



# PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



June 2025 ■ Volume 14, Issue 6 ■ Pelahatchie, MS

## Jellystone Park™ Pelahatchie Ranked #2 RV Campground

By Brad Ritter, GlobeNewswire / Great Escapes RV Resorts

Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp-Resort in Pelahatchie, Mississippi just made a big splash—literally and figuratively. The park has been voted the nation's second best RV campground in USA TODAY's 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards. Out of hundreds of campgrounds across the U.S., this Mississippi gem earned a top spot on the national list, thanks to thousands of fans who voted and believe there's no better place to camp, splash and connect as a family.

Operated by TJO 10x10 Management under the Great Escapes RV Resorts brand, Jellystone Park Pelahatchie blends guest service with family-friendly amenities that

go beyond the basics.

Guests can enjoy an expansive multi-level splash park, a large, heated pool, a sandy beach, character visits from Yogi Bear, and weekly themed celebrations. Add in pet-friendly cabins, cozy RV sites, fishing, arts and crafts, wagon rides, and a full calendar of activities — and you've got the



jellystonems.com

Award-winning ranger station.



GlobeNewswire

kind of recipe for a memory-making getaway that keeps families coming back year after year.

"This award is not just a win for our team, it's a win for every family who's laughed, splashed, danced and made lifelong memories at our park,"

Stephanie Goss, General Manager of Jellystone Park Pelahatchie, said. "We've always believed that camping should be both wildly fun and exceptionally comfortable, and we're proud to be recognized for delivering both."

"Landing the number two spot in the nation is a huge honor and a direct reflection of the care, creativity, and consistency our team brings every single day," Troy Sheppard, COO of TJO 10x10 Management said.

"This park sets a high standard for family-friendly outdoor hospitality, and we couldn't be prouder."

Learn more and book your stay at Jellystone Park Pelahatchie today: [jellystonems.com](http://jellystonems.com).

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## Sanders named RCSD Administrator of the Year

Robin Sanders, Principal of Pelahatchie Elementary School was recently named District Administrator. She inspires her staff and students every day through her dedication, vision, and support of her school community; she exemplifies what it means to serve with heart and excellence. The Rankin County School District (RCSD) is thankful for her leadership. Pictured left to right: Dr. Charles Stevenson, Principal of The Learning Center, RCSD Secondary Administrator of the Year; Robin Sanders, Principal at Pelahatchie Elementary School, RCSD District Administrator of the Year; Dr. Scott Rimes, RCSD Superintendent of Education.



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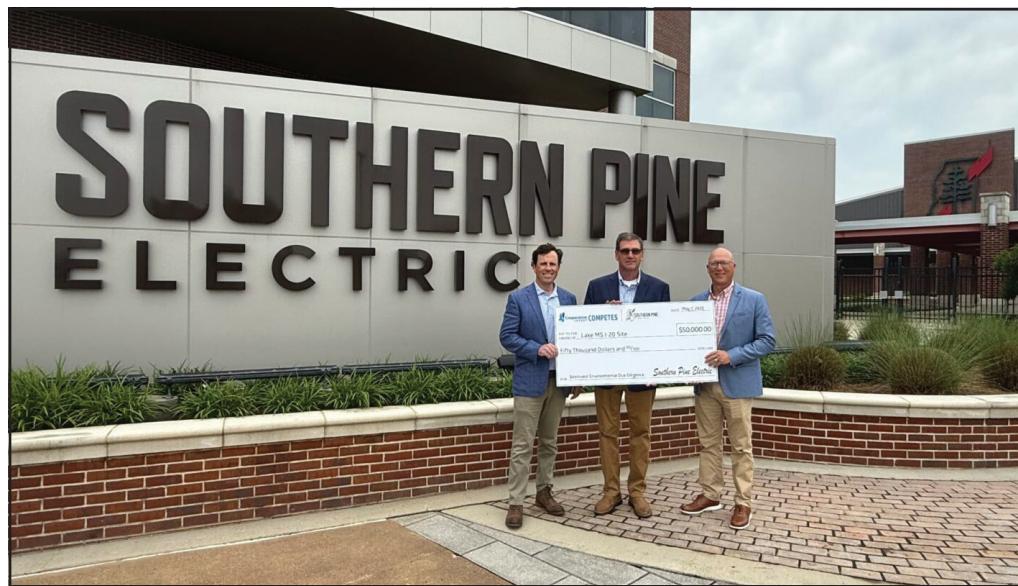
## Cooperative Competes grant awarded for readiness of industrial site near I-20

Special to Pelahatchie News

Cooperative Energy, together with the 11-member distribution cooperatives it serves, announced the award of a Cooperative Competes grant to the Scott County Board of Supervisors for the proactive site readiness of a newly identified industrial site along Interstate 20 near the town of Lake, Mississippi.

The \$50,000 Cooperative Competes grant will assist with a portion of the local funding match required for the Mississippi Site Development Grant Program, for which \$250,000 was awarded in 2024. Total grant funds will be spent to complete proactive environmental due diligence studies to assess the feasibility of industrial development on the site. Studies funded by the grant include a Phase I Environmental Assessment, a Geotechnical Survey, an ALTA Survey, a Wetlands Delineation Report, and a Cultural Resources Survey.

The Lake MS I-20 Site is approx-



Special to Pelahatchie News

imately 578 acres along Interstate 20 in Scott County. Located midway between Jackson and Meridian, the property represents the potential for industrial development within the service territory of Southern Pine Electric. All utilities are adjacent to the property and the Canadian Pacific Kansas City Southern Railway operates a main-

line rail line north of the property. For additional information about the site, visit <https://cooperativeenergy.com/economic-development/available-properties/>.

“The Cooperative Competes grant is a vital investment in Scott County’s future, helping us take proactive steps to evaluate this site for industrial development,” Newt Ishee,

Mid Mississippi Development District executive director said. “With its strategic location along Interstate 20 and access to key infrastructure, this property has tremendous potential to attract new industries and create jobs. We appreciate Cooperative Energy’s commitment to strengthening communities like ours.”

The Cooperative Competes initiative is aimed at increasing community competitiveness and encouraging economic growth. A component of the initiative allows economic development organizations to apply for grant funds to support industrial property, workforce, or community development efforts throughout Mississippi. These funds are provided jointly by Cooperative Energy’s 11 Member distribution cooperatives.

