By Guest Columnist April Williams, East Rankin Academy

East Rankin Academy (ERA) Patriot Track & Field team concluded the 2026 track & field season on Saturday, May 2nd at the 2025 Midsouth Association of Independent Schools ("MAIS") State Championship. The Lady Patriots repeated as state runner up in the Division I championship while the Patriot men finished fourth.

Prior to the 2026 sports season, the MAIS realigned divisions, moving twenty former 5A and 6A schools into one division competing under 4A. In an additional change unique to the 2026 season, district championship teams qualified directly to the Division I state championship (non-district winners further competed at regionals and qualified to the Division II state championship). In years past, individual district winners further attended a regional meet and attempted to qualify to the state championship as a top four finisher in the north or the south.

East Rankin Academy was the only former 5A school to win both boys and girls district championships, qualifying the entire team directly to state. At state, the girls faced two former 5A schools, Bayou Academy and Silliman Institute, and former 6A powerhouse Madison Ridgeland Academy.



First row, left to right: Coach David Hopper, Charlianne Hunt, Alex Burkard, Jewel Baker, Chandler Hunt, Hadley Erickson, Caroline Thornton, Second row: Emily Williams, Savannah Smithers, Emma Raines, Lily Kanengiser, Third row: Taitum Thomas, Isabella McLeod, Kate Bryant, Leah Collipp.



Boys 4x800 Gold: (not in photo order) Zack Price, Walker Sartin, RT Tate, Taylor Stroh.

The boys were the only former 5A school to win their district, grouped with former 6A schools Madison Ridgeland Academy, Jackson Prep and Jackson Academy.

The 2026 MAIS State Championship was hosted by Jackson Academy on May 1st and Jackson Prep on May 2nd. Multiple Patriots became state champions among both varsity teams including senior Gage Crapps, who won the state title in shot put with a throw of 45'6"; senior and Millsaps Majors signee Rone "RT" Tate, who won the varsity boys 3200 meter in a time of 10:13.31; and eighth grader Jewel Baker, who won both the varsity girls 1600 meter with a time of 5:21.44 AND the 3200 meter with a time of 11:41.49. Additionally, both 4x800 relay teams won the state title. The girls 4x800 team consisted of sixth grader Isabella McLeod; seventh grader Caroline Thornton; and eighth graders Chandler Hunt and Jewel Baker, racing to a winning time of 10:11.38. The varsity boys 4x800 relay team became THREE time consecutive state champions with a team consisting of senior RT Tate and sophomores Walker Sartin, Taylor Stroh, and Zack Price. The boys faced stiff competition from the other teams, the lead changing hands multiple times during the course of the race with the boys finally pulling away to a time of 8:35.30.

Other Patriot finalists making the podium as the top five finishers or medalists included:

## SENIORS

**Gage Crapps** Discus 2nd 133-3  
**Aiden Carlisle** Triple Jump 4th 41-.05  
**Addison Derrick**  
Discus 2nd 106-5  
Shot Put 3rd 31-4.5  
**Channing Diveley**  
400 Meter Dash 2nd 50.82  
**Rone Tate** 1600 Meter 3rd 4:46.65

## JUNIORS

**Leah Collipp**  
100 Meter Dash 3rd 13.60  
400 Meter Dash 3rd 27.60

**Leyton Phillips**  
High Jump 4th 5-8  
Long Jump 4th 20-0

**Jon Riemann**  
300 Hurdles 3rd 41.62  
Long Jump 5th 19-11.25

**Taitum Thomas** High Jump 5th 4-2

## SOPHOMORES

**Jillian Breland**  
Discus 3rd 105-2  
Shot Put 4th 29-10.25

**Ethan Butler** 100 Hurdles 5th 17.44  
**Emma Raines** 100 Hurdles 2nd 17.00  
**Taylor Stroh** 800 Meter 3rd 2:05.34

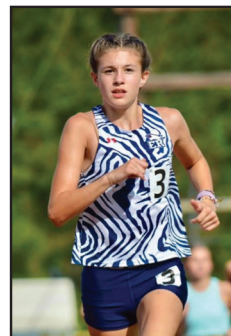
## EIGHTH GRADERS

**Jewel Baker** 800 Meter 2nd 2:28.20

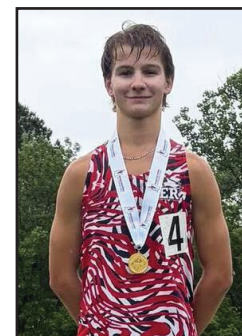
**Chandler Hunt**  
800 Meter 3rd 2:32.71  
3200 Meter 2nd 12:14.24

