



PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



October 2025 ■ Volume 14, Issue 10 ■ Pelachatchie, MS

Sullivans Named Belhaven Alumni of The Year for Service, Leadership

Special to Pelachatchie News

Belhaven University announces Spencer and Melanie Sullivan of Pelachatchie, Mississippi, as the recipients of its 2025 Alumni of the Year Award. The Sullivans, both 2001 graduates of Belhaven, are being recognized for their lifelong commitment to service. From Melanie's dedication to her students to Spencer's founding of a children's soccer ministry, their lives reflect a deep passion for serving others and embody Belhaven University's mission "to serve and not to be served."

"Our award recipients are chosen not only for success in their field, but for how well they exemplify the mission of our University," said Frank Laws, Associate Vice President of Advancement. "In this case, Spencer and Mel-

anie meet that criteria and in a very direct way. Their lives are a great encouragement to our current students, prospective students, and our alumni. We couldn't be more pleased to have them back home for homecoming and for the awards."

Spencer, who earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sports Ministry, and Melanie, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, have spent their lives committed to service. Married shortly after graduating, the Sullivans followed a call to minister overseas, spending 12 years in the Middle East working with unreached communities and refugees. Spencer's sports ministry and strategic mission leadership took him across 10 countries,



Special to Pelachatchie News

Alumni of the Year Melanie (Moore) Sullivan (left) and Spencer Sullivan, Class of 2001.

while Melanie worked closely with displaced families, offering compassion and support.

In 2018, the couple returned to Mississippi, continuing their commitment to service in their hometown of Pelachatchie. Spencer serves as pastor of Pelachatchie Baptist Church and sits on the boards of multiple ministries focused on global missions. Melanie is a special education teacher at Pelachatchie Elementary School and is pursuing a Master of Education in Dyslexia Therapy at Mississippi College.

The Sullivans will be formally honored during Belhaven's Homecoming & Family Weekend, where they will be celebrated by fellow alumni, students, faculty, and the Belhaven community.

Crooked Creek holds raffle to support local pup

Special to Pelachatchie News

Recently, Crooked Creek Animal Hospital held a raffle to support beloved therapy dog Griffin, a black poodle, who is now fighting cancer. He will travel to Memphis every 3 weeks for chemotherapy. The purchased raffle tickets will help to cover his treatments. Griffin has joined Crooked Creek for many years visiting MS Care Center of Morton, as well as various school and D.A.R.E. events.

"Griffin isn't just our dog, he's family, our best friend, our comfort through life's hardest days," His mom stated, "What makes him even more special is the way he has touched so many others. Through his therapy work, he

has spent countless hours in nursing homes and hospitals, brightening rooms, lifting spirits, and bringing peace and joy to people who needed it most."

Three gift baskets were available with a combined value of over \$2000. To all of those who donated, the hospital staff cannot thank you enough.

The "Fall" basket was valued at \$1070.

The MSU basket was valued at \$700



Special to Pelachatchie News

Therapy dog Griffin

and the Ole Miss basket was valued at \$750. Tickets were sold for \$5 each, 5 for \$20, or 30 for \$100.

The raffle was a great success. The drawing was held on October 3rd. The winners for the raffle were: Ole-Miss basket: Kieta Goolsby; Fall basket: Kathy McMillan; and MSU basket: Misty Harris.

For more information or to make a donation, please contact the hospital at (601) 854-7808 or creekcrooked@gmail.com.

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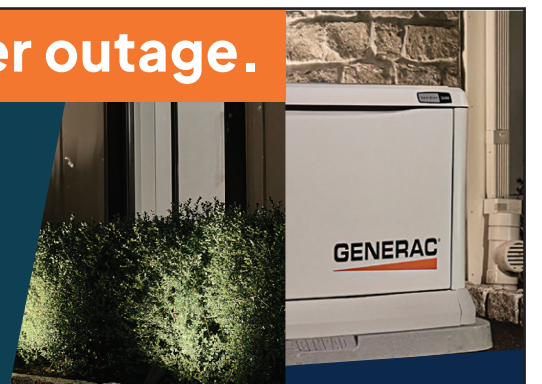
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Pelahatchie High School Hosts Lunch and Learn Sessions



By Guest Columnist
Voncille Anderson, Principal,
Pelahatchie High School

The purpose of our Lunch and Learn sessions is to provide students with direct access to professionals in careers they are interested in pursuing. These sessions give students the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations, ask questions, and learn about the educational and career paths that can help them achieve their goals.

Special to
Pelahatchie News



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

at the beginning of the school year. We strive to secure professionals who can provide students with a full picture of what it takes to succeed in their respective fields.

