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# NEWS Pelahatchie

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Pelahatchie News  
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Town of Pelahatchie

## Clean-UP Week



May 3rd thru May 8th

## Lindsey siblings chosen for national rodeo team



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School sophomore Addison Lindsey, and her brother, Tucker, were both chosen to be on the 2021 Tin Haul National Little Britches Rodeo Association Team. The email they received says that "You were chosen because of your positive attitude, outstanding leadership potential and your ability to make an impact on those around you." Tin Haul is a western boot company.

## Vining named ERA 2021 STAR Student; Gerry Britt, STAR Teacher

Special to Pelahatchie News

Elijah Vining was named East Rankin Academy's (ERA) STAR student. The son of Mark and Mischelle Vining of Flowood, he 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 ERA's Robotics Team, Mississippi College Science and Math Tournament Team, and the Varsity Boys Basketball Team.

Vining plans to attend Mississippi State University and major in Computer Science. He chose Mrs. Gerry Britt of Brandon as his STAR Teacher.

The Mississippi Economic Council and the M.B. Swayze Foundation sponsor the Student-Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) Program in an effort to encourage scholastic achievement among Mississippi's high school seniors. To be eligible for the STAR Student honor, a



Special to Pelahatchie News

Elijah Vining is ERA's 2021 STAR Student. His activities include National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, ACT 30 or Above Team, Robotics Team, Mississippi College Science and Math Tournament Team, and the Varsity Boys Basketball Team.

student must have an overall ACT composite of at least 25 and an overall average of 93 or above.

## Watkins named PHS's STAR Student; Greene STAR Teacher

Special to Pelahatchie News

Joseph Cameron Watkins was named Pelahatchie High School's (PHS) STAR Student for the 2020-2021 school year by the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) M. B. Swayze Foundation, sponsor of the Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program. Heather Greene was designated as STAR Teacher.

STAR Students are selected on the basis of academic excellence. Both American College Test scores and scholastic averages are compared to determine the school's

STAR Student. "The STAR program encourages and promotes academic achievement among Mississippi's high school seniors. We congratulate all of our STAR Students and STAR Teachers for their exceptional level of achievement," said Vickie Powell, Senior Vice President of Foundations. Each STAR Student is asked to designate a STAR Teacher, the teacher who has made the greatest contribution to the student's scholastic achievement.

The Pelahatchie High School senior will be listed with the 2021 STAR Student. *continued on page 3*



Special to Pelahatchie News

Cameron Watkins is PHS' 2021 STAR Student.

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## Brooke Rhodes named ERA girls basketball coach

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East Rankin Academy (ERA) named 2010 ERA graduate Brooke Rhodes as the new JV/Varsity Girls Basketball Coach. Rhodes has recently completed her first year as the Associate Head Coach for the Western Carolina women's basketball team after joining the program in May 2020.

Prior to Western Carolina, Rhodes spent two seasons in Clinton, South Carolina, at Presbyterian College. In the summer of 2019, Rhodes was promoted to associate head coach and recruiting coordinator for the Blue Hose.

Before Presbyterian, Rhodes spent two seasons on the bench at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, Mississippi, where she helped coach the Bobcats to a 56-6 (.903) record over that span. The team won back-to-back Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) State Championships as well as back-to-back National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 23 Championships. In 2016, the Bobcats made their first-ever National Tournament appearance and advanced to the Elite Eight. In 2017, the team returned to the tournament and advanced to the Sweet Sixteen. During her tenure, Rhodes was selected to coach in the

2017 NJCAA All-Star Game as well as the 2018 MACJC Sophomore All-Star Game.

Prior to her time at JCJC, Rhodes was at Central Arkansas for a season, where she helped guide the Sugar Bears to an overall record of 28-3, a Southland Conference tournament championship and the program's first D-I NCAA Tournament berth. That year, UCA set program records for regular season wins (28) and Southland Conference victories (16) while going undefeated on the road in conference play for the first time in program history.