## SIXTH GRADERS

**Isabella McLeod**  
1600 Meter 2nd 5:21.73



Isabella McLeod



Rone Tate



Gage Crapps



Girls 3200 Gold: Isabella McLeod 2nd place, Jewel Baker 1st Place



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Girls 1600 Gold: Isabella McLeod 2nd place, Jewel Baker 1st place



4x800 Gold (not in photo order): Isabella McLeod, Caroline Thornton, Chandler Hunt, Jewel Baker

## RELAY TEAMS

### 4x100 Boys

Ethan Butler, Jon Riemann, Aiden Carlisle, Channing Diveley 4th 44.45

### 4x200 Boys

Ethan Butler, Jon Riemann, Peyton Derrick, Channing Diveley 4th 1:33.96

### 4x400 Boys

Zack Price, Jon Riemann, Taylor Stroh, Channing Diveley 2nd 3:36.40

### 4x100 Girls

Savannah Smithers, Leah Collipp, Lily Kanengiser, Emma Raines 2nd 52.57

### 4x200 Girls

Savannah Smithers, Leah Collipp, Lily Kanengiser, Emma Raines 4th 1:51.77

### 4x400 Girls

Emma Raines, Leah Collipp, Jewel Baker, Chandler Hunt 2nd 4:18.69

## ADDENDUM:

**McLeod** broke into the top ten rankings of all 6th graders in the US

**Tate**, MAIS 4A Div 1 State Champion in the 3200

**Baker**, MAIS 4A Div 1 State Champion in the 3200

**Crapps**, MAIS 4A Div 1 State Champion in boys Shot Put

The 2026 Patriot track team featured ten seniors, all of whom played a role in the growth and leadership of ERA track and field in recent years, some of them six year veterans of ERA track & field. The team wishes to congratulate state medalist Jensen Baker; multi-time state champion Gage Crapps; multi-time state medalist Addison Derrick; multi-time state medalist Channing Diveley; state finalist Harrison Smith; state medalist Savannah Smithers; multi-time state champion RT Tate; state finalist Addison Vowell; and multi-time state medalist Emily Williams as they graduate with the Class of 2026.



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## Beautiful flowers blooming at City Hall



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



## Trooper Dearman awarded for service



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Brandon Dearman for his dedication to being a State Trooper. He has four years' experience working as a trooper, and four awards to show for the hard work, sacrifice, and commitment he brings to work every day. For him this is more than just a job. This award was for the most methamphetamine seizures in 2025 and previous awards range from largest drug seizures to most felony arrests.

## Eastside Baptist welcomes new pastor

Special to Pelahatchie News



Special to Pelahatchie News

Mrs. April Nicholson (left) and Pastor David Nicholson (right).

Eastside Baptist Church, on Noblin Bridge Road just off of Hwy 80 past the center of town, is excited to welcome Pastor David Nicholson and his wife, April. A warm and welcoming family of believers, Eastside is growing both in numbers and in opportunities for members to develop relationships with God, with each other, and with the Pelahatchie community as a whole. Asked about his feelings on becoming pastor of Eastside, Brother David said, "It's truly a blessing to be a part of this church and this community. From the very first Sunday at Eastside, my wife and I felt welcomed and loved and accepted. We are genuinely excited to see what the Lord does with our church and we look forward to serving and growing together with the people here."

Eastside welcomes anyone interested in knowing more about how to be a follower of Jesus Christ or wanting to pursue a deeper relationship with the Lord in a group of fellow believers Each Sunday, small group Sunday School meets at 10 a.m. with the worship service following at 11 a.m. Wednesday night supper and Bible Study are at 6:30 p.m.

### THE BRANCH

## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

COME CHECK OUT OUR WIDE SELECTION OF CLOTHING AND GIFTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.

# Pelahatchie Baptist holds ladies event to honor Rita Faye Mashburn

A little over 100 ladies attended the Ladies Night Event held recently at Pelahatchie Baptist Church (PBC) featuring a delicious dinner and dessert. The evening was dedicated in memory of Rita Faye Mashburn whose funeral was April 29. Local ladies and guests seated at tables with beautifully-decorated tablescapes. There were door prizes and each attendee received a "happy" to take home. Carrie Beasley Coley, a PBC member, spoke about blooming where you are planted. A Pelahatchie native and Pelahatchie High School alumni, Coley is employed as a counselor for the Rankin County School District.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



**Griffin Family Medical Clinic**  
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**Happy Father's Day!**



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REGISTER ONLINE AT [CRBC.ONLINE/EVENTS](http://CRBC.ONLINE/EVENTS)

