

## East Rankin Academy celebrates having 3 MEC Star Students

When a school has more than one senior with an overall ACT composite score of 35 or above and an overall average of 93, each student is designated a STAR Student.



*Hudson Hawk is the son of Damon and Kristi Hawk of Brandon. Hudson is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (Mathematics Honor Society), and ERA's ACT 30 or Above Team. He is also the captain of East Rankin Academy's State Championship Robotics Team and is a active member of the school's academic quiz bowl team. Hudson was also honored by being named a National Merit Finalist. Hudson has decided to attend Texas A&M University to pursue a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance with future plans of attending law school to become a business lawyer. Hawk chose Mrs. Cindy Cook as his STAR Teacher.*

*Paige Mayatte is the daughter of Shawn and Claire Mayatte of Brandon. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (Mathematics Honor Society), and ERA's ACT 30 or Above Team. Paige serves as captain of East Rankin's academic quiz bowl team and is also a member of ERA's superior-rated band. Paige was also honored by being named a National Merit Commended Scholar. Paige will be attending Mississippi State University to pursue a degree in biomedical engineering with future plans of attending medical school. Mayatte chose Mrs. Gerry Britt as her STAR Teacher.*

*R.T. Tate is the son of Jason and Diana Tate of Pelahatchie. R.T. is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (Mathematics Honor Society), and ERA's ACT 30 or Above Team. He is also a member of our school's varsity cross country team and state championship track team. R.T. plans to pursue an undergraduate degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in structural engineering with career plans of becoming a structural engineer. Tate chose Mrs. Rachel Stroh as his STAR Teacher.*

Photos special to Pelahatchie News

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## Chiefs Robotics Secures 2nd Place at District Competition

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Elementary's Chiefs Robotics team earned a hard fought second place finish at the RCSD Elementary District Robotics Competition on March 5th. Fourth grade students Mason Holmes, Levi Pope, and Colton Roby represented the school, utilizing VEX GO robots they built and modified specifically to tackle the district's complex mission challenges.

The trio is part of the broader Chiefs Robotics program, which brings together fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students each week to strengthen their

skills in building, coding, and remote control driving robots. To earn their spot at the district level, the boys gained the most points during the school's internal competition in February, where four local teams vied for the chance to compete.

The robotics program at Pelahatchie Elementary, led by sponsors Rebecca Nelson and Deanna Carpenter, continues to inspire students beyond the classroom, challenging them to collaborate, think critically, and engineer solutions to real-world problems.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Continued on page 2



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# PriorityOne Bank sponsors March of the Mayors Packing Party

PriorityOne Bank was proud to serve as a supporting sponsor for this year's March of the Mayors Packing Party. March of the Mayors is a statewide food-donation and fundraising effort driven by the unity of Mississippi cities, each collecting one specific food item to benefit Extra Table's partner pantries. It was a great morning joining others across the Pine Belt to support Extra Table and their mission to fight hunger across Mississippi.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