For more information about Cooperative Competes, visit [www.cooperativeenergy.com/economic-development-cooperative-competes/](http://www.cooperativeenergy.com/economic-development-cooperative-competes/).



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

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

Writers  
Kenneth McDade, Katie White, Amy Lyle

Copy Editor  
Emma Ellard

City Beat Writer  
Shaun McInnish, Sr.

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

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

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

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## McAlpin Named President, CEO of Southern Pine Electric



Special to Pelahatchie News

Southern Pine Electric’s Board of Directors has announced that Drummonds McAlpin has been named President and CEO.

McAlpin joined Southern Pine in 2011 and served as a District Manager for the cooperative before transitioning into his most recent role as Vice President of Administration in 2017. He received his degree in accounting from The University of Southern Mississippi before completing his master’s in business administration from Mississippi College. McAlpin is an alumnus of the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University and

the Mississippi School of Banking. During his time at Southern Pine, he completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Management Internship Program and obtained his Cooperative Financial Professional Certificate.

A native of Simpson County, Drummonds, his wife Tammy, and their four children now reside in rural Covington County.

“Drummonds has a wealth of experience at our co-op and has great concern for our members and the employees of Southern Pine.” “We are confident that his leadership and vision will be instrumental to the future success and growth of the co-op.” said Billy M. Berry, Chairman



Special to Pelahatchie News

Drummonds McAlpin

of the Board, said.

Southern Pine looks forward to this new chapter and to “Bringing the Power” to their members for many years to come. For more information, email [voice@southernpine.coop](mailto:voice@southernpine.coop).

*Southern Pine Electric is a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative that distributes electricity to more than 70,000 members in 11 counties in central and south Mississippi. Headquartered in Taylorsville, Southern Pine has offices in Brandon, Newton, Hattiesburg and New Hebron.*

## PES celebrates School Nurse Day



Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, during the National Nurse Week of May 6-12, Pelahatchie Elementary School celebrated on School Nurse Day, the incredible dedication, compassion, and hard work of nurse, Trish Drake. Thank you, Nurse Drake, for being a caring presence in our school community, always ready to provide comfort, support, and health guidance to our students and staff. Your unwavering commitment to well-being makes our school a healthier, safer place for everyone.

## PHS students selected for RCC youth leadership team

Congratulations to the  
**YOUTH LEADERSHIP**  
class of  
**2025 - 2026**

Lillyanna Alford.....	Pisgah	Rob Horner.....	Hartfield
Christian Anderson.....	Richland	Kaylan Massey.....	Pisgah
Jaida Bennett.....	Northwest Rankin	Collin McIntyre.....	Brandon
Caleigh Berch.....	Florence	Mary Taylor Nutt.....	Pelahatchie
Knox Bridges.....	McLaurin	Liam Polk.....	East Rankin
Brayden Card.....	Hartfield	Blade Sabins.....	Richland
Addy Cowan.....	Brandon	Brennon Sandifer.....	Richland
Isaac Dearing.....	Pearl	Sammy Sebren.....	Florence
Ethan Franklin.....	Richland	Evelyn Maeda-Sirin.....	Pearl
Sydney Garner.....	Pearl	DeMarion Snow.....	Pelahatchie
Garrett Gilbert.....	Hartfield	Elizabeth Thrash.....	East Rankin
Anna Chamblee Goodwin.....	Puckett	Ann Elise Walker.....	Jackson Prep
Addison Grantham.....	Florence	Mary Yates.....	Florence

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP**  
RANKIN

Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Pelahatchie High School students Mary Taylor Nutt and DeMarion Snow for being selected to represent PHS on the Rankin Youth Leadership Team for the 2025-26 School Year.

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**Mary Ann Griffin, CFNP • Kim Risher • Keli Robertson**

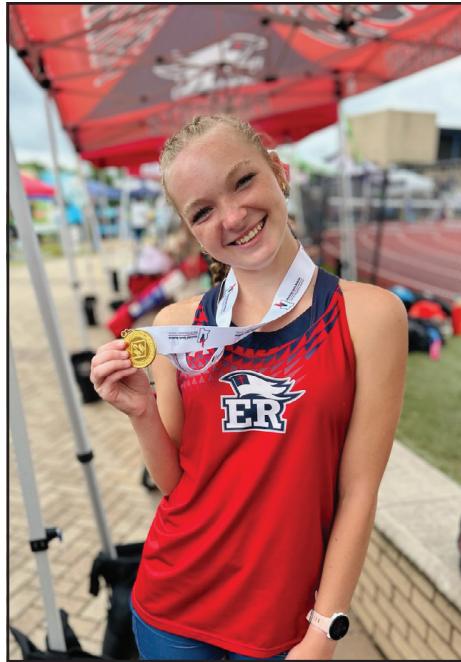
# East Rankin Academy Track & Field concludes season Girls 2025 MAIS 5A State Runners-up, Boys Third Overall

Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy (ERA) Patriot Track & Field team concluded the 2025 season on Saturday, May 3rd at the 2025 Midsouth Association of Independent Schools ("MAIS") State Championship.

Entering the post season with both varsity teams MAIS 5A District 2 Champions, 21 athletes individually and all eight relay teams qualified to the regional North State Championship at Bayou Academy on April 26th. The Patriots at North State were very successful, with both varsity teams bringing home the North State Championship runner-up trophy. Among the 12 individuals and seven relay teams that qualified to the 2025 State Championship were North State champions, sophomore, Jon Riemann (400 meter dash) and freshman Zack Price (3200 meter run). Patriot relays at North State were also stellar, setting multiple venue records and new ERA school records with the Patriot men winning the 4x100 relay, the 4x200 relay and the 4x800 relay, and the Lady Patriots winning the 4x400 relay.

The 2025 MAIS State Championship was hosted by Jackson Academy on May 2nd and Jackson Prep on May 3rd. Coming down to the last event, the Lady Patriots raced to a second place finish in the 4x400 relay, earning eight points to jump into trophy position in team second. Patriot men also picked up second place medals in the 4x400 relay after a gritty come-from-behind anchor leg from Riemann, earning the points for team third. Multiple state champions among both varsity teams included junior Gage Crapps, in his second



Freshman, Emma Raines, 2025 State Champion – 300 Hurdles



Junior, Gage Crapps, 2025 State Champion – Discus



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

2025 State Champions – Defending Champion 4x800 Relay – junior, RT Tate; freshmen, Walker Sartin, Taylor Stroh and Zack Price

year of throwing, defending the state title in discus with a personal best throw of 142-0; freshman Emma Raines, winning the 300

hurdles in a personal best time of 46.89 (which was the fastest 300 hurdle time among all classes); and the boys 4x800 relay team defend-

ing their 2024 title with a team of junior RT Tate; freshman Walker Sartin; freshman Taylor Stroh; and freshman Zack Price, demolishing the school record with a winning time of 8:32.00.