# Pelahatchie Library June Events

<p><b>DINOSAUR DIG</b> JUNE 4 AT 2:00 P.M.</p> <p><b>MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE</b> JUNE 11 AT 2:00 P.M.</p> <p><b>DINO ADVENTURE SHOW</b> JUNE 18 AT 2:00 P.M.</p> <p><b>TURTLE TALK WITH CENTRAL MS TURTLE RESCUE</b> JUNE 25 AT 2:00 P.M.</p> 	 <p><b>SENIOR SOCIAL</b> JUNE 2, 16, AND 30 AT 11:00 A.M.</p> <p><b>BRUNCH &amp; BOOKS: ADULT BOOK CLUB</b> JUNE 17 AT 11:00 A.M.</p> <p><b>PELAHATCHIE PETALS GARDEN CLUB</b> JUNE 18 AT 5:00 P.M.</p> <p><b>LEFT ON READ: TEEN BOOK CLUB</b> JUNE 24 AT 3:30 P.M.</p>
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# Pelahatchie HS, Elementary honor retiring teachers



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, Pelahatchie High School celebrated two educators as they begin their retirement journeys, Mrs. Susan Caraway (left) and Mrs. Patricia Bunnell (right). Thank you ladies for pouring into your students, school, and community over the years. Your absence will be felt, but everyone wishes you the best.

## Crooked Creek Animal Hospital



Charles Edwards II, DVM  
Katlyn Henning, DVM  
Jenny Sowell, DVM  
Carter Hill, DVM

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crookedcreekanimal.com  
Phone: 601-854-7808  
Fax: 601-854-7810  
Crooked Creek Lodge  
Phone: 601-812-8012  
ccahlodge@gmail.com

Follow Us On:  
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Recently, Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) celebrated three remarkable leaders as they embark on a new journey—retirement. Mrs. Sharon Long, Mrs. Shellie Pennypacker, and Nurse Trish Drake (left to right) have shaped the lives of countless students with compassion and heart, and they will be greatly missed. Please join PES in wishing them well as they begin this exciting new chapter.



Ansley Grace Miller  
Student Council  
President



Arin Hawk  
Student Council  
Representative



Makayla Belle Gainey  
Class President



Lilly Guzman  
Class Co-Vice President



Savannah Smithers  
Class Co-Vice President



Neali Holbrooks  
Secretary



Addison Vowell  
Treasurer



Hannah Adams



Emma Aitken



Audrey Arnett

# East Rankin Academy Class of 2026



Jensen Baker



Parker Cruz Bankston



Garreth Barham



Austin Bilbro



Luke Bradshaw



Aiden Carlisle



Gage Crapps



Lanson Dahbour



Dyson DeLaughter



Addison Derrick



Channing Diveley



Brody Durham



Olivia Griffing



Hudson Hawk



Hannah Jackson



Holly Jackson



Brandon Loper



Cale Lovett



Mary Hannah Martin



Paige Mayatte



William McGee



Tate Ogden



John Parker Pierce



Kaylynn Ramirez



Harrison Smith



Jacob Soto



R.T. Tate



Cole Thompson



Amelia Tingle



Kellie Waggoner



Madyson Wall



Rhodes Warner



Emily Williams



Grayson Williams



Taylor Woods



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# SALUTE TO EDUCATION

## Gearing up for a new school year



By Guest Columnist Robin Sanders,  
Principal, Pelahatchie Elementary School

As the school year comes to a close, we want to congratulate our students on another successful year of learning, growth, and achievement and encourage them to enjoy a fun, relaxing summer!

Special to  
Pelahatchie News

With the fall semester approaching, we encourage all families to complete back-to-school registration as early as possible. Early registration helps our school prepare class schedules, transportation routes, classroom assignments, and student services to ensure a smooth start for everyone.

Students who will be in kindergarten this fall can come pick up a registration packet now. Residency information, immunization records, and a birth certificate are required.

Returning students will receive an InfoSnap regis-

tration code through the email listed in PowerSchool around July 10, 2026. We will send out a ParentSquare reminder when they are sent.

We will have someone available at the school office this summer from 8:00 - 2:00 to assist you with registration. If you call the school and no one answers, please leave a voicemail.

### Registration Checklist

- Complete a registration packet for new students now or complete online registration beginning July 10 for returning students.
- Be sure residency is updated for next school year. You can email an updated electricity bill to robin.sanders@rcsd.ms.
- Complete a meal application after July 1. It will be part of online registration for returning students. New students can start the application July 1, 2026. The link can be found on the RCSD website under the department of Child Nutrition.

• Be prepared for technology fees: \$25 per child in PreK-6th grades.

• If you are in need of after-school care, contact the Front Office to register at 601-825-9714. Space is limited.

Completed registration and residency is required before students are placed on class rolls so please get this complete before the Meet the Teacher event. The earlier the better!

