



PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



November 2025 ■ Volume 14, Issue 11 ■ Pelahatchie, MS

ERA Lady Patriots five time MAIS AAAA Division I state champions

Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Academy Lady Patriots finished the 2025 cross country season back where they belong: on top of the podium as the MAIS AAAA, Division I state champions! This is East Rankin Academy's fifth consecutive state title and the first of the new MAIS classification system, slotting the team into the highest classification against former 6A powerhouse programs. Going into this final matchup, ERA (the last MAIS 5A state champion) was neck-and-neck in rankings with the last MAIS 6A state champion, Madison Ridgeland Academy, which was seeking its ninth consecutive title. Led by star eighth grader Jewel Baker, who finished second overall, the Lady Patriots behind her raced with pack precision, picking up spots 11-15 for a team score of 52. This outpaced Madison Ridgeland Academy by nine points (team score of 61) followed by Simpson Academy (73 points) and Oak Forest Academy (132

points) to round out the top four teams.

The Lady Patriots varsity team consists of two seniors (Jensen Baker and Arin Hawk), two sophomores (Emma Raines and Edie Tate), two freshmen (Kate Bryant and Haley Headrick) and a deep group of talented middle schoolers, including eighth graders Jewel Baker and Chandler Hunt; seventh graders Caroline Thornton, Alex Burkard, and Hadley Erickson; and sixth grader Isabella McLeod. For their Top 12 finish, Lady Patriots Jewel Baker and Caroline Thornton were named to the 4A All MAIS team.

As the overall Division I champions, the Lady Patriots picked up 20 points toward the MAIS All Sports award system. At the conclusion of the championship, four-time MAIS 5A Coach of the Year David Hopper stated that he was extremely proud of all his athletes, both boys and girls, and the hard work, dedication and growth each has experienced over the competitive season.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Petals designed to beautify Pelahatchie

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Pelahatchie Petals Garden Club was established on October 15, 2024. The non-profit volunteer group is a member of the Natchez Trace District and affiliated with the Garden Clubs of Mississippi (GCM), which now has 96 clubs around the state. They are also affiliated with Deep South Garden Club and National Garden Club, Inc.

The small garden club has completed projects around town to beautify Pelahatchie, including planting flowers at the four corners by the four-way stop on Highway 80 as well in pots down Brooks Street. The cone flower is the designated flower for the club.

Pelahatchie Petals Board Members include Jearleen Holly, president;

Olivia Glassmire, vice president; Kaitlyn Murray, secretary; and Ramona Pearch, treasurer.

Angelia Wade, executive secretary of the Garden Clubs of Mississippi, was instrumental in helping Pelahatchie establish the club with their bylaws. She is a substitute teacher at Pelahatchie schools and saw the need to beautify downtown. The Spring Lake Garden Club of Pearl mentored the first few meetings and is the parent club.

"It was wonderful seeing so much excitement and enthusiasm fill a room by the new club members eager to start a new project", Wade said.

"I was honored to present President Jearleen Holly with a \$200.00 check from GCM to help the club get started," she continued. "During the meet-



Photo by Susie A. Wolfe

Recently, the Pelahatchie Petals Garden Club received flower, vegetable, and herb seeds to use. They were donated by an Area Horticulturalist at the Mississippi State Extension Service on Marquette Road in Brandon. The Garden Club is a member of the Garden Clubs of Mississippi and President Jearleen Holly is accepting new members. She said, "It's not about physical ability. The club needs knowledge." If interested, leave a message for Holly at City Hall or the Pelahatchie Public Library. Pictured left to right: President Jearleen Holly and Library Manager Brenna Renfro.

Continued on page 2

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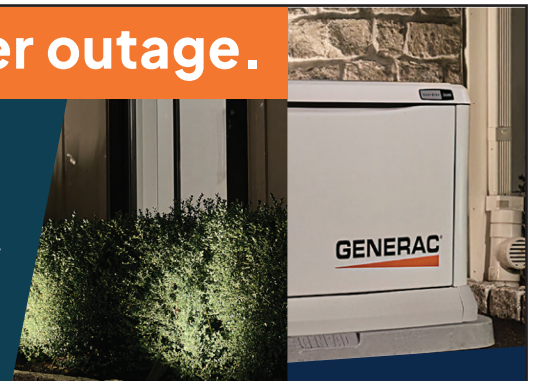
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East Rankin Academy Patriot men bring home hardware

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The East Rankin Patriot men concluded the 2025 cross country season as the MAIS 4A, Division II runner-ups. Battling through the long season with illness and injury, the boys team saw many ups and downs, culminating in their return to the state championship podium. As last year's MAIS 5A runner-up, the year began with promising performances at many of the early meets. The season saw the rise of some team youngsters that are ranked among the highest athletes in each grade level, a testament to continued team depth and development.

Led by lone senior, RT Tate, the 2025 varsity team is also very young with one junior (Jon Riemann), four sophomores (Zack Price, Taylor Stroh, Walker Sartin, Ben Tingle), one freshman (Chris Chalk), one eighth grader (Baylor Sartin), one seventh grader (Grayson Dominighini), and two sixth graders (Max Tate and Joel Ouzts). Both Zack Price and Taylor Stroh were named to the 4A All MAIS team with their Top 12 finish at the state championship.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Continued from front page



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Pelahatchie Petals GC designed to beautify Pelahatchie

ing, President Holly presented then Pelahatchie Librarian Angela Ward with a book to show the club's appreciation for the being allowed to hold their meetings in the library."