Coach Rhodes had a successful playing career at both the University of Southern Mississippi and Delta State, where her teams went a combined 96-32 (.744). A team captain on a 25-win, WNIT Elite Eight team at Southern Miss in 2014-15,

Rhodes finished the season ranked second in the Conference USA and among the national Top-40 in 3-point field goal percentage.

A prolific shooter throughout her career, Rhodes – a Daktronics All-South Region selection in 2012 – finished her time in uniform with averages of 36.7 percent from 3-point range and 81.3 percent at the free-throw line.

As an East Rankin player, she was a Dandy Dozen selection and a two-time statewide MAIS Player of the Year, leading the ERA Lady Patriots to their first MAIS Overall Championship victory. Rhodes earned her undergraduate

degree in biological sciences with a chemistry minor from Southern Miss in 2014. She also completed a master's at USM in sports coaching education in 2016.



Special to Pelahatchie News

"Brooke Rhodes was an outstanding player for East Rankin Academy, and we are so excited to welcome her back as the coach of ERA Lady Patriot Basketball" –East Rankin Academy

## Hinds CC offering free summer classes

Special to Pelahatchie News

Hinds Community College (HCC) is offering 12 hours of free credit courses for the summer, including tuition, fees and books. Summer registration is now open. Classes begin June 1.

The free courses are open to current Hinds students, dual enrolled students, high school graduates, transfers from other colleges as well as university students who want to take courses at Hinds over the summer.

The courses include both face-to-face and online courses.

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For more information, call 601-857-3767, email [cares@hindsc.edu](mailto:cares@hindsc.edu) or go to [hindsc.edu/summer](http://hindsc.edu/summer).

The free courses are made possible with funding from the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act/Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.



Special to Pelahatchie News



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# What you need to know about carpenter bees



By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

Special to Pelahatchie News

Carpenter bees look a lot like bumble bees, but they are not. There are huge differences in the biology and habits of these two groups of bees. They don't even belong to the same entomological family. One of the most easily observed differences is that the top of the abdomen of carpenter bees is slick and shiny, while bumble bees are covered with black and white or yellow hairs. Carpenter bees nest in above ground wood galleries, while bumble bees nest in the ground.

Although there are other species of carpenter bees in the state, the eastern carpenter bee, the *Xylocopa virginica*, is by far the most common. The males are more easily noticeable because of their white faces and their habit of buzzing around, hovering in mid-air, and occasionally

hovering in one's face. Some people feel threatened by this behavior, but the males are harmless, because they do not sting.

Female carpenter bees are the ones that can sting, but they are not very aggressive, and do not sting unless forced to do so. Females are easily to distinguish from males, because their face is solid black, while males have the distinct white spot in the middle of their face. Female carpenter bees also behave differently from males. They don't have time for all the buzzing and aerial acrobatics of the males. They spend most of their time boring nest galleries, collecting pollen and nectar for the gallery, and laying eggs.

Carpenter bees overwinter as adults inside their wood galleries and emerge in early spring. Galleries, which are a little less than 1/2 inch in diameter and can be more than a foot long, are usually made in unpainted softwood lumber. They especially prefer pine, cypress, and cedar, but will occasionally bore in other types of

lumber. Carpenter bees do not eat wood, they only use it for nesting. Carpenter bees seem to stay around favorite nesting locations, and females will reuse, and enlarge old galleries from year to year. Wood timbers can be weakened by the presence of multiple galleries, and galleries can also allow moisture to enter the wood and hasten decay. These are minor wood-boring insect pests, but their cumulative damage can become significant in some situations.

However, carpenter bees are also important pollinators and should only be controlled when necessary to prevent structural damage. Some butterfly and pollinator gardeners actually include split rail fencing in their garden to encourage carpenter bees, so they can enjoy their aerial flying.

While a thick coat of paint that totally covers the wood grain and vinyl and aluminum siding will stop carpenter bees, the most effective way to control carpenter bees is with insecticides. Apply small

amounts of insecticide dust directly into the galleries. The dust will remain in the galleries for many months and kills the bees as they come into contact with it. This method seems to work as they come and as they go. Female bees are killed when they return to the gallery, and newly hatched bees are killed when they emerge. Dusts work better and last longer than liquid or aerosol treatments, because they remain in the gallery where they will contact the bees, rather than soaking into the wood.