Other medalists at the State Championship included senior Aiden Harrell (4th 100m 11.38 & 2nd 200m 22.96); freshman Jillian Breland (2nd discus 123-9); freshman Emma Raines (6th 100 hurdles 17.19 & 2nd 400m 1:01.25); sophomore Jon Riemann (2nd 400 meter 51.64); seventh grader Jewel Baker (7th 800m 2:34.79, 2nd 1600m 5:22.48 & 2nd 3200m 11:36.08); freshman Zack Price (2nd 1600m 4:46.01 & 4th 3200m 10:47.03); senior Audrey Mayatte (4th 800m 2:25.34, 3rd 1600m 5:23.00 & 3rd 3200m 11:53.82); junior RT Tate (7th 1600m 5:05.38 & 3rd 3200m 10:46.90); senior Abby Raines (4th high jump 4-10); junior Gage Crapps (4th shot put 43-3); senior Michael Kanengiser (6th 400m 53.83); sophomore Leah Collipp (7th 200m 28.05); varsity boys 4x200 (2nd 1:32.36); varsity boys 4x400 (2nd 3:31.31), varsity girls 4x400 (2nd 4:11.88); varsity girls 4x800 (2nd 9:53.64); varsity boys 4x100 (4th 45.00); and varsity girls 4x200 (5th 1:51.75).

The 2025 Patriot track team featured six seniors, all of whom played a role in the growth of ERA track and field in recent years and to whom an entire article could be dedicated. The team wishes to congratulate multi-time state medalist Aiden Harrell and multi-time state medalist Audrey Mayatte; and state finalists Lydia Collipp, Michael Kanengiser, Abby Raines, and Katie Simpson, as they graduate with the Class of 2025.

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# MS State legislators designate Mississippi State Hospital Week

Special to Pelahatchie News

In recognition of the vital role hospitals and healthcare professionals play in the well-being of Mississippi communities, Mississippi legislative leaders have officially proclaimed May 11–17, 2025 as Hospital Week in the state.

“Mississippi’s hospitals are the backbone of our healthcare system, providing essential services and compassionate care to our citizens,” Richard Roberson, President and

celebrated for more than 100 years. It began as National Hospital Day in 1921 and was changed to National Hospital Week in 1953.

Mississippi hospitals will host various events and activities throughout Hospital Week to honor their staff and engage with their communities. These may include health fairs, staff appreciation luncheons, community outreach programs, and educational seminars promoting health and wellness. During Hospital Week, MHA will



CEO of the Mississippi Hospital Association (MHA) said. “During Hospital Week, we acknowledge and celebrate the unwavering commitment of our state’s hospitals - and the physicians, nurses, technicians, pharmacists, therapists, food service workers, administrators, volunteers, and many other devoted professionals - who work tirelessly to improve the health of our communities. We also appreciate our state’s leaders joining us to recognize and celebrate hospitals across our state by issuing proclamations of support.”

“The role that hospitals and health systems play in rural areas is even more essential,” Chad Netterville, director of the Mississippi Rural Hospital Alliance said. “They serve as anchor institutions in our rural communities and are oftentimes the largest employer in those communities.”

National Hospital Week has been

concentrate its social media messaging on celebrating Mississippi hospitals and health systems and recognizing the many ways they are more than healthcare.

MHA has teamed up with the American Hospital Association and hospital associations nationwide to encourage participation in Hospital Week by sharing stories and expressions of gratitude to Mississippi hospitals and healthcare professionals using the hashtags #HospitalWeek and #WeAreHealthCare on social media. This initiative aims to highlight the diverse roles within healthcare and the collective effort to provide outstanding care.

For more information on National Hospital Week and resources to participate, visit the American Hospital Association’s website at <https://www.aha.org/ahia/get-involved/national-hospital-week>.

For more information about MHA, visit [www.mhanet.org](http://www.mhanet.org).

# Pelahatchie Library June Events

 <p><b>TEEN BOOK CLUB</b> Wed. June 4, 3:30 – 4:30 pm Pelahatchie Public Library</p>  <p><b>FOAM PARTY</b> Thurs. June 5, 2 – 3 pm Pelahatchie Public Library Come have a blast and remember to bring a towel and a change of clothes.</p>  <p><b>FREEDOM RANCH</b> Thurs. June 12, 2 – 3 pm Pelahatchie Public Library Come meet some adorable animals!</p>  <p><b>MOVE TO LEARN</b> Thurs. June 19, 2 – 3 pm Pelahatchie Public Library</p>  <p><b>CHALK THE WALK</b> Thurs. June 26, 2 – 3 pm Pelahatchie Public Library Snacks and refreshments will be provided.</p>	<p><b>SENIOR SOCIAL</b> Tues. June 10 11 am – 12 pm Pelahatchie Public Library</p> <p><b>A TIME TO REMEMBER</b> Tues. June 17, 11 am – 12 pm Pelahatchie Public Library</p> <p><b>ADULT BOOK CLUB</b> Wed. June 18 11 am – 12 pm Pelahatchie Public Library</p> <p><b>GARDEN CLUB</b> Thurs. June 19 5:30 – 6:30 pm Pelahatchie Public Library</p> <p><b>SENIOR SOCIAL</b> Tues. June 24 11am – 12pm Pelahatchie Public Library</p>
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Rankin County Co-op

# City Beat: Mayor, Alderman meeting for May 5, 2025



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

Mayor Karl VanHorn called the regular May meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Following the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, roll was called, with all members present.

**Residents or Visitors' Business:** Representatives from the Pelahatchie Public Library provided an update on the library's current operations and community engagement. The board thanked the library for their service to the town.