The Pelahatchie Garden Club has been recognized in its first year with the Rising Star Award for quickly gearing up to immediately improve the Town of Pelahatchie. They were able to recycle old flowerpots in the downtown area and made seeds and tree saplings available to children and parents.

The garden club also received Certificates of Merit for Community Development, Arbor Day, and Environmental Awareness. Plus, they were the 2024 Winner of the MS Plant America Community Grant for \$350.

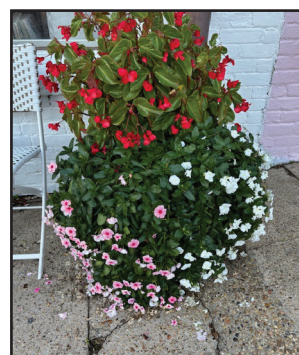
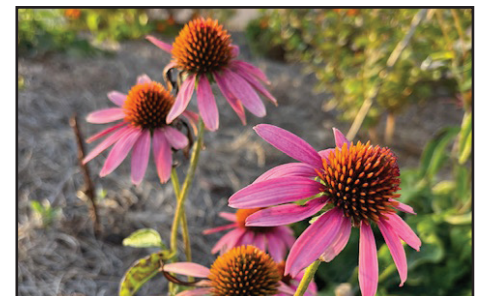
According to Holly, the garden club has also worked with the Town of Pelahatchie, the Pelahatchie Beta Club, and Pelahatchie FFA on similar service projects. The local Mississippi State Extension Office and local businesses have helped by providing supplies too.

The Pelahatchie Petals Garden Club meets 5:30-6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Pelahatchie Public Library. All flower lovers are invited to attend. It is not about physical ability. The club needs knowledge too, according to Holly. She also encourages businesses to get involved in these



Photos by Susie A. Wolfe

The president of the Pelahatchie Petals Garden Club, Jearleen Holly, has been submitting plants for years through the Gardeners of Jackson at the Mississippi State Fair. She provided ten plants for judging in 2025, and received ten ribbons, four blue ribbons and six red ribbons.



The club has planted flowers at the four corners by the four-way stop as well in pots down Brooks Street. The cone flower is the designated flower for the club.

Pelahatchie ES Venture students open the Pelahatchie Pocket Museum

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Elementary School's Venture students recently opened the Pelahatchie Pocket Museum, a temporary collection of miniature exhibits displayed during parent/teacher conferences.

The museum was the final project for the "Tiny Worlds, Big Ideas" unit completed by 2nd-6th grade gifted students. Inspired by the original Hattiesburg Pocket Museum, these curators spent weeks researching, designing, and building their own mini-museums. The Hattiesburg Pocket Museum itself was born during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. With an \$800 budget, they transformed a boarded-up window into a tiny, changing exhibit designed to bring a much-needed sense of "surprise and delight" to the isolated community.

Each student curator selected a topic they were passionate about, dove into its history, and then constructed a miniature exhibit to showcase their findings. The result was a diverse collection of pocket-sized worlds, each representing a "big idea" brought to life.

The project forced the students to be creative and push themselves. Student Jasmine said she was most proud of "stepping out of her comfort zone" to get the job done. Another student, Sunnie, explained how the project changed the way they thought: "It made us think outside the box. We had to make everything smaller so to do it, we

had to think harder."

"Students were truly inspired by the idea that you don't need a huge space or unlimited funds to make a powerful statement or share something fascinating," said Venture Teacher Britnee Barnett.

Next to each mini-museum was a personalized QR code that, when scanned, played a voice recording of the student curator sharing fascinating facts and historical context about their chosen topic.

As a final component of the unit, the students will be taking a field trip to the source of their inspiration, the original Hattiesburg Pocket Museum.

The "Tiny Worlds, Big Ideas" project is just one example of the enrichment-based learning provided by the Venture Program at the Rankin County School District. The mission is to provide optimal opportunities for gifted students to realize their maximum potential. The curriculum covers four broad instructional areas: thinking skills, creativity, personal development, and research.

All 1st and 2nd grade students are screened for the gifted program. Students in 2nd-6th can be referred for screening by anyone having reason to believe that the student might be intellectually gifted. Screener sample questions can be found on the RCSD website (www.rcsd.ms) under gifted education. You can contact the venture teacher at Pelahatchie Elementary, Britnee Barnett, at bri534@rcsd.ms if you have any questions.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



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Pelahatchie celebrates October for National Principals Month



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Celebrating the work of two leaders for their commitment and dedication: Voncille Anderson, principal of Pelahatchie High School and Robin Sanders, principal of Pelahatchie Elementary School.