Products formulated as gels or paste, and sold in syringe-like applicators, that are to be injected into the entrance hole may also work. The bad part about this method is it does not give 100% control, because it is hard to find and treat all galleries, and new bees will appear, as long as there is attractive exposed wood. However, this is still one of the best ways for homeowners to reduce carpenter bee populations.

Source: Bug Wise, No. 5, April 25, 2011



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## Watkins named PHS's STAR Student; Greene STAR Teacher

continued from page 1

dents and STAR Teachers in the STAR booklet.

Over 600 STAR Students and STAR Teachers will be recognized for their exceptional achievement by MEC's M.B. Swayze Foundation with medallions, certificates and lapel pins. The top 20 STAR Students - the ALL-STAR Schol-

ars - will receive scholarships, and their STAR Teachers will receive awards provided by the Kelly Gene Cook, Sr. Charitable Foundation. The highlight of STAR is the naming of the Mississippi ALL-STAR Scholar for 2020-2021 school year and winner of the coveted \$24,000 Cook Foundation Scholarship.



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# ERA Track and Field in the backstretch

By Guest Columnist April Williams

The MAIS AAAA East Rankin Academy (ERA) Patriot Track & Field teams have concluded the regular season. State qualifications have begun, and ERA has a number of standouts. Here is a wrap-up.

The varsity and junior varsity teams kicked off the 2021 track season in February with successful meets at Pearl High School, Canton Academy, and Madison Ridgeland Academy. The team had their first breakout performances participating in the Gulf Coast Classic invitational in Biloxi, where the varsity girls won the 4x800 relay, setting a new school record and MAIS 4A overall season high of 10:33.67. Patriot senior, Kelly Boydston, also won varsity girls high jump in Biloxi with a jump of 5'0". Eighth grader, Audrey Mayatte, took third in both the varsity 1600 meter and 3200-meter individual races.

Mississippi MileSplit, the entity that manages state track entries, scheduling, and rankings, has been impressed with the teams development, stating that track fans need to keep an eye out for "small school ERA...those girls are showing a lot of bigger schools up this

season." True to form, the team repeated their varsity girls relay success at the Rankin County championships winning the 4x800 relay with a time of 10:43.74, facing off against Pearl, Northwest Rankin and Brandon varsity girls. The team also placed third in the 4x400 with a time of 4:44.06 and sixth grader, Leah Collipp, took third in the varsity 1600 meter.

Individual success has been found this season, with all athletes setting personal records, including new overall school records set by Lydia Collipp in the 800 meter with a time of 2:40.43 and Audrey Mayatte in both the 1600 meter with a time of 5:57.01 and 3200 meter with a 13:09.51.

Collectively, the East Rankin Academy varsity and junior varsity girls and boys are well ranked as they prepare for district competition. The following varsity athletes and teams are ranked in the top ten of their respective events in MAIS 4A rankings: Eli Bowman (4th pole vault); Caleb Leach (1st discus,);

Kelly Boydston (1st high jump, 6th long jump); Leah Collipp (3rd 800m, 4th 1600m, 4th 3200m); Lydia Collipp




Special to Pelahatchie News

(8th 200m, 2nd 400m, 7th 300 hurdles, 1st 800m, 5th 1600m); Audrey Mayatte (7th 400m, 3rd 1600m, 6th 3200m); Abby Raines (8th 800m); Kaylynn Ramirez (10th 3200m); Brooke Renfroe (4th high jump); Lesley Scarberry (9th 200m); Skyler Simmons (8th shot put); Katie Simpson (10th 110 hurdles); 9th Girls 4x100 relay; 8th Girls 4x200 relay; 3rd Girls 4x400 relay; and 1st Girls 4x800 relay.


