

PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK

NEWS Pelahatchie • PELAHATCHIE E-MAIL BLAST • PELAHATCHIE NEWS WEBSITE • SOCIAL MEDIA

November 2026 ■ Volume 15, Issue 11 ■ Pelahatchie, MS

Key places at MS State Fair





Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations Bailey Key! Bailey had a great State Fair showing with her heifers. KF_C Max Rosa (Franny) was 2nd in her Shorthorn Class; KF_C Lady Reward (Fancy) was 1st in her Shorthorn Class; and Champion Shorthorn Heifer and MS Bred and Dust Enlightened (Ember) was 1st in her AOB Class.

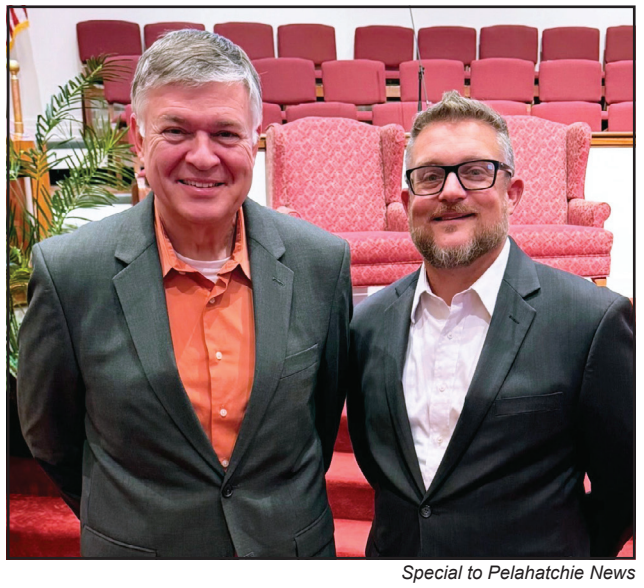
Herrington selected to MSDE advisory board



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congrats to Pelahatchie High School (PHS) junior KatieBelle Herrington on being selected to the MS Department of Education Superintendent Student Advisory Board! She was one of three from Rankin County, and she will represent PHS, the RCSD, and our community! PHS looks forward to hearing of all the things Herrington will accomplish while part of this group.

Nash welcomed to PBC as official worship pastor



Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, Chris Nash received a majority vote from the congregation at Pelahatchie Baptist Church (PBC), and after prayer and discussion with his family, he has accepted the call to officially be PBC's Worship Pastor. Though Nash has been serving as interim for some time, please welcome him and his wife, Gina, as they officially join the PBC church family. Please pray for him as he embraces his official role in leading the choir and congregation in worship each Sunday.

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Local Business Spotlight: Hometown Nutrition of Pelahatchie

Special to Pelahatchie News

Our story — and a little about the family behind Hometown Nutrition of Pelahatchie. There have been so many new followers and new faces around here lately, and the owners realized that some of you may not know how the business started — or even know the family behind Hometown Nutrition of Pelahatchie. So, it seems some introductions are in order.

We're Amanda and Vernon, and this is our daughter, Sophie. We're the family behind Hometown Nutrition, and in August of 2023, we opened these doors with a dream that went far beyond serving loaded teas and shakes. From the very beginning, we wanted Hometown Nutrition to be more than just a tea shop. We wanted it to be a place where customers become family. A place where you walk through the door and feel welcomed, known and loved. A little hometown place where people could come in for their favorite drink but leave knowing that someone was genuinely glad to see them.

But just as important to us was becoming a true part of the Pelahatchie community. Pelahatchie isn't simply where our business is located — it's our community where we live, and we are proud to be a part of it. We love supporting our schools, our kids, our local events, our fellow small businesses and the families who make this little town so special. We never wanted to simply own a business in Pelahatchie; we wanted Hometown



Special to Pelahatchie News

Continued on page 2



Hometown Nutrition of Pelahatchie

Nutrition to be part of Pelahatchie.

Over the past three years, we've had the privilege of living life alongside so many of you. We've celebrated new babies being born, watched your seniors graduate, celebrated birthdays and anniversaries, cheered your kids on at ballgames, celebrated new jobs and new beginnings, and shared in so many of life's landmark moments. But we've also walked alongside many of you through cancer journeys, loss, difficult seasons and some of life's hardest days. We've laughed together, cried together, celebrated together and prayed together. And somewhere along the way, so many of you became much more than customers — you became our Hometown family.