Pelahatchie Elementary Honor Rolls

Q1 ALL A HONOR ROLL

<h3>6th Grade</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rylan Herring Ava Keeton Sunnie McCrory Aiden Thrailkill 	<h3>5th Grade</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ramzey Beechem Swayzie Brooks Mason Doby Adelyn Harrell Aiden Jolley Paxton Kennedy Castiel McGough Mackenzie White
<h3>4th Grade</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liam Coleman Oaklee Goldman Ford Hayes Mason Holmes Levi Pope Colton Roby Kelsey Wilson 	<h3>3rd Grade</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anna Katherine Denton

PHS Beta club inducts new members



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School Beta recently inducted new members and held a Candlelight Ceremony to welcome their new leaders, pictured on the first row: Savannah Carlino, Evan Ellis, Harmony McGill, and Kyra Bryant (not pictured).

Q1 A-B HONOR ROLL

<h3>6th Grade</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emalynn Atkinson Blaine Chandler Dillon Courtney McKenna Cupstid Ayden Hill Baylee Jones Riley Jordan 	<h3>5th Grade</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zane Lawrence Meeks Mary Paisley Irby Hayzlee Nelson Karsyn Vanderford Demi Ward 	<h3>6th Grade</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tre Adams Laykin Barnett Aiden Collier Bailey Davidson Gabriela Diaz Issac Ingram Rylan Jones Olivia Key Mia Lopez 	<h3>5th Grade</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wylde McCrory Jerry McDaniel Ledger Nichols Linus Piner Ian Pybus Axel Scarborough Kaden Scranage Hagen Scruggs Shelby Tucker Kastiel Walker
<h3>4th Grade</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skylar Blue Mary Chesney Boyer Khloe Conger Braxton Cooper Angel Cortes Cash Edwards Bria Gardner Sofia Haire 	<h3>4th Grade</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ava Kennedy Hunter Moseley Kambree Moss Peyton Ousley August Parker DaZavion Snow Paisley Winstead 	<h3>4th Grade</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audrey Bigby Hartlyn Bishop Zakaree Chandler Lucy Conerly Jasmine Harvey Bryson Lewis 	<h3>3rd Grade</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brody McNeely Sebastian Nino Cooper Robertson Kylie Sandifer

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Pelahatchie Library November Events

COCO MOVIE NIGHT (Nov. 6 at 4:30 P.M.)
 FRIENDS OF THE PELAHATCHIE PUBLIC LIBRARY
 INTEREST MEETING (Nov. 13 at 5:00 P.M.)
 BRUNCH & BOOKS: ADULT BOOK CLUB
 (Nov. 19 at 11:00 A.M.)
 LEFT ON READ: TEEN BOOK CLUB
 (Nov. 19 at 3:30 P.M.)
 PELAHATCHIE PETALS GARDEN CLUB
 (Nov. 20 at 5:30 P.M.)
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 CHECK WITH LIBRARY FOR MEETING DATES & TIMES





PHS Band completes state evaluation



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie High School band performed well this year for their state evaluation. The band received the following ratings: Drum Major - 1, Color Guard - 2, Percussion - 2, Band - 2, 2, 2; Overall 2. PHS is proud of these students for a fantastic final competition run of the season.

PHS names 2025-26 Student Tech Team



Special to Pelahatchie News

PHS presents the Pelahatchie High School 25-26 Student Tech Team. Front row: Jaxon White, Jayla McKinnis, Braylon Jordan, and Christian Beeman; back row: Joseph Grogan, Matthew Wilson, Jeremiah Sullivan, Eriana Smith, Trenton Blue, and Wezley Walters.

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 Jenny Sowell, DVM
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Johns and Boeman of PHS receive RCSD Great to Best awards



Special to Pelahatchie News

Sponsored by Community Bank and The Foundation for the Rankin County Public Schools, the Great to Best awards honor excellence in education and service. Thank you to Shane Dubois from Community Bank for helping to celebrate these recipients. Award recipients included: (top) Secondary Certified: Brandi Johns – Pelahatchie High School, and (bottom) Secondary Student: Christian Beeman – Pelahatchie High School.

City Beat: Mayor, Alderman meeting for Tuesday, October 6, 2025



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

The Pelahatchie Mayor and Board of Aldermen met Monday, October 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Town Hall. Aldermen present were Hill, Jones, Gray, Harrell, and Harvey. Mayor Karl VanHorn presided.

Resident Business:

Mrs. Lorraine addressed the board regarding her plans to open a new barbershop in town using an existing building. The board reviewed her request and agreed to allow her to begin work, provided she returns before her official start date. Alderman Jones made the motion to allow her to begin work before her start date, Alderman Hill seconded, and the motion passed with all aldermen in favor.

Department Discussions:

The Police Department presented its monthly report. The board approved the purchase of ten new tablets for the department at a cost of \$299 each, with a \$77 trade-in credit applied per device. The purchase will be paid from police funds, and the old tablets will be surplused. Alderman Jones made the motion to approve the purchase, Alderman Gray seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Police Department also requested permission to form its own drone program. The Police Chief stated that the department already had a certified drone pilot on staff, though it was not mentioned who the pilot is. The proposed program would allow trained personnel to op-

erate drones under FAA regulations for the Pelahatchie Police Department. The price of the drones was not disclosed. Alderman Jones made the motion to allow purchase of two drones, Alderman Gray seconded, and the motion passed 4-1, with Alderman Hill voting no.

New Business:

The board approved the minutes from the September 2, 2025, regular board meeting. Alderman Jones made the motion, Alderman Harrell seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.



