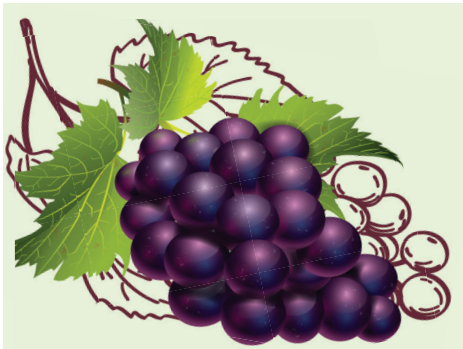




PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



October 2026 ■ Volume 15, Issue 10 ■ Pelahatchie, MS

Pelahatchie Mayor's prayer breakfast features Rep. Guest

The mayor's prayer breakfast was held on September 5th at Pelahatchie Baptist Church. U.S. Representative Michael Guest, MS 3rd Congressional District, was the guest speaker. Maggie Brown sang the national anthem.



Red frame photos by Susie A. Wolfe. All other photos special to Pelahatchie News.

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Muscadine Festival '26 a fun-filled success



Special to Pelahatchie News

Please check inside for highlights from festival weekend. Photospread on page 8.

Pelahatchie ES receives new classroom helpers



Special to Pelahatchie News

By Guest Columnist Rebecca Nelson

Way to Battle is a non-profit organization that serves as a character education, service learning, and peer support initiative. It uses the organization's founder stories and "Battle Pup" mascot to teach young children age-appropriate concepts of empathy, resilience, and community kindness.

Reinforcing the foundational message that "No One" Continued on page 3

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Jellystone Park Labor Day fun



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Jellystone is a popular family-friendly RV park resort in the Pelahatchie, MS area. Here are just some of the highlights of the fun everyone had over the Labor Day weekend.

PES teachers receive ECE awards

Special to Pelahatchie News

Success can only be achieved when dedicated educators, curious students, and a supportive community work hand-in-hand. Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) is proud to announce that Mallory Parker, Adrienne Manning, Maegan Parker, and Katie Barnett have been recognized at the district level for their outstanding commitment to early childhood education.

Their passion, creativity, and tireless hard work lay the absolute best foundation for the youngest learners. Please join PES in giving a massive round of applause to these phenomenal teachers for this well-deserved honor.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



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Edwards receives SP Service Grant



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Savanna Edwards, Southern Pine Electric's 2026 winner of Cooperative Energy's Powering Possibilities Community Service Grant! Savanna was selected in recognition of her dedication to serving others and the positive impact she has made in her community. Her work is a wonderful example of the cooperative principle of Concern for Community.

As Southern Pine Electric's recipient, Savanna will receive a \$500 cash prize, and Cooperative Energy and Southern Pine Electric will make a \$1,000 charitable donation in her name to a qualifying nonprofit organization serving our area. Southern Pine is proud to recognize Savanna and celebrate the difference members are making in the communities they call home.

Pelahatchie Elementary School receives new classroom helpers

Battles Alone”, this initiative promotes inclusion, reduces feelings of isolation, and builds a supportive, unified classroom culture. Battle Pups were donated to each of the kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd-grade classrooms. Each classroom named their new classroom pup and have warmly welcomed them into their classroom community.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



Cross Roads Baptist Church



Sunday Schedule:

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
 10:00 a.m. - LifeGroups for all ages

Wednesday Schedule:

5:30 p.m. - Family Dinner (Call to make reservations)
 6:30 p.m. - Prayer Meeting; Youth Worship;
 Children's Activities; Ladies Bible Study

Online Worship Opportunity:

(Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook Page)
 8:30 a.m. - Worship Service every Sunday

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City Beat: Mayor, Alderman meeting for Monday, September 8, 2026



Special to
Pelahatchie News

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

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Pelahatchie met in regular session on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Mayor Karl Vanhorn called the meeting to order, followed by the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call was taken with Alderwoman Diane Hill, Alderwoman Sandra Harvey, Alderman David Gray, Alderman Ed-die Jones, and Alderman James Harrell present.

Residents or Visitors' Business:

Kathy Mosley addressed the board regarding her water bill.

