



PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



March 2026 ■ Volume 15, Issue 3 ■ Pelahatchie, MS

PHS starts Ed. Prep Program, places at State Conference

Special to Pelahatchie News

In its inaugural year, Pelahatchie High School's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Educator Preparation program is already making a strong impact, equipping students with the skills and experiences needed to become future educators. Under the leadership of instructor Deanna Knowles, the new program is providing hands-on learning opportunities and inspiring students to pursue careers in education.

Built on the Mississippi State University Research and Curriculum Unit Educator Preparation curriculum, the program introduces students to the foundations of teaching and learning, classroom management strategies, instructional planning, child development, and the ethical responsibilities of educators. Students also explore

Continued on page 2

East Rankin Academy Patriots Are Champions

Congratulations to East Rankin Academy's Boys Soccer Team. They are the 4A District 3 Champions. Players Channing and Noah scored goals. Congratulations to East Rankin Academy's Girls Basketball Team. They are the 4A North State Champions.



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PHS starts Educator Preparation Program, places at State Conference

school leadership, educational systems, and effective communication, essential components in preparing tomorrow's teachers and education leaders.

The importance of cultivating future educators is especially meaningful in Pelahatchie. More than 20 employees within Pelahatchie Attendance Center are graduates of Pelahatchie High School, reflecting a strong tradition of alumni returning to serve the school that shaped them. The new Educator Preparation program seeks to continue that legacy by encouraging students to invest in their hometown and contribute to the strength of local schools.

That spirit of commitment and excellence was evident when Pelahatchie High's EdRising students attended the State Leadership Conference held Feb. 2-3 at the University of Southern Mississippi. All seven students representing Pelahatchie placed in their respective competitive events, an extraordinary accomplishment for a first-year program.

State Leadership Conference Results:

- **1st Place - Inside Our Schools:** Katlynn Murray and Kaiah Myers



Special to Pelahatchie News

EdRising State Competition participants

- **2nd Place - Exploring Education Administration Careers:** Emilee Myers
- **3rd Place - Project Visualize:** Brianna Brown and Lyla McCartney
- **4th Place - Children's Literature (K-3):** MC Canfield
- **5th Place - Interactive Bulletin Board (High School):** Breanna Roberson

EdRising competitions challenge students to demonstrate skills aligned with real-world educational practices. Participants analyze school systems, develop leadership strategies, design instructional materials, and create classroom resources, reflecting the curriculum's emphasis on practical application and student-centered learning.

Students in the program engage in project-based learning, peer teaching

exercises, and field-based observations that mirror authentic classroom environments. Through these experiences, they build professional skills such as collaboration, problem-solving, and instructional design while gaining a deeper understanding of diverse learning needs.

School leadership says the program's early achievements highlight its value for both students and the broader community. With more than 20 alumni already serving within the attendance center, the program represents an investment in sustaining that tradition of service and strengthening local education for generations to come.

With momentum from its first year and state-level recognition already secured, Pelahatchie High School's Educator Preparation program is poised to continue growing, preparing students not only to enter the education profession but to return, lead, and inspire the next generation in the community that first inspired them. If your student has shown interest in the future of education, have them speak with Mrs. Knowles or Mrs. Johns about the opportunity to join our Educator Preparation Program next school year.



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East Rankin Robotics team takes first place



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to our East Rankin Robotics team for finishing 1st place at the Tupelo and Meridian Qualifiers! The team was also presented the Inspire Award, the highest honor for an FTC team. ERA Robotics currently ranks 17th in the world out of 8,399 currently competing teams in the 2025-2026 First Tech Challenge robotics competition! The team looks forward to competing at the Mississippi FTC state championship in March.

Jellystone Spotlight: Stephanie Goss

Special to Pelahatchie News

Meet Stephanie Goss, General Manager at Jellystone Park™ Pelahatchie, who leads with purpose, care, and a deep commitment to both guests and her team. With a people-first leadership style and a passion for meaningful moments, she brings heart and intention to every part of park operations.

Stephanie's role is defined by her focus on creating exceptional guest experiences every single day; She leads and develops her team to be part of — and help create — those moments, and she rings heart to operations, ensuring people always come first.

Her favorite part of the job is being part of moments that matter, from families making memories to team members growing into leaders. When she's not at the park, Stephanie also loves to write. She has even been published!