## New Business:

Approval of Minutes from April 7, 2025 Regular Board Meeting: Alderman Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting. Alderman Harrell seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Unpaid Claims Docket: Alderman Jones made a motion to approve the payment of the town's unpaid claims docket. Alderman Harrell seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Bank Draft Payment to Morgan & White Insurance (\$971.27): Alderwoman Warren made a motion to approve the disbursement to Morgan & White Insurance for AmFirst Card coverage secondary to BCBS. Alderwoman Hill seconded the motion, and

made a motion to approve the draft payment to EMC Insurance for property insurance coverage. Alderwoman Hill seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval and Ratification of April 2025 Payroll – General Fund (\$78,932.22) and Enterprise Fund (\$26,202.00): Alderman Jones made a motion to approve and ratify the payroll disbursement for April. Alderman Harrell seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a 3–2 vote.

Approval of Waggoner Engineering as Engineer for CDBG Grant Gas Project: Alderwoman Warren made a motion to approve Waggoner Engineering to serve as the engineer for the upcoming CDBG gas infrastructure grant project. Alderman Jones seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session:** The board entered executive session at 6:13 p.m. to discuss pending litigation. The executive session ended at 6:21 p.m.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderman Hill, and the board recessed and adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.



the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Bank Draft Payment to Blue Cross Insurance (\$8,293.24): Alderman Jones made a motion to approve the draft payment to Blue Cross Insurance. Alderwoman Hill seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Bank Draft Payment to EMC Insurance (\$5,916.32): Alderwoman Warren



## Crooked Creek Animal Hospital, Inc.

Charles M. Edwards II, DVM  
Staci L. Rhodes, DVM  
Jenny Sowell, DVM  
Katlyn Henning, DVM  
Susan Thrash, DVM

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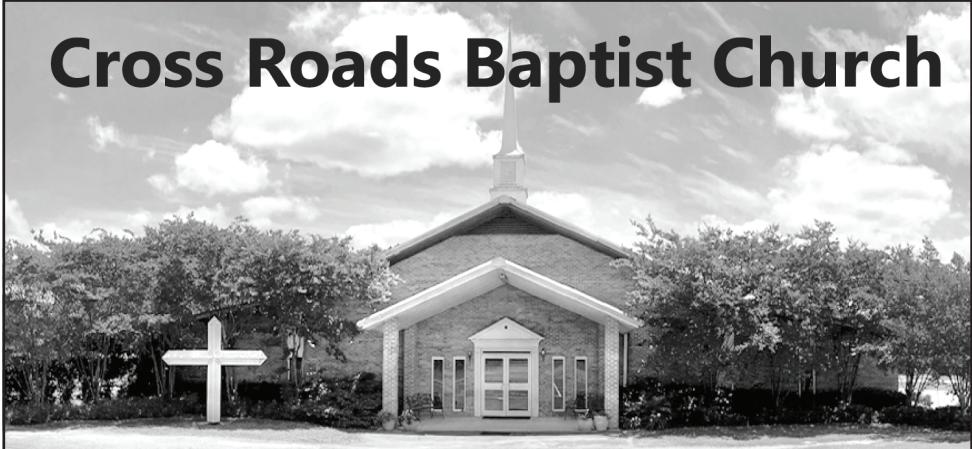
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## Cross Roads Baptist Church



**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

Cross Roads Baptist Church, 104 Crossroads Road, Pelahatchie, MS 39145  
(601) 546-2297 • [www.crbc.online](http://www.crbc.online)  
(5 miles south of Interstate 20 on Highway 43 South)

# SALUTE TO EDUCATION

## Pisgah High 2025 Top Students



Special to Pelahatchie News

## Pelahatchie HS 2025 Top Students

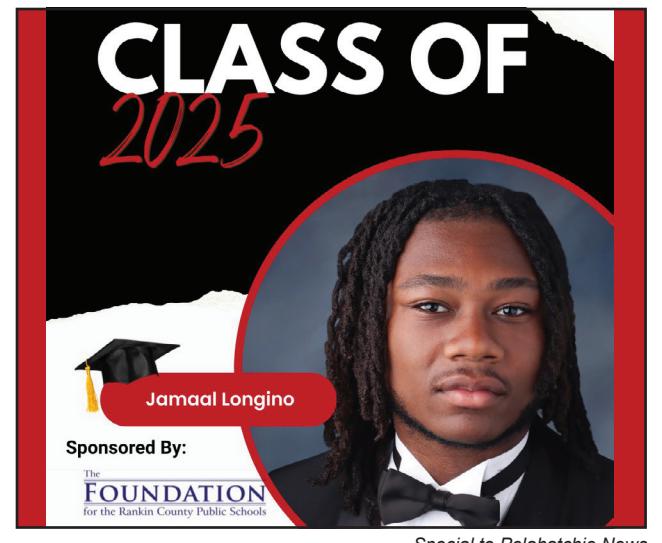


Special to Pelahatchie News

## Pisgah and Pelahatchie students receive Foundation scholarships



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Landon Dubois and Sadie Dyess, Pisgah High School's recipients of the 2025 Foundation for the Rankin County Public Schools Scholarship.

Congratulations to Jamaal Longino, Pelahatchie High School's recipient of the 2025 Foundation for Rankin County Public Schools Scholarship.

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# SALUTE TO EDUCATION

## ERA students receive David Derrick ACT Scholar Award



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Each year, the MAIS requests that all schools submit the names of seniors with a minimum ACT score of 33 and above. These seniors with a minimum ACT score of 33 and above are then presented with The David Derrick ACT Scholar Award for their outstanding ACT scores. From over 100 schools in the MAIS, only 14 schools had students with ACT scores of 33 and above. Out of all MAIS schools, East Rankin Academy (ERA) had the third highest number of students with an ACT score of 33 and above. With a senior class of 42, East Rankin has 7 David Derrick ACT Scholar Award Recipients with 33 or above ACT scores: Lydia Collipp, Audrey Mayatte, Lane Riemann, Abram Rowell, Cole Cotnam, Jackson Fountain and Audrey Hawk.

