



PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



January 2026 ■ Volume 15, Issue 1 ■ Pelahatchie, MS

Watson presents at 2025 ACTFL Convention and World Languages Expo



Special to Pelahatchie News

Ms. Kimberly Watson (Spanish teacher at Pelahatchie High School) recently presented, “Empowering Student Voice: Writing for Purpose in World Language Education,” at the 2025 American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Convention and World Languages Expo in New Orleans. A continuation of her 2024 ACTFL session in Philadelphia, PA, “The Crossroads: Building World Language Classrooms in Rural Education,” she shared evidence-based research findings with teachers to assist novice through AP level WL learners with their presentational writing skills, applicable learner support tools to support learners at

all levels, and strategies for connecting not only WL Standards, but other content areas, as well. Ms. Watson also attended the by-invitation-only ACTFL Assembly of Delegates. An interactive and collaborative workshop for state, regional, and national leaders of ACTFL’s organizational members. Delegates from across the United States discussed the current state of World Language programs, exchanged ideas, and goals for supporting teachers and learners of WL education. She serves as the Mississippi Foreign Languages Association’s Vice-President of Membership and the Southern Conference on Language Teaching’s Board of Directors as Co-Editor of SCOLTalk and Co-Registrar.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

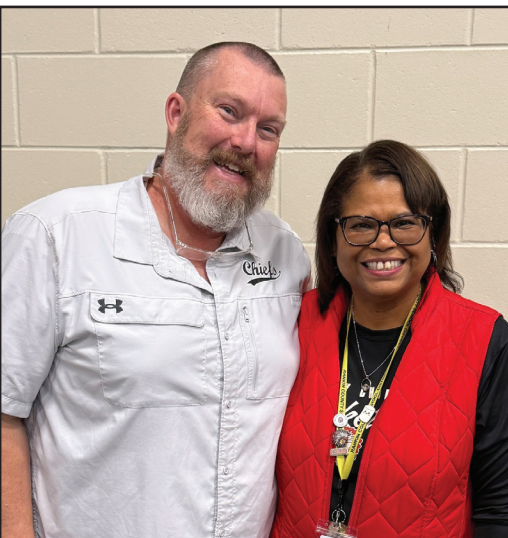
Nelson retires from Pelahatchie High School

Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, Pelahatchie High School (PHS) had the honor of celebrating Assistant Principal Mr. Philip Nelson as he enters retirement and what a powerful celebration it was. Chiefs and others from every season of his career were in attendance, some who worked beside him for a single year and others for more than a decade, and every voice echoed the same message: this is a man of character, heart, and unwavering dedication.

Nelson has been so much more than an administrator. He has been a steady presence, a trusted leader, a loyal teammate, and a true friend. His influence is felt in the halls of

PHS, in the lives of the students, and in the countless colleagues who learned from his example. He showed us what it means to lead with integrity, consistency, and compassion. A Chieftain through and through, Nelson leaves behind a legacy that will continue to shape the Tribe for years to come. The faculty, staff and students are grateful for his service, his leadership, and the heart he poured into Pelahatchie High School. Congratulations to Nelson on a well-earned retirement. He will always be part of the PHS family. Once a Chief, always a Chief.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Philip Nelson and (right) Vonnelle Anderson, Head Principal Pelahatchie High School.

Continued on page 2

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Nelson retires from Pelahatchie High School



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Volume 15 Issue 1

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Pelahatchie HS JROTC hosts "masquerade" ball

Friday evening, the Chiefs JROTC Battalion hosted its annual military ball. The theme was "masquerade" and featured guest speaker retired Sergeant Major Jimmy Tullos. After the program, there was a dance.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Crafting compassion: Students create replacement for missing classroom treasure

By Guest Columnist, Rebecca Nelson,
Pelahatchie Elementary STEAM Teacher

A posted “Missing and Missed” sign outside the STEAM Lab at Pelahatchie Elementary sparked compassion and concern in many students and classrooms. They jumped right into action to try and find a missing hedgehog figurine that has become a cherished classroom pet by 4th grader, Kinleigh Amos. She has taken such great care of the figurine by naming it Henry and keeping it in a special place. She has also been creating a habitat for it using makerspace materials. Henry went missing after one of Kinleigh’s building sessions, so she made a missing poster to try to get help finding it.