While the program is driven by senior interest, all students are encouraged to attend, participate, and ask questions. For many, this may be the first step in exploring career paths that spark their interest early.

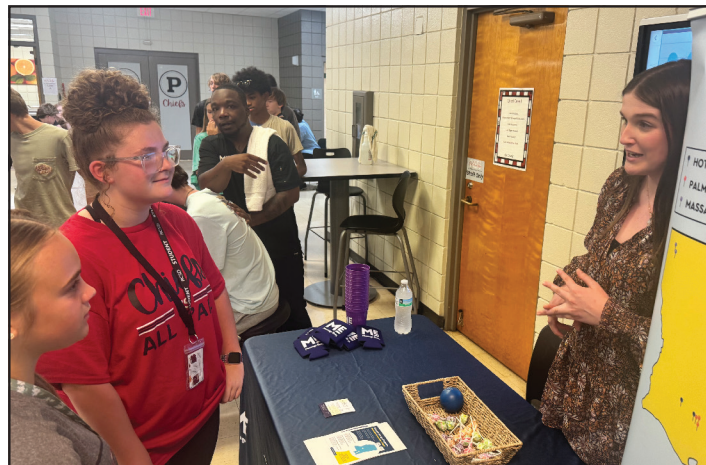
Colleges are also invited to participate, offering students valuable information about entrance requirements, costs, and available scholarships.

If you are interested in sharing information about your business or career, please contact Mr. Eric Brooks at Pelahatchie High School. By sharing your expertise, time, and resources, you help create meaningful opportunities that connect learning to real-world experiences.

Pelahatchie High School appreciates your interest in investing in our students' future and supporting the mission of education through your involvement. Together, we are building pathways that empower the next generation of leaders, innovators, and community members.

So far, we have been pleased to host The SunRay Companies (which manages local hotels and Massage Envy), the Mississippi Realtor Institute, and Ms. Dannielle Young of W Real Estate, LLC. Most recently we were honored to have recruiters from Holmes Community College and The University of Southern Mississippi join us.

The guests we invite are selected based on interest surveys completed by seniors



P.O. Box 771
Pelahatchie, MS 39145
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Publisher/Sales
Clay Mansell
claymansell@pelahatchienews.com

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

Writers
Kenneth McDade, Katie White, Amy Lyle

Copy Editor
Emma Ellard

City Beat Writer
Shaun McInnish, Sr.

Graphic Designer
Holly Embry
designer@swrankinnews.com

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

For submission information, email
news@pelahatchienews.com.

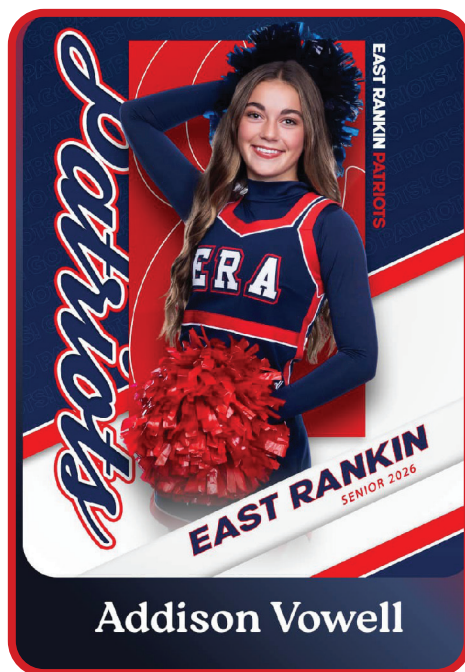
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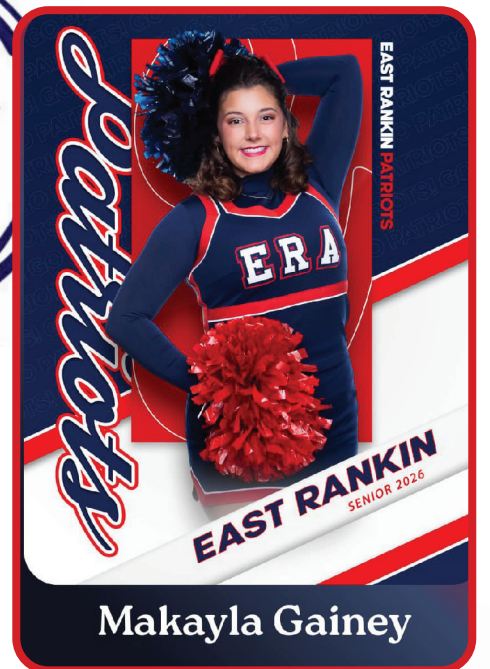
Three ERA cheerleaders named 2025 MAIS All-Stars



Addison Vowell



Savannah Smithers



Makayla Gainey

Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Neighbors Gather in Faith at Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

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

The scent of bacon and fresh coffee greeted everyone who stepped into the Pelahatchie Baptist Church Fellowship Hall on Saturday morning, September 6. From the moment you walked in, you could already tell it was going to be a great breakfast—and it didn't disappoint. A thick guest book lay open at the entrance, its pages filling quickly with the names of early arrivals before they joined the lively hum of conversation and the aroma of a home-cooked meal.