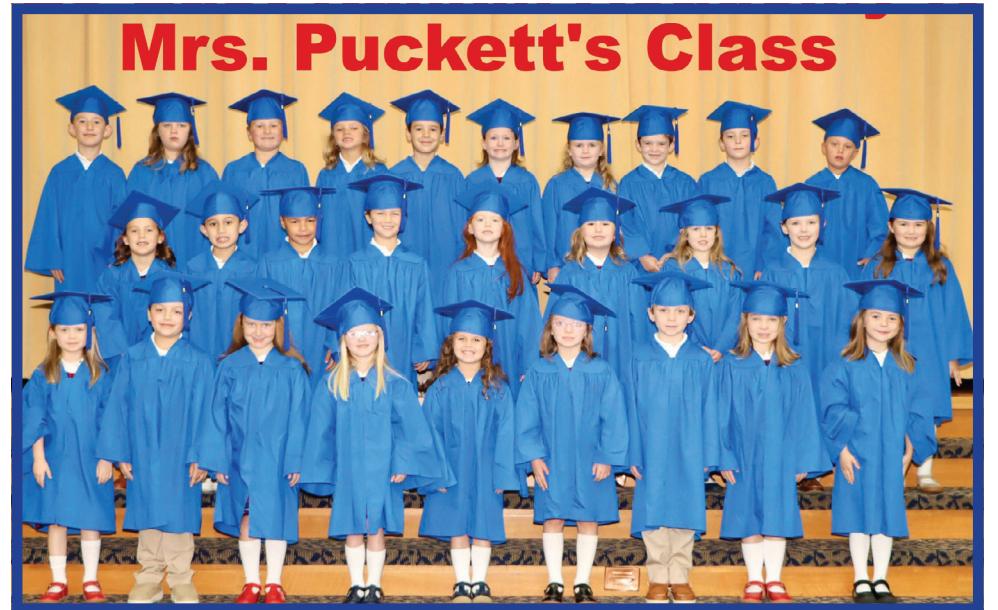
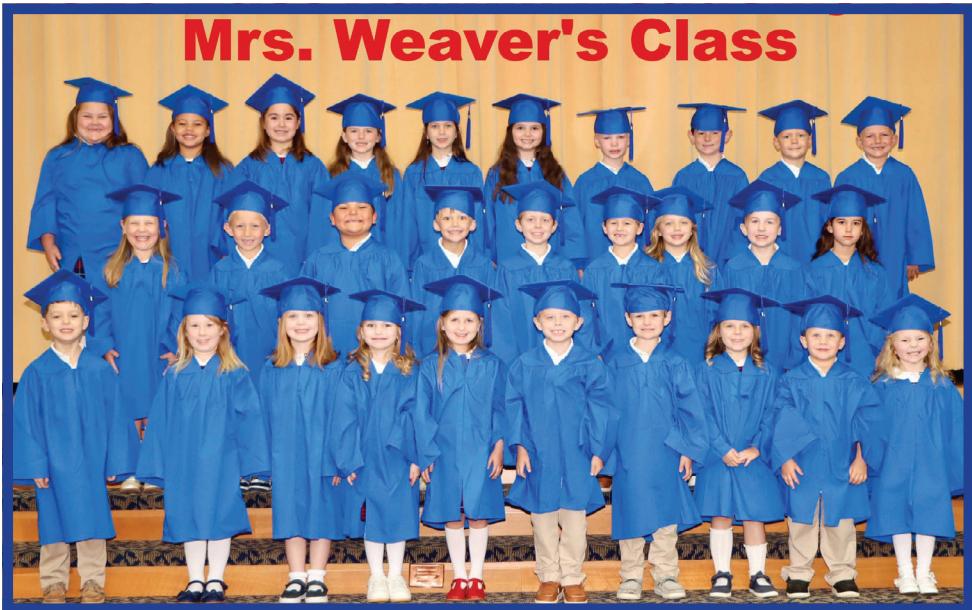
## ERA 2025 Honor Graduates



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Front row (left to right): Marlee Rakinic, Brooke Shedd, Abby Raines, Kylee Holifield, Maury Ann Walley, Rachel Smith, and Gabe Nutt. Second row (left to right): Audrey Mayatte, Audrey Hawk, Makenzie Phillips, Lesley Scarberry, Truitt Lewis, and Raylin Smith. Back row (left to right): Evan McIlwain, Jackson Fountain, Lydia Collipp, Lane Riemann, Jordan Porter, Abram Rowell, Cole Cotnam.

## East Rankin Academy hosts 2025 K5 Graduation



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# SALUTE TO EDUCATION

## PHS's Buckner receives Coach Gray Memorial Scholarship



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Congratulations to Jacob Buckner of Pelahatchie High School. He is the recipient of the Coach Billy Guy Gray Memorial Scholarship. This award is given each year to a remarkable student athlete who demonstrates all that Coach Gray represents. Buckner is pictured with Tyler, Coach Gray's grandson. Scholarship made possible by Robin and Shane Sanders, Sharon Gray McDonald, and Tyler and KK Gray.

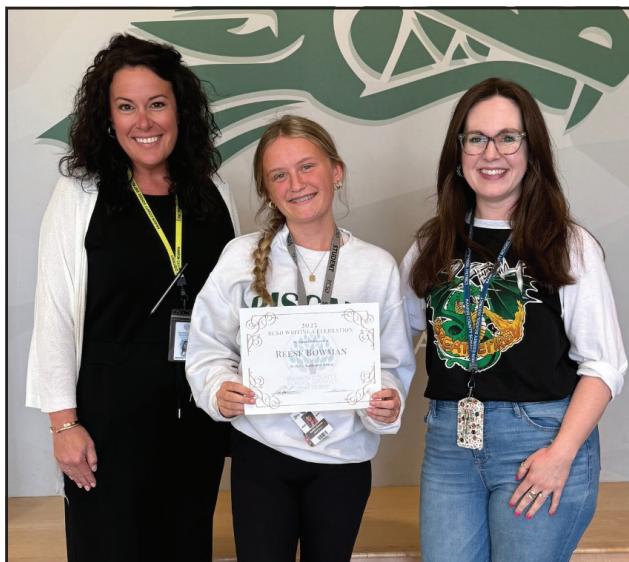
## Mallenco places first in Invest Write essay contest



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Blanca Mallenco for winning the high school division of the Invest Write essay contest for the state of Mississippi. After participating in the Stock Market Game in the fall semester, students were asked to answer a prompt about their future plans and how investing in the stock market can impact their future. Blanca placed first in the state and is waiting to hear if she placed nationally. She attended the ceremony at Jackson State University on Friday, May 9th.

## Pisgah High School students win District Writing Celebration



Reese Bowman is a 7th grader at Pisgah High School and is the winner of the 6th–8th grade Argument category in the Rankin County School District Writing Celebration, sponsored by The Foundation for the Rankin County Public Schools.