It has always been our hope and prayer that Hometown Nutrition would be a welcoming place for each and every person who walks through our doors. Whether it's your very first visit or you've been coming since the day we opened, we hope you always feel like there's a place for you here.

Our story would not be complete without our amazing Hometown staff. We are so incredibly thankful for each of them and the love they pour into this little shop and our customers every single day. They help make Hometown what we always dreamed it would be — a place where people are greeted with a smile, conversations are shared across the counter, and customers are treated like family. We truly could not do this without them. They love and care for our Hometown customers just like we do, and we are so thankful for the part each of them plays in making this place so special. And to you — our customers, friends and our Pelahatchie community — thank you.

Thank you for every tea purchased, every post shared, every friend you've brought through our doors, every encouraging word and every conversation across our counter. Thank you for allowing our family and our little business to be part of your lives and part of this wonderful community. You are the reason we get to keep doing what we love.

So, from Amanda, Vernon, Sophie and our entire Hometown crew — Welcome to Hometown Nutrition of Pelahatchie.

Come for the tea, stay for the friendships, and know that when you walk through our doors, you're family. We are so thankful for where God has brought us, for every person He has placed in our path, and for the community of Pelahatchie that has supported us and loved us so well. We are proud to call Pelahatchie our Hometown. Thank you for being part of our story.

Editor's Note: The Pelahatchie News joins with the Pelahatchie Chamber of Commerce in showcasing one of Pelahatchie's many small and privately owned businesses. Each one of these helps to make the Pelahatchie community what it is. This article has been written by the owners of Hometown Nutrition of Pelahatchie and not the staff of the Pelahatchie News or the Chamber.

Get in the Christmas spirit at PBC's 15th Holiday Marketplace



Susie A. Wolfe

By Susie A. Wolfe

Pelahatchie Baptist Church (PBC) will hold its 15th annual Holiday Marketplace on Saturday, November 7, 2026, 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. It will take place in PBC Fellowship Hall. Proceeds from the event fund Operation Christmas Shoebox.

The Holiday Marketplace will feature Christmas decorations, homemade jellies, cakes, pies, candy, sourdough bread, homemade rolls, and cinnamon rolls. There is also a discounted items area.

Shoppers can enjoy complimentary spice tea and punch while they shop. Lunch will be available to dine in or carry out. The menu is chicken salad plates, hamburger plates, or homemade soup and cornbread. NOTE: Lunch and baked goods usually sell out early.

Pelahatchie NEWS

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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, Susie A. Wolfe, 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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Baker nominated for Milesplit MS Athlete of the week



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy (ERA) student Jewel Baker was recently nominated for MileSplit Athlete of the Week for her PR-setting performance at the 2026 Watson Classic! She finished in tenth place out of 149 finishers at the Watson High School XC Classic, presented by RunningLane, via an 18:42.60 time in the 5K. That time checks in at No. 29 of 8,878 athletes in MileSplit's database at Choctaw Trails MC since 2006, and among freshmen on this course it ranks No. 3 of 3,266. It also marks a 3.4-second improvement over a previous mark there.

Southern Pine called to action after Hurricane Isaias

Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, Southern Pine was called to action to help its many neighbors. When disaster strikes, electric cooperatives come together to help their neighbors. Southern Pine Electric answered the call for mutual aid assistance, sending 28 employees and multiple pieces of equipment to Florida to assist Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative (CHELCO) with power restoration efforts following Hurricane Isaias.

At that time, CHELCO reported 42,917 of its approximately 70,000 meters without power. Southern Pine's crews worked alongside fellow cooperative employees to help restore power as quickly and safely as possible. Please join in keeping the communities impacted by Hurricane Isaias, along with all the men and women who worked tirelessly to restore power, in your thoughts and prayers.













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Grief Share
Surviving the Holidays
Saturday, November 14
2:00 p.m.
Cross Roads Baptist Church
104 Crossroads Road
Pelahatchie MS 39145
601-546-2297

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Katlyn Henning, DVM
Jenny Sowell, DVM
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City Beat: Mayor, Alderman meeting for Monday, October 5, 2026



Special to Pelahatchie News

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

The October 2026 Pelahatchie Mayor and Board of Aldermen regular meeting was held on Monday, October 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM at Town Hall. Mayor Karl VanHorn presided and called the meeting to order. Alderwomen Diane Hill and Sandra Harvey, along with Aldermen David Gray, Eddie Jones, and James Harrell, were in attendance for the proceedings. Alderman Jones led the prayer and invocation at 6:00 p.m.