Mayor Karl VanHorn welcomed the crowd, which included a long list of familiar faces from across Rankin County. Among them were Michelle Adcock, Rankin County Circuit Clerk, and Steve Gaines, District 4 Supervisor for Rankin County, along with several town aldermen and other local officials who joined neighbors and church members for a morning of prayer and fellowship.

Bro. Spencer Sullivan opened the program with a heartfelt invocation, and Alderman Eddie Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance. Nikki Shoemaker followed with a soaring rendition of the National Anthem and later returned to the micro-

phone to perform an original song. It almost seemed as if she had written the piece especially for this occasion. The lyrics reminded everyone that you nev-



er really know what someone is going through on the inside that might shape the way they act on the outside—and that we should meet others with grace and compassion. The message, paired with her soulful delivery, earned warm applause from the audience.

The breakfast—prepared by Andy Johns, Gary Carpenter, Doyle Grisson, Eugene Pennington, and Jimmy Pace—was classic Southern comfort: hot, hearty, and served with a smile. The biscuits smothered in gravy, paired with a fresh glass of orange juice, were a personal highlight, and quickly became a favorite topic at the tables. Guests shared stories and laughter as the Fellowship Hall filled with the easy chatter of friends catching up.

Shoemaker's music set the stage for keynote speaker Rep. Lee Yancey, a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives representing the 74th District. Yancey delivered a strong, faith-based speech that asked an important question: How do we want to be remembered? Drawing from Luke 23:42—"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom"—he reminded listeners that the way we live our lives determines the legacy we leave behind. His message of faith and reflection struck a chord with the audience and was met with warm applause.

Door prizes from local businesses—from Crooked Letter Kitchen and



Crawbillys to Rankin County Co-op and Down Right Southern—added a fun finish to the morning. Sponsors ranging from local churches and fitness centers to banks and small businesses helped make the event possible, and special thanks were given to Cooper Berry Farms, Charles Lindsey, and Rita Mashburn for providing the fresh muscadines and homemade jelly.

As Bro. Jerry Hamilton closed the gathering with a benediction, the feeling in the room was clear: the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast remains more than a yearly tradition. It's a reminder of how Pelahatchie—neighbors, leaders, and friends—comes together in faith and fellowship to start the Muscadine Jubilee weekend on the right note.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

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WLBT's Walker crowned 2025 Muscadine Stomp Champ at Jubilee

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

Downtown Pelahatchie came alive Saturday, September 13 as residents and visitors gathered on the town square for the 2025 Pelahatchie Muscadine Jubilee, a daylong celebration of food, music, and all things muscadine. Among the day's highlights, nothing drew more cheers than the famous Muscadine Stomp—the messy, grape-squishing showdown that has become the signature event of the festival. Contestants rolled up their pants, stepped into giant barrels of muscadines, and stomped with all their might as the crowd clapped and hollered.

This year's stomp featured a lively mix of community leaders and familiar faces: Pelahatchie City Clerk Heather Pennypacker; Allayna Jolley from the Rankin County Circuit Clerk's office; Brandon Walker of WLBT; Shane Sanders, Superintendent of the Rankin County School District; Bro. Scott Walters of All Things New (Rev. 21:5); and Yusef from the Pelahatchie Maintenance Department. The friendly competition was emceed by Tom Miles, former Mississippi state representative and now Scott County Chancery Clerk, whose playful commentary kept the crowd laughing between rounds.

When the stomping was done, Brandon Walker of WLBT emerged as the 2025 Muscadine Stomp champion, edging out the field with a combination of speed, style, and sheer determi-



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



The Winner!



nation. Walker's energetic performance brought the crowd to its feet.

"I thought it was a great experience," Walker said afterward. "Being a part of this festival was a great experience. I have always been a big advocate for the local community, and I was honored to be allowed to participate—and even more honored to be picked as the winner of the 2025 Muscadine Jubilee Stomp."

The Muscadine Stomp is more than just a spectacle; it's a nod to the traditional method of grape crushing and a playful salute to the region's love of the muscadine grape. Families crowded close to watch contestants churn the fruit into juice, and children squealed as the grape juice splashed from the barrels.