Continued from front page

## Chiefs Robotics Secures 2nd Place at District Competition



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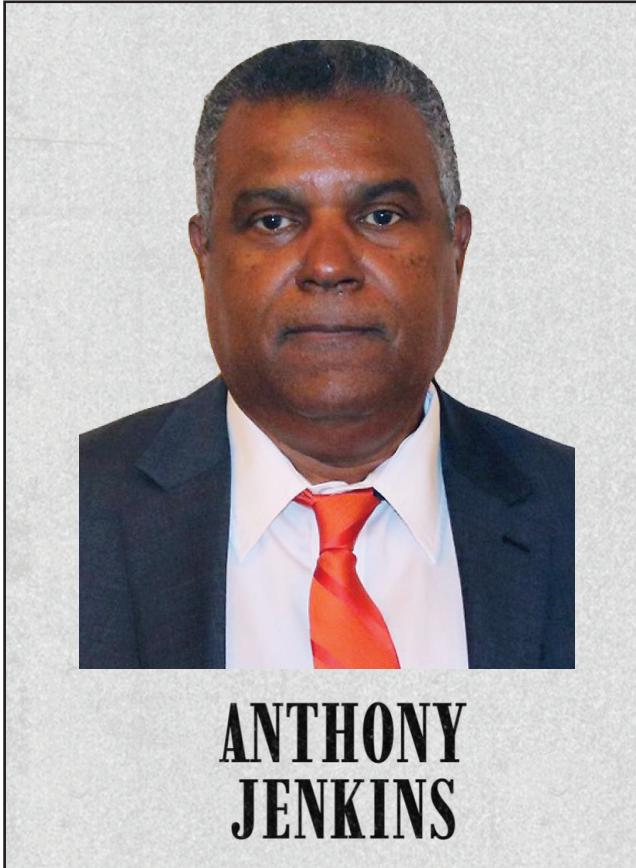
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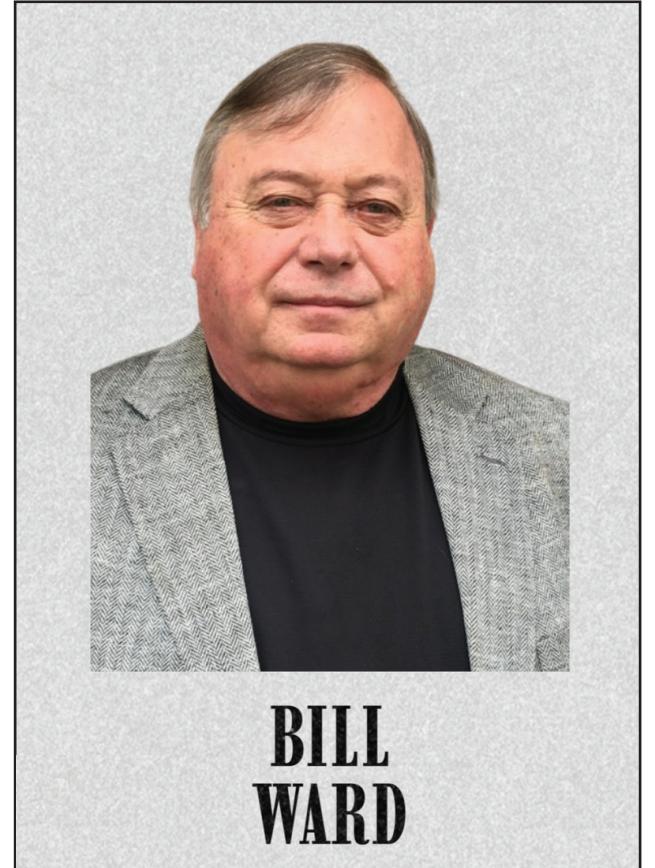
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# Coaches Jenkins and Ward inducted into NHSACA Hall of Fame

Congratulations to Coaches Anthony Jenkins and Bill Ward, who have been selected for induction into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Both of these longtime Mississippi Association of Coaches (MAC) members have made substantial contributions to athletics in Mississippi and are also members of the MAC Hall of Fame. Known to many in Pelahatchie, Coach Ward led the football team at Pelahatchie High School for over 30 years, leading the team to the state championship in 2001.



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# East Rankin Academy Patriots defend title again



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to the East Rankin Academy Shooting team for defending their State title for another year in a row.

## Adams signs to play with MGCCC



Special to Pelahatchie News

Eli Adams of Pelahatchie signed his letter of intent on National Signing Day to play football for Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Eli was joined at the signing day celebration, held at Jackson Prep, by his family, left to right: Grandmother Eva Adams, Grandmother Peggy McKay, Sister Celeste Adams, Dad Jeff Adams, Mom Whitney Adams, and Aunt Shannon McKay. Eli joins the MGCCC football team as a kicker and punter.

## Haven selected as Cadet of the Week



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Cadet Sergeant First Class Damien Haven for being selected as the Chiefs JROTC Battalion cadet of the week. Cadet Haven is on the drill team, PT team and is training for the Raider Team. He has stepped up and shown leadership on multiple occasions.

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# Pelahatchie Library April Events

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**BRUNCH & BOOKS:**  
Adult Book Club  
April 15 @ 11:00 a.m.

**PELAHATCHIE PETALS GARDEN CLUB**  
April 16 @ 5:30 p.m.

**LEFT ON READ:**  
Teen Book Club  
April 22 @ 3:30 p.m.

**SPRING GARDENING 101**  
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# Atkinson places 1st at reading fair



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Emalynn Atkinson, a sixth grader at Pelahatchie Elementary, for placing 1st in the 6th–8th Grade Individual Literacy Fiction division for the Rankin County School District (RCSD) Reading Fair. Atkinson entered a story board featuring the book LINKED by Gordan Korman. Emalynn has participated in her school's Reading Fair every year since kindergarten. This was the last year she was able to participate, and all of her persistence and hard work has paid off. She was received a trophy and was recognized at the RCSD school board meeting.