Our Meet the Teacher event will be held on Tuesday, July 28. It will be come and go from 8-9:30 and 12:30-2:00. The first day of school is Thursday, July 30. Doors open at 7:20 a.m.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We look forward to welcoming our students back soon for another year of learning and achievement.

Have a safe and enjoyable remainder of your summer, and remember to complete your back-to-school registration early!

## Congratulations to East Rankin Academy's K5 2026 graduates



Mrs. Rodgers' K5 graduating class.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Mrs. Weaver's K5 graduating class.

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**Thank You, Teachers!**



**GENE  
NEWMAN**  
 Representative 61

**CONGRATULATIONS  
to all educators & students**

# SALUTE TO EDUCATION

## ERA team finalist at championship



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to the East Rankin Academy (ERA) robotics team on finishing as the finalist captain in their 57 team division at the FTC World Robotics Championship in Houston, Texas. This year's FTC season began with over 8,700 teams. 324 of those teams qualified for the World Championship. ERA is proud of the robotics team for finishing in the top 12 out of the 324 teams present at the world championship!

## Pelahatchie's Ward signs for Hinds CC



Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, Pelahatchie High School (PHS) senior Bre Ward, with her parents and big brother watching, signed to play basketball for Hinds Community College. Her achievements include a 4.0 GPA, Miss PHS, Class Favorite, District 6 2A Offensive Player of the Year, All Region District 6, 1,000 Points Club (1,313 Total), Enlisted in the Army National Guard, Beta Club, Student of the Month, All A Honor Roll, and MSU English Expo 2025 Honorable Mention in Poetry.

## Hill semi-finalist for teacher of the year



Special to Pelahatchie News

Lynn Hill (left), a fifth grade teacher at Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) was named one of the top ten semifinalists for Rankin Chamber Teacher of the Year! PES loved celebrating her and recognizing the incredible impact she's made on the students she has served. Her dedication and passion truly make a difference every day.

## PHS celebrates literary achievement



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School would like to congratulate this school year's top ten readers of library books! Front row: Braylee Akins, Dylan Sanford, Layla McCurdy, Henry Hyde, and Yuliana Felipe; back row: Kali Redmann, Matthew Wilson, Gage Haven, Jesse Ingram, and Royce Kelly.



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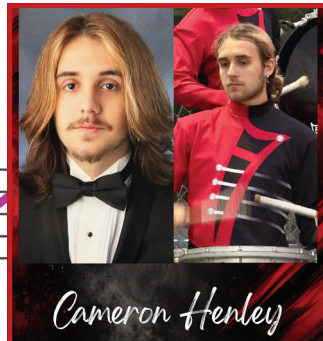
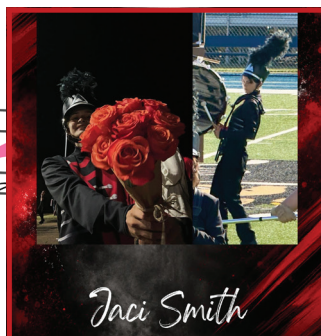
# SALUTE TO EDUCATION

## ERA Patriots girls soccer team MAIS 4A Div III State champs



Special to Pelahatchie News

## Pelahatchie High School band senior student spotlight



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to all the Teachers and Students for having a great year!

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Congratulations to all Students, Teachers, & Educators!

# City Beat: Mayor, Alderman meeting for Monday, May 4, 2026



Special to  
Pelahatchie News

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

The May 2026 Pelahatchie Mayor and Board of Aldermen regular meeting was held on Monday, May 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at town hall. Mayor Karl VanHorn presided and called the meeting to order. Alderwomen Diane Hill and Sandra Harvey, along with Aldermen

David Gray, Eddie Jones, and James Harrell, were in attendance for the proceedings.

## Resident and Visitor Business:

**Lagoon and Water Treatment Project:** Representatives from Waggoner Engineering provided an update to the board on the ongoing lagoon project, noting communications with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality regarding better aeration. The project was rebid late last week, drawing 18 bidders total for the plant and relocation work. The total bid came to \$6.3 million, representing a \$1.3 million decrease from the initial bids received in January 2026.

Funding has been secured through a combination of a 10 percent loan and 90 percent in grants. The town's financial responsibility for the loan will be approximately \$600,000, structured as a 30-year loan at approximately \$2,200 a month. Officials confirmed that the current plan does not contemplate an increase in municipal water rates to offset costs. T.L. Wallace will handle the lagoon treatment work, while Thornton Construction was awarded the plant work at \$815,000.