Stephanie lives by these words of Nelson Mandela: "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others."



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Stephanie Goss is the General Manager at Jellystone Park™ Pelahatchie.



ERA holds Spiritual Emphasis week



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy's (ERA) Spiritual Emphasis Week was a time for reflection, worship, and spiritual growth for students and faculty. Through engaging messages, praise and worship, moments of prayer, and opportunities for personal response, the student body was encouraged to serve as kingdom ambassadors for Jesus Christ. Guest evangelist Cameron Tate encouraged all in attendance to live boldly, faithfully, and unashamedly for the Gospel of Christ. ERA is grateful for the way God worked in the hearts of the students and for the reminder of the commitment to remain a Christ-centered school in all things.



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Pelahatchie High School students serve as pages for MS House



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Recently, Sarah Brooks Hopson of Pelahatchie High School paged for the Mississippi House of Representatives. "I'm glad to have the opportunity to page in the Mississippi House of Representatives." Hopson stated. "Thank you to Representative Steve Massengill for letting me have the chance to page this year. I am looking forward to come back next year."



Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, Tate Hopson of Pelahatchie High School paged for the Mississippi House of Representatives this week. "My time as a page was a great experience that helped me learn more about leadership and the legislative process." Hopson stated. "I am very thankful for this opportunity and would love to do it again."

Nutt named Teacher of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Teacher of the Month Program is sponsored by the Rankin County Kiwanis Club. Recently, PHS was thankful to have Mr. Kyle, Mr. Hayes, and Mr. Anderson join the spring pep rally to recognize Ms. Nikki Nutt. Nutt demonstrates excellent classroom management and creates a structured learning environment where students can thrive. Always organized and punctual, she models responsibility each day. Her strong math content knowledge allows her to deliver engaging, high-quality instruction, while her commitment to following school policies ensures consistency and fairness. With high expectations for her students, she inspires them to rise to challenges and achieve their best. PHS is grateful for her dedication and positive impact on our school community. Congratulations, Nikki Nutt.

PHS Alum named Teacher of the Year for Marion Park



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Kendall Rhodes, Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Class of 2013, on being named the Teacher of the Year for Marion Park in Meridian Public SD. Kendall, PHS is so proud of who you are and the lives that you continue to impact daily. Once a Chief, Always a Chief.

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Pelahatchie Library March Events



The LORAX MOVIE NIGHT
March 5 at 4:30 p.m.

SENIOR SOCIAL
March 10 and 24 at 11:00 a.m.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CRAFT
March 17 at 3:30 p.m.

BRUNCH & BOOKS: ADULT BOOK CLUB
March 18 at 11:00 a.m.

PELAHATCHIE PETALS GARDEN CLUB
March 19 at 5:30 p.m.

LEFT ON READ: TEEN BOOK CLUB
March 25 at 3:30 p.m.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEETING
March 26 at 5:30 p.m.

Pelahatchie Public Library earns award



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Central Mississippi Regional Library System
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Recently, the Central Mississippi Regional Library System gave awards to several local libraries, including Pelahatchie Public Library (PPL). PPL earned recognition for increased patron visits, reference questions, patron attendance, and registered patrons. Congratulations to Branch Manager Brenna Renfroe and staff for this achievement.

Crooked Creek Animal Hospital



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Chiefs JROTC competes at NW Rankin



Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, the Chiefs Battalion drone team competed in a competition against four other Rankin County schools at Northwest Rankin High School. Trenton Blue gave an outstanding performance with the highest individual score in the county. The cadets learned some great lessons about applying technology to solve problems.

City Beat: Mayor, Alderman meeting for Monday, February 2, 2026



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

The Pelahatchie Board of Aldermen held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 2, 2026, at 6:04 p.m. at Town Hall. Mayor Karl VanHorn called the meeting to order, followed by an invocation by Alderman Jones and the Pledge of Allegiance. Aldermen present were Diane Hill, Sandra Harvey, David Gray, Eddie Jones, and James Harrell. The city attorney was not present.

Residents or Visitors' Business:

Waggoner Engineering appeared before the board requesting reauthorization to bid the WWTF project. Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Gray; the motion passed with all in favor.

Pamela Kimble contacted the board regarding a tree that fell on a fence. The board noted they will consult with Mr. Sirmon regarding property lines at the end of the week to determine a resolution.