Each class that entered STEAM was concerned about Henry and wanted to help. Many students searched high and low for Henry, but he was not found. The news made two 6th grade students, Hayzlee Nelson and Hadley Taylor, ponder what they could do to help Kinleigh, and they



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

6th grade students, Hayzlee Nelson and Hadley Taylor.

decided that they would create new hedgehogs that Kinleigh could keep. They wanted to make sure the new hedgehogs would look similar to the missing hedgehog, so they took great care when designing them.

Once finished, Hayzlee and Hadley were eager to deliver them to Kin-

leigh, whom they had never met. Kinleigh was surprised and excited to have her very own hedgehogs that she could keep. The kindness and compassion shown by Hayzlee and Hadley has inspired Kinleigh to create a STEAM TEAM that shares



Hayzlee Nelson and Hadley Taylor with 4th grader Kinleigh Amos.

kindness and tries to help others when they need help.

The halls of Pelahatchie Elementary are filled with more than just books and lesson plans; they are



Nelson and Taylor at the STEAM lab.

filled with heart. By reaching out to a student they had never met, Hayzlee and Hadley proved that no act of kindness is too small to make a difference. Today Kinleigh has a new set of hedgehogs to care for. More importantly, she and the rest of the school have a shining example of what it means to be a compassionate neighbor.

Griffin Family Medical Clinic

HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR!



**Therefore if any
man be in Christ,
he is a new creature:
old things are
passed away;
behold, all things
are become new.
2 Corinthians 5:17**

Mary Ann Griffin, CFNP • Kim Risher • Keli Robertson
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601-854-8002

Moffatt RCK teacher of the month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, Mr. Derek Hayes came on behalf of the Rankin County Kiwanis Club to recognize Pelahatchie High School eighth grade teacher Meagan Moffatt as the Teacher of the Month for November. Her classroom is a warm, inviting space where students feel welcomed, supported, and excited to learn each day. She motivates her students with creative lessons, high expectations, and a genuine belief in their success. Congratulations! Special thank you to Derek Hayes and the Kiwanis group for sponsoring the Teacher of the Month each month.

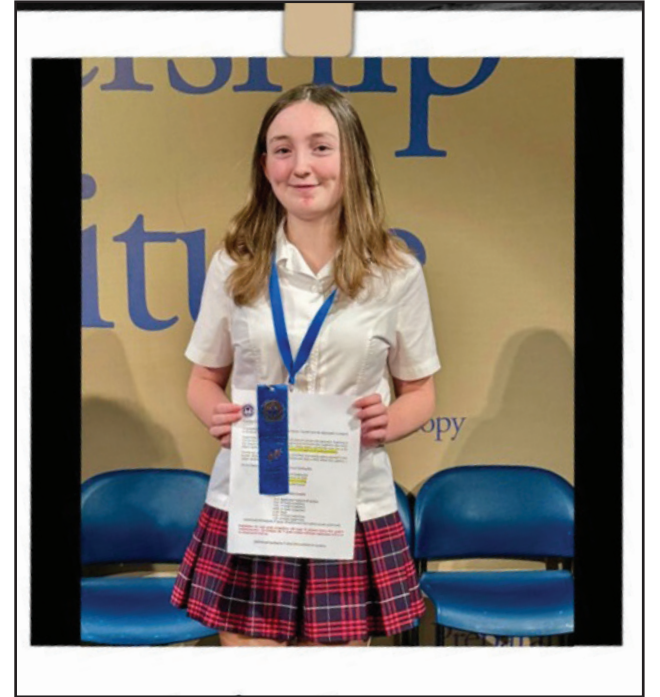
PHS names Middle School Spelling Bee winners



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Middle School Spelling Bee winners are (left) Noelle Gardner, Runner-Up and (right) Kinley Simpson, Champion. Both spellers will compete at the district level in January.