The board then approved the minutes from the September 4, 2025, special board meeting. Alderman Jones made the motion, Alderman Gray seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.

Approval of the minutes from the September 9, 2025, special board meeting followed. Alderman Jones made the motion, Alderman Hill seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.

The board approved payment of the unpaid claims docket. Alderman Jones made the motion, Alderman Harrell seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.

Next, the board approved disbursement of a bank draft to Morgan and White Insurance in the amount of \$1,114.23.

Alderman Harrell made the motion, Alderman Gray seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.

The board also approved a bank draft payment to Blue Cross Insurance in the amount of \$9,862.28. Alderman Jones made the motion, Alderman Gray seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.

Finally, the board approved and ratified September 2025 payroll totals of \$80,534.25 for the General Fund and \$29,754.28 for the Enterprise Fund. Alderman Jones made the motion, Alderman Gray seconded, and the motion passed 3-2, with Aldermen Hill and Alderman Harvey voting no.

Alderman and Mayor Discussions:

Alderman Hill requested repairs to a pothole in front of City Hall and mentioned a resident's concern regarding water meter issues for the utility department to review. Alderman Harrell noted another pothole on Grimes Street needing attention.

The mayor announced that Halloween in the Park will be held on Friday, October 31, 2025. Preparations for the annual community event are underway.

The board also approved surplusizing an older vehicle previously donated to the town. Alderman Jones made a motion to authorize the city hall to advertise the old vehicle for bids and proceed with the sale if possible, Alderman Gray seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Jones made the motion to adjourn, Harrell seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

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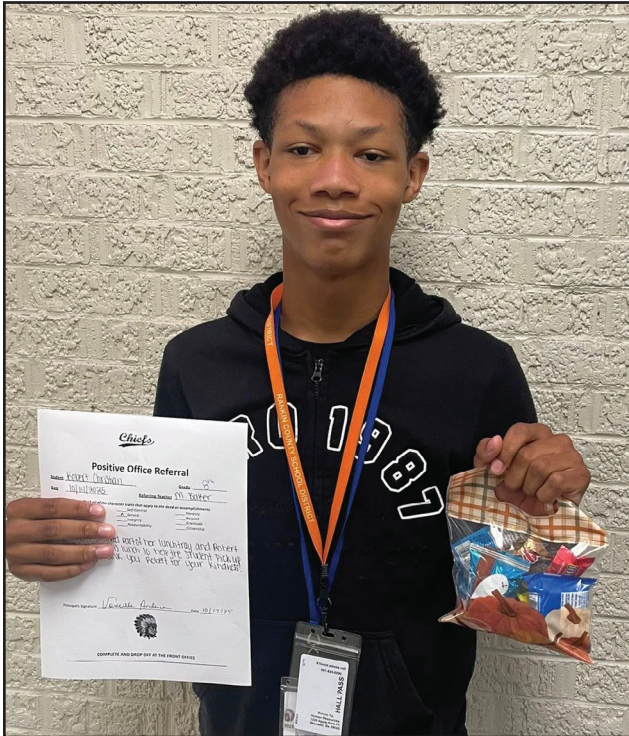
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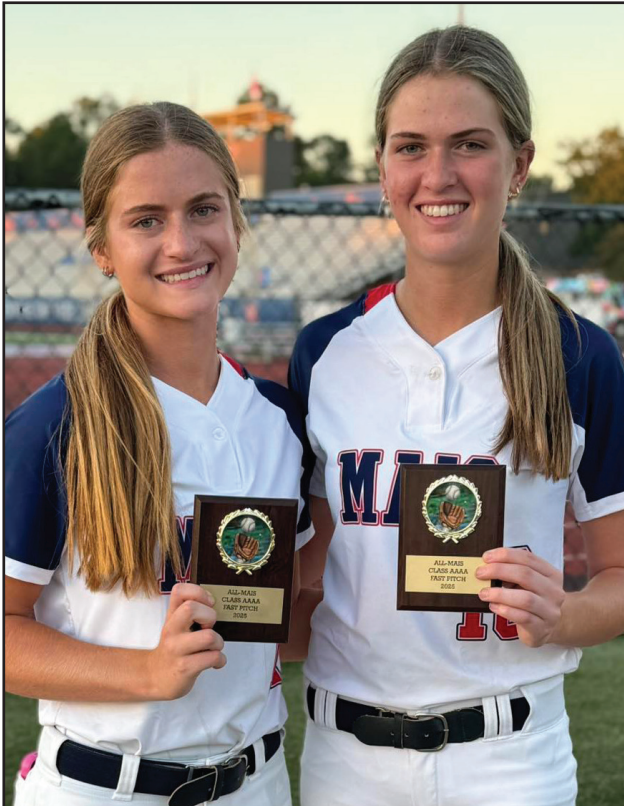
Christian receives PHS office referral for service



Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, Robert Christian received a PHS office referral. Mrs. Baker witnessed Robert assisting a student in need earlier in the week. During lunch time, a student dropped their tray. Robert stopped eating and jumped right up to assist the student. That is true Chieftain character. Thank you Robert for leading by example.

Lady Patriots selected for fastpitch team



Special to Pelahatchie News

Holly and Hannah Jackson were both selected to the All MAIS Class AAAA Fastpitch Team.