Junior varsity top ten rankings include:

Colin Harris (4th 400m, 8th 300 hurdles, 5th high jump); Colton Goolsby (8th 1600m, 8th triple jump); Michael Kanengiser (4th 800m, 10th 1600m); R.T. Tate (9th 3200m); Brayden Warner (9th 100m, 3rd discus, 1st shot put); Liam Wilkerson (9th 800m, 5th long jump); Preston Wofford (9th long jump); 4th boys 4x100 relay; 4th boys 4x400 relay; 5th 4x800 relay; Jensen Baker (8th discus); Brooke Cooper (3rd shot put); Addison Derrick (9th shot put); Rosa Garcia (9th 200m); Makenzie Phillips (5th shot put); Abby Raines (1st high jump); Lesley Scarberry (3rd 200m, 9th 400m); Katie Simpson (8th triple jump); Rachel Smith (10th 800m); Savannah Smithers (6th 100 hurdles, 5th 300 hurdles); Katie Tadlock (7th 800m); Allison Thompson (9th 200m, 8th long jump, 7th triple jump); Maury Ann Walley (10th discus); 5th girls 4x100 relay; 4th girls 4x200 relay; 2nd girls 4x400 relay; and 7th girls 4x800 relay.

Head Coach David Hopper continues to build the program at ERA as the young athletes continue to train and earn new personal records with each competitive outing. "Our team has worked hard to achieve what we have, but there is still work to be done," stated Hopper.



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### Jenkins, PHS Student-Athlete of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Josh Jenkins was named March's Pelahatchie High School (PHS)'s Student- Athlete of the Month. Pictured (l to r) are: Dr. Teague Burchfield, Coach Ryan Keeton, Jenkins, Tanner Wilson with Farm Bureau, and Will Ragland, band director.

### Moore places third in Weightlifting State Championship



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Chief's powerlifter Caleb Moore finished third in his weight class in the 2A State Championship. Moore competed in the 165 lb. weight class. He lifted a 415 lb. back squat, a 200 lb. bench, and a 450 lb. deadlift to finish with a total of 1065 lbs. Pictured (l to r) are: Moore with Coach Tyler Walters.

### PHS Baseball recognizes seniors



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) recognized its senior baseball players in April. Pictured (l to r) are: Coach Sammy Goodin, Jared Goodin, Coach Cedrick Wilder, Cameron Watkins, Head Coach Tipp Nutt, and Skilar Squires.

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# Sky Lake subdivision residents want to be de-annexed

By Susie A. Wolfe

In December 2013, Pelahatchie's Board of Aldermen extended the city limits to include Sky Lake subdivision, an upscale gated community three miles west of downtown on Highway 80. When the city limits were extended, the Board also agreed to make improvements in the annexed area. Signed by Craig Slay, Board Attorney, and Bettye Massey, Town Clerk, the Board of Aldermen minutes from the December 5, 2013, meeting state that "the Town agreed to provide the following within a reasonable time, not to exceed five years: Improve streets and drainage; Maintain water lines, water service, sewage disposal lines and street lighting, furnish police protection, fire protection, garbage removal, trash and debris removal, animal control, maintenance of existing streets..." and noted that Aldermen Michael Adams, Frank Boyd, Megan Hall, Margie Warren, and Jerry Norwood voted in favor. There was no opposition.

Now, more than five years later, homeowner Jordan Johnson and the residents and landowners say that none of the improvements have been made, and they are exploring de-annexing from the

Town of Pelahatchie. Currently, the subdivision has not used street lights, police or animal control, and they use septic tanks for sewage, according to Johnson. Rankin County and Pelahatchie provide police, fire and garbage services, and Evergreen Association provides water.

According to residents, Sky Lake includes twelve homes valued at an average cost of \$350,000, ranging from 2,100 to 4,000 square feet, with lots



This street sign is only thing the homeowners say the Town of Pelahatchie has provided the Sky Lake subdivision, three miles west of Town on Highway 80.



Sky Lake is a subdivision inside the city limits of the Town of Pelahatchie. The homeowners say they pay approximately \$30,000 in taxes but receive few services from the Town. They have spoken to the Board of Alderman at least six times.

from the three-acre minimum requirement to approximately fifteen acres.