**Pelahatchie Public Library:** Librarian Brenna Renfroe presented the annual update for the Pelahatchie Public Library, announcing that the facility is now open on Fridays. Renfroe was recognized for her accomplishments in promoting literacy across Pelahatchie, noting that the library has hosted 4,150 visitors. The summer library program schedule was also announced, featuring Dirt & Dinosaurs on June 4, the Museum of Natural Science on June 11, and a Turtle Rescue event on June 25.

**Patricia and Vince Cadotte:** Patricia and Vince Cadotte addressed the board regarding a 13-acre multi-family property development by Woodlands Construction, which includes plans to build four houses. Discussion centered around a potentially narrow easement. The city attorney stated more information is required, as the easement is not currently depicted on the city map. Mayor VanHorn clarified that the driveway in question has never been deeded to the city. The builder has agreed to repair the road if construction activity causes damage. The matter was tabled at the end of the discussion, and no vote was made.

## Department Discussions

**Police Department:** The board discussed and considered approving the use of seizure funds to upfit three newly purchased Ford F150 trucks for the police department at a total cost of \$14,780 and some added vehicle striping. Funding will be sourced from a \$12,000 check the department already holds, and the

small remaining amount would be paid from the police seizure funds. Alderman Jones made the motion to approve the funds, and Alderwoman Hill seconded the motion. The measure passed with all in favor.

Later in the meeting, the Police Chief clarified a jurisdictional matter regarding unauthorized parking. The Chief stated the department cannot legally tow vehicles parked on private property; such removals must be initiated by the property owner. This restriction applies only to private property, as it is against city ordinance to park any vehicle in a public street in Pelahatchie city limits.

**Zoning:** Ed Little presented zoning plans for the development of several single-family residential structures on a vacant lot on the east side of North Avenue at the corner of Clayton. The development of five houses is contingent upon road construction costs. Little stated he would return again when he received the bids for the roads.

**New Business:** The board discussed, considered, and voted to approve the minutes from the previous regular board meeting held on April 6, 2026. Alderman Jones made the motion to approve, and Alderman Harrell seconded the motion. The measure passed with all in favor.

The board discussed, considered, and voted to approve the payment of the unpaid claims docket. Alderman Jones made the motion to approve, and Alderman Gray seconded the motion. The measure passed with a 3-2 vote, with Alderwoman Hill and Alderwoman Harvey voting no.

The board discussed, considered, and voted to approve the disbursement of a bank draft payment to Morgan and White Insurance in the amount of \$1,061.66. Alderman Jones made the motion to approve, and Alderman Gray seconded the motion. The measure passed with all in favor.

The board discussed, considered, and voted to approve a bank draft payment to EMC Insurance for property insurance in the amount of \$6,509.53. Alderman Jones made the motion to approve, and Alderman Gray seconded the motion. The measure passed with all in favor.

The board discussed, considered, and voted to approve a bank draft payment to Blue Cross Insurance in the amount of \$8,534.16. Alderman Jones made the motion to approve, and Alderwoman Hill seconded the motion. The measure passed with all in favor.

The board discussed the approval and ratification of the payment of payroll for April 2026, which included \$74,045.44 for the General fund and \$26,365.15 for the Enterprise fund. Alderman Jones made the motion to approve the payroll, and Alderman Gray seconded the motion. The measure passed with a 3-2 vote, with Alderwoman Hill and Alderwoman Harvey voting no.

## Mayor's Discussions

**PFAS Water Lawsuit:** Mayor VanHorn discussed recent water testing and sought board approval to join a mass tort lawsuit regarding PFAS groundwater contamination. The national class action settlements, to-

taling up to \$12.5 billion from 3million and \$1.185 billion from DuPont, are open to public water providers like Pelahatchie (PWS ID: MS0610018) to fund testing and filtration. To secure direct infrastructure funding separate from the Mississippi Attorney General's lawsuit, the town must take affirmative steps to submit a claim for funding by July 2026. Participation in the lawsuit is intended to help the town recoup funds necessary for replacing water meters and preventing any potential contamination. Alderman Jones made the motion to join the lawsuit, and Alderwoman Hill seconded the motion. The measure passed with all in favor.

*(Editor's note: More info about the PFAS Water Settlement can be found at [www.pfaswatersettlement.com](http://www.pfaswatersettlement.com).)*

**Leisure District Ordinance:** The board considered an ordinance to establish a designated leisure district within the town. In Mississippi, Alcohol Leisure and Recreation Districts (LRDs) allow patrons to purchase alcoholic beverages in designated areas, leave the licensed premises with an open container in a to-go cup, and consume them while walking. Both Jackson and Tupelo use LRDs to encourage foot traffic, tourism, and community socializing, for example. It was described in the meeting that this ordinance only applies to the Heritage District. Mayor VanHorn stated that the ordinance would not allow alcohol during the Muscadine Jubilee. Alderwoman Hill made the motion to approve the ordinance, and Alderman Jones seconded the motion. The measure passed with a 4-1 vote, with Alderwoman Harvey casting the only dissenting vote.