Department Discussions:

Department reports were brief this month. Police, Maintenance, Clerk, and Zoning departments reported no new business for discussion.

New Business:

The board approved the minutes from the previous regular board meeting held on January 5, 2026.

Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Gray; all in favor.

The board approved the payment of the unpaid claims docket. Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Gray; the motion passed 3-2, with Alderwomen Hill and Harvey voting nay.

The board approved a bank draft payment of \$817.09 to Morgan and White Insurance (secondary to BCBS). Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderwoman Hill; all in favor.



The board approved a bank draft payment of \$6,509.53 to EMC Insurance for property insurance. Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderwoman Hill; all in favor.

The board approved a bank draft payment of \$6,735.80 to Blue Cross Insurance. Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Gray; all in favor.

The board approved and ratified the payroll

for January 2026 (\$68,334.08 General Fund; \$25,973.32 Enterprise Fund). Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Gray; the motion passed 3-2, with Alderwomen Hill and Harvey voting nay.

The board voted to approve the surplus of an old town vehicle. Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Harrell; all in favor.

Executive Session:

The board entered executive session at 6:13 p.m. to discuss personnel issues within the Police Department. Motion by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Gray; all in favor.

Alderman Discussions:

Alderwoman Diane Hill discussed the status of streets and street lights, noting that work continues on the Magnolia Place subdivision.

Alderwoman Sandra Harvey inquired about the water tower project and the status of adjacent lots. It was noted that the previously interested party has withdrawn.

Alderman Eddie Jones advised the community to stay "weather aware" regarding upcoming conditions.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Alderman Jones to adjourn at 6:26 p.m., seconded by Alderman Gray at 6:27 p.m. The meeting officially adjourned at 6:27 p.m.



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Stevens reaches new scoring milestone



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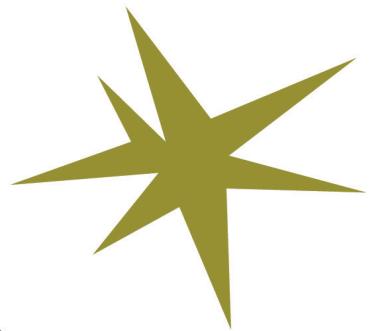
East Rankin Academy's junior high boys basketball team defeated Starkville in a well-fought game to become district champions. The JH girls finished as runner-ups. East Rankin Academy is proud of both teams!



Special to Pelahatchie News

In a recent game, the Lady Patriots were victorious over Bayou with a score of 74-46. During that game, Liz Stevens reached the huge milestone of 2000 POINTS.

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Bringing the Stampede to Town: A Round-Up on The Dixie National Rodeo

By Kenneth A. McDade

If you missed the mud-spattered boots, the smell of leather and adrenaline, and at least three folks claiming they “once rode a steer” into the sunset, don’t worry — the 61st Dixie National Rodeo was very real, and yes, it lived up to every bit of the hype and a few downright hilarious parking stories.

From February 13 through February 21, rodeo fans from near and far jammed into the Mississippi State Fairgrounds for nearly ten days of hoof-pounding action, live music, livestock spectacles and the occasional cowboy hat that went way farther than the wearer planned.

“So, what went down when the dust settled?” — This rodeo isn’t just your average cowboy shindig — it’s actually one of the largest events of its kind east of the Mississippi River, drawing contestants from all over the globe looking to lasso glory, and maybe bragging rights at the local diner. This year was no different.

Cowboys and cowgirls showcased their grit in classic rodeo events: bareback and saddle bronc riding that made us gasp, steer wrestling that made us



www.explorerridgeland.com/dixie-national-rodeo-2026/

wince, and barrel racing so fast it was basically cow-powered NASCAR. Don’t even get us started on the bull riding — somehow wildly impressive and yet deeply terrifying every single time.

And because Mississippi likes to do things big, each performance closed out with live music that had folks tapping their boots or learning the art of polite swaying. With musicians like Ole 60, Bayker Blankenship, Mark Chestnutt, Joe Nichols, and even country legend Tanya Tucker on stage throughout the week, it felt a little bit

like campfire fun — only louder and with giant speakers.

Mid-week brought Field Trip Day, where school groups got a kid-friendly taste of rodeo mayhem. Dusty the Clown (whose jokes were 60% actual humor and 40% cowboy confusion) helped introduce barrel racing and other events to the next generation of cowpokes in training.