Department Discussions: Police:

During department discussions, the Police Department brought forward a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Pelahatchie and the MS Dept of Transportation for a new LPR (License Plate Reader) system. The MOU allows the town to put the system into MDOT right-of-ways to track crime, placing up to 12 LPRs in and out of town. It was noted that Natchez and Vicksburg have recently done it and the town can opt out at any time. Alderman Jones made the motion to approve the MOU, seconded by Alderman Gray, and the motion passed with all in favor.

The board then discussed and enacted a \$30.00 fee for insufficient funds on court and police fine payments. Alderman Jones made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Hill, and it passed with all in favor.

The police department also reported that office renovations are mostly completed. They requested to use

drug seizure funds to pay \$1,400 for all new chairs and \$1,400 for blinds at the large front office window. Alderman Jones made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Hill, and the motion passed with all in favor.

A separate request to use limited Drug Seized Funds for PD emergencies was taken off the agenda for now.



New Business:

1. Discuss, consider, and vote to approve minutes from previous regular board meeting (August 3, 2026). Alderman Jones made the motion, seconded by Alderman Gray. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

2. Discuss, consider, and vote to approve the payment of the unpaid claims docket. Alderman Jones made the motion, seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion passed with a 3-2 vote, with Alderwoman Harvey and Alderwoman Hill voting nay.

3. Discuss, consider, and vote to approve disbursement of bank draft payment to Morgan and White Insurance *which secondary to BCBS* (\$1,117.16). Alderman Jones made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Hill. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

4. Discuss, consider, and vote to approve bank draft payment to EMC Insurance *which carries the city's property insurance* (\$6,804.32). Alderman Jones made the motion, seconded by Alderman Harrell. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

5. Discuss, consider, and vote to approve bank draft payment to Blue Cross Insurance (\$8,792.60). Alderman Jones made the motion, seconded by Alderman Gray. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

6. Approval and ratification of payment of payroll for August 2026 - General (\$73,092.79), Enterprise (\$28,866.63). Alderman Jones made the motion, seconded by Alderman Gray. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Alderman Discussions:

During the alderman discussions, it was noted that the local washateria building on the square has been sold. It was also noted that there are street lights out in the area, and caution tape has been put on poles that have lights out. The board noted the need to check street lights on Dillard Ave. and the one next to the car wash in town.

Alderman Harrell reported washed out crossings at 503 and 505 Grimes.

Executive Session and Adjournment:

The board entered into an executive session at 6:25 p.m. At 6:40 p.m., the town attorney made an announcement citing a case of extraordinary emergency which would pose immediate or irrevocable harm or damage to person or property within the jurisdiction of the public body, falling under the Open Meetings Act Section F.

The board came out of executive session at 6:51 p.m., noting that one matter was only discussed.

Adjournment:

Alderman Jones made a motion to dismiss, seconded by Alderman Gray. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

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October 16 at 10:30 a.m.

BRUNCH & BOOKS: ADULT BOOK CLUB

October 21 at 11:00 a.m.

LEFT ON READ: TEEN BOOK CLUB

October 21 at 3:30 p.m.

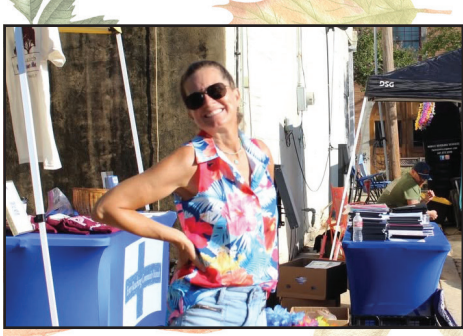
PELAHATCHIE PETALS GARDEN CLUB MEETING

October 22 at 5 p.m.

HALLOWEEN MOVIE MATINEE: HOCUS POCUS

October 30 at 3 p.m.

Pelahatchie Farmer's Market
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Rivers Greenhouse welcomes pumpkin and gourd season



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Southern Pine opens student art contest



STUDENT ART CONTEST

Special to Pelahatchie News

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Southern Pine Electric Student Art Contest is open to students in grades 7-12 who live with a parent or guardian who is a Southern Pine Electric member. The contest opened on September 14, and all submissions must be dropped off at one of the five Southern Pine Electric locations by October 15.