**Short-Term Rentals:** The Mayor and board briefly discussed a local property currently operating as an Airbnb to determine if the town receives any tax revenue from its operation as an Airbnb rental. The matter was tabled until next month for further research.

**No Solicitation Ordinance:** Mayor VanHorn stated he had received multiple complaints about roofing contractors' unsolicited knocking on doors in town. Attorney Banks proposed a draft ordinance addressing unsolicited door-to-door sales. The mayor and town attorney noted the town already has an existing ordinance in place, but residents must post no-soliciting signs on their property for enforcement. The new proposed ordinance would require contractors to pay a permit fee and provide a photocopy of their driver's license before knocking on anyone's doors. The attorney said she would work on the draft ordinance, and the discussion was tabled until next month.

**Alderman Discussions:** During the open discussion period, Alderwoman Hill requested attention for a pothole located at 1107 Second Street. She also raised concerns regarding restroom access at Milltown Park. The Police Chief clarified that the facilities at Milltown Park are not public restrooms and will not be left unlocked.

**Adjournment:** With no further business from Alderman Gray, Jones, Harvey, or Harrell, Alderman Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderwoman Hill seconded the motion, and it passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m..

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# How to have a good home lawn and nature's air condition



By Doug Carter, Rankin County  
Extension Agent

Home lawns and turf areas around homes, office buildings parks, and churches serve as pleasant green backdrops, but do so much more. These little grass plants that make up the lawn serve as miniature air-conditioners and help decrease pollution.

On a block of 8 houses or buildings, the front lawns have the cooling effect of 70 tons of air-conditioning. The plants in these front lawns transpire water to cool themselves, they also cool the surrounding area. Roughly 50 percent of the heat or sunlight striking a turf area is eliminated by transpiration. The plants in transpiring water to cool themselves, also cool the surrounding areas. When the temperature of the sidewalk is 100 degrees F, the adjacent turf remains near 75 degrees F. This cooling may well last into the night, with studies showing a 13-degree cooling at 9:00 p.m.

However, this air-conditioning is not free. An average 5,000-square-foot lawn transpires about 3,000 gallons of water on a hot summer day. This water can either be supplied by rain or irrigation.

A 250-square-foot lawn produces enough oxygen for a family of four. A lawn helps prevent soil erosion and enhances ground water exchange. Water infiltration is much higher on grass areas than bare dirt areas. This higher infiltration prevents water from running off and encourages it to enter the ground water streams. Grass



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roots hold the soil in place better than any other plant.

Some folks love working in the yard and maintaining a quality turf. Others despise yardwork and want a low-maintenance lawn. Still others are confused about how to keep a well-maintained lawn.

One of the first steps to having a good lawn is choosing the best turfgrass to suit the time and money you have for maintenance. Each variety of grass has its advantages, and disadvantages. Do you need grass that grows in the shade or full sun, do you want a fast growing or slow growing grass, a warm season grass or cool season grass?

Choosing the best lawn grass involves your personal judgement based on your needs and the conditions of

your property. It gets down to four things:

1. The amount of sunlight. This is the most important factor in the selection of the best grass to grow. No species of turfgrass will grow well in complete shade. If an area receives at least half a day of direct sunlight, one can grow any of the grasses adapted for our region.

2. Temperature. Temperature is important in determining which grasses will grow. People who try to grow St. Augustine or Centipede in northern areas of the state may see some damage every winter.

3. Maintenance. Decide how much work you want to put into your lawn. Some grasses are established with seed, others require sprigs, or plugs. After the lawn has been established, some grasses require little care other than mowing, while others require almost constant attention to fertility, water, and pest control.

4. Soil. Each species of grass has a soil type to which it is well adapted. All grasses perform well in well drained, loamy soils, but most Mississippians do not have the ideal soil. The most important consideration of soils is the ability of water to move into and through the soil. No grass survives long in standing water. A second factor is the acidity level or pH of the soil. It is easier to plant a grass that is adapted to a certain pH level, than to constantly fight to adjust the pH.

Sources- *Establish & Manage Your Home Lawn*, Extension Publication 1322.

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# Pelahatchie Farmers Market opening day and vendor spotlight



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Meet Missy and Sarah Coates. If you've ever visited the Pelahatchie Farmers Market, chances are you've met two of the kindest people. Missy and Sarah always take time to interact with customers, make everyone feel welcome, and help create the sweet community atmosphere that makes the market so special.