Logan wins MAIS District



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to East Rankin Academy's Mabry Logan. She won first place in the Eighth Grade MAIS District Spelling Bee.

Senior Beta joins Pelahatchie's Trunk Or Treat Night



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School's (PHS) Senior Beta Club participated in Pelahatchie's Trunk or Treat on Halloween night. Members enjoyed handing out candy and interacting with all of the kids. PHS thanks all of the students who donated lots of candy for this event. Also, the club's circus-themed trunk won second place! A special shout out goes to Skinner's theater students who designed and then created the trunk decorations.

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CONTAINER GARDENING CLASS
JAN. 12 AT 3:00 P.M.

BRUNCH & BOOKS: ADULT BOOK CLUB
JAN. 21 AT 11:00 A.M.

LEFT ON READ: TEEN BOOK CLUB
JAN. 21 AT 3:30 P.M.

**PELAHATCHIE PETALS
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JAN. 22 AT 5:30 P.M.

**FRIENDS OF THE PELAHATCHIE
PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING**
JAN. 29 AT 3:30 P.M.



Pelahatchie ES first LEAD graduation



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) celebrated its first-ever LEAD graduation. LEAD (Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence) helps students learn to make safe choices, build strong character, and become leaders in their school and community. Nearly two years ago PES began looking for additional ways to support students, and that led to bringing the LEAD program into RCSD while continuing with the strong commitment to the DARE program. Together, these programs give students the tools they need to grow and succeed. Congratulations to the first LEAD graduating class! PES is proud of the students and grateful for the educators, law enforcement partners, and families who support them every step of the way.

Crooked Creek Animal Hospital

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Katlyn Henning, DVM
Jenny Sowell, DVM
Carter Hill, DVM

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Pelahatchie High band students selected for MS Bandmasters Clinic



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to (left) Jaci Smith - Mallet Percussion and (right) Sara Myers - French Horn, for being selected to participate in the 2025 Mississippi Bandmasters Association State Band Clinic in Natchez, MS!

City Beat: Mayor, Alderman meeting for Monday, December 1, 2025



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 Monday, December 1, 2025 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 Aldermen Diane Hill, Sandra Harvey, David Gray, Eddie Jones, and James Harrell present.

Residents' and Visitors' Business:

David McKay addressed the Board regarding a water connection issue at his property located at 328 Lake Road. After discussion, the Board advised that the town would investigate the matter further and contact Mr. McKay once a solution is determined.

Department Discussions:

The Clerk noted that the town's Christmas parade is scheduled to take place on Saturday, December 6, 2025. Zoning matters involving 13 properties were discussed.

New Business:

1. The Board discussed and considered approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on November 3, 2025. A motion was made by Alderman Eddie Jones and seconded by Alderman James Harrell to approve the minutes, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. The Board then considered approval of the minutes

from the Public Hearing held on November 18, 2025. A motion was made by Alderman Eddie Jones and seconded by Alderman David Gray, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. The Board next discussed the unpaid claims docket. A motion was made by Alderman Eddie Jones and seconded by Alderman David Gray to approve the unpaid claims docket, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. The Board then considered a bank draft payment to Morgan and White Insurance in the amount of \$1,114.23, secondary to BCBS. A motion was made



by Alderman Eddie Jones and seconded by Alderman Diane Hill and the motion passed unanimously.

5. The Board also considered a bank draft payment to EMC Insurance in the amount of \$6,509.53 for property insurance. A motion was made by Alderman Eddie Jones and seconded by Alderman Harrell, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. The Board then discussed a bank draft payment to Blue Cross Insurance in the amount of \$9,862.28. A motion was made by Alderman Eddie Jones and seconded by Alderman Diane Hill, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. The Board next discussed and considered approval and ratification of payroll for November 2025, including General payroll in the amount of \$72,416.95 and Enterprise payroll in the amount of \$31,630.36. A motion was made by Alderman Eddie Jones and seconded by Alderman Harrell, and the motion carried 3-2 with Alderman Hill and Alderman Harvey voting nay.