John Warren McKay is an 8th grader at Pisgah High School and is the winner of the 6th–8th grade Fictional Short Story category in the Rankin County School District Writing Celebration, sponsored by The Foundation for the Rankin County Public Schools.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Camron Burrow is an 11th grader at Pisgah High School and is the winner of the 9th–12th grade Argument category in the Rankin County School District Writing Celebration, sponsored by The Foundation for the Rankin County Public Schools.

**Congratulations!**

FROM ALL THE STAFF  
AT PELAHATCHIE NEWS

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ALL OUR TEACHERS!**

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**THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!**

## McMillian donates to PHS PTO



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to Landry McMillian for her generous donation of \$200 to the PHS Parent Teacher Organization! Landry hosted L. Belle's Baked Goods pop-ups around town at local businesses and donated 100% of the proceeds to help celebrate our amazing teachers and staff. The PHS PTO plays a vital role in supporting our campus by hosting events throughout the year including back-to-school breakfasts, holiday lunches, and Teacher Appreciation Week celebrations.

## Nino selected as Rankin's May Student of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Elementary School second grade student, Sebastian Nino, was selected as the Rankin County Elementary student of the month. Sebastian is a true leader who goes above and beyond on a daily basis.

## NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS

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- "SPC soldier returns home after a year in Middle East"

### 2024 - Last Year

- "Local Menasha Packaging expansion in Pelahatchie complete"
- "Jellystone named in USA Today's Ten Best for Third Year"

# How well do you know powerline safety: It's worth your life



By Doug Carter, Rankin  
County Extension Agent

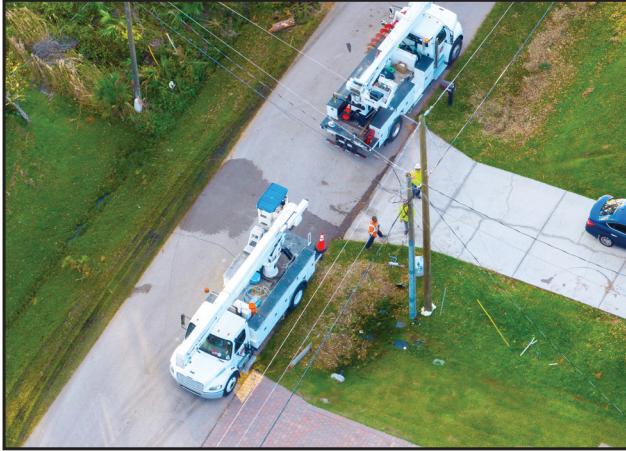
## Power Line Safety

Every year, farm workers in the U.S. are electrocuted. The most common causes are portable grain augers, tractors with front end loaders, oversized wagons, large combines, fold-up cultivators, irrigation pipes and other equipment that comes into contact with overhead power lines.

When I was young, I knew of a young man that got a live power line hung between his tractor muffler and the tractor cab. It seemed the power line rubbed the top of his muffler as it drug across it, and it was hung between the muffler and the cab.

### Always:

- 1) Watch out for overhead electrical lines.
- 2) Know where they are located.
- 3) Treat all overhead power lines as though they can kill you.
- 4) Keep all tall equipment, irrigation pipes, and hay storage equipment away from overhead lines.



One might wonder what to do if their vehicle or equipment comes into contact with a power line. If you are on equipment that comes into contact with a power line, do not exit the equipment. When you step off the equipment, you become part of the electricity's path to the ground and will receive a potentially fatal shock. Wait until utility workers have de-energized the line and confirmed it is safe to exit.

If the vehicle is on fire and you must exit, jump clear with both feet together. Hop as far from the vehicle as you can with your feet together. Keep your feet together to prevent current flow through your body, which could be deadly.

## Power Line Safety Applies to Everybody!

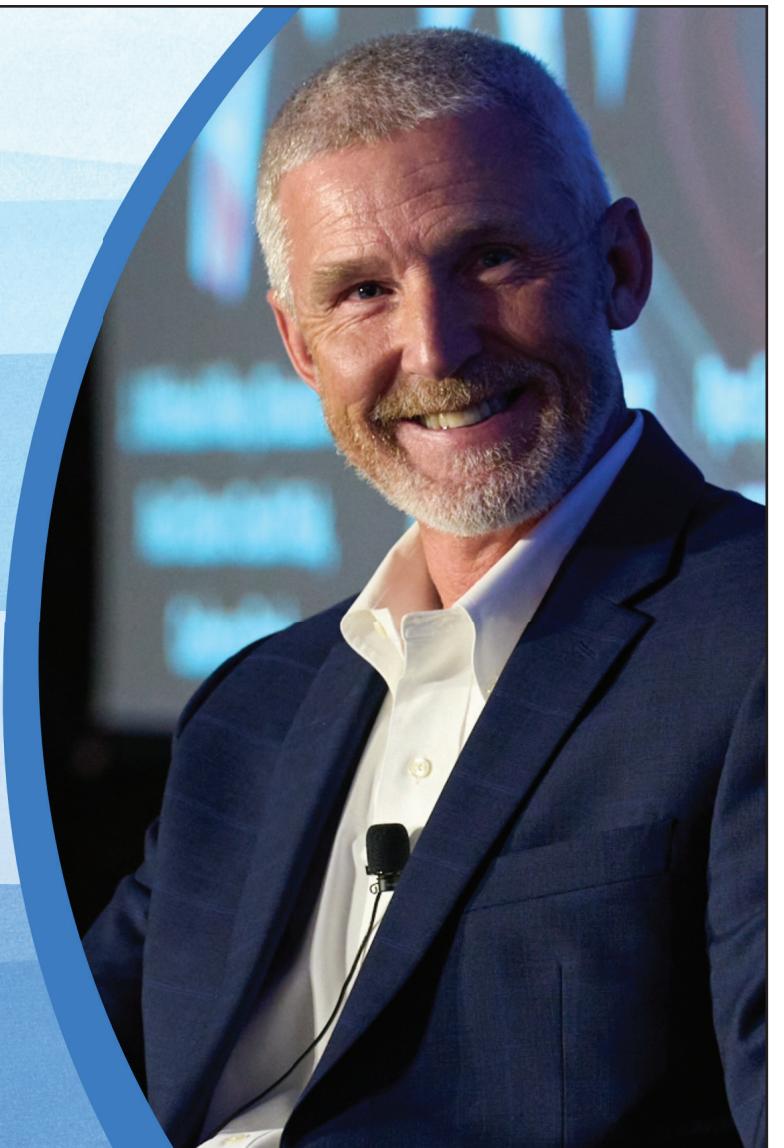
- 1) Consider every wire on the ground to be energized and dangerous. Most people do not know the difference between telephone lines and power lines. To be safe, stay away from both.
- 2) Never touch downed power lines with other objects, such as brooms, boards, limbs, or plastic materials. Only qualified electric utility workers should attempt to move downed power lines.
- 3) Never touch anything (cars, trucks, fences, people, etc.) that is in contact with power lines.
- 4) Never drive over downed power lines. Even if they're not energized, they can get tangled in your vehicle.
- 5) Do not attempt to cut or remove a tree that is or could become, entangled with power lines. Contact your power company for assistance.
- 6) Always call the local 811 utility locator prior to digging to avoid unexpectedly striking an underground electrical line or any other utility line.