Winners will be selected in three categories: Grades 7-8, Grades 9-10, and Grades 11-12. A grand prize winner will be selected by a panel of judges not affiliated with Southern Pine Electric. Category winners will receive a \$50 Visa gift card, and the grand prize winner will receive a \$250 Visa gift card.

Artwork will be displayed at the annual meeting, held at the Southern Pine Headquarters in Taylorsville on November 12. The winning artists and their artwork will be featured in Today in Mississippi magazine, and the artwork will be displayed in the Southern Pine Electric lobby closest to the student's residence for one year.

Contest Rules: Artwork must be original and relate to one of the contest themes:
Bringing the Power; Lines, Lights, and Legacy; Electrical Safety;
Empowering our Community

Minimum size of 16" x 20" in landscape or portrait orientation.

Contest entries will be accepted from September 14 to October 15, 2026.

Submit artwork at any Southern Pine office by October 15. Applicants must complete an art submission form upon arrival. No late entries will be accepted. The student's name, contact phone number, school or homeschool, and artwork title must be written on the back of the submission or attached there.

Artists may use markers, crayons, colored pencils, watercolors, canvas, paper, acrylic, clay, and more. Use your imagination to bring your art to life. The contest is limited to one entry per student.



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Distance Learning Spotlight of the Month

Special to Pelahatchie News

Distance Learning Spotlight is for a teacher who demonstrates the most engagement and quality instruction for our distance learners at the Alternative School.

Meet Melissa Luckey of Raleigh High School. She is an alumni of Pelahatchie High School and serves as an English teacher.

“I’ve always wanted to be a teacher

from the time I was little,” Luckey said. “I love the kids I teach, and I love language, which is what I currently teach.”

Luckey is in her 18th year working in education and her first year at Raleigh High School.



Special to Pelahatchie News
Melissa Luckey

PHS girls golf team places first at Forest CC tournament



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to the Pelahatchie High School girls golf team for placing first in the tournament at Forest CC and to KatieBelle Herrington for placing #1 overall female low score.

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2. GS Gemma Swid...	19:14.3	AL		7	
3. AW Adalyn Widrick	19:20.0	NY		7	
4. OS Olivia Sadow...	19:25.9	NY		7	
5. AA Amelia Allan	19:30.5	AL		7	
6. IM *Isabella McL...	19:31.2	MS	12	7	
7. DE Della Ernst	19:32.0	SD		7	
8. V *Chloe Shaha	19:36.0	AK		7	
MI *Josie Niksich	19:36.7	MN		7	
MI *Meredith Ca...	19:38.5	KY	20	Jr	

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie celebrates the 44th annual Muscadine Festival

This year, Pelahatchie celebrated its 44th Annual Muscadine Jubilee. Congratulations to this year's winners of the Muscadine Stomp! The day's winners include Officer Garrett Irwin, who won the celebrity category; Nita Gaines, who won the adult category; and Jasmine, who won the inaugural youth competition.



Photo credits are given on each photo.