*"We at Perfect Piece Goodies are so grateful for the opportunity to share our creations with our wonderful customers at the Pelahatchie Farmers Market. Stop by every 4th Saturday and see what we are offering!!! I will have my newest product, which is Sourdough Flatbread."*

The next Pelahatchie Farmers Market date is Saturday, May 30, 8 am – 12 pm.

Come shop local, support small businesses, and enjoy a Saturday morning at the Farmers Market.



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# Pastor's Perspective: This is how we know



By Guest Columnist Spencer Sullivan, Pastor, Pelahatchie Baptist

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As a sports fan, I like to know what is happening when my teams are playing. I love watching my teams on TV, but there is nothing better than being at the game itself. However, there are many times when I'm unable to do either. When I'm unable to go or watch, I still try to keep up with the score and what's happening one way or another. A common way is to pull up an app on my phone that provides the score and even the play by play. That's certainly useful, but what's even better is when I know someone at the game that can provide me with live updates as it happens in front of their own eyes. A trusted eyewitness is able to tell me exactly what happens, as it happens. The apps are useful, but when there's a delay or some kind of review, I don't know what's going on. A trusted eyewitness can tell me everything, even the nuances that the apps don't communicate. Whenever we want accurate information in any situation, a trusted eyewitness is far more beneficial than any other option. They are especially more reliable than secondhand information (or worse) from someone who wasn't even there.

In the Bible, eyewitnesses are absolutely critical. In fact, when deciding which books would be included in the New Testament, there was no requirement more



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important. If the book or letter was not from the pen of an eyewitness of Jesus, it was not even considered. The apostle John was not only an eyewitness, but one of Jesus' closest friends. He was 1 of Jesus' 12 disciples, but more than that, he was also among the 3 disciples closest to Jesus. He wrote 1 of the 4 Gospels and also 3 of the epistles (letters) included in the New Testament. In his first letter, entitled 1 John, he began by establishing himself as an eyewitness of Jesus. This was because there were false prophets deceiving people with false teaching concerning the truth about Jesus. In response to that, John wrote to the early believers as an eyewitness so that they could trust that what he wrote about Jesus was true and credible. At

the end that same letter, he wrote: "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life." What a statement! He essentially said that everything he wrote in that letter was so that those that those who truly believed would have the assurance of eternal life. Having the absolute assurance of eternal life has everything to do with knowing the truth about Jesus and believing in faith! You know, no other belief system in the world even proclaims the idea of eternal security. Do you know why? No other has anything to substantiate that promise. No other faith has a God and Savior that has defeated death and lives today! But, Jesus is the victorious and risen King! This is the Jesus the eyewitnesses proclaimed. In his Gospel, John also wrote these words: "...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." John, the eyewitness and friend of Jesus, wrote extensively in the New Testament so that you and I could be assured of our eternal destination when this life is over.

So, how does that sit with you? Do you know you will spend eternity in Heaven with absolute certainty? Have you put your faith fully in the Jesus of the Bible, the One proclaimed by His eyewitnesses? If not, let me recommend that you actually read the words written by the eyewitness John. Read the Gospel that bears his name. He wrote it so that you may believe in Jesus and have life in His name.

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# Mt. Carmel celebrates 23 years of service and a golden graduation



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church is grateful and blessed to celebrate 23 years of faithful service from Pastor Ronnie Brown Sr. and First Lady Demetra Brown. Pastor Brown continues to be a dedicated servant of God, going above and beyond to serve His people with love, humility, and commitment. The church does not take his leadership lightly, nor take it for granted. God knew exactly what He was doing when He placed Pastor Brown over this ministry. Guest speaker, Pastor Willie Robinson, reminded us so powerfully, we must be "Peter-bilt"—servants willing to help carry the load and lift up our pastor when things get heavy. It is the responsibility of the church to stand, support, and serve alongside the one God has assigned to lead this congregation.

It's graduation time again for Golden Diploma, Class of '76. Please help Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church (MCMBC) congratulate Mrs. Edwina Brown (left) on this incredible accomplishment! Edwina Brown was the first and only graduate in her class to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Food, Nutrition, and Community Health Sciences (FNCHS). Through her hard work and studies, she has shown excellence, determination, and perseverance. MCMBC is proud to celebrate this special milestone and honor the impact she continues to make.



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# Opinion: Vital journalism is under stress



By Guest Columnist Bill Crawford

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Mississippi Press Association, celebrating its 160th anniversary, held a forum highlighting local journalism last week at History Is Lunch in the Two Museums. MPA vice president Peter Imes, publisher of the Commercial Dispatch in Columbus, spoke of the vital role local journalism “plays at the grassroots level in our democracy” as he welcomed the panel.