Source: MSU Dawg Tracks, Mississippi State University Extension, May 2025, "Power Lines"



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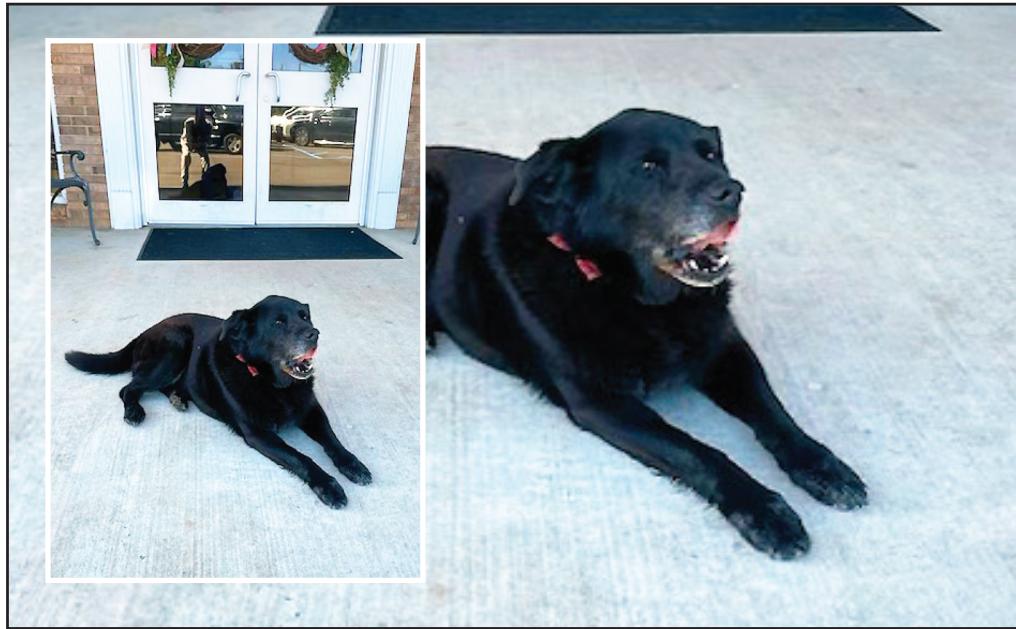
# Cross Roads Baptist Church has a special canine greeter

By Susie A. Wolfe

JoJo has been a church greeter at Cross Roads Baptist Church just south of Pelahatchie for more than 10 years. He lives about a mile down the road but is there every time the doors are open.

Tyler Moore, his owner, said JoJo liked to ride in the back of his truck when he was a puppy and the family was always going to the church. Now, he instinctively knows which day is Sunday, and heads there right after breakfast.

The family of deacon and interim music director Tommy Moore were founding members of the 109-year-old church located at Hwy 43 and Cross Roads Road. JoJo is such a staple in the church that his photo is in the church directory.



Susie A. Wolfe

JoJo greets members and guests each Sunday at Cross Roads Baptist Church in Pelahatchie. He has been a faithful greeter for more than 10 years.

JoJo only came inside once, according to the family. It was during Vacation Bible School, and the kids had a great time trying to catch him. Now, he is limited to outside only.

“He loves people, especially kids, so he walks around the parking lot greeting members and guests,” Moore said.

Many members have a JoJo story “since he is probably the church’s most faithful member,” joked one. There was a family that used to bring him a sausage biscuit each Sunday, and he would wait for his treat in their specific parking space.

“He’s the best dog I’ve ever had,” Moore said. “And he is living his best life!”

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# Pastor's Perspective: Discerning the Will of God



By Guest Columnist  
Spencer Sullivan, Pastor,  
Pelahatchie Baptist

Special to  
Pelahatchie News

Have you ever found yourself in a situation and you just weren't sure exactly what to do? Of course you have! We all have. For many, especially followers of Jesus, we want to know God's will so that we can follow His direction. He knows best, right? But have you ever desired to know His will, but weren't sure exactly how to figure that out, aside from Him audibly speaking to you? Whether we're concerned about knowing God's will or not, most all of us seek the input of friends or those we trust when we find ourselves in these situations. In the book of Acts, the apostle Paul had just finished his third missionary journey and he was convinced that God was leading him back to the city of Jerusalem. However, his friends were not so sure! Acts 21:1-14 detail two encounters in which two different groups of friends urged him not to go. Prophecies were made that informed him that both suffering and imprisonment awaited him there should he continue. His friends were adamant that he change his plans. These



friends included Luke (the author of the Gospel) and Philip (deacon and evangelist). Yet Paul was steadfast and believed that this was God's will. Was Paul correct in discerning the will of God? If so, how did he know?

Paul had long been convinced that this was the path God desired him to walk. Acts 19:21 says: "Now after these events Paul *resolved in the Spirit* to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem..." Acts 20:22 says: "And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, *constrained by the Spirit*, not knowing what will

happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me." Paul was 'resolved in the Spirit' and 'constrained by the Spirit' understanding that imprisonment and afflictions awaited him. He knew what was waiting for him there even before the prophecies were revealed in Acts 21! Not that we are like Paul, but my wife, Melanie, and I too have also experienced a situation in which we were convinced of God's calling or will, and yet, friends that we loved and trusted were counseling us very differently. So, again, how did Paul know what to do even when godly friends gave him much different counsel?

How do we know what to do when we're receiving different counsel from trusted voices? To be honest with you, in this situation, the Bible doesn't tell us explicitly how Paul knew. But my guess is that God spoke to Paul the same way He speaks to us today.