# ERA joins with LMH for service project



Special to Pelahatchie News

Lackey Memorial Hospital (LMH) would like to give a big THANK YOU to the 9th grade class at East Rankin Academy for choosing to serve others in such a meaningful way this semester. As part of their missions project, these students assembled 46 Chemo Care Kits for patients in the Infusion Center. Each bag has handwritten scriptures, prayers and words of encouragement on them. The students' kindness, compassion, and willingness to give back are making a real difference in the lives of the patients at Lackey Memorial Hospital. LMH is so grateful for their service.

# PHS Band earns ALL Superior



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to the Pelahatchie Bands on an ALL Superior performance at MHSAA State Concert Evaluations!

## City Beat: Mayor, Alderman meeting for Monday, March 2, 2026



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

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Pelahatchie held their regular board meeting on Monday, March 2, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Mayor Karl Vanhorn called the meeting to order with Alderwoman Diane Hill, Alderwoman Sandra Harvey, Alderman David Gray, Alderman Eddie Jones, and Alderman James Harrell present.

During department discussions, the police and maintenance departments reported no new items. The town clerk announced the town's annual Easter egg hunt was scheduled for April 4 at Muscadine Park.

The board addressed two zoning issues before moving to standard business:

1. Lamar Boone requested approval for the construction of a detached garage on his property located at 693 College Street. Alderman Jones made the motion to table the item, seconded by Alderwoman Hill. All voted in favor, and the motion to table passed.

2. Kenny Butler requested approval for plans to build a single-family residential structure at 101 Kirby Avenue. Alderwoman Hill made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Harvey. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

### New Business:

1. Discuss, consider, and vote to approve minutes from previous regular board meeting. Alderman Jones made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Hill. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

2. Discuss, consider, and vote to approve the payment of the unpaid claims docket. Alderman Jones made the motion, seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion passed with a 3-2 vote, with Alderwoman Hill and Alderwoman Harvey voting nay.



3. Discuss, consider, and vote to approve disbursement of bank draft payment to Morgan and White Insurance (\$965.66). Alderman Jones made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Hill. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

4. Discuss, consider, and vote to approve bank draft payment to EMC Insurance (\$6,509.53). Alderman Jones made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman

Hill. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

5. Discuss, consider, and vote to approve bank draft payment to Blue Cross Insurance (\$8,737.93). Alderman Jones made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Hill. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

6. Approval and ratification of payment of payroll for February 2026 - General (\$68,276.60), Enterprise (\$28,669.71). Alderman Jones made the motion, seconded by Alderman Gray. The motion passed with a 3-2 vote, with Alderwoman Hill and Alderwoman Harvey voting nay.

### Discussions:

During the alderman discussions, Alderwoman Hill asked about paving streets by Lady Catherine Drive, and Mayor Vanhorn stated that they were working on that. Alderwoman Hill also stated that she has received multiple complaints that the business across the street from Dollar General Market (DG) was an eyesore, and the mayor said he was working on that. Alderwoman Harvey asked about the town cleaning out their drainage ditches, and the maintenance department stated they had already started working on that. Aldermen Gray, Jones, and Harrell had no items for discussion.

### Adjournment:

Alderman Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderwoman Hill. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

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## Hawkins Pottery returns to Market

*Special to Pelahatchie News*

The Pelahatchie Farmer's Market is excited to have William Hawkins of Throwing Hands Pottery to be a returning vendor. Originally from Las Vegas, Nevada, William discovered his love for pottery during a class he took his freshman year of high school in Lake Oswego, Oregon. What started as a simple class turned into a lifelong passion. He loves the process of taking a simple lump of clay and transforming it into something beautiful, functional, and artistic. William lives in Ridgeland and has been married to his wife Myrtis for 14 years, and they have two daughters. When he's not creating pottery, William also serves the community through his work in code enforcement in Madison County. Be sure to stop by William's booth at the market to see his handcrafted pottery and support a talented local artisan.