And yes, there was a parade. A Valentine’s Day parade, no less, with floats, queens, tractors and horseless wagons (because this is 2026 and horses draw

some great entries, but horsepower has its perks, too). The theme was proudly “For Love of Country,” which is basically rodeo-speak for “Bring your flag and maybe some glitter.”

Between all the riding and roping, visitors could mosey over to the Dixie National Marketplace, where everything from cowboy boots to tractors was on display. Think of it as Target for rodeo fans, except all the mannequins are wearing Stetsons and it smells wonderfully of leather and popcorn.

In a word? Unforgettable. In two words? Ridiculously fun. Between jaw-dropping rodeo feats, toe-tapping music, and just enough chaos to make for great dinner conversation, the Dixie National Rodeo delivered another year’s worth of memories — and memories that definitely require telling everyone back home ad nauseam.

So if you missed it, mark your calendar for next February — because you haven’t really lived until you’ve seen someone lasso a goat while cowboy music blasts and someone else tries to explain the difference between bronc and bucking horse to a confused toddler.

Ride safe, and we’ll see you next year at the Dixie National!

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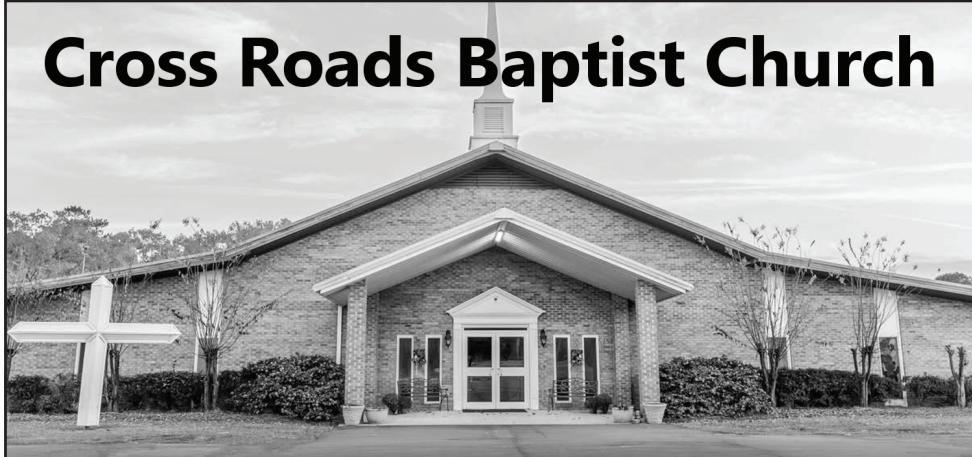
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East Rankin Academy band students selected for Bandmasters Gold Band



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to the following East Rankin Upper Band Students for selection into the Gold Honor Band at the 2026 MAIS Bandmasters State Clinic, held in January on the campus of Hinds Community College in Raymond: Front Row, L to R: Olivia Griffing, Paige Mayatte, Ben Tingle, Corbin Cofer, Cason Patrick, Seth Neely, Tate Ogden and Leah Collipp; Back Row, L To R: Lily Kate Kanengiser, Claire Myrick, Emma Payne, Samantha Gardner, Vivian Hales, Sara Blake Thornton, Claire Miller, and Zoey Meeks.



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Q2 ALL A HONOR ROLL

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<h3>4th Grade</h3> <p>Liam Coleman Angel Cortes Oaklee Goldman Mason Holmes Levi Pope Colton Roby</p>	<h3>3rd Grade</h3> <p>Hartlyn Bishop Zakaree Chandler Anna Katherine Denton Brody Pace Cooper Robertson</p>

Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Q2 A-B HONOR ROLL

<h3>6th Grade</h3> <p>Emalynn Atkinson Cameron Banks Blaine Chandler Dillon Courtney McKenna Cupstid Rylan Herring Ayden Hill Abel Ingram Baylee Jones Ava Keeton</p>	<h3>5th Grade</h3> <p>Tre Adams Laykin Barnett Jaxson Beasley Aiden Collier Anna Conklin Bailey Davidson Gabriela Diaz Whitney Gordon John David Henderson</p>	<h3>4th Grade</h3> <p>Mary Chesney Boyer Khloe Conger Braxton Cooper Cash Edwards Bria Gardner Ford Hayes</p>	<h3>3rd Grade</h3> <p>Hutson Barnett Audrey Bigby Lucy Conerly Jackson Edwards Saylah Grant Sawyer Harper Jasmine Harvey Carrie Haven Harper Knowles Bryson Lewis</p>
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PAST HEADLINES