The Stomp isn't just a contest—it's a celebration of Pelahatchie's spirit, bringing neighbors, families, and visitors together for laughter, friendly competition, and a shared love of the town and maybe the muscadine grape. As the barrels emptied and the cheers faded, the 2025 Muscadine Stomp reminded everyone why the Jubilee is a beloved tradition, leaving memories—and a little grape juice—lingering long after the day ended. And we're already looking forward to seeing Brandon Walker back next year to defend his crown—hopefully he keeps practicing his stomping skills between now and then!

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Pelahatchie Library October Events



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OCT. 9TH AT 5:30 P.M.

SENIOR SOCIAL
OCT. 14TH AT 11 A.M.

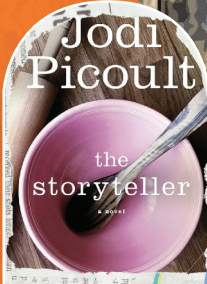
ADULT BOOK CLUB
OCT. 15TH AT 11 A.M.

GARDEN CLUB
OCT. 16TH AT 5:30 P.M.


SEATBELT SAFETY WITH MDOT
OCT. 23RD AT 5 P.M.

SENIOR SOCIAL
OCT. 28TH AT 11 A.M.

TEEN BOOK CLUB
OCT. 29TH AT 3:30 P.M.



Jodi Picoult
the storyteller



SEATBELT SAFETY
WITH MDOT

PHS and ERA participate in See You At The Pole 2025

See You at the Pole™ (SYATP), the global day of student prayer, began in 1990 as a grassroots movement with ten students praying at their school. Decades later, millions pray on their campuses on the fourth Wednesday in September. SYATP is a prayer rally where students meet at the school flagpole before school to lift up their friends, families, teachers, school, and nation to God. It is a student-initiated, student-organized, and student-led event that is supported by over 100 ministries across the country.



Crooked Creek Animal Hospital

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



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City Beat: Mayor, Alderman meeting for Tuesday, September 2, 2025



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

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at Town Hall. Mayor Karl VanHorn called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Aldermen David Gray, Eddie Jones, and James Harrell and Alderwoman Sandra Harvey were present. Alderwoman Diane Hill was absent.

Department Discussions:

Police Department – Discussion included the transfer of a forfeited gun into police inventory. Alderman Jones made a motion and Alderman Harrell seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0 with all in favor.

Clerk – Announcements included the upcoming Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, September 6, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. and planning for the Muscadine Jubilee on Saturday, September 13, 2025.

Zoning – A variance request was presented. Brian Hall requested approval to move a house onto the vacant lot where a home had previously stood. Alderman Jones made a motion and Alderman Harrell seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0 all in favor.

New Business:

1. Approval of Minutes from the August 4, 2025 meeting – Alderman Jones made a motion and Alderman Harrell seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-1.

2. Approval of Payment of the Unpaid Claims Docket – Alderman Jones made a motion and Alderman Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-1.



3. Approval of Bank Draft Payment to Morgan and White Insurance in the amount of \$1,146.19 – Alderman Jones made a motion and Alderman Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-1.

4. Approval of Bank Draft Payment to Blue Cross Insurance in the amount of \$9,052.36 – Alderman Jones made a motion and Alderman Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0 all in favor.

5. Approval of Bank Draft Payment to EMC In-

urance in the amount of \$6,270.81 – Alderman Jones made a motion and Alderman Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0 all in favor.

6. Approval and Ratification of Payroll for August 2025 in the amounts of General \$81,278.08 and Enterprise \$31,817.93 – Alderman Jones made a motion and Alderman Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-1.

7. Amendment of the 2024 Budget to Actual – Alderman Jones made a motion and Alderman Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0 all in favor.

Discussions:

Alderman Jones reminded everyone it was still hurricane season and reiterated everyone always stay weather aware. Mayor VanHorn stated that Entergy is continuing working with the town to repair non-functioning street lights. Tornado sirens were also discussed. Concerns were raised that the system is obsolete and would require replacement if testing failed in the future. City stated they were looking at possible grants for tornado siren upgrades.

A motion was made to adjourn at 6:22 PM by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderwoman Harvey with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

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Lady Patriots Undefeated, MAIS District 2-4A Champions

The Lady Patriots are the District 2-4A CHAMPS! They finished undefeated in district play for the first time in school history. They finished district play with a 11-3 win over Starkville Academy. Holly Jackson also had another home run for the season.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

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The difference between play and responsibility: Farm safety for kids



By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

Farming and harvest season is in full swing. Corn, cotton, and soybeans are being harvested. Workdays are long and tiring. It's not a job for

the slothful and certainly not for children.

Every year across this nation youngsters under 16 are seriously and often fatally injured due to accidents on a farm.