Department Discussions:

Clerk: The Town Clerk announced that the Town's annual Trunk or Treat event is scheduled for October 30.

Zoning: The board discussed house plans for a property located at 302 Munsterman Ave. Alderman Jones made a motion to approve the plans, and Alderwoman Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

New Business:

The board discussed, considered, and voted to approve the minutes from the previous regular board meeting held on September 8, 2026. Alderman Jones made the motion to approve, and Alderwoman Hill seconded the motion. The measure passed with all in favor.

The board discussed, considered, and voted to approve the payment of the unpaid claims docket. Alderman Jones made the motion to approve, and Alderman Harrell seconded the motion. The measure passed with a 3-2 vote, with Alderwoman Hill and Alderwoman Harvey voting nay.

The board discussed, considered, and voted to approve the disbursement of a bank draft payment to Morgan and White Insurance in the amount of $1,117.16. Alderman Jones made the motion to approve, and Alderwoman Hill seconded the motion. The measure passed with all in favor.

Pelahatchie
THE PLACE TO PROSPER

The board discussed, considered, and voted to approve a bank draft payment to Blue Cross Insurance in the amount of $10,236.40. Alderman Jones made the motion to approve, and Alderman Gray seconded the motion. The measure passed with all in favor.

The board discussed the approval and ratification of the payment of payroll for September 2026, which included $77,262.81 for the General fund and $30,824.39 for the Enterprise fund. Alderman Jones made the motion to approve the payroll, and Alderman Harrell seconded the motion. The measure passed with a 3-2 vote, with Alderwoman Hill and Alderwoman Harvey voting nay.

Executive Session:

At 6:07 p.m., Alderman Jones made a motion to enter into an executive session, which was seconded by Alderman Harrell and passed with all in favor. The executive session was requested to discuss two personnel matters within the Pelahatchie Police Department. The city attorney addressed the board during the closed session at 6:10 p.m. The executive session concluded at 6:31 p.m, resulting in one hire and one disciplinary action.

Mayor's Notes:

Mayor VanHorn stated that the board needed a motion to amend the 2025-2026 budget to "actual." Alderman Jones made the motion, and Alderman Harrell seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Additionally, Mayor VanHorn discussed a Small Municipalities grant. The 10% grant is intended for upgrades and maintenance, which will most likely be used for the city water tower. Alderman Jones made a motion to approve two resolutions for the grant, and Alderman Harrell seconded the motion. The measure passed with all in favor.

Alderman Discussions:

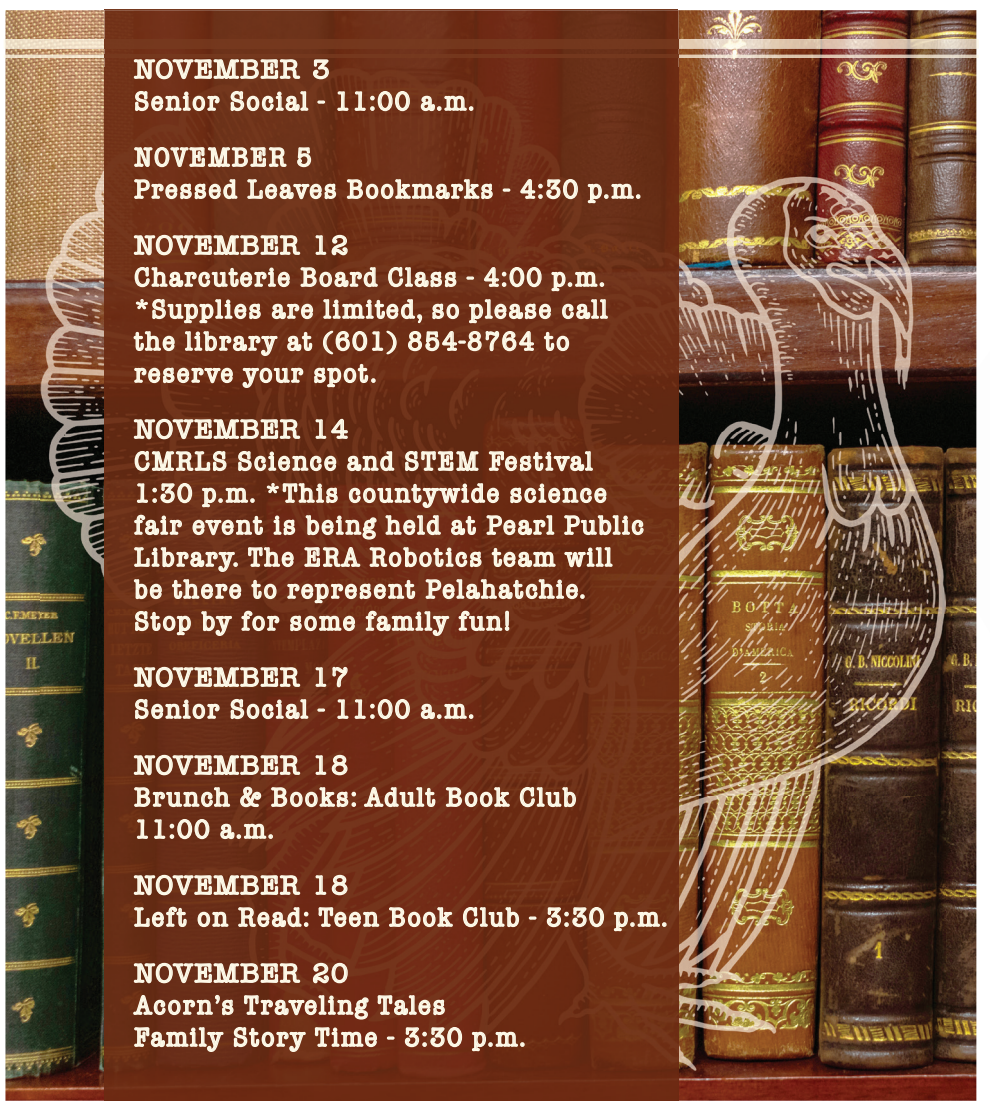
During the open discussion period, Alderwoman Hill stated that the ditches on her street need to be dug out. Alderwoman Harvey and Alderman Gray had no new business to discuss. Alderman Jones reminded everyone to stay weather aware.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Alderman Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Alderman Harrell seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

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Pelahatchie Library November Events



NOVEMBER 3
Senior Social - 11:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER 5
Pressed Leaves Bookmarks - 4:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 12
Charcuterie Board Class - 4:00 p.m.
*Supplies are limited, so please call the library at (601) 854-8764 to reserve your spot.

NOVEMBER 14
CMRLS Science and STEM Festival
1:30 p.m. *This countywide science fair event is being held at Pearl Public Library. The ERA Robotics team will be there to represent Pelahatchie. Stop by for some family fun!

NOVEMBER 17
Senior Social - 11:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER 18
Brunch & Books: Adult Book Club
11:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER 18
Left on Read: Teen Book Club - 3:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 20
Acorn's Traveling Tales
Family Story Time - 3:30 p.m.



ERA celebrates Grandparents Day







Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Ward, Sullivan receive awards



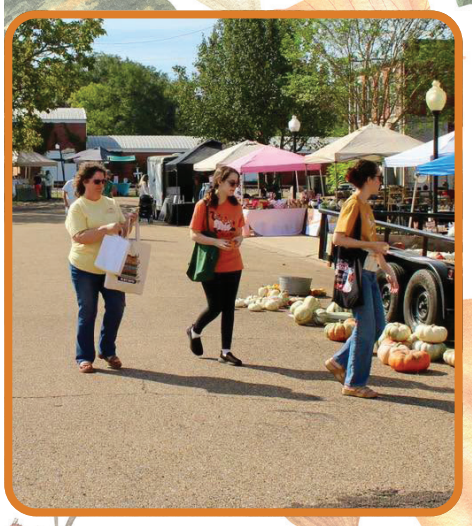
Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) wants to congratulate two teachers for being recognized at the RCSD Board Meeting. Mrs. Melanie Sullivan (right) was honored as the Elementary Teacher of the Month for September. PES is so thankful for her dedication, passion, and all she does every single day for her students and the school. She is also the wife of Pastor Spencer Sullivan of Pelahatchie Baptist Church. Ms. Mijia Ward, Pelahatchie Elementary School Assistant Principal (left), was recognized for her tireless commitment as the PES School Testing Coordinator. She spends countless hours behind the scenes ensuring our state and district assessments run seamlessly. Congratulations to both of them!