Jordan said that the homeowners in Sky Lake collectively pay nearly \$30,000 a year in taxes to the Town every year.

Sky Lake homeowners, including Johnson and McFarland, have been voicing the concerns of some of the homeowners

to the Board of Aldermen over the past five months in four regular board meetings and special meetings.

Johnson and McFarland say that the subdivision's developer and part owner Mark McKay, who is an attorney, retains the rights to the neighborhood's homeowner's association until the plat for the subdivi-



Photos by Pelahatchie News

Sky Lake homeowners, pictured (l to r), Larry McFarland and Jordan Johnson, spoke to the Pelahatchie News about the services they say the Town of Pelahatchie has not provided the 12 tax-paying homeowners in the upscale subdivision.

sion is submitted for approval. Per Craig Slay, Rankin County Board attorney, the road is private and will remain private until the plat is approved.

Johnson said McKay pays the electricity for the lights and water at the front entrance to the subdivision off Highway 80. The homeowners have been having to maintain the road for more than five

years, said Johnson and McFarland. They say homeowners have spent money out of their pockets to add gravel and provide the labor to maintain the road, which homeowners say currently needs further improvements. According to a quote provided by Southern Rock, LLC, to homeowners, it will take twenty-six loads of gravel, at \$1,000 per load, plus labor, to upgrade the road.

At each Board of Alderman meeting, the Board has maintained that the Sky Lake road is a private road and that any issues homeowners have are with the developer, rather than the Town. Homeowners say they want to petition the Town to de-annex the subdivision, so that the residents can stop paying taxes for services, specifically road improvements, that they aren't getting, and also to allow them to challenge the developer.

As of April 30, active engagement has been made between the developer, the Rankin County Board of Supervisors and the homeowners for a resolution. Facilitation has been made possible by Pelahatchie Mayor Ryshonda Beechem. Clarification has also been provided by previous Pelahatchie mayor Knox Ross, according to Johnson.

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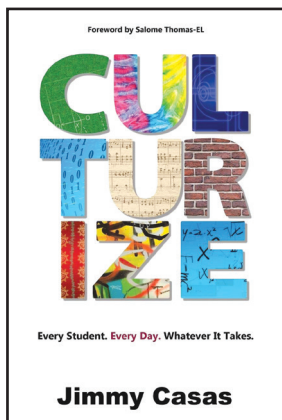


By Guest Columnist  
Robin Sanders,  
Principal, Pelahatchie  
Elementary

Special to  
Pelahatchie News

Promoting and sustaining a positive school culture helps breed student success.

Building relationships with parents and students is currently a goal of our school, and it will continue to be a goal for the 2021-2022 school year. It is imperative that we, as educators, provide a safe and respectful environment for our students and staff. At Pelahatchie Elementary (PES), we strive to show students, parents, and staff members that we care and that every child deserves to be a part of something great. We are currently studying Jimmy Casas' book *Culturize*, which focuses on building and strengthening school culture. Through this staff book study, we have identified three objectives to implement for the 2021-2022 school year that will have a lasting impact on our school and community.



Special to Pelahatchie News

One goal for Pelahatchie Elementary is to ensure that all staff and students have leadership capacity both in and out of school. Casas' belief is that everyone has the capacity to lead. It is our job as educators to bring out the unique leadership skills in each and every staff member and student. Building the capacity to lead begins with recruiting, hiring, and retaining highly qualified, diverse, and committed staff members. It is our mission to promote an environment where teachers feel valued, supported, and ap-

preciated.

Casas spends a great deal of time on the importance of being a "champion for students." Another area of focus is for all stakeholders in our school and community to adopt a "champion for students" mindset. Maintaining ongoing, effective communication with parents regarding student progress, developing confidence in students, and setting high expectations for students and ourselves as educators are ways we want to champion for our students.