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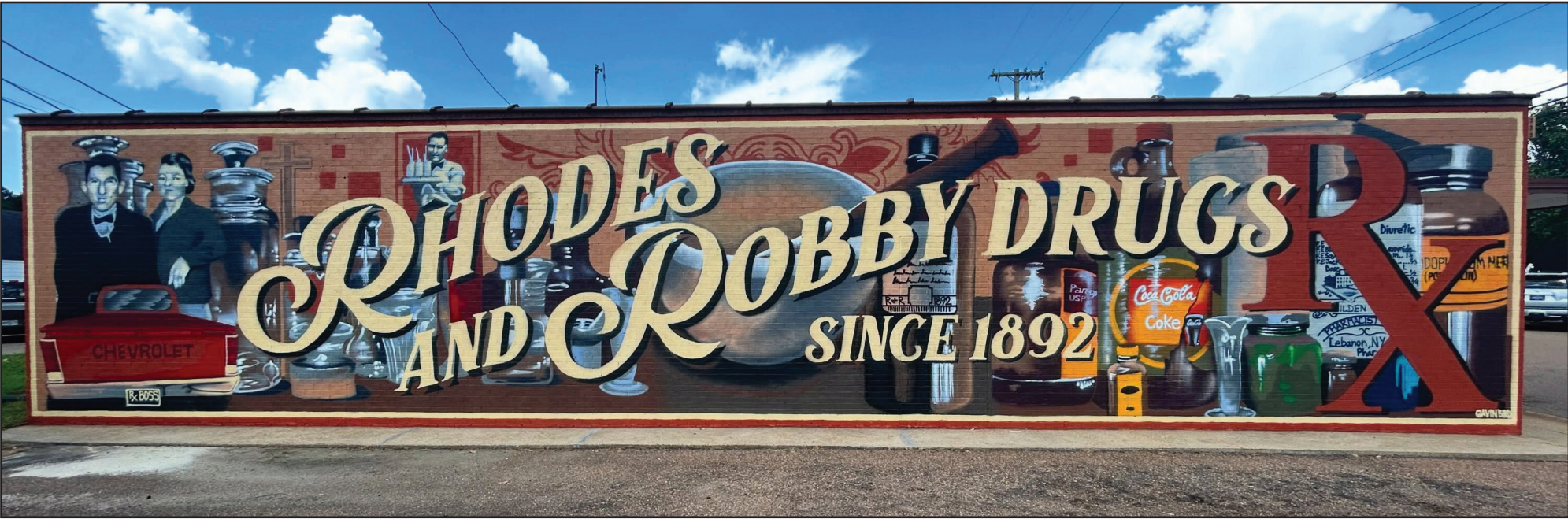
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Rhodes and Robby mural project complete



Special to Pelahatchie News

PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK

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PAST HEADLINES

2016 - 10 years ago

- TelehealthONE opening kiosk in Pelahatchie Fred's
- "Ribbon cutting held for Griffin Medical Clinic"

2021 - 5 years ago

- "Hebert wins PHS door decorating contest"
- "Yogi on the Lake holds Muscadine Stomp"

2025 - Last Year

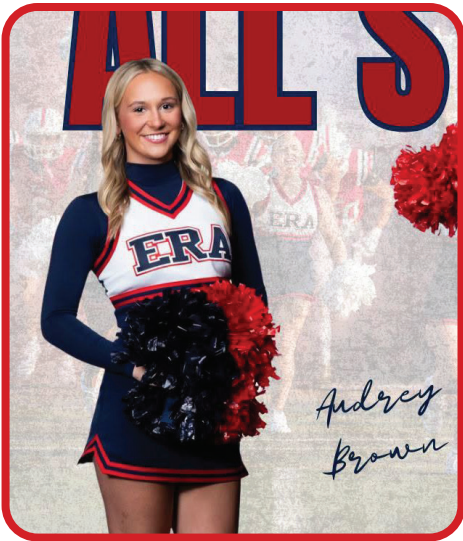
- "Sullivans Named Belhaven Alumni of The Year for Service, Leadership"
- "Local family publishes book based on daughter's journey with alopecia"

Four ERA cheerleaders chosen for the All-Star Spirit Squad

These cheerleaders will be representing ERA in the MAIS All-Star Football games on December 4th at Jackson Prep.