A motion was then made by Alderman Jones to amend the agenda at 6:17 PM to add Waggoner Engineering to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Alderman Harrell. Hayden Overby with Waggoner Engineering made a recommendation that the Board reject all current bids for the town's wastewater project. Alderman Jones made the motion, Alderman Gray seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Alderman Discussions:

Alderman Diane Hill reported potholes located at 311 North Avenue and 304 North Avenue. Alderman Eddie Jones stated the town had a good year and expressed hope that everyone would have a great holiday season. Mayor VanHorn reported that a plate glass window at the front of City Hall was damaged and would require replacement at an estimated cost of \$14,700, which includes glass and installation. In addition, Mayor VanHorn announced that Pancakes with Santa would be held on Saturday, December 6, 2025 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and that the town Christmas parade would follow afterwards at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Diane Hill and seconded by Alderman Eddie Jones. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Hayes of PES named RCSD's Elementary Parent of the Year



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Congratulations to Derek Hayes, RCSD's Elementary Parent of the Year from Pelahatchie Elementary School. His support, involvement, and commitment to students help build a school community where everyone thrives.



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PHS girls place at FFA Federation



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to the FFA girls who competed recently at the FFA Federation. Not in order: Bailey Key - 2nd Place, JR Creed Speaking; Lou Ellen Wilson - 1st Place, JR Prepared Public Speaking; and Katiebelle Herrington - 3rd Place, SR Prepared Public Speaking. They followed up competition with a shopping trip for angels from the Angel Tree on behalf of the Pelahatchie FFA.

Pelahatchie ES JH Beta Club welcomes new members



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) welcomes the newest members to the Jr. Beta Club! Congratulations to all the inductees who demonstrated excellence, character, leadership, and service. Four Pillars of Jr. Beta Club: Character: Demonstrating integrity, responsibility, and respect in all we do. Excellence: Striving for high standards in academics, arts, and activities. Service: Giving back to our school and community with volunteer work. Leadership: Serving as positive role models and mentors for peers.

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Jellystone hosts the Pelahatchie Community Christmas Celebration

The Pelahatchie Community Christmas Celebration was held recently at Yogi on the Lake. There was live music, Christmas crafts, photos with Santa, wagon rides, and more! Attendees brought food drive donations for a chance to walk away with door prizes. Fairway Grocery provided hot dogs, and local law enforcement and fire stations provided vehicles for Touch-A-Truck.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



Anderson named the RCSD Secondary Administrator of the Year



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) would like to give a huge round of applause to Voncille Anderson, the RCSD Secondary Administrator of the Year! Her leadership sets the tone for success, belonging, and high expectations across the campus.

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

(5 miles south of Interstate 20 on Highway 43 South)

PHS baseball and softball teams go bananas for Halloween scrimmage

Recently, the baseball and softball teams joined forces for their annual Halloween game. Everyone had a good time, and in a thrilling showdown, team Jack-O-Lantern took home the victory. Thank you to all who participated and thank you for making the event so special.



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PAST HEADLINES

2016 - 10 years ago

- "Griffin buys Pelahatchie Medical Clinic"
- "Business Spotlight: *Automotive Industry News* recognizes Multicraft"

2021 - 5 years ago

- "Rhodes family wins Farm Bureau Agriculture Achievement Award"
- "Key named PHS Rural Teacher of the Year"

2025 - Last Year

- "Colonel Tate retires from U.S. Army"
- "PHS band goes to MBA Clinic and gets new band uniforms"

Misused or damaged lithium batteries can lead to fire or explosion



Special to
Pelahatchie News

By Doug Carter, Rankin
County Extension Agent

Battery powered equipment, leaf blowers, weed eaters, chain saws, and cordless drills are gaining in popularity. These devices are powered by lithium batteries. Their popular use is due to this battery's high-power capacity, in a relatively small package.