2016 - 10 years ago

- "Rodeo Cowboy Cole Bilbro doesn't want a real job"
- "Pelahatchie to bring out the cannon, to solve buzzard problem"

2021 - 5 years ago

- "Adams brings arts to Pelahatchie Elementary"
- "It's time to invest in our State parks, not sell them"

2025 - Last Year

- "Rallying for Reynosa, Pelahatchie ministers in Mexico"
- "Pelahatchie Tornado Sirens Repaired"

Herbicides, summer weeds and how to control them



By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

Special to Pelahatchie News

Weed identification is important when applying selective herbicides. Weeds can be annual, biennial, or perennial and are classified as either grass, broad-leaf weed, or sedge.

Annual weeds produce seed within one year of growth. They are those that emerge in the spring, grow through the summer, and produce seed in the fall. Examples: crabgrass, goosegrass, spurge and annual lespedeza. Weeds that emerge in the fall, grow in the winter, and produce seed in the late spring are called winter annuals. Examples: henbit, chickweed, and annual bluegrass.

Biennial weeds require two years of growth to produce seed. These plants growth the first year, develop a root system and a rosette of leaves, resumes growth the second year, produces seed and die. Examples: wild carrot, bull thistle.

Perennial weeds emerge, grow and produce some structure that enables the plant to overwinter and resume growth year after year. Examples: bermudagrass, bahiagrass, dallisgrass, Florida betony, Virginia buttonweed, and nutsedge.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pre-emergent herbicides are applied to the soil surface or turf canopy before weeds come up. They will kill weeds soon after or before emergence. Chemical weed control begins with a pre-emergence herbicide. If you do not use a pre-emergence herbicide, chemical weed control becomes a defensive tactic. Apply pre-emergence herbicides from February to mid-March to control summer annual weeds.

All pre-emergence herbicides must move into

the upper portion of the soil to control weeds. Herbicides not washed into the soil are decomposed by ultraviolet sunlight or lost as vapors. Some herbicides are more susceptible to decomposition than others. The sooner a herbicide can be washed into the soil after application, the better the weed control

Post-emergence herbicides are applied after weed seedlings emerge. Post-emergence herbicides are most effective if applied to seedlings less than three inches tall. Since weed seedling emergence occurs for several weeks, more than one application is needed to control weeds the entire season.

Herbicides are available in several formulations: concentrate, water dispersible, flowable, and soluble powder. These formulations are mixed with water and sprayed onto the turf canopy or weeds.

Other herbicides are available in granular formulations. The granules are applied directly to the turf or soil surface. Granular materials may be less difficult to apply but are more expensive per unit of active ingredient than the sprayable formulations.

Source: Mississippi State Extension Publication 1322, *Establish & Manage Your Home Lawn*

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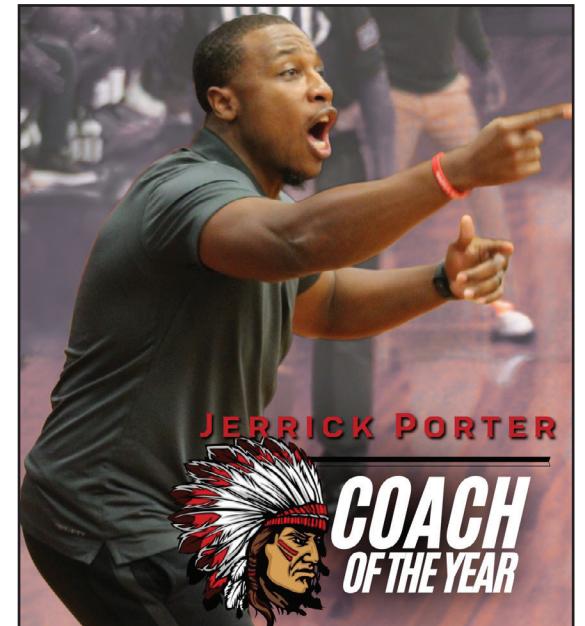
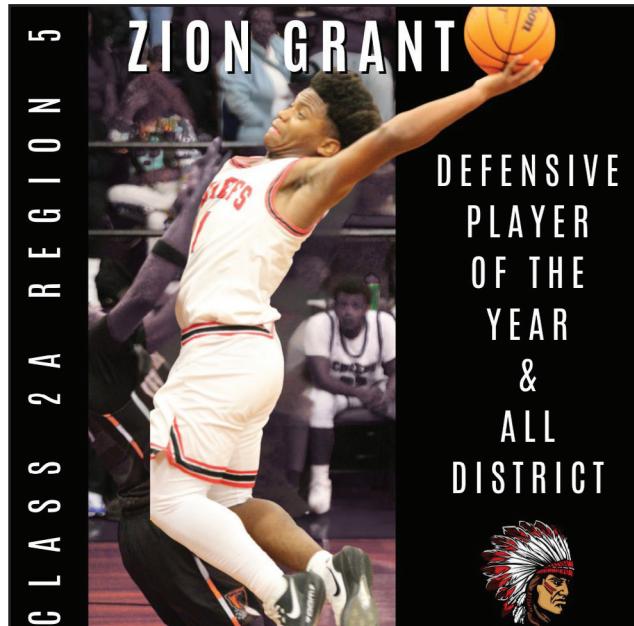
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Pelahatchie Chiefs recognized for 2A district play