Charles Overby, chair of the Overby Center for Southern Journalism at Ole Miss, moderated. Panelists included professional journalists Natalie Perkins from the Deer Creek Pilot in Rolling Fork, Jamie Patterson from the Yazoo Herald in Yazoo City, and Anita Lee from the Sun Herald in Biloxi.

Discussion focused on local journalism’s importance as a community storyteller, watchdog, and public-information source.

All three speakers agreed local journalists provide essential benefits other media sources do not: preserving and documenting com-



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munity stories with context and history; serving as watchdogs over local elected officials and government operations; covering routine civic life (city councils, school boards, etc.), and producing community-focused features that resonate locally.

Perkins noted the critical role her small newspaper played in communicating with local people after an E4 tornado struck. “We continue to tell the story,” she said, and “we’re the only ones that give a rip about Sharkey County.”

“Being a person that they go to church with or see in the grocery store or at the Little League field,” Patterson said lets local people “know that I have just as much stake in the community as they do.”

The panelists also agreed on the persistent threats to local journalism from social media misinformation, ad revenue losses to online media, and audience shifts, particularly among young people, to free online platforms.

“I’ve been very concerned about that for a while now,” said Lee,

“and I try to do my little part, which is like spitting in the ocean, to assure people that I’m a real journalist. This is what I do and this is how I do it....So I just hope people are discerning and careful about what media they consume.”

Panelists expressed concern that local journalism is “in trouble” as staffing shrinks and dailies become bi-weeklies. But they remain optimistic if dedicated professional journalism persists and communities support local news outlets. Lee stressed the latter, lamenting that people don’t realize their local news source is going to go away one day if local support dries up. They will have to depend upon social media alternatives that lack professional standards and commitments to fairness and transparency.

“I feel so horrible for those communities that are kind of in news deserts that don’t have those newspapers and don’t have those watchdogs. That’s scary,” concluded Patterson.

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge”— Hosea 4:6.

*Crawford is an author and syndicated columnist from North Jackson.*  
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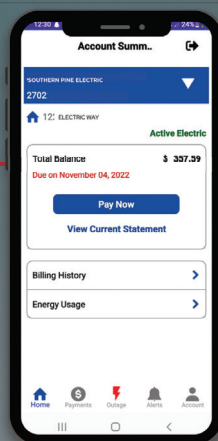
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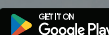


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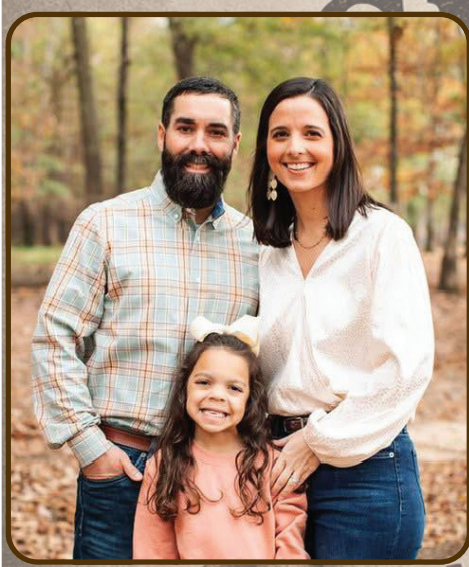


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# The Church at Shiloh: Meet the Campmeeting Staff



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

## Meet the Minister

### REVEREND JESS DILLEY

The church is excited to welcome Reverend Jess Dilley as the minister for Shiloh Campmeeting 2026.

The Church at Shiloh is believing God will use him in a powerful way as everyone gathers together to worship, pray, and seek His presence.

Date: May 29 - June 7

Theme: Altered at the Altar

## Meet the Music Director

### ANNA BUYS

The church is excited to have Anna Buys leading worship for Shiloh Campmeeting 2026.

Join with everyone in praise and worship, creating an atmosphere where lives can be changed in God's presence.

Date: May 29 - June 7

Theme: Altered at the Altar

## Meet the Youth Minister

### CULLEN GREER

Shiloh is excited to welcome Cullen Greer to lead their youth during Campmeeting 2026.

The church is believing for a powerful move of God in the next generation— hearts stirred, lives changed, and students truly altered at the altar.

Date: May 29 - June 7

Theme: Altered at the Altar

## Meet the Children's Minister

### DALTON TURNIPSEED

Shiloh is excited to have Dalton Turnipseed leading the children during Shiloh Campmeeting 2026.

The church believes God moves in every generation, and Shiloh is praying for a special time of growth and impact in the lives of these children.

Date: May 29 - June 7

Theme: Altered at the Altar

# The Crooked Creek Cutie Corner

Crooked Creek Animal Hospital recently started preparing for summer with a photo booth for clinic patients and their owners.



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