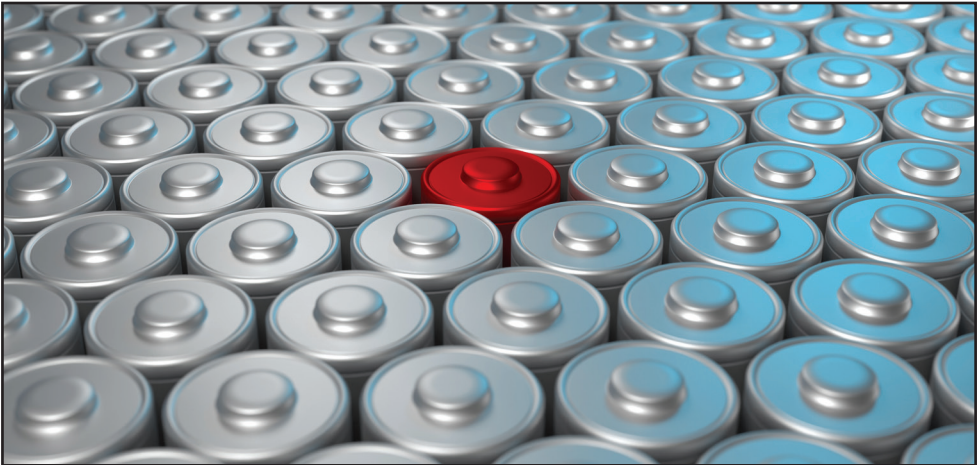
There are several different types of lithium batteries, some rechargeable and some non-rechargeable, both of which are generally safe and unlikely to fail but only so long as there are no defects or damage.

When lithium batteries fail to operate safely or are damaged, they present a fire or explosion hazard. Damage can occur immediately or over a period of time.

There are different ways that lithium batteries can be damaged:

- Improper use, storage, or charging.
- Physical impacts, such as dropping, crushing, or puncturing.
- Exposure to extreme temperatures. Temperatures above 130 degrees F., open flames, continuous direct

sun exposure, exposure to heaters, etc., can damage these batteries. Below freezing temperatures, during charging, can also lead to a damaged lithium battery.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Any of these can result in cell failure, releasing intense heat and damaging other nearby cells causing a chain reaction known as a thermal runaway. The high energy density in lithium batteries makes them more susceptible to these reactions. Lithium cell failures can result in chemical and/or combustion reactions, which can result in heat release and/or combustion reactions, which can

result in heat releases and/or over-pressurization quickly leading to acid exposure, smoke, fire or explosion.

Lithium battery fires are extremely difficult to extinguish. Fire extinguishers

may only temporarily knock the flames down and large amounts of water are often ineffective. Lithium fires usually re-ignite and have to burn out before they are no longer a threat. Isolating the burning object from other flammable material is often the only way to prevent the spread of a lithium battery fire.

Prevention steps to help prevent a lithium battery fire are:

1. Ensure lithium battery's chargers, and associated equipment, are a high-quality product (recognized by national testing standards; ex. UL).
2. Always store, use and maintain by the manufacturer's recommendations.
3. When replacing lithium batteries, always ensure they are specifically designed for and match the device.
4. Remove lithium-powered devices and batteries from the charger once they are fully charged.
5. Store lithium-powered devices and batteries and devices in dry cool locations.
6. Clean lithium batteries with a clean, slightly damp cloth. Do not use solvents.
7. Inspect lithium batteries for signs of damage, such as bulging and cracking or rising temperature.
8. If lithium batteries are damaged, leaking or smoking, remove them from service and isolate them from everything else. For example, smaller batteries can be placed outside in a fire-resistant container, such as a metal drum.

Source: MSU Dawg Tracks Safety Newsletter, "Lithium Battery" January 2023, Leslie Woolington

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Highlights from the 2025 Pelahatchie Christmas Parade



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

The winners of the Pelahatchie Christmas Parade: 1. Cross Roads BC, 2. Pelahatchie Baptist, 3. First Apostolic; Pelahatchie Christmas Parade judges pictured (l to r) are: Hayden Overby, Wagner Engineering with his son Luke; Alderman Frank Boyd, who served more than 10 years; and MC for the event Rankin County Justice Court Judge Whitney Adams.

Hairston Named to Belhaven's Fall 2025 President's List



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Belhaven University student Andrew Hairston of Pelahatchie, MS on being named to the Belhaven University Fall 2025 President's List. Hairston is among a select number of students named to the President's List. To be eligible for the President's List, a student must achieve a 4.0 grade point average while taking a full course load of at least 12 semester hours.