Although the odds of an accident may not be great, it does happen. The likelihood of a crippling injury or death is enough to make any parent do some serious thinking before they allow their child to tag along or take the wheel.

Machinery-related farming accidents tend to be among the most physically devastating. Mere flesh is no match for horsepower and cold steel. A small child's body can't withstand the weight of even a small tractor if he or she fell off



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

and under when riding along, or even worse, the child could fall under the implement the tractor is pulling.

Children are not miniature adults and cannot be expected to always successfully cope with situations that call for adults' foresight, judgement, experience, skill and strength, situations that we often face when farming.

Perhaps a 10-year-old can guide a tractor down a furrow, but it may

not always be that simple. Something can happen that requires a quick decision and a critically correct response.

Every farm parent must decide when their children are ready to help and what jobs are appropriate for their level of development. A lot of times the extra help is really needed to get through the bulk of the work, but there is too much risk in pushing a child into work that he or she simply isn't fully capable of

doing safely.

Children are all different. Just because one child of a certain age can successfully complete the work, doesn't mean another child of the same age can do the same. We need to keep in mind that physical development may be misleading—"Big Enough" doesn't necessarily constitute "Old Enough".

Maturity, willingness to learn and take direction, the ability to focus on the task at hand, taking pride in doing a good job, and being a part of the family work force are all necessary. Children who regard driving a tractor as a time to "goof around" and have their mind on fun or games are not yet responsible enough to operate machinery. We need to make certain that young workers are properly trained for all jobs they are given and are provided with proper protective equipment. Make wise decisions in regard to your children's safety, and watch them grow up to make their own wise decisions.

SPE sponsors Student Art Contest



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Southern Pine Electric Student Art Contest is now open for 7-12th grade students who reside with a parent/guardian who is a Southern Pine Electric member.

All submissions must be dropped off at one of the five Southern Pine Electric locations by Oct. 18.

Winners will be selected in three categories: Grades 7-8, Grades 9-10, and Grades 11-12, and 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 our annual meeting, held at the Southern Pine Headquarters in Taylorsville, on Nov. 13.

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 that is closest to the student's residence for one year.

For more information, visit online at <https://southernpine.coop/student-art-contest/>.



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OBITUARY

Sherry Bowers Scallan

Sherry Bowers Scallan, 87, of Pelahatchie, Mississippi, passed away peacefully on August 31, 2025. She was born on November 1, 1937, in Redland, Texas, to the late Porter Wesley Bowers and Hazel Doris Bowers.

Sherry was a proud graduate of Lumberton High School in Lumberton, Mississippi, and later earned her nursing degree. She dedicated her life and career to caring for others, leaving a lasting impact on those she served both professionally and personally.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved husband, Nolan Scallan; her brother, Linwood Bowers; her sister, Bonnie Bowers Goode; her son, Wayne Poyner Brun Jr.; and her daughter, Donna Lynn Brun.

Sherry is survived by her children, Sidney Stansfield Brun and Van Wesley Brun (Tammy); her sisters, June Bowers Ramirez and Toni Bowers Kirkland (Ronnie); several nieces, a nephew, and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren who were the light of her life.

Her grandchildren include Robert Wesley Holmes (Ashley), Samantha Holmes Perrot (Joseph), Nicholas Key Forbes, Ian Forbes (Elaina), Kaygan Britt, Philip Brun (Jessica), Eric Brun, Nathaniel Brun, Kimberly Brun, Calen Brun, Camille Rogers Kennedy (Doug), and Mason Rogers (Stephanie). Her great-grandchildren are Robert William Holmes, Ruby Perrot, Rosalie Perrot, Kaycen Forbes, Blair Forbes, Carson Forbes, Cooper Forbes, Juniper Britt, Stella Joiner, Rhett Joiner, Hayden Freeman, Gracie Brun, Cason Brun, Juliette Brun, Liam Brun, Aria Moudy, Christopher Moudy, Leland Keene and Connor Rogers.

Sherry enjoyed life's simple pleasures - reading, working crossword puzzles, watching Jeopardy!, and trying her luck at the slots. She will be remembered as a devoted mother, caring sister, loving grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. Her legacy of love, strength, and compassion will continue to live on in all who knew her.

A graveside service for the family will be held Saturday, September 20, 2025 at Lumberton Methodist Church in Lumberton, MS.

Warren named CRBC's new Worship Pastor



Special to Pelahatchie News

Cross Roads Baptist Church announced that the Lord has called Bro. Zane Warren as the new Worship Pastor effective immediately. He was confirmed on September 14, 2025. "Zane has a heart for leading God's people in Christ-centered worship and a passion for pointing others to Jesus through music and ministry," said the nominating committee that recommended Warren. "We are grateful for how God is working in the life of our church and cannot wait to see how He will continue to use Zane to glorify Him."