Pelahatchie Farmer's Market has successful September

















Photos special to Pelahatchie News

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ERA hosts homecoming prayer breakfast



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Crooked Creek Animal Hospital Staff Spotlight: Meet our vet techs



Caitlyn has been a part of the Crooked Creek family since May of 2022. Caitlyn, our technician lead, is a very skilled phlebotomist — our very own "IV catheter queen! She has 3 dogs, one of which is the hospital's very own mascot, Boozer! We have NO clue where we would be without Caitlyn, and we don't intend to find out!



Bailee has been a part of the Crooked Creek family since 2024. She is passionate about patient care and making sure all of your pets feel safe! Bailee has 2 dogs, Pigeon and Dove, and a cat named Mallard.



Bailey has been with us for over a year now. She has a passion for equine medicine and enjoys anything to do with horses. Bailey has a horse and a dog at home. When she's not at the clinic, she enjoys riding her horse. She is always willing to go the extra mile for the patients!



Tori is the newest member of our team and has only been with us for a couple months, but she has fit right in! She brings over 10 years of veterinary experience and knowledge to Crooked Creek!



Katie has been a part of the Crooked Creek family since 2025. She graduated from Hinds Community College in 2022 with a degree in veterinary technology. She is passionate about all areas of veterinary medicine, but enjoys rehabbing and rehoming small kittens the most! Katie has 3 dogs and several cats at home.

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

PHS ladies golf qualifies for state



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to the Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Lady Chiefs golf team on qualifying for the first time ever for state! PHS is so proud of these young ladies and their efforts on the course.

"Southern Gardening" host speaks at Pelahatchie Petals Garden Club



Susie A. Wolfe

Members and guests at the Pelahatchie Petals Garden Club October 20 meeting in which Dr. Eddie Smith talked about fall and winter gardening.

By Susie A. Wolfe

Dr. Eddie Smith, host of MSU's "Southern Gardening" show, spoke to the Pelahatchie Petals Garden Club on Tuesday, October 20 at the club's new meeting location, the Pelahatchie Baptist Church.

"It was our first meeting of the new year, and we have a new day, a new time, and a new location to be able to include more folks from around the area," said President Livy Glassmire.

Dr. Smith, who is a Mississippi State University Extension Specialist 1, shared tips on fall and winter gardening and answered key questions. He also shared some day lilies from his yard in Hattiesburg.

The next meetings will be held on Tuesday, November 17 and December 15 at 6 p.m. at the Pelahatchie Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. We will be planning ongoing club activities to improve downtown Pelahatchie.

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PAST HEADLINES

2016 - 10 years ago

- "Children's International Medical Group opens in Morton"
- Norwood serves town for 20 years as alderman-at-large"

2021 - 5 years ago

- "Key named PHS Teacher of the Year"
- "ERA wins Old Capitol Government Bowl"

2025 - Last Year

- "ERA Lady Patriots five time MAIS AAAA Division I state champions"
- "Pelahatchie ES Venture students open the Pelahatchie Pocket Museum"



Rivers Greenhouse hosts Pansies & Pumpkins Day

What a wonderful day at Rivers Greenhouse and Garden in Brandon. A huge thank you to all of the customers who came for Pansies & Pumpkins Day! The staff loved seeing all the smiling faces, creative pumpkin masterpieces, and little gardeners planting their pansies. Rivers hopes the families had as much fun as the rest of the staff. Thank you for supporting this family business and making this day so special. Enjoy a few of the highlight moments from the day!












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Principles for hunting safety and responsibility



Special to Pelahatchie News

By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent







Photos special to Pelahatchie News

As several hunting seasons are opening, hunters should be mindful about safety. Below are 10 helpful tips for firearm safety.

1) Always watch the muzzle! Keep it pointed in a safe direction at all times.
2) Treat every firearm with the respect due a loaded gun. It may be loaded, even if you think it is not.
3) Know your target. Be aware of what is in front of and beyond it. Know the identifying features of the game you hunt. Make sure you have an adequate backstop, and don't shoot at a flat, hard surface or water.
4) The best way to prevent an accidental discharge is to keep your finger outside of the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.
5) Make sure the barrel and action are free of obstructions, and carry only the proper ammunition for your firearm.
6) Unload firearms when not in use. Leave actions open, and carry firearms in cases and unloaded to and from the shooting area.
7) Only point a firearm at something you intend to shoot. Avoid horseplay with a gun.
8) Don't run, jump, or climb with a loaded firearm. Unload a firearm before you climb a fence or tree or jump a ditch. Pull a firearm toward you by the butt, not the muzzle.
9) Store firearms and ammunition separately and safety. Store each in a secured location beyond the reach of children and careless adults.
10) Avoid alcoholic beverages before and during shooting activities. Also avoid mind-or behavior-altering medicines or drugs.