Baker places third at Watson Classic



Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, ERA 8th grader Jewel Baker finished 3rd with a (14 second PR) time of 18:46 at the Watson Classic.

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October 31, 1517: The Birth of the Reformation

By Kenneth A. McDade

As children don their costumes and pumpkins illuminate porches each October 31, few pause to remember another monumental event that occurred on this date over 500 years ago. On October 31, 1517, a German monk named Martin Luther decided to take a stand—quite literally—by strolling up to the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg and nailing a list of 95 theses (or points of debate) to its wooden planks. What was intended to be a friendly invitation for discussion quickly spiraled into a movement that would send shockwaves across Europe and forever alter Christianity.

Luther's grievances weren't rooted in rebellion, but in deep conviction. At the core of his protest was the belief that the Church had strayed from the true teachings of Scripture. He was particularly disturbed by the sale of indulgences—essentially, “forgiveness for sale.” Luther firmly believed that salvation couldn't be bought or bartered, but was a divine gift of grace, generously bestowed by God.

The act of nailing those theses wasn't the grand act of defiance that many envision; it was more like sending an academic memo. Yet, the ideas within those pages were potent—and perilous



Special to Pelahatchie News

to the established Church. Thanks to the brand-new printing press—think of it as the 16th-century equivalent of a viral tweet—Luther's theses spread like wildfire across Europe, outpacing any attempts to contain them. What started as an intellectual discussion soon morphed into a spiritual revolution.

Luther was summoned to defend his writings before Church leaders. At the Diet of Worms in 1521 (yes, that's really what it was called), he famously refused to recant unless convinced by Scripture itself, declaring, “Here I stand; I can do no other.” With those bold words, he stood firm against both emperor and pope, asserting that Scripture, not

tradition, should reign supreme.

Forced into hiding for his safety, Luther used that time wisely—he translated the New Testament into German, granting ordinary people access to God's Word in their own language for the very first time. His writings and sermons ignited a flame in others across Europe—think John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli—who also took up the cause of a faith grounded in the Bible rather than bureaucratic red tape.

Luther's impact extended well beyond the realm of religion. The Reformation championed literacy, individual thought, and personal conscience. It reshaped governments, questioned absolute authority, and helped lay the groundwork for the modern concept of freedom of belief.

Though centuries have passed, the reverberations of that hammer strike can still be felt in churches worldwide whenever a believer opens a Bible, sings a hymn, or prays in their native tongue.

So, as we hang cobwebs and carve jack-o'-lanterns this Halloween, let's take a moment to reflect on another significant event that illuminated the darkness in a much different way. On that autumn morning in Wittenberg, one monk's hammer struck not just a church door—but the very conscience of the world.

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Pelahatchie High School celebrates Homecoming 2025



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



Pictured left to right: Philip Nelson, Assistant Principal; Lila Sue Hayes, Dorian Young, Emalyn Waters - Homecoming Queen; Donnie Davis - Escort; Voncille Anderson - Principal; Aliyah Butler - Football Maid; David Barrett - Escort.



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Pelahatchie Farmers Market, Sept. 6




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PAST HEADLINES

2015 - 10 years ago

- "Mid South Baking Company celebrates 20 years in Pelahatchie"
- "Atty. Gen Jim Hood warns Mississippi residents of Experian/T-Mobile data breach: more than 89,000 Mississippians potentially impacted"

2020 - 5 years ago

- "HCC gives alumni awards, Krebs named to HCC Sports Hall of Fame"
- "Buddy Walk veterans come back through Pelahatchie"

2024 - Last Year

- "The importance of American flag retirement ceremonies"
- "Opinion Column: The growing threat of AI deepfakes"

Pelahatchie High School recognizes bus drivers

Please join Pelahatchie High School (PHS) in thanking these bus drivers in recognition for all that they do for the Tribe. These women and men keep the children safe on their travels to and from PHS daily. These staff members play such an important role in the success of our school. Thank each of you for what you mean to PHS. Mr. Edwards thanked them with a sweet treat this morning.



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Pelahatchie celebrates teachers

Congratulations to Ms. Daphine McNair Pelahatchie High School's (PHS) 2025-2026 Teacher of the Year. PHS wants to recognize Ms. McNair for her outstanding dedication to her students, school, and community. She is an integral part of the PHS Tribe, serving not only as the 8th Grade English and AP Language teacher, but also as a coach, mentor, and tireless advocate for student success. Ms. McNair plays a key role in assisting both the Junior High and High School Lady Chiefs Basketball teams, proudly sponsors the JR BETA Club, and never misses a moment to cheer on the students at school-wide events. She recently began the next step in her educational journey, working toward an advanced degree—further proof of her commitment to lifelong learning. Her passion for helping students rise to their full potential is evident inside and outside of the classroom. Please give a big Chiefs-style round of applause to Ms. McNair for being named Teacher of the Year.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



Congrats to April Walsh. PHS is honored to recognize her as Teacher of the Month at Pelahatchie High School. She does a great job as an inclusion teacher at Pelahatchie High. She's pictured in the center. PHS proudly recognizes a teacher who has transitioned into a new role with grace, patience, and skill, proving her dedication to both her students and our school community. Her classroom is a place where students feel supported, as she balances being gentle and understanding while also holding them accountable and encouraging their best work. Beyond her classroom, she consistently goes above and beyond—always one of the first to volunteer when a need arises. Her commitment, flexibility, and servant-hearted leadership make her an incredible asset to the team. The PHS teacher of the month program is sponsored by the Rankin County Kiwanis Club and gives thanks for having Mr. Derek Hayes present to give a special gift to Mrs. Walsh.