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Pelahatchie Farmers Market, Sept. 6




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Top 5 photos by SUSie Wolfe.



Bottom 6 photos by GraceTharpe

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PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



PAST HEADLINES

2015 - 10 years ago

- "Muscadine Jubilee marks record attendance"
- "AMR bases much needed ambulance in Pelahatchie to serve East Rankin"

2020 - 5 years ago

- "White named State Cybersecurity Leader of the Year"
- "Jason Tate promoted to U.S. Army Colonel"

2024 - Last Year

- "Pelahatchie Ends Dry Spell: Liquor Ordinance Approved"
- "ERA softball girls three time district champions"

Local family publishes book based on daughter's journey with alopecia

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

Pelahatchie residents Christina and Shaun McInnish have turned a very personal journey into a published children's story that is already inspiring readers well beyond their hometown. The couple recently released *The Mystery of Magical Hats: Making Alopecia Magical, One Hat at a Time* on Amazon, a fairytale inspired by their 8-year-old daughter, Taylor, who has alopecia.

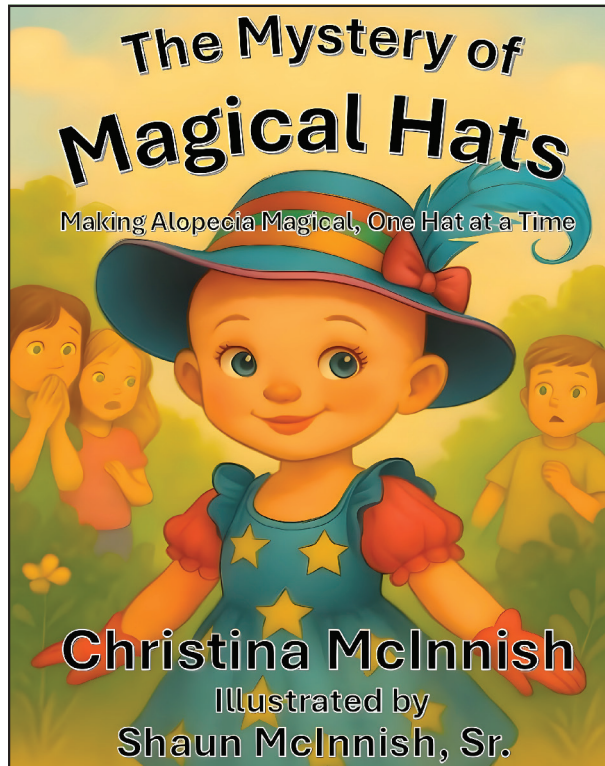
Taylor, a current third-grade student at Pelahatchie Elementary School, has faced alopecia—an autoimmune condition that causes hair loss—as part of her childhood experience. While the condition can be difficult for children to understand, Christina wanted to put a positive, imaginative spin on it—something that could encourage not only Taylor, but also other children

who may feel different.

“I wanted Taylor to see her story not as a limitation, but as something magical,” Christina said. “This book is about showing kids that their differences can be celebrated and even turned into strengths.”

Christina wrote the story as a whimsical fairytale, while her husband Shaun provided the illustrations that bring the magical hats and characters to life. The teamwork made the project a true family effort, with Taylor's journey at the center of it all.

The release of the book also comes at a meaningful time. September is Alopecia Awareness Month, dedicated to raising awareness about alopecia, supporting individuals and



Special to Pelahatchie News

families affected, and advocating for research and treatment options. The McInnishes hope their book will play a small role in spreading awareness

and understanding.

For more information and resources about alopecia, visit the National Alopecia Areata Foundation (NAAF) at www.naaf.org. Those inspired by Taylor's story can also support children experiencing hair loss by donating hair or giving to groups such as Locks of Love (www.locksoflove.org), Children With Hair Loss (childrenwithhairloss.org), and Wigs for Kids (www.wigsforkids.org).

The Mystery of Magical Hats: Making Alopecia Magical, One Hat at a Time is now available for purchase on Amazon. Christina and Shaun McInnish hope the book will spark conversations about acceptance, resilience, and the magic that comes from embracing what makes each child unique.



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Courtney Norris-Fountain, Branch Manager
Pelahatchie and Morton

Carlino leads RCSD in Pledge of Allegiance



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Recently, Cadet Command Sergeant Major Savannah Carlino, a senior at Pelahatchie High School, led attendants in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance during the Rankin County School District board meeting. Savannah plans to attend Hinds Community College before continuing her studies at the University of Southern Mississippi to pursue a degree in accounting. RCSD appreciates her courage and leadership, and is proud to recognize her bright future.