Waters named ASA executive director

Special to Pelahatchie News

The American Subcontractors Association of Mississippi (ASA of MS) recently announced that Joel Waters has been hired as their new Executive Director.

Waters is the former Executive Director of the Mississippi Concrete Association, serving from 2016 to 2025, and has been instrumental in their growth and success. Prior to 2016, Waters was Executive Director of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of MS.

Waters has also previously been an active board member of Build MS and instrumental in the growth of that organization, along with several ASA members on that Board.

Waters brings vast experience in the Mississippi Association community and has strong ties to the Subcontractor sector and knows how to operate in the Association space.

Cody Curry, 2025-2026 ASA of MS Chairman states, "ASA of MS is proud to welcome someone of Joel Waters' work history, character and work ethic as our new Executive Director, to continue the successful growth of ASA of MS well into the future."

Waters is a 1984 graduate of University of Southern Mississippi, where he was a member of the USM baseball team.

Waters and his wife Susan have been married for 43 years and reside in Madison. They have three married children and five grandchildren.



Pastor's Perspective: Grace Found in the Vineyard



Special to
Pelahatchie News

By Guest Columnist Spencer
Sullivan, Pastor, Pelahatchie Baptist

This may seem a bit odd coming from a Southern Baptist pastor, but I love visiting wineries and vineyards. To be clear, I haven't been to very many. But, our family formerly lived on the island of Cyprus for 7 years and though it is a small country, it is home to several vineyards, which produce local wines. Just a couple of months ago, we were in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina for a wedding, and we were able to visit a vineyard there as well. The vineyards I've had the pleasure of visiting are beautiful places. There are rows and rows of grape vines growing across terraced hills as far as you can see. It's a breathtaking sight. But, as I take in the beauty of all that I see, I begin to consider the manpower and hard work that is behind it all. It must take loads of hardworking people to build and nurture these vineyards which produce the beautiful grape vines.

One day, Jesus told a story and a vineyard happened to be the setting. I encourage you to take a few moments to read it. You can find it at the beginning of Matthew 20. In this story, the owner of the vineyard went into town to hire workers 5 different times over the course of a day. In our time living in the Middle East, I can remember each city having a specific location where day laborers would gather and wait, tools in hand, ready to be hired for a job. This was obviously a common scene in Jesus' day as well. The owner first went out early in the morning. For the first group



Special to Pelahatchie News

he hired, he agreed with each worker for a denarius for the day's work. A denarius was the daily wage for a soldier. A day laborer never would have expected this much, which communicates that the owner was quite generous. Each of the subsequent 4 times he went out to hire workers, he told them: "You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you." At the end of the day, he instructed his foreman to deliver the wages to each worker, starting with those that were hired on last. Each were given a denarius, which of course, was the original amount agreed upon with the first group of workers. Therefore, when the first workers saw the amount, they got really excited. Of course, you know what they were thinking: if those guys got

a denarius, how much are we going to get? Yet, when the foreman paid out all the wages, they all got the same amount: 1 denarius. Clearly, this frustrated those who had been hired first. Why? Because they didn't think the owner had been "fair". They had worked for far longer, but got the same amount as those that worked less. Let's be honest. How would you have responded? My guess is we all would have been a bit salty. We're conditioned to think a certain way about what's fair and what's not. But listen again to the owner's response: "Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?"

In Jesus' story, the owner of the vineyard is God. The vineyard is the Kingdom of God. The workers are believers. And finally, the denarius is the gift of eternal life. There is a lot that we could take away from this story, including how we determine what is "fair" and "unfair". But, if we really want God to be "fair", then we would all eternally burn. Instead, consider this. God, out of His immeasurable generosity, gives the same abundant grace to everyone who follows Jesus. Some come to faith early in life and serve Him for a lifetime. Others turn to Him in their final moments, perhaps even after a life of rebellion. However, His grace is the same for all. This is a beautiful truth. The question is, have you believed and received His grace and the gift of eternal life? Don't wait and take the chance on tomorrow. Receive His abundant grace and know the joy of the Lord today!