*Photos special to Pelahatchie News*

**PELAHATCHIE FARMER'S MARKET  
SAT. APRIL 25TH @ 8 AM**

## Lewis named RCSD Great to Best Elementary Student of the Month



*Special to Pelahatchie News*

*Congratulations to Teagan Lewis (center) from Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES). She was named RCSD Elementary Student of the Month for the month of February. PES is so proud of Teagan for how she has grown as a leader in school and shares her learning with others. She is pictured with RCSD Superintendent of Education Shane Sanders (left) and Pelahatchie Elementary School Head Principal Robin Sanders (right).*

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## Baker competes at indoor nationals



Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, Jewel Baker competed at the New Balance Nationals Indoor 2026. Baker came in 27th overall. Her personal record (PR) was the second fastest for an 8th grader in Mississippi, behind Olympian Cory McGee. Her time is third best indoor for the state this year and is the current third best time for current outdoor times. Congratulations Baker!

## Phillips breaks ERA school record



Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, East Rankin Academy junior jumper Leyton Phillips broke a twenty-nine-year-old East Rankin Academy long jump record of 19'10", set in 1997 by ERA graduate, Walter Robbins. Leyton's brand-new long jump personal record of 20'1/2" is ranked Top 5 in MAIS 4A standings. Phillips, a jumps specialist, is also ranked Top 5 in both triple jump and high jump, recently sweeping all three events at a Canton Academy meet where he soloed 18 points for his Patriot team.

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

# PHS Beta Club makes Top Five



Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, Pelahatchie Senior Beta's Living Lit Team placed in the top five at State Beta Convention for the eighth year in a row. The Betas wish to thank the sponsors, especially Mrs. Skinner for her vision and knowledge; students, especially the theatre classes; and teachers who helped to make the set a success.

# Grant, Porter receive awards



Special to Pelahatchie News

Big congratulations to Zion Grant and Coach Porter! Recently, Zion Grant was honored as Mr. Basketball 2A 2026 by the MHSAA and MAC. This is an incredible achievement and a testament to the hard work, dedication, and leadership Grant has shown on and off the court. Also, Coach Jerrick Porter earned Region 5 - 2A Coach of the Year.

## Griffin Family Medical Clinic

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that whosoever believeth in him should not perish,  
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# Bryant accepted for Raytheon Summer internship program



Special to Pelahatchie News

Congratulations to Kyra Bryant, who has been accepted into the Raytheon Summer Internship Program. This opportunity did not come easily, and it was a very competitive group of students who interviewed for this internship. There were over one hundred students across Rankin and neighboring counties who applied, but only twenty students were accepted. This program will allow her to gain experience to see firsthand what the engineering world looks like. Her goal is to become an aerospace engineer, and Bryant is well on her way.

## Faulkner serves as page for MS House



Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, Hayden Faulkner paged for the Mississippi House of Representatives. "I loved paging this year," Faulkner stated. "I had a great time and met many new friends and people. Thank you Representative Barton for this opportunity and experience. Also, thank you Mrs. Cassie!" Pictured left to right: Sponsor and Speaker Pro Tempore Manly Barton; Faulkner; and Speaker of the House Jason White.

## Breland, Gainey serve as pages



Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, Jillian Breland and Makayla Belle Gainey paged for the Mississippi House of Representatives. Pictured left to right: Sponsor and Representative Fred Shanks; Gainey; Breland; and Speaker of the House Jason White. The two students also spoke of their experiences. "I truly enjoyed getting to serve as a page in the Mississippi House of Representatives," Gainey stated. "Thank you to Representative Shanks for the wonderful opportunity. I know this experience will help me in various ways for years to come!" "I absolutely loved serving as a page in the Mississippi House of Representatives," Breland stated. "It was an invaluable opportunity to learn about operations of our state legislature. I am excited to hopefully do it again next year."

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### 2016 - 10 years ago

- "Mallory Corley named to Holmes 2016 All-Mississippi Academic Team"
- "Business Spotlight: Crooked Creek stays on top of the latest in animal care"

### 2021 - 5 years ago

- "In our community, no one battles alone"
- "PHS welding team places second at Capital Federation"

### 2025 - Last Year

- "Renfro named Pelahatchie's new library director"
- "Local farmers market to embark on second year"

# Garden soil: What's in it and how to improve it



By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

Special to Pelahatchie News

Vegetable gardens have a long history in Mississippi. Gardeners can enjoy the freshest produce, ripened in their own garden. In the past, a family's food often came right from their own garden. Today, gardening is typically much more recreational, even though we have seen an increase in gardening interest in the last few years. Regardless of the motives, gardeners want a successful harvest from what they plant.