Congratulations to our 2025-2026 Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) Teacher of the Year, Lauren Harrell. Her dedication, passion, and love for students shines through her work. She inspires learning, builds confidence, and makes a difference every single day. PES is proud to celebrate Harrell and all she brings to the school community.



Congratulations to the Pelahatchie Elementary School New Teacher of the Year, Juleah Jones. Jones is in her second year of teaching. While she may be new to teaching, she is not new to impacting the lives of children. She goes above and beyond every day to make learning meaningful, engaging, and full of joy for her students. PES is proud to have Jones representing the school.

East Rankin celebrates Homecoming



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy recently celebrated their homecoming with the homecoming football game and homecoming court presentation. The members of the homecoming court include: Claire Myrick, AJ McIlwain, Arin Hawk, Addison Vowell, Addison Derrick (Queen), Neali Holbrooks, EllaGrayce Fortenberry, and Kennedy Laine Harper. Flower Girl: Emma Kate Thompson and Crown Bearer: Camden Gray.



Pastor's Perspective: "Who is My Neighbor?"



By Guest Columnist Spencer Sullivan, Pastor, Pelahatchie Baptist

Special to Pelahatchie News

There is an old Chinese proverb that says: "A good neighbor is a found treasure." Since Melanie and I married, our family has lived in four countries and in fifteen different houses. We've moved a lot and therefore have had many neighbors. Thankfully, I cannot remember many difficult situations with neighbors, regardless of country or neighborhood. In fact, while overseas, a good neighbor once helped us handle a difficult situation that we didn't know how to navigate culturally. Good neighbors are truly like found treasure and I am grateful for the good neighbors that I have here in Pelahatchie. Just before sharing one of His most famous parables, Jesus was asked the question: "Who is my neighbor?" Before asking this question, Jesus and this Jewish religious leader were having a discussion about how one can inherit eternal life. The religious leader suggested that one must keep the two greatest commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neigh-



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bor as yourself." Jesus commended the man and agreed, but only with the condition that one keeps these commandments perfectly (which no one can). The Jewish man trying to justify himself led to the question: "Who is my neighbor?" In other words, he wanted to know just who exactly must he love as much as he loved himself? Jesus answered the question with the parable of the Good Samaritan. If you aren't familiar, I invite you to read it. (Luke 10:30-37)

This parable is so famous that in our culture when we witness a person demonstrating unusual kindness to a stranger, we commonly refer

to him or her as a Good Samaritan. But to fully appreciate what this Samaritan did for the Jewish man that was beaten and left for dead, one must understand the relationship between Samaritans and Jews. I don't have the space to provide a detailed description, but the racial and religious tension between these two people groups rival anything that we see in our world today. They despised one another with deeply embedded animosity and bitterness toward one another.

In the parable, after the Jewish man is mugged and beaten within an inch of his life, both a Jewish priest and a Jewish Levite (assistant to the priest) both passed him by separately. The shock moment of the story is that a Samaritan didn't pass him by, but instead went directly to him in his time of extreme need. Jesus tells us that he used his own provisions, his own animal, and his own money to ensure he received the care he needed. All this for a man from a people group that naturally he was supposed to hate. While the priest and Levite went out of their way to avoid him, he went out of his way to care for him. I love what John MacArthur wrote concerning the Samaritan's actions: "His heart was so full of love that when someone came across his path

Continued on page 14

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“Who is My Neighbor?”

with a desperate need he was able to meet, he did everything he could possibly do. There was never a question or hesitation. In other words, the Samaritan never stopped to ask what the lawyer had asked: “And who is my neighbor?” The far more important question is, “Whose neighbor am I?”

The obvious application of this story is to understand that disciples of Christ are to show this kind of love to everyone, not just people that we justify as ‘our neighbors’ or ‘our people’. But there is more. When this conversation took place, Jesus understood that no one was or is able to keep these commandments perfectly. What the religious leader didn’t know as he was talking with Jesus is that the Good Samaritan was actually meant to represent Jesus Himself. As sinners who consistently rebel and reject God’s commandments and design, we make ourselves enemies of God. And yet, He loves us anyway, He came to us directly, and He shed His own blood to absorb God’s wrath upon sin so that we can be gloriously saved. The beaten man well understood his desperate need for help and yet so many of us have no clue of our desperate need for Jesus. I encourage you to love all people like the Good Samaritan, but I also urge you to consider your need for Jesus.