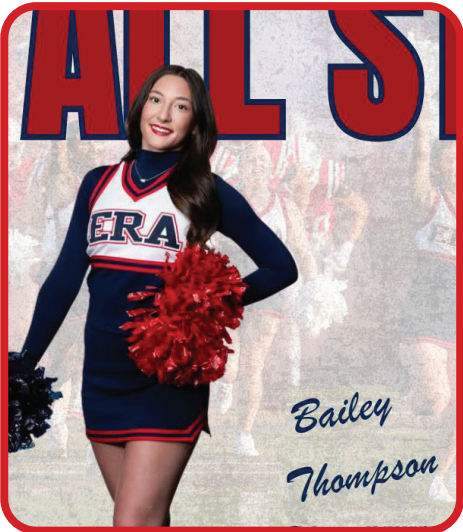


Taitum Thomas

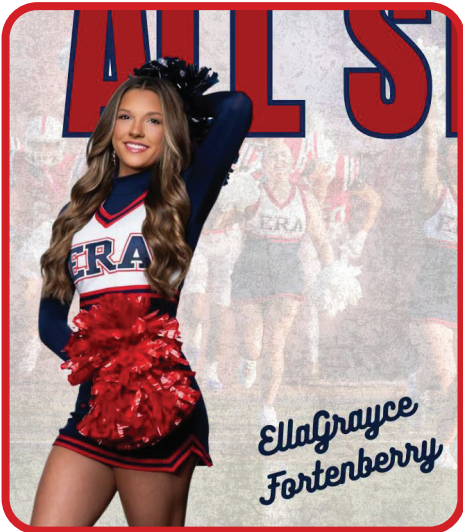


Audrey Brown

Photos special to Pelahatchie News



Bailey Thompson



EllaGrayce Fortenberry

Home Weatherization and Energy Efficiency



Special to
Pelahatchie News

By Doug Carter, Rankin
County Extension Agent

The first day of fall will be September 22nd, with winter just around the corner. As we prepare for cooler weather and the holidays, please don't forget to prepare to make your home energy efficient and also prepare your yard for cooler weather.

Home weatherization:

- 1) Have your heating system serviced and change your filters to ensure optimum efficiency and hopefully to avoid a costly breakdown.
- 2) Conserve energy by sealing up drafty windows with weather stripping caulk or consider installing clear window insulation films. Also, don't forget your doors. Install draft stoppers.
- 3) Capture solar energy by opening window curtains or blinds during the day to allow sunlight in to heat rooms and close blinds and drapes at night to keep the cold drafts out.



Special to Pelahatchie News

4) Adjust your ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to create an updraft that forces warm air down from the ceilings to living areas.

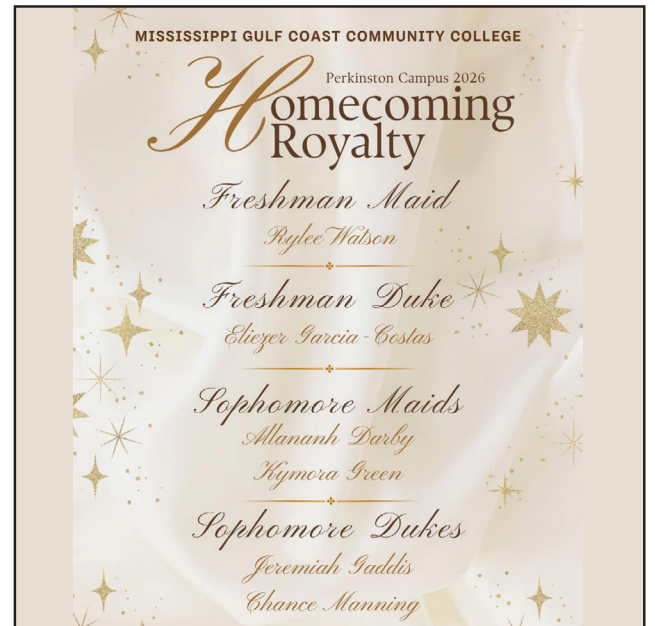
5) Consider using a home humidifier during winter months to help conserve energy because humid air feels warmer than dry air. This will let you set your thermostat to a lower temperature.

Winter Yard Preparation:

- 1) Fallen leaves can be used as mulch in flower beds and gardens. This helps prevent erosion, slows down winter weeds and helps the soil hold moisture. Leaf mulch also serves as insulation for roots and bulbs.
- 2) Leaves, twigs and logs provide overwintering sites for insects and other animals. Instead of raking, bagging, and throwing away organic yard waste, just leave the leaves.

Source: *Green Tips for Bulldogs*, September 2026, Mississippi State University Extension

Mississippi Gulf Coast CC names Homecoming Court



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to MGCCC Freshman Maid Rylee Watson. She is a graduate of Pelahatchie High School.