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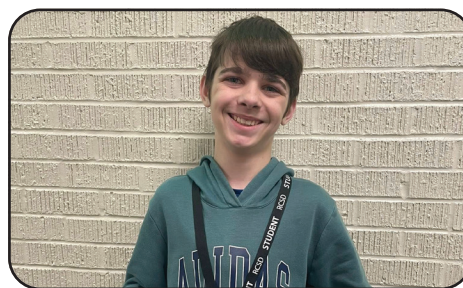
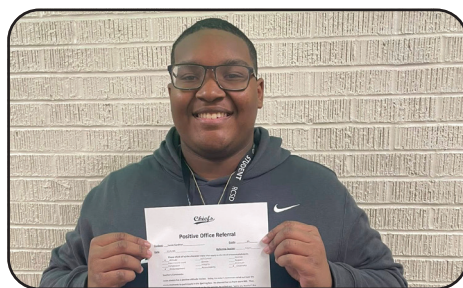
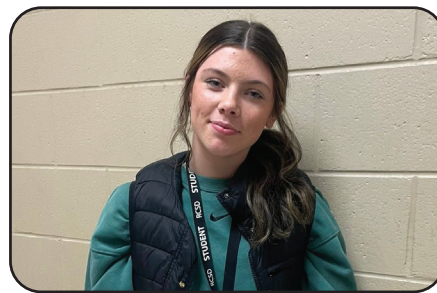
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Pelahatchie High School positive student spotlight

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) is happy to recognize three students for their exceptional kindness, respect, and dedication to making our school a better place. Their willingness to help others and promote a positive school environment truly sets them apart. Pictured top row, left to right: Brayden Griffin, Danilynn Ward, and Jamauri Hollis.

PHS is also proud to recognize three students who remind us what it truly means to live with gratitude every single day. Second row, left to right: Rubyrae Elliott, Trinity Buckner, and Sam Shoemaker. They consistently demonstrate thankfulness through their words, actions, and attitude. Whether they are encouraging a classmate, showing appreciation to their teachers, or simply bringing a positive spirit into the school, they lead by example in the best possible way. Their daily gratitude helps build a kinder, more connected school community.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to these students for representing our Tribe so well with their acts of kindness, generosity, and joy. These four have gone above and beyond to show just how easy it is to be a true Chieftain at heart. Pictures left to right: Aubrey Hudson, Lucas Gardner, John "Austin" Henderson, and Brayden McCurdy.

Board of Education seeks HS sophomores as representatives

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) is seeking applications from high school sophomores to serve as the new high school junior student representative on the SBE for the 2026-27 school year. The application deadline is January 30, 2026.

Now in its eighth year, the Student Representatives of the Mississippi State Board of Education program includes a high school junior and a high school senior who serve as non-voting SBE members to share their viewpoints on policy decisions regarding Mississippi public schools.

The current SBE junior representative, Michelle Xie of Oak Grove High School, will serve as the senior representative in 2026-27. Through a competitive process, the SBE will appoint a new junior representative to serve a two-year term starting July 1, 2026.

The top ten semi-finalists among applicants, including the junior representative appointed and an alternate representative, automatically get to serve on the State Superintendent's Student Advisory Council. There were thirty students who were eligible applicants for the 2025-26 junior representative



position.

The SBE adopted policy in 2018 outlining criteria for adding student representatives to the State Board. Student representatives are responsible for attending monthly SBE meetings and any standing committees or subcommittees to which they are assigned. They are excused from school to attend SBE meetings as official school business, and they also work as liaisons for their peers to SBE.

The application packet must be mailed and postmarked by January 30, 2026, and a video component of the application must be uploaded that day by 5 p.m. To access the application, visit [MDEK12.org/mbe/Student-Representatives-Of-The-Mississippi-State-Board-Of-Education/](https://mdek12.org/mbe/Student-Representatives-Of-The-Mississippi-State-Board-Of-Education/).

For more information, contact Sherry Bombich at 601-359-9714 or by email to SBombich@mdek12.org.



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