Soil management, testing, and nutrients



By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

Special to Pelahatchie News

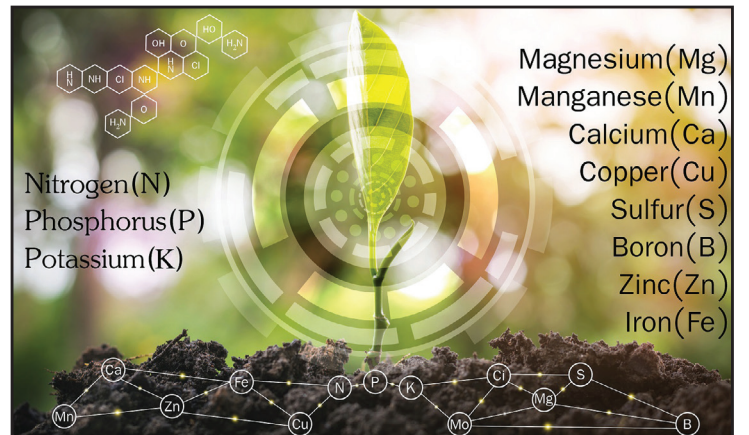
High crop yields, abundant gardens, high forage pastures, and beautiful lawns require management and large amounts of plant nutrients that must be supplied in proper balance.

Soil constantly undergoes physical and chemical changes. Some plant nutrients are removed in harvested crops or harvested hay. Some are lost by leaching or erosion. Soil tests measure available nutrients in the soil and serve as the best guide to profitable liming and fertilizing materials.

The soil reaction, or measure of acidity or alkalinity, is based on a scale of 1 to 14 and is referred to as pH. A pH of 7.0 is neutral. Any values below 7.0 are acid, and any values above 7.0 are alkaline. In areas with high rainfall like Mississippi, soils are generally acid.

The pH of the soil tells you if the soil needs lime. Where it is needed, lime is the most effective and inexpensive aid available for soil improvement.

Acid soil results in poor plant growth, partly because of poor root growth. This means greater susceptibility to drought stress and less efficient use of soil nutrients. Plants growing in acid soil may



Special to Pelahatchie News

show deficiency symptoms of several nutrients.

The best time to lime is 3 months before planting. Thoroughly mixing with the soil, plowing or disking lime in will allow the lime to react more completely. Soil should be tested every 2-3 years.

Soil tests measure available nutrients in the soil and serve as the best guide to profitable liming and fertilizing materials. You can drop by our office at 601 Marquette Road, Brandon, MS to pick up soil testing boxes, or bring your dirt to us. Usually, a quart zip lock bag is enough. Our office staff will be glad to help you box your soil and we will send it to MSU for testing. The cost of each soil sample is \$10.

It usually takes 2 to 3 weeks to obtain results.

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Rankin outdoor weather warning system upgraded

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Rankin County Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce the successful upgrade of all outdoor weather warning sirens throughout unincorporated Rankin County. At a cost of approximately \$1,000,000, the upgrade provides improved and enhanced audible warning of inclement weather. The new system includes improved connectivity to official weather monitoring systems, as well as the ability to focus warnings along identified storm tracks.

“This updated system has been planned for quite some time and has been a high priority for the Board of Supervisors,” remarked Sid Scarborough, Board President. “Public safety is one of our most important priorities in Rankin County. Our citizens living in rural Rankin County rely on our outdoor weather warning system to provide that critical alert when weather threatens. The Board of Supervisors heard from our constituents and we have acted to address their concerns.”



Brian Grantham, Director of Rankin County Emergency Operations Center, added, “I could not be more pleased with this upgraded system. Rankin County’s outdoor weather warning system has been modernized substantially. Citizens in rural Rankin County who may be outdoors when severe weather threatens will have a much greater chance to hear an outdoor warning with this new system and respond by seeking shelter immediately. Because all outdoor weather warning systems are designed to deliver warnings to persons who may be outdoors as weather threatens, we continue to encourage our citizens to use multiple weather warning approaches, such as emergency text messages or other cell phone-based warning systems, as well as a NOAA-certified weather radio. No one system is designed to cover every possibility, so it is important to remain weather-aware by using multiple approaches. And our outdoor weather warning system is not designed to deliver an audible weather warning to citizens who are located inside homes or buildings. This is why it is imperative that our citizens not rely solely on outdoor weather warning systems. Citizens should rely on local broadcast media, cell phone emergency alerts, or a weather radio for weather warnings when inside a building or home.”



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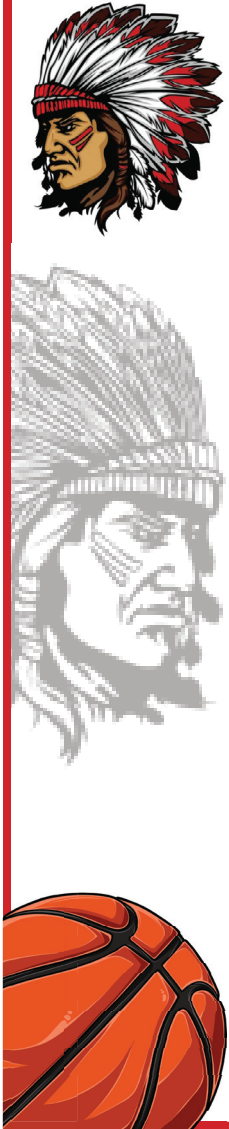
Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025
Doors Open: 9:30 a.m.
Business Meeting: 11 a.m.