Safety should also be front of mind for tree stand users. Most deer hunters in Mississippi know someone who has been involved in a fall from a tree stand. There are hunters who are now confined to a wheelchair and many others who have lost their lives due to tree stand falls. While the number of firearm-related accidents has dropped dramatically in the past two decades, the number of tree stand accidents has risen sharply.

Seventy percent of tree stand falls occur when hunters are climbing up and into the stand or getting down from the stand. Almost the same percentage of hunters don't wear a fall restraint system during this critical time. Failure to wear a fall restraint system is the most important factor in tree stand falls.

There are a few reasons why hunters would choose not to use a fall restraint system. Many hunters just don't want to spend the money on a fall restraint system. However, compared to the thousands of dollars some hunters will spend each year on gear, leases, or licenses, a fall restraint system is a simple investment that can ensure a hunter's safety while participating in the sport they love.

For some hunters, the same love of wild things that draws them to the sport can also cause them to neglect their safety — but all hunters, no matter how they choose to hunt, are responsible for their own safety.

Tree stands are a popular and effective method of hunting, but they also pose a significant safety risk. Knowing and practicing safe tree stand procedures, as well as safe firearm use, can minimize these risks and ensure your time afield will be both safe and enjoyable.

Source: Today's Mississippi Hunter, "Mississippi's Guide to Hunting Responsibly and Safely" Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks.

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There's No Place Like Homecoming at Pelahatchie High School

By Guest Columnist Kessie Key

For one memorable week, Pelahatchie High School followed the yellow brick road home. Inspired by The Wizard of Oz, our 2026 Homecoming theme, "There's No Place Like Homecoming," celebrated school spirit, family traditions, and the community that makes Pelahatchie special.

Students filled the halls with color and creativity during a week of themed dress-up days. On Thursday evening, families and neighbors gathered for the community parade and pep rally. Friday morning brought the Homecoming Maids and their guests together for a brunch hosted by the PHS Homecoming Committee. That evening, the court was presented at Chiefs Stadium, and the Football Maid and Homecoming Queen were crowned before the game. The celebration continued Saturday night with a dance for seventh and eighth graders, followed by a dance for students in ninth through twelfth grades.

We congratulate our 2026 Football Maid, Charlee Nova Lamb, and our 2026 Homecoming Queen, Mary Taylor Nutt. We also congratulate every member of the 2026 PHS Homecoming Court. Each student helped make this year's celebration one to remember.

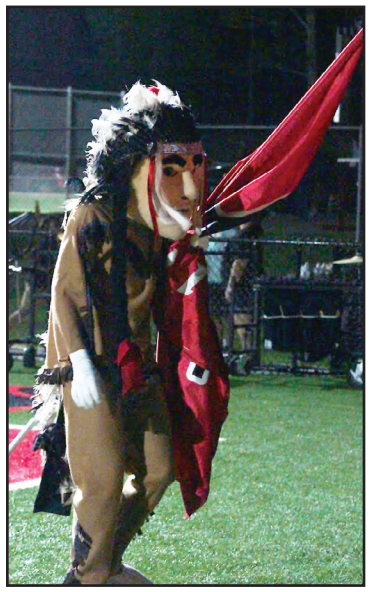
For many families, watching the court cross the football field was especially meaningful. Parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and even grandparents stood along the sidelines where they once watched loved ones play football or where they themselves were presented on a Homecoming court. Chiefs Stadium has brand-new turf, but it remains a place filled with memories for generations of our Tribe. Homecoming gives us a chance to make new memories while sharing the traditions that have brought Pelahatchie families together for years.

The PHS Homecoming Committee extends a heartfelt thank-you to our school and community for their unwavering support. By showing up throughout the week, you showed our students what a true sense of community looks and feels like.

We also thank our band members for the countless hours they spent practicing and performing. From the parade and pep rally to the court presentation and halftime show, their music brought energy and life to every celebration. Their dedication is a treasured part of the Homecoming experience.

As another Homecoming week comes to a close, we are grateful for everyone who helped make it possible. The decorations and dress-up days may change each year, but the feeling of coming together as one Pelahatchie family endures. There truly is no place like Homecoming at PHS.