PHS represented in MSU honor band



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Recently, some PHS Band members represented the Tribe during MSU's Honor Band Day. Pelahatchie High School is thankful to Jack Smith (Director) and Angela Skinner for their teaching, support, and efforts to showcase all that the students do on game days and beyond. Congratulations to each participant.

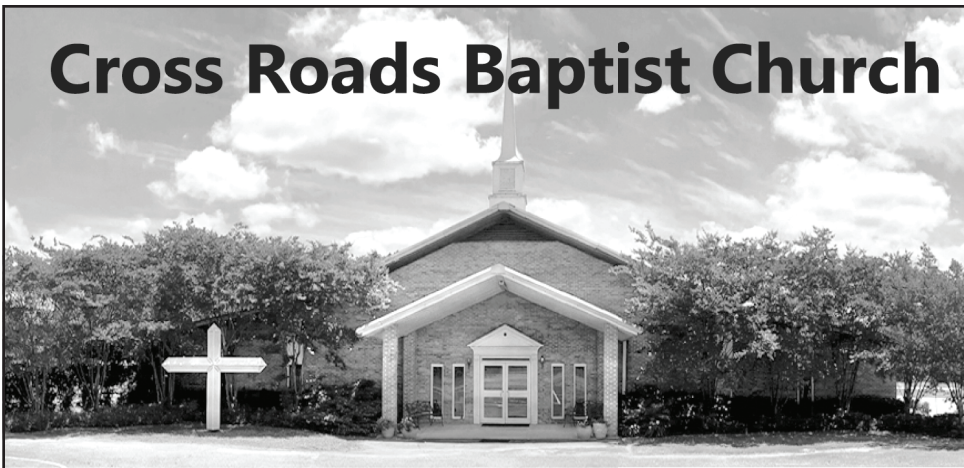
Mays honored by RCSD for Great to Best



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Recently, Ms. Chenekia Mays, a substitute teacher at Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) was honored as the Great to Best Substitute of the month by Rankin County School District. RCSD is so thankful for the support Ms. Mays has provided to her classrooms to keep her students learning in the absence of their teachers. Thank you and congratulations, Ms. Mays.

Cross Roads Baptist Church



Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. - Worship Service
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School 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)
9:00 a.m. - Worship Service every Sunday

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Pastor's Perspective: What is the Greatest Treasure?



By Guest Columnist
Spencer Sullivan, Pastor,
Pelahatchie Baptist

Special to
Pelahatchie News

We've all heard the quote: "Value (or beauty) is in the eye of the beholder". Which means, of course, that the value or worth of something varies according to the assessment of each individual. What one person believes to be extremely valuable may hold little or no value to someone else and vice versa. With that in mind, what in your life holds the most value? According to your eyes, what is the greatest treasure you can attain? It may not be something material. Maybe it is something that money can't buy. Is it a relationship? Is it love or joy or happiness or peace or rest? Or maybe it is material. Is it land, a house, a vehicle, jewels, etc.? Whatever it is, as the beholder of value, in your eyes what it is worth? Is there a price?

As the Beholder of everything, Jesus shared a couple of short parables

to communicate the value of the Kingdom of God (Heaven). They are found in Matthew 13:44-46. They go like this: "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it." In one case a man stumbled across a great treasure in a field and his response was to sell and give up everything else in his life so that he could buy the field and therefore attain this great treasure. In the other parable, the merchant was searching for what seemed unattainable. It was his job to search for pearls and then resell them in order to earn a living. In his pursuit, he was always searching for the one pearl of great price, probably something he never thought he'd see. However when he did find it, his response was to sell and give up



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everything else in his life in order to purchase this precious pearl of great value.

Through these parables, Jesus is communicating the value of finding the Kingdom of God. As the Creator and Beholder of all things, in this case, Jesus' valuation of the Kingdom trumps our individual perspectives of value and worth. He is the One that sets the value because He sees and knows all things. And He is telling us that he or she who finds the Kingdom of God has found the greatest treasure there is because

finding the Kingdom of God means finding eternal life, eternal joy, eternal love, eternal peace, and eternal rest. And the value of this treasure is worth giving up everything else of value in this world. Those that have given their lives for the Kingdom illustrate this truth. They gave all, because they knew they had found the greatest treasure and knew the apostle Paul's words from Philippians 1:21 to be true: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain".

So, what is it again that holds the most value in your eyes? Whatever it is, my goal is not to diminish the value that you hold it to have. I'm just saying that finding the Kingdom of God holds even more value because it is eternal and everlasting. In the parables, one man stumbled upon it while the other was searching. If you have yet to find the greatest treasure, whether you are searching for it or not, my appeal to you is to consider Jesus (Hebrews 3:1). Repent and believe in faith and then behold the greatest treasure that can be found!