The ideal garden soil, just like soil for any wildlife food plot, is deep, loose, fertile, and well drained (internally, as well as on the surface). The ideal garden soil has plenty of organic matter and is free of weeds and diseases. These soils can sometimes be difficult to find, but less than ideal soils can be just as productive with the proper preparation and management.

Clay and sandy soils can be amended by adding organic matter. Increasing the organic matter in clay soils improves the tilth, making it easier to work, and improves drainage. Adding organic matter to sandy soil increases the water-holding capacity and improves its fertility.

Soil and soil conditions affect the way vegeta-



Special to Pelahatchie News

ble plants grow, and look. When soils are cold, wet, crusty, or cloddy, the seedlings are slow to emerge, and some may not survive. Root rot diseases may take a heavy toll on seedlings, especially beans. Other soil-related plant symptoms are stunted plants, slow growth, poor color, and shallow, malformed roots. Signs of poor soil structure are crusts, hard soil layers below the surface, known as hardpans or fragipans, standing water, and erosion.

We can increase the soil's organic matter content

by adding manure, composted leaves, sawdust, bark, or peat moss. Also, turn under plant residues like sweet corn stalks, and green manure crops (soybeans, rye, southern pea plants, and others) after harvest. Plant residues should be free of diseases if they are to be added to the garden soil. Cover plants can be planted in the fall to prevent erosion and leaching of plant nutrients. They also provide organic matter and nitrogen when turned under in the spring.

Manures vary in nutrient level, and the amount of straw, age, exposure to weather, and degree of composting changes their composition. Be careful not to over fertilize when applying chicken litter to a garden. Use no more than 200 pounds per 1,000 square feet of garden space. Cow and horse manure is lower in nutrient con-

tent, than poultry litter and can be applied at 250 to 300 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

The overuse of manures can add so much fertilizer to the soil that plant growth is harmed. Most organic materials release some nutrients quickly and rest over time. Test the soil every year or two and make adjustments.

Source: "Mississippi Vegetable Gardener's Guide", Mississippi State University Extension, Publication 3616



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# The annual, almost-great southern pollen apocalypse

By Kenneth A. McDade

- or by someone who just sneezed mid-sentence.

If you stepped outside this week and thought, "Huh...when did my car turn into a highlighter?" Congratulations. That means you're experiencing springtime in the South.

Around here, pollen isn't just a seasonal inconvenience. It's a full-blown atmospheric event. It floats. It coats. It commits. There's no such thing as "a little pollen." No, this stuff shows up like it was invited and brought friends along.

I once saw a cartoon of Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz looking down at a pollen-covered sidewalk and saying, "Hey...this isn't a yellow brick road." That's about right. Around here, we don't follow the yellow brick road—we park on it, walk through it, and accidentally inhale it.

## What Even Is Pollen?

Scientifically speaking, pollen is a fine powder released by plants as part of their reproductive cycle. It's nature's way of saying, "Let's make more trees," while the rest of us are saying, "Let's make more tissues."

In the South, our biggest offenders include: pine trees, oak trees, and grass.

These plants release pollen into the air, where it travels freely, landing on everything from your windshield to your unsuspecting sinuses.

## Timing Is Everything

Pollen levels aren't random—they follow seasonal patterns: tree pollen (Spring), grass pollen (Summer) and ragweed (Fall).

And because this is the South, those seasons like to overlap just enough to keep things interesting.

## The Symptoms

If you've been sneezing like you're auditioning for a Benadryl commercial [or something like that lol], rubbing your eyes like you just watched a sad movie, or questioning your life choices every time you go outside, you're not alone.

Allergies hit hard down here. It's like the air itself has decided to fight you.

## But...Let's Talk About the Bees (and Everything Else We Like)

Now, before we declare war on every tree in sight, we do need to admit something important: pollen is doing its job.

Without pollen: bees don't pollinate, flowers don't bloom, crops don't grow, and your groceries get real sad, real fast.

That cloud of yellow doom? It's the reason we have fruits, vegetables, and anything that makes spring look like a postcard instead of a beige disappointment.

It's also behind things like elaborate flower displays—yes, even



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

events like the Rose Bowl Parade, where flowers are celebrated instead of feared. (Clearly, those people are using stronger allergy medicine than the rest of us.)