Photos special to Pelahatchie News



Pelahatchie High celebrates National Custodian Day



Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, Pelahatchie High School (PHS) was proud to celebrate three very special people who work behind the scenes each day to keep the campus looking its best: Mr. Tucker, Miss Regina, and Miss Lisa! From early mornings to busy school days, special events, ballgames, and everything in between, these three work tirelessly to make sure PHS is clean, welcoming, and ready for the students and staff each day. Their hard work often happens when no one is watching, but it certainly does not go unnoticed! PHS is incredibly thankful for the pride they take in caring for the school and for the many ways they help make PHS feel like home.

Pastor's Perspective: Blessed are the Poor in Spirit



Special to Pelahatchie News

By Guest Columnist Spencer Sullivan, Pastor, Pelahatchie Baptist

As a pastor, I have the privilege of walking with people through various seasons of life. A lot of those seasons are happy and even joyful, like weddings or the birth of a child. I have the blessing of walking with those who come to faith and even have the opportunity to baptize and help disciple many of them. I get to experience celebrations of life and anniversaries. But, I also have the opportunity to walk with people through pain and all kinds of struggles. In some cases, that means walking with people through serious illness that at times leads to death. Therefore, I am often asked to conduct funerals. It is always an honor to conduct a funeral, but naturally it's not something I look forward to. In many cases, these are people that I have grown to love dearly, so I find myself among those who are mourning. However, as I walk with families that have recently lost loved ones, I always want to avail myself to them and help them through the journey of grief and mourning. Whether I am facilitating a funeral or only pastoring them during the difficult season, I always want to point them to the Scriptures for comfort, peace, and hope. One verse that I have often shared is Matthew 5:4, where Jesus said "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." I have used this Scripture many times, because it is a wonderful promise. While I don't believe that I gave any of these families false hope or an empty promise, after recent further study, I also no longer believe that Jesus is making that promise just in a general sense.

Last month, I wrote on the first of these statements known as the Beatitudes, that are Jesus' opening words of His famous Sermon on the Mount. The first Beatitude is "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for they shall inherit the earth." As we look at this second Beatitude, it is important for us to remember what it means to be 'poor in spirit'. To be 'poor in spirit' is understanding that we come before God morally bankrupt as hopeless sinners, completely dependent upon His mercy and grace. If He doesn't save us, if He doesn't extend mercy and forgiveness, we are utterly without hope. So, if a believer is 'poor in spirit', fully understanding their great need because of his or her sin, that context impacts what Jesus then speaks about concerning 'those who mourn'.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Therefore, 'those who mourn' are primarily those who are so broken over their sin against God that their only response is to mourn. British pastor and theologian John Stott writes: "It is plain from the context that those whom Jesus promised to comfort are not primarily those who mourn the loss of a loved one but those who mourn the loss of their innocence, their righteousness, their self-respect. It is not the sorrow of bereavement Christ refers to but the sorrow of repentance."

If we want to be reconciled to God through the blood of Jesus, repentance is a vital response toward our sin. To repent means to change your mind about sin or to turn from your sin, leaving it behind, and moving closer and closer to Jesus and God's design for your life. But, true repentance from sin begins with real and sincere godly sorrow. James, the half-brother of Jesus, wrote in the letter that bears his name: "Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom." We're never going to turn from our sin if we don't first experience godly sorrow. Godly sorrow is grief. It is the sadness and brokenness we feel when we grieve the Spirit of God. And the promise is that when we experience godly sorrow and grief over our sin, we will be comforted. With this in mind, have you ever mourned your sin against God? Have you ever been broken over the grief that your sin has caused God? One of my favorite preachers, H.B. Charles Jr., summarizes the first two Beatitudes this way: "When you acknowledge your spiritual bankruptcy before God, you are blessed. When spiritual bankruptcy leads to spiritual mourning, you are blessed."

May God lead us all to be poor in spirit and to mourn over our sin. And by His glorious grace, may we experience His overwhelming comfort.



ERA Lady Chiefs earn 6th straight title; men repeat as 4A DII runners up

By Guest Columnist April Williams

The MAIS 4A East Rankin Academy (ERA) Patriot Cross Country Team is bringing home the hardware at the conclusion of the 2026 cross country season at the MAIS State Championship Meet at Choctaw Trails.

The Lady Patriots, led by five time MAIS 5/4A Coach of the Year, David Hopper, put in a commanding performance with all five of the top scoring runners finishing in the Top 12 and receiving All MAIS 4A honors. Led by freshman Jewel Baker (2nd), the top scoring finishers included seventh grader Isabella McLeod (7th), eighth graders Caroline Thornton (9th) and Alex Burkard (10th), and freshman Chandler Hunt (12th). The Lady Patriots team score of 27 beat that of Madison Ridgeland Academy with 74, Jackson Prep with 97, Bayou Academy with 101 and Oak Forest Academy with 116 to round out the Top 5 teams.