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Bre Ward (left) on her outstanding success on the court this season. Bre was awarded Region 5 - 2A Offensive Player of the Year. She was also named All-District Player. Congratulations to Zion Grant (center). Zion received 2A Region 5 District Defensive Player of the Year and All District. Zion shows great sportsmanship and leadership on and off the court. Congratulations also goes to Coach Porter (right) on being named 2A Region 5 District Coach of the Year. Coach Porter holds his players to an academic, athletic, and personal expectation that speaks volumes for who his athletes are on the court and off.

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Pastor's Perspective: Shame upon Shame, Grace upon Grace



By Guest Columnist Spencer Sullivan, Pastor, Pelahatchie Baptist

Special to Pelahatchie News

As we read the Gospels, there are so many encounters that leave us in awe of Jesus. Specifically, I'm often struck by how clever and impactful Jesus was with His words. Clearly, Jesus was a master teacher. But, Jesus was also an riveting storyteller. Over the past few months, I've attempted to highlight several of Jesus' parables. Perhaps, the most famous is the one often referred to as "The Parable of the Prodigal Son." It is a powerful story, but the parable is actually about two sons. In fact, it is sometimes called "The Parable of the Two Sons." But for today, let's consider the first part of the story, which centers on the younger son: the prodigal. Familiar or not, I encourage you to read Luke 15:11-24.

In order to best understand Jesus' parable, it is good to understand an aspect of Middle Eastern culture. This is true for both Jews and for Muslims, but the people from the Middle East typically experience right and wrong through honor and shame. Our culture is very different. We typically experience right and wrong mostly through guilt and innocence. In an honor/shame culture, when a wrong is experienced, the shame attaches beyond just the person at fault. It extends and is felt by the entire family or tribe. The parable begins with the younger of the two sons approaching his father and asking him for his share of the inheritance. This is a shameful request. Can you imagine this happening in your family? This request is communicating something that would be absolutely



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devastating to hear from one of your children. An inheritance is only dispersed when the parents are dead. The son was essentially saying: "Dad, let's just pretend you're already dead, and go ahead and give me what's mine." Those hearing Jesus tell this story for the first time would have felt the shame of this request, just by listening to Jesus present the parable.

In what would have been a shock to those listening to Jesus, the father actually granted the son's request. This response by the father was also shameful. How could he agree to this? But, the prodigal's response brought even more shame. The younger son gathered all of his belongings, his newly acquired cash, and "took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living." Later in

the story, the older brother brought more clarity as to what was meant by reckless living. He said that the younger brother devoured the father's property with prostitutes. Incredibly, it didn't take him long to blow through every bit of that inheritance, which led to — yes, even more shame. Now broke, the son took perhaps the most shameful job possible for a Jew: feeding pigs. Coming to his senses, he realized that working for his father as a servant was far better than his current situation. So, he scripted an apology and practiced it on his way home.