So while we complain—and we will complain—pollen is basically the overachiever of the natural world. Annoying? Yes. Necessary? Also yes.

## What Can We Do About It?

Now, here's where things get practical—because while we can't stop pollen (we've tried glaring at it), we can manage it.

**1. The Daily Car Rinse Ritual** In the South, washing your car in spring is less about cleanliness and more about temporary emotional relief. It will be yellow again tomorrow. Accept this.

**2. Medication is Your Friend** Over-the-counter antihistamines can help keep symptoms in check. Think of them as your seasonal sidekick.

**3. Keep It Closed** Windows open? Brave. Reckless. Possibly unwell. Keep them shut during high pollen days unless you enjoy inviting chaos into your home.

**4. Change Clothes Like You've Been in Battle** Because honestly, you have. Pollen clings to everything. When you come inside, change clothes so you're not tracking the outdoors into your couch cushions.

**5. Embrace the Southern Way: Complain Together** Nothing brings people together like shared suffering. Porch conversations this time of year often begin with, "You seen your car this morning?" and end with someone sneezing mid-sentence.

## How We Really Handle It

Let's be honest. Southerners don't just deal with pollen—we endure it with personality. We laugh about it. Post pictures of our yellow cars like it's a badge of honor. Pretend we're fine while holding a tissue box like a security blanket. And every year, we act surprised. Every. Single. Year.

## Final Thoughts

Pollen may win a few battles each spring, but it doesn't take our spirit. Yes, it's coating everything and it's personally attacking your sinuses. But it's also the reason bees are busy, flowers are blooming, and food is making its way to your table.

So for now, we'll keep wiping down surfaces, sneezing dramatically, and making jokes about it until summer shows up and replaces pollen with humidity - which is a whole different article. Still, if only it wouldn't turn my car into a lemon-flavored crime scene, that would be nice. Until then, stay strong, keep tissues close, and remember: It's not a yellow brick road. It's just Tuesday in the South.

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# Pastor's Perspective: Prodigal to Brother - Which Son are You?



By Guest Columnist Spencer Sullivan, Pastor, Pelahatchie Baptist

Special to Pelahatchie News

Last month in this space, we reflected upon what most consider to be Jesus' most famous parable – The Parable of the Prodigal Son. In this story, it is easy for us to see the shameful actions of the younger son. Yet, in the culture, how the father responded to the son

would have been considered as shameful in if not even more so. What father agrees to such a shameful request? And then how could the father be overjoyed to receive him back after all the son had done? Yet, God is represented by the father in this parable. He is overjoyed to reconcile with his son who was lost. Truthfully, all of us rebel against and depart from our Heavenly Father's perfect design and some of us would even be considered prodigals at some point in our lives. While God hates sin, He proved His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. This is amazing news for every one of us! Yet, there is more than one son in this story. Again, even if you are familiar with this parable, I encourage you to read the rest of the story. You can find it in Luke 15:25-32.

It is interesting that as the father decided to celebrate the return of the prodigal, the older brother wasn't already there. He was working and likely overseeing laborers in the field. But, clearly, no one sent for him to come home. While this isn't explicitly said in the parable, this likely indicates that the relationship between the father and the older son was not great either. At the beginning of the story, the younger son requested his inheritance, implying he desired for

Pride goes before  
destruction, and a haughty  
spirit before a fall.

PROVERBS 16:18 (ESV)



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his father to already be dead. Now, as the older son enters the story, while he is seemingly obedient, the parable doesn't really depict a father-son relationship, but rather a master-servant relationship. The sin of the younger son was obvious and clear to anyone. The sin of the older son is less obvious. While the younger son committed openly sinful acts, the older son's sin is his pride. While both brothers had their sin issues, their issues are generally perceived very differently. For example, a person caught in sexual sin is seen differently than someone who struggles with pride and is pretentious. Still, we know from the Bible that pride is a big deal to God! For example, Peter writes: "... Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Pride is a tremendous barrier to

knowing God. The older son presented himself here as if he had never done anything wrong. "Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command..." The older son viewed himself worthy because of his behavior while at the same time he viewed the younger son as unworthy because of his behavior. John 3:16 says: "For God so love the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes"... not behaves. I remember hearing someone recently say: God's love is not based on behavior, but pride in behavior can keep a person from accepting God's love. The older son was just as lost as the younger son. It was just a different kind of lostness.