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Performance Therapy Pelahatchie hosts Hinds student

Recently, Performance Therapy Pelahatchie had the pleasure of hosting Jakira Smith, a student of the Hinds Community College Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program, for the past three weeks during her first clinical rotation.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

PHS's JROTC Color Guard is ready for game night

The Pelahatchie High School (PHS) JROTC is ready for game night. The Cadets have been putting in the work and practicing the Color Guard presentation in preparation for Friday's high school football game. The students have been working hard to make sure they are sharp, disciplined, and ready to proudly present the colors before kickoff. PHS is proud of the professionalism and dedication these cadets continue to demonstrate.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News





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Rehobeth Baptist Church holds Vacation Bible School

Just before summer ended, Rehobeth Baptist Church hosted Vacation Bible School for a time of both learning and fun. The theme was “I’m in the Lord’s Army.” Here are just a few of the highlights.



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Pastor's Perspective: Blessed are the Poor in Spirit



By Guest Columnist
 Spencer Sullivan, Pastor,
 Pelahatchie Baptist

Special to
 Pelahatchie News

When I think about Jesus, sometimes my thoughts contemplate Him as the fully glorified King who will one day return and reign forever and ever. Certainly, there are other times when I think of Him as the Savior who endured the cruelest of deaths on a Roman cross, absorbing the wrath of God to pay for my sin. All of this so that I can actually be forgiven and made right with God. When I read the Gospels in the Bible, I often think about what it must have been like to walk with Him and witness His life and ministry. Of course, I think about witnessing the astonishing miracles that are a result of Him being the Son of God. But, then I'm also fascinated by His humanity; how He relates to us because He experienced every emotion and physical aspect of life just as you and I do. What did He look like? What did His voice sound like when He talked and also when He sang? What was it like to hear Him teach and preach? I imagine what it must have been like to witness Him preach His

famous Sermon on the Mount, recorded in Matthew 5-7. Jesus was fascinating in every way, including the way He taught. In His Sermon on the Mount, His teaching was so different than anything anyone had ever heard. He contradicted how the world thought and taught on the subjects He addressed. Many of His statements would be considered paradoxical, and that includes the 8 statements He used to begin His Sermon on the Mount. We know these statements today as the Beatitudes.

Jesus began by saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." From the very beginning, through this first statement, Jesus challenged and contradicted the crowd's natural way of thinking. Did He just say that the poor were blessed? Did He just say that the kingdom of heaven belonged to the poor? Being poor or even being rich is somewhat relative to context, but we understand that to be poor means to have less than most. More than that, to be poor generally means not having everything you need. One of the benefits of being



Special to Pelahatchie News

poor is that in that state, a person truly understands what it means to be in need of help. So, how is one 'poor in spirit'? Being 'poor in spirit' is to recognize our situation before God. Our sin has caused a separation between us and God. Our sin places us rightly underneath the wrath of God and there's nothing we can do to change that reality. Just this week, I actually heard one of my favorite preachers, Matt Chandler, make this statement on the first Beatitude: "Being poor in spirit is coming to God with a sense of total moral bankruptcy, recognizing that you enter the kingdom of heaven with nothing and know Christ is your

everything." To be 'poor in spirit' is have the posture of absolute and complete reliance upon God for our salvation. We are in need of what only He can provide us. And the blessing of coming to God poor in spirit is, by His grace, that we are saved and mercy has been granted. Ours is the kingdom of Heaven!

Quickly, let's consider the opposite of being poor in spirit. Those who are not 'poor in spirit' do not see their need for

God and His mercy. They don't see the kingdom of heaven as a value; they see the kingdom of heaven as something they deserve. Those who are not 'poor in spirit' are those that feel entitled to the kingdom of heaven as if it were made for them.

So, what is your posture before Almighty God? As we have considered what it means to be 'poor in spirit', does that describe you today? Have you come to Him with your moral bankruptcy, recognizing your complete dependency upon Him? Let us always have this posture before our merciful and gracious God.

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Thompson receives RCSD awards



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Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) is incredibly proud to announce that Scarlett Castillo-Thompson has been recognized at the district level for her outstanding commitment to early childhood education while teaching at RES last year! PES is glad to have her on the team this year sharing her passion, creativity, and tireless hard work to build a strong foundation for the youngest learners. Please join PES in giving a massive round of applause to her for this well-deserved honor.