The climax of the story is the reconciliation between the father and the prodigal. The original listeners would have expected the father and the older son to scold him and pour even greater shame upon him. However, to their horror, instead the father runs to him, wraps his arms around him and kisses him. This man had been with sinners, slept with prostitutes, fed and ate with pigs. But the father who longed to reconcile with his son was not bothered in the least. He restored his sonship immediately. Not only that, he threw a huge celebration. This is the shock moment of the parable. No one expected this shameful response by the father. But that's exactly what it was. How could the father do this? The listeners would have considered the father to be a bigger fool than even the younger son. And they certainly couldn't understand that this was actually descriptive of God. Yet, this is a picture of the Gospel and relates to every one of us. This is the heart of God. This is what God is like. Are you far from God? Have you treated Him shamefully? He loves you anyway. And He is ready to receive you and restore you into a right relationship with Him. Repent and believe today!

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PHS students join Honor, Mass Bands



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, the PHS Band recently participated in the East Central Mississippi Band Directors Association (ECMBDA) Honor Band Clinic 2026 (top). Both junior high and high school students participated in three performances. The band students also joined with the Puckett and Pisgah bands. They combined to form the "Mass Band of RCSD" at Friday Nights Krewe De Roux Parade (bottom) in downtown Brandon.

The Real Story of St. Patrick

By Kenneth A. McDade

Every March 17, rivers glow an unnatural shade of green, bagpipes sound with determined enthusiasm, and at least three people in every office confidently announce they are "about 12 percent Irish." But behind the parades, plastic shamrocks and festive cupcakes stands a historical figure whose real story is far more compelling than the glitter suggests.

Before he was known as Saint Patrick, he was Maewyn Succat — and he wasn't Irish at all.

Born around 390 A.D. in Roman Britain, Maewyn grew up in a Christian family during the final centuries of Roman rule. At 16, his life took a dramatic turn when Irish raiders captured him and carried him across the Irish Sea into slavery. He spent six years tending sheep in rural Ireland. Six years. With sheep. And weather. Lots of weather.

During that isolation, his faith deepened. He later wrote that he prayed constantly while working as a shepherd. In time, he escaped, traveling back to Britain and eventually training for the priesthood. Many might have chosen a quiet life after such an ordeal. Maewyn, however, reported having a vision calling him back to Ireland — this time not as a captive, but as a missionary.

Around 432 A.D., he returned as a bishop determined to spread Christianity. It is important to note that Christianity had already reached Ireland before his arrival. Patrick did not introduce it; he strengthened and organized it, establishing churches and schools while preaching throughout the island.

Tradition holds that he used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity — Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Whether legend or literal teaching tool, the image stuck. Theology, it turns out, can be botanical.

Now for the snakes.



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The popular story of Patrick driving snakes out of Ireland makes for dramatic artwork, but there is one complication: Ireland never had snakes. Scholars generally interpret the tale as symbolic, representing his challenge to pagan practices rather than an epic reptile eviction.

As for leprechauns, they belong to a different chapter of Irish lore entirely. Rooted in medieval folklore, these small, solitary fairy shoemakers guarded hidden pots of gold and were known more for mischief than ministry. They are not mentioned in Patrick's writings, and there is no evidence he ever negotiated with one.

Originally, March 17 marked Patrick's death and was observed in Ireland as a modest religious feast day. The lively parades and large-scale celebrations took shape centuries later in American cities, where Irish immigrants proudly expressed their heritage. Ironically, many of today's most exuberant traditions were polished abroad before becoming common in Ireland itself.

So beneath the green hats and cheerful chaos lies the story of a former shepherd who survived slavery, returned to the land of his captivity and devoted his life to service.

The leprechauns may guard the gold. Patrick kept the mission.

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The Crooked Creek Lucky Cutie Corner: Valentine booth Take 2

Crooked Creek Animal Hospital recently spread some Valentine's cheer with a special photo booth for pets and their owners, inviting the community to stop by and snap a festive picture. The display drew plenty of "photo booth cuties" as families captured memories with their furry friends. The Pelahatchie News is proud to highlight local businesses like Crooked Creek that create fun, community-focused events. Learn more about their services at crookedcreekanimal.com.



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2026

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Road Trip
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Bash Week
MAR 9-13

St. Patrick's Day
MAR 13-15

SPRING BREAK
Spring Break Bash:
Week 2
MAR 16-20

Jungle
Zoo Safari
MAR 20-22

Happy Birthday
Boo Boo's
Messy
Birthdays
MAR 27-29

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