In spite of the older son's shameful reaction to the son's return, the father clearly desired for him to join the celebration. The father pleaded with him to join the party. He wanted him to come in and celebrate as a son. But, the older son refused and Jesus ends the parable with the father saying: "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found." While we know this is a parable, the story ends on a bit of a cliffhanger. What ever happened to the older son? Did he ever come around?

As so many of the parables do, the Parable of the Prodigal Son reveals what God is like. Our God is perfect and holy and just. But, He is loving and gracious toward sinners. He calls all to repentance and faith. Those that realize their need for Jesus respond. Those that do not realize their need for Jesus, don't respond. May we all understand our desperate need for Jesus and humbly come to Him through repentance and faith.

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# Three East Rankin Academy students named MAIS AAAA

Congratulations to #10 Liz Stevens for MAIS 4A Player of the Year in basketball; to #3 Holly Jackson for making the MAIS 4A All MAIS Team in basketball; and to #13 Nic Riemann for making the MAIS 4A All MAIS Team in soccer.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



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# Pelahatchie Chiefs powerlifting team places at state competition

Congratulations to Pelahatchie State Powerlifting Champions from this weekends State Powerlifting Competition. Lilly Brunt - 3rd place in weight class • Korbin Boydston - State Champion in weight class • Jaterious Loper - 3rd place in weight class Pelahatchie is proud of all of those who represented the school at the state competition this year. Congratulations on a great season.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

## Students, local churches support ERCO with spring break project

Special to Pelahatchie News

On the first day of spring break, Ever Reaching Community Outreach (ERCO) was fortunate to receive incredible support from enthusiastic students from two partner churches. In the morning, students from Meadow Grove Baptist Church volunteered their energy and time, followed by an eager 6th grade group from Brandon First Methodist Church in the afternoon. They tackled a variety of tasks including sorting and organizing donations, arranging pantry items, and cleaning the pantry, kitchen and storage area. Their kindness, respectfulness, and willingness to serve truly impressed everyone involved.

Collaborations like these highlight the power of community and shared purpose. ERCO would like to thank Meadow Grove Baptist Church and Brandon First Methodist Church. ERCO love y'all!

“May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.” John 17:23 NLT.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

## Local business spotlight: Fusion Martial Arts in Pelahatchie

Special to Pelahatchie News

Looking for an activity for children that builds confidence, discipline, and respect — or looking for a great workout for adults? Take a look at what’s happening at Fusion Martial Arts.

Located right in the heart of Pelahatchie, Fusion Martial Arts has been a part of the community since 2004 and is currently enrolling new students for both kids and adults classes. Classes are held on Mondays and Thursdays, making it a convenient option for busy families looking for a positive and structured activity.

Martial arts training offers more than just physical fitness. Students learn valuable life skills like focus, self-control, perseverance, and respect for others. For kids, it can improve behavior, listening skills, and confidence. For adults, it’s a great way to stay active, relieve stress, and learn practical self-defense in a supportive environment.

Fusion Martial Arts is proud to serve local families and be part of the Pelahatchie community. Supporting local



Special to Pelahatchie News

businesses like this helps keep this small town strong and thriving. When residents shop local and participate in local programs, it’s investing right back into the community.

If looking for a new activity for a child or an adult, then consider giving Fusion Martial Arts a try. Stop by, learn more about the classes, and show some community support for a local business.

For class information, stop by Fusion Martial Arts at 503 2nd Street in Pelahatchie on class nights — Monday and Thursday — and see what they’re all about.

# The Crooked Creek Lucky Cutie Corner

Crooked Creek Animal Hospital recently spread some holiday magic with a St. Patrick's Day photo booth for clinic patients and their owners.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

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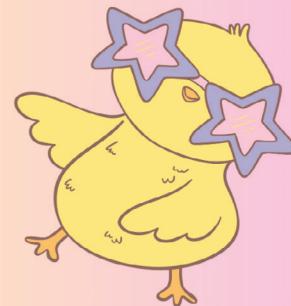
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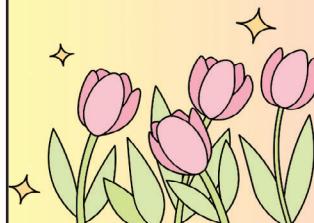
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