Our third goal is to "carry the banner" for Pelahatchie Elementary. Being mindful of our words and actions greatly impacts the success of our school. Do

our words inspire others for success or shame? We aim to have students and teachers constantly in a state of reflection. The power of positivity will not only generate success, but it will also impact the community. Instilling a culture of positivity starts with looking within. We will continue to provide opportunities for teachers to grow and develop their craft. Opportunities will be presented for new and veteran teachers to lead meaningful professional development, creating a culture where all teachers feel valued.

A strong, reflective culture can provide a school with the strength to carry on through the tough times. As we have reflected on this school year, if we have learned anything, it's that every challenge is an opportunity to grow. When we begin to see potential challenges as growth opportunities, everyone benefits.

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## Watson announces run for Alderman of Ward 4



By Patsy Watson

Special to  
Pelahatchie News

Dear Constituents of Ward 4, my name is Patsy Watson. My husband Jack and I were born and raised in Pelahatchie, Mississippi. We raised our children here. Some of our children still live here. We are members of Little Zion United Methodist Church. I am a Pelahatchie High School graduate. I attended Jackson State University. As a Licensed Social Worker, I have served 30 years for Friends of Children of Mississippi. (McCall Head Start in Pelahatchie). Seven of those years I served as Project Director of The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi Tobacco Prevention Programs serving Rankin, Simpson, and Scott County.

Many of you know me personally or have come in contact with me. Having been actively involved in our town for

as long as I can remember and serving as a Community Advocate; I served as a Jubilee Festival Committee member for over Twenty (20) years; worked as a Poll Worker for the Rankin County Government Elections held in the Pelahatchie 414 voting precinct for about 25 years; and volunteered at Pelahatchie Elementary/Pelahatchie Attendance Center for many years.

I was also actively involved in assisting the late Chief of Police Glenda Shoemaker with activities for the Senior Citizens of Chatelaine and the surrounding areas. I even assisted Chief Shoemaker in securing substance Abuse help for someone who requested it. She called me her "Volunteer Social Worker."

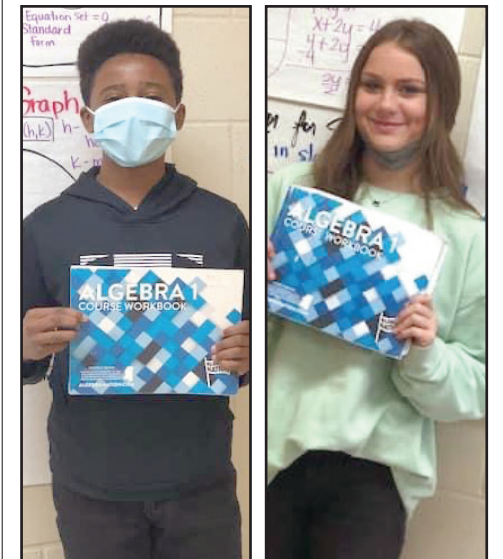
I presently serve as a committee member of "The Girls Tea with a Bag" whose mission is to teach girls to love God, themselves and to be the best they can be. As a leader of Little Zion United Methodist Church's Senior Citizens

Outreach Ministry and a member of Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church Outreach Ministry, I assisted with giving out Food Boxes in Pelahatchie during the Pandemic, organized a Community Memorial Convoy (March 2020 - June 2020) in Memory of those who passed away, and family members who passed during the Pandemic. To simply put it I love Pelahatchie, and as a constituent of Ward 4 I want to represent you as your Alderman. I want to work for you, our town, and I want to be a part of making things better. Why? Because I truly believe that Pelahatchie is the place to prosper. I believe that we are good people.

My main objective right now is to let you know that I want to serve as your Alderman. I pray that you will consider me and when you go to the Poll on June 8, 2021, you will vote for Patsy Watson, Alderman Ward 4. #IwanttobetheVoice ofWard4 and #PartoftheSolutions.

You may contact me at 769-274-2857.

## Two Pelahatchie students win Algebra Challenge



Special to Pelahatchie News

Jimmy Holifield, left, and Macey Bowman, right, won gift cards from Algebra Nation in the Test Yourself Challenge sponsored by Algebra Nation recently. Algebra Nation is a program paid for and sponsored by the State of Mississippi. Mrs. Nutt's Algebra 1 class has been using the Test Yourself as a tool to review for the state test coming up soon.