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EEOC Compliance: Office of Campus Culture and Diversity, P.O. Box 1100 Raymond MS 39154; Phone: 601-857-3569 or Email: EEOC@hindscc.edu
Title IX: Associate Vice President Student Services, Title IX Coordinator P.O. Box 1100 Raymond MS 39154; Phone: 601-857-3353 or Email: TitleIX@hindscc.edu

Pelahatchie ES student spotlight

Two East Rankin students receive National Merit awards



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

From music teacher: **Ava Kennedy** is always greeting me with a big smile wherever I meet her. She is always attentive in music class and always willing to help when it is needed. When getting ready to discuss parts of our musical play, she quickly spoke up to volunteer for whatever was needed. Thanks Ava for being such a pleasant student. Keep smiling and enjoying your school year.

From music teacher: **John Thomas** came in music class this week and was a great role model. He came in quietly, sat down, and was very cooperative the whole time. He even got to be the leader for one of our songs that we are learning. I'm so proud of John Thomas for his behavior and his participation in class.



From music teacher: **Jacob Hughes** has done a fantastic job this year so far. He is making decisions to be proactive with his behavior. He knows when something bothers him or when he needs a break and reaches out to an adult when needed. He is also giving his best effort in the classroom. He works hard and wants to do even better. Jacob made a conscious decision within himself to want better and he did it. I am so proud of Jacob and how far he has come. I respect him for working hard within the classroom through setbacks and not giving up.



Congratulations to East Rankin Academy student Hudson Hawk on being named a 2026 National Merit Semifinalist. Hudson will continue through the National Merit Scholarship Program selection process as he competes to become a 2026 National Merit Finalist.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to ERA student Paige Mayatte on being named a Commended Student in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program.

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Pelahatchie HS JROTC present color guard for Muscadine Jubilee



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On September 13th, the Pelahatchie High School JROTC executed a color guard presentation during the opening ceremony of the Muscadine Jubilee. From left to right: Cadet 1st Lieutenant Trenton Blue, 1st Sergeant Eriana Smith, Command Sergeant Major Savannah Carlino, and Captain Madeline McKee.

ERA cross country start strong

East Rankin Academy cross country has reached midseason with both Patriots and Lady Patriots highly ranked in MAIS as tracked by MileSplit MS. Lady Patriots are ranked No. 1 in the MAIS and No. 2 overall, the only MAIS school among the Top 5. Patriot men are ranked No. 2 in the MAIS and No.18 overall, one of only two MAIS schools ranked in the overall Top 20.



L-R: Edie Tate, Hadley Erickson, Jewel Baker, Alex Burkard, Chandler Hunt, Kate Bryant, Jensen Baker, Isabella McLeod, Coach David Hopper.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

L-R: Baylor Sartin, Coach David Hopper, RT Tate, Ben Tingle, Christopher Chalk, Jon Riemann, Walker Sartin, Zack Price, Grayson Dominighini, Micah Sigrest, Taylor Stroh.

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ERA names Student Council and Homecoming Court

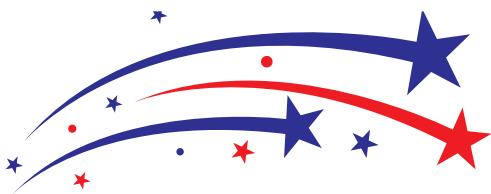


Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Pictured L to R: Ansley Miller, President; Elizabeth Thrash, Vice-President; Walker Sartin, Secretary; and Nic Riemann, Treasurer.



East Rankin Academy will celebrate Homecoming on Friday, October 10. The 2025 Homecoming presentation will be during half time of the game that begins at 7:00 p.m. against French Camp Academy. Members of East Rankin's 2025 Homecoming Court are: (front L to R) Addison Derrick, Arin Hawk, Neali Holbrooks, and Addison Vowell (back L to R) Claire Myrick, EllaGrayce Fortenberry, Kennedy Laine Harper, and AJ McIlwain.



Pelahatchie Police Dept. receives toy donation



Special to Pelahatchie News

Right after the Pelahatchie's Mayor's Prayer Breakfast the Mary Francis Chapter No 222 in Pelahatchie, MS of the Order of the Eastern Star gave the Pelahatchie Police Department stuffed animals to keep in their patrol cars to give to children. These will be used to comfort the children when needed. Pictured left to right :Officer Garrett Irwin, Detective Ryan Edwards, Mayor Karl Vanhorn, Amy White, Carole Bradford, Police Chief Robert Mahaffey, mother of Eddie Rhodes, Eddie Rhodes, Eddie Jones.

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