The varsity boys Patriot team also brought home hardware for the third consecutive year as the MAIS 4A Division II runner-up. The varsity boys were led by junior, Zack Price, who picked up All MAIS 4A honors with his 12th place finish. Behind him, the top five scoring runners included juniors Walker Sartin (17th) and Taylor Stroh (18th), senior Jon Rieman (24th), and freshman Baylor Sartin (41st).



Photos by Diane Tate

Front row: Caroline Thornton, Carson Stroh, Hadley Erickson, Isabella McLeod, Jewel Baker, Chandler Hunt, Emma Raines, Alex Burkard and Coach David Hopper; Back row: Kate Bryant, Leah Collipp, Maylee Winstead, Emma Savell, Haley Headrick, Edie Tate, Amelia Raines



Front row: Taylor Stroh, Walker Sartin, Jon Riemann, Zack Price, Ben Tingle and Coach David Hopper; Back row: Joel Ouzts, Christopher Chalk, Grayson Dominighini, Max Tate, Baylor Sartin

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November 27–December 23, 2026
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CLOSED: November 30th - December 3rd

AMERICA 250
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2026 Schedule of Events
November 27–December 23, 2026
5:00–9:00 P.M. Nightly
CLOSED: November 30th - December 3rd

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PHS Band finishes strong 2026 season

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie High School (PHS) band has had a busy season full of Friday night games, competitions and the District Extravaganza. Congratulations! PHS is very proud of all that the band has accomplished this year. Season highlights pictured below.

The Pelahatchie band also recently performed at the RCSD Band extravaganza! All 8 high school bands from the Rankin County School District performed their Fall Halftime Shows and then joined all together to play some selections at the end. Way to go students and directors!

Results for the first competition of the season, East Central Community College Carson Classic:

Drum Major: 1 (Superior)
Percussion: 2
Color Guard: 2
Band: 1, 2, 2
Overall: 2 (Excellent)

Results for the MHSAA Region IV State Evaluations in held at Pearl High School:

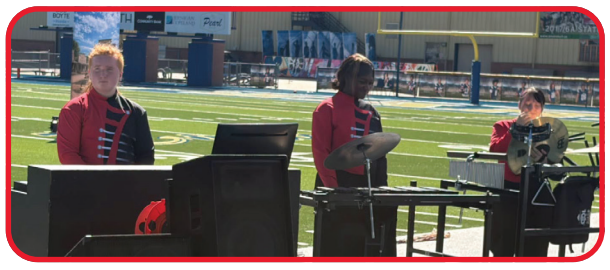
Drum Major: 1 (Superior)
Percussion: 2
Color Guard: 2
Band: 2, 2, 2
Overall: 2 (Excellent)

Results for the Gary Graves Invitational at Petal high school:

3rd Place:
Percussion in Class A
3rd Place:
Music in Class A
3rd Place:
Visual Effect in Class A
4th Place:
Band in Class A

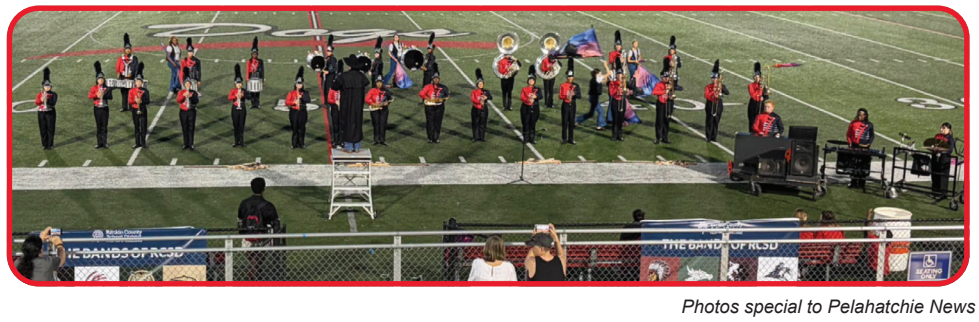












Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School celebrates National School Bus Safety Week

Thanks to all the bus drivers for getting the students to and from school each day while keeping them safe. It has been a great school bus safety week!



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