Come join your Southern Pine family at the 2025 Annual Membership Meeting! It’s a great day to learn more about your cooperative, cast your vote for our board of directors, and meet the folks who work hard every day to bring the power. We’ll have fun and informative member spotlight booths, a visit from MSU’s Cybersecurity Mobile Unit, representatives from Covington County Hospital, Lowe’s, Scott County Schools Robotics Team, and so much more. Lunch is on us, and we can’t wait to see you there.

Members are encouraged to send in their proxies for a chance to win a pickup, free electricity up to \$1000, and other great prizes!

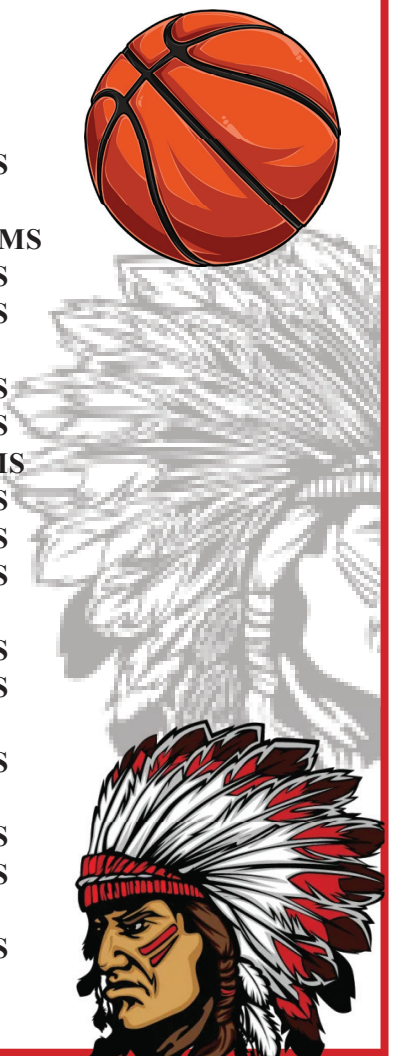
You can vote by mail, on-line or in person for a chance to win!

2025-26 PELAHATCHIE CHIEFS VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE



DATE	TEAM	TIME	TYPE	LOCATION
Sat, Nov 1	@ Pearl	3:15 PM	Scrimmage	Pearl, MS
Sat, Nov 1	@ Ridgeland	6:00 PM	Scrimmage	Ridgeland, MS
Tue, Nov 4	@ Velma Jackson	7:30 PM	Non Region	Camden, MS
Thu, Nov 6	vs Piney Woods	7:30 PM	Non Region	Pelahatchie, MS
Tue, Nov 11	@ Richland	7:30 PM	Non Region	Richland, MS
Thu, Nov 13	@ Leake County	7:30 PM	Non Region	Walnut Grove, MS
Fri, Nov 14	vs Kosciusko	7:30 PM	Non Region	Pelahatchie, MS
Tue, Nov 18	vs Provine	7:30 PM	Non Region	Pelahatchie, MS
Thu, Nov 20	@ Northeast Lauderdale	7:30 PM	Non Region	Meridian, MS
Sat, Nov 22	vs Park Place Christian	1:00 PM	Non Region	Pelahatchie, MS
Sat, Nov 22	vs North Pike	4:00 PM	Non Region	Pelahatchie, MS
Tue, Dec 2	@ Piney Woods	7:30 PM	Non Region	Piney Woods, MS
Thu, Dec 4	vs Pisgah	7:30 PM	Region	Pelahatchie, MS
Fri, Dec 5	vs Hazlehurst	7:30 PM	Non Region	Pelahatchie, MS
Tue, Dec 9	vs Bay Springs	7:30 PM	Non Region	Pelahatchie, MS
Fri, Dec 12	@ Forest	7:30 PM	Non Region	Forest, MS
Tue, Dec 16	vs Crystal Springs	7:30 PM	Non Region	Pelahatchie, MS
Thu, Dec 18	vs Yazoo County	7:30 PM	Non Region	Pelahatchie, MS
Fri, Jan 9	@ Newton	7:30 PM	Non Region	Newton, MS
Tue, Jan 13	vs Lake	7:30 PM	Non Region	Pelahatchie, MS
Fri, Jan 16	@ Scott Central	7:30 PM	Non Region	Forest, MS
Tue, Jan 20	vs Puckett	7:30 PM	Region	Pelahatchie, MS
Tue, Jan 27	vs Newton	7:30 PM	Non Region	Pelahatchie, MS
Fri, Jan 30	@ Lake	7:30 PM	Non Region	Lake, MS
Tue, Feb 3	vs Scott Central	7:30 PM	Non Region	Pelahatchie, MS
Fri, Feb 6	@ Puckett	7:30 PM	Region	Puckett, MS

<https://scores.misshsaa.com/teams/216366/schedule>



CHIEFS JH BASKETBALL 2025

- OCTOBER 13TH VS MCLAURIN
- OCTOBER 14TH VS MAGEE
- OCTOBER 16TH VS @PISGAH
- OCTOBER 20TH VS @PUCKETT
- OCTOBER 21ST VS LEAKE COUNTY
- OCTOBER 23RD VS PISGAH
- OCTOBER 27TH VS PUCKETT
- NOVEMBER 3RD VS @LEAKE COUNTY
- NOVEMBER 10TH VS @MCLAURIN



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