In our situation, the first thing we did was we searched the Scriptures. Does the Scripture speak directly regarding the issue at hand? For us, it did. We also prayed fervently and tried to listen for His voice each day, particularly as we were reading His Word. Of course, we talked to other

Continued on page 14



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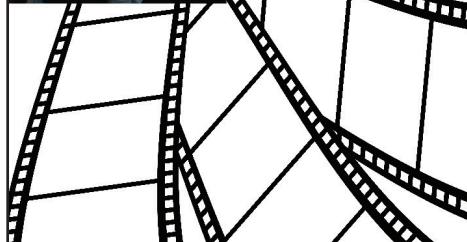


*Natalie Yarborough*  
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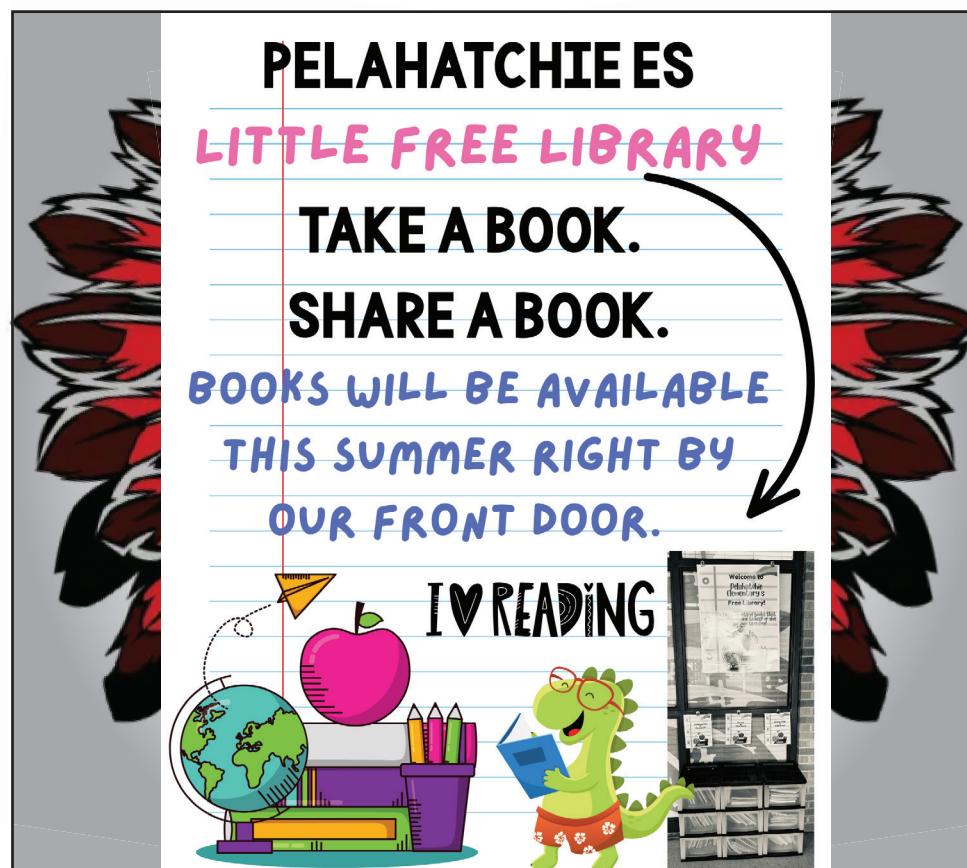
# The Will of God cont'd.

mature believers, particularly those who had walked the same path before. Circumstances then began to line up that were clearly God ordained. This gave us the confirmation we so desired. Eventually we were convinced, constrained by the Spirit even, as Paul described in his own situation. We knew how God was leading us. So, even when others that we loved disagreed, we knew. I have no doubt that Paul was compelled by God through the Spirit, through prayer, through the words of Jesus, and over time,



through multiple means, he knew what God wanted him to do. So much so, that even when well-meaning friends who loved him tried to protect him, he was still able to follow and obey. Therefore, I encourage you, the next time you don't know how God is leading you or you don't know how to handle a certain situation, seek the will of God and look for Him to speak through multiple means: *His Word, His Spirit through prayer and meditating on His Word, through trusted friends and loved ones, and confirmed through divinely ordained circumstances.*

# PES launches little free library



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Elementary School's (PES) Little Free Library will be available all summer right by their front door. PES wants to be sure students and families have access to books this summer to encourage a love of reading. The books don't have to be returned, feel free to keep them for a home library or share with other families and friends. #letsread

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# Fusion Martial Arts holds first student tournament

Recently, the instructors at Fusion Martial Arts decided to change things up a bit and held a tournament for the students to participate in. The participants gave their all for this tournament and everyone did well. With some added adjustments, the plan is to make this a normal part of the events at Fusion Martial Arts.



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# Pet parent awareness: Helping your pet with thunderstorm and noise phobia

by Animal Humane Society

Many dogs are frightened by the sights and sounds of thunderstorms. Rain, wind, thunder, lightning, and even pressure changes can all cause anxiety.

Some dogs will simply pace and whine to deal with their fear, while others hide or even injure themselves while trying to escape confinement. How your dog reacts determines which interventions are most appropriate for your pup.

First and foremost, try to stay as calm as possible. Your stress will only worsen the situation.

### Mild reaction

If your dog trembles, hides, or snuggles up to you, limit their exposure to the elements as much as possible. Close curtains and blinds, turn on lights, and turn on the radio, TV or a white noise machine to drown out the sounds outside.



Allow them to hide if it's safe and helps them relax.

If you know it's going to storm later in the day, try to exercise your dog as thoroughly as possible to tire them out. Strenuous exercise reduces anxiety, and while it won't prevent their fear, it may lower the intensity of your dog's reaction.

Comfort your dog. This won't reward the behavior, but, at best it will help. At worst, it'll do nothing. Try to engage them in something they love. If they will eat a treat, try feeding

them as the storm approaches. You could also fill a food stuffed toy to keep your dog busy and make the storm less stressful. If they won't eat, that means their stress level is too high and you should stop trying to feed.

### Severe reaction

If your dog howls, screams, destroys things, or injures themselves in an effort to escape, talk to your veterinarian. Ask about a medication to help with their anxiety.

Article source: <https://www.animalhumanesociety.org/resource/thunderstorm-and-noise-phobia>

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