Castillo awarded employee of the month



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Congratulations to Mrs. Sue Castillo (second from right) for being named the RCSD Great to Best of the Month - Elementary Classified Employee of the Month for August. Pelahatchie Elementary School is so thankful for the many things she does to keep the school organized and running smoothly.



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ERA names Homecoming maids and Student Council

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For His Glory

Photos special to Pelahatchie News



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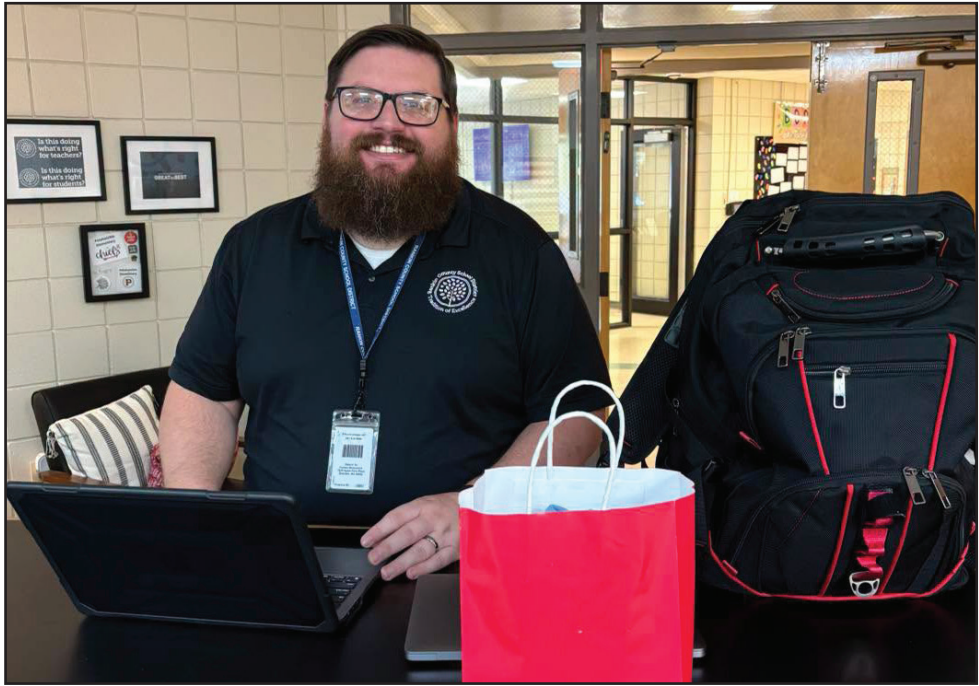
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PES celebrates IT Professionals Day



Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently on September 17, Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) celebrated Happy IT Professionals Day! A special thanks to Jordan Worrell, PES' dedicated IT specialist, for everything he does to keep Pelahatchie Elementary connected and printing—day after day. His troubleshooting, support, and care behind the scenes make a real difference for the students, staff, and everyone who relies on his work to keep the school's technology working as it should. PES truly appreciates him and the impact he has every single day.

Nelson named August student athlete



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) is proud to recognize an exemplary scholar-athlete for the Month of August: Haylee Nelson. Demonstrating true commitment both in the classroom and on the field, she sets a wonderful standard for what it means to balance academic achievement with athletics. By earning her spot on the honor roll, she proves that focus and hard work begin with her education. Her energy, leadership, and work ethic shine across both softball and cheerleading. Whether making plays on the softball field or energizing the crowds during cheer routines, she gives 110% effort in every single practice and performance. Her grit, determination, and positive attitude inspire her teammates and represent our school community with distinction. Congratulations to 7th grader Haylee Nelson on this well-deserved honor. Thank you for leading by example and setting a high standard of excellence.

Perry earns friendship award for August



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School's (PHS) Character Trait for the month of August is friendship. PHS is proud to recognize Morgan Perry for consistently exemplifying the character trait of friendship. True friendship means actively using words and actions to show others you care, and Morgan embodies this spirit every day through genuine empathy, kindness, and inclusion. Whether offering encouragement to peers, reaching out to ensure no one feels left out, or building strong, positive connections across campus, Morgan leaves a lasting mark on our school community. Thank you, Morgan Perry, for demonstrating that PHS is truly better together.



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