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# ERA wins MS College Quiz Bowl Tournament



Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Mississippi College Academic Tournament Champions pictured (l to r) are: Elijah Moore, Dylan Davis, Barron Burnham, and Will Price.

## Special to Pelahatchie News

Recently, the East Rankin Academy (ERA) Varsity Quiz Bowl team competed in the Mississippi College Academic Tournament, where they won first place after defeating Brandon High School in the final round of com-

petition. This large tournament included schools such as Madison Central High School, Clinton High School, Parklane Academy, St Aloysius, Columbia Academy, Petal High School, Laurel Christian School, Madison Ridgeland Academy, and Jackson Prep.

# Pelahatchie Elementary awards March Students of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) awarded the March Students of the Month for patience. Pictured (l to r) first row, are: Karen Sherrill, Kaden Sanders, Jamari Grant, Aidan Smith, and Bradley Denton; second row: Preston Stephens, Tuff Parker, Hunter Hall, Pandora Johnson, and Brelyn Burnham; third row: Alex Banuelas-Lopez, Jasmine Ramon, Lyric Jolly, Halyn Ables, and KaZariyah Stokes; fourth row: Aiden Collier, Hayden Grant, Madison Nuzzo, Morgan Perry, and Raelyn Woods; and fifth row: Dawson Courtney, Harley Kitchens, Natalie Hand, Carson Moore, and Kyla Bailey.

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# Pastor's Perspective: April showers bring May flowers



By Guest Columnist John Vaughn, Pastor, Cross Roads Baptist Church

There is an old saying "April showers bring May flowers."

I began to wonder where the saying originated and if it is actually true. So I did some research and discovered that the rhyme doesn't have a clear-cut origin. In 1557, however, Thomas Tusser, an English poet and farmer, published his book *Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry*. In this book, he published the small poem that read: "Sweet April showers, Do bring May flowers."

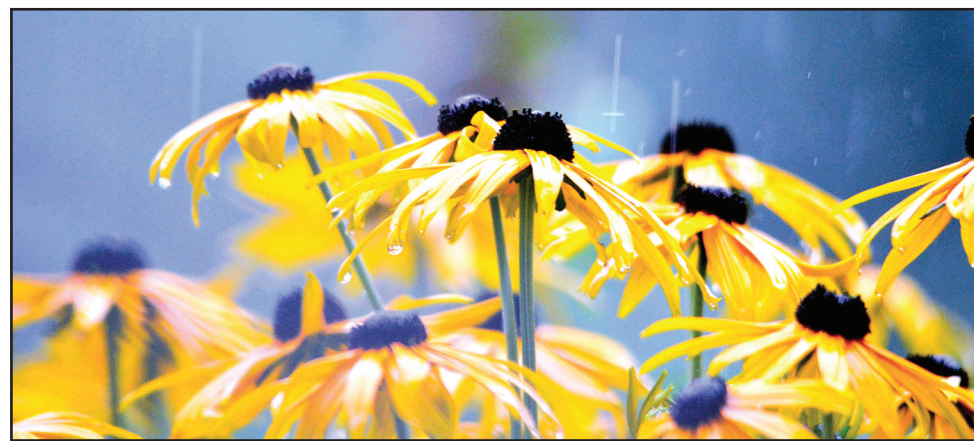
This is the first time the rhyme was actually found to be written down. But it may have been in popular usage much earlier. As the book was printed and spread, so too did the usage of the saying spread.

The question still remains, is it really accurate?

While Thomas Tusser didn't have the advantage of understanding climate patterns and atmospheric conditions, it turns out that he was really on to something. In the United Kingdom and Ireland, an April shower is the result of the polar jet stream, which brings moisture

from the Northern Atlantic and dumps it across the land. Those showers can come quickly, drop a lot of water in a short time, and move on out of the area.

In the United States, during the spring, the jet stream brings water from the Pacific Ocean across the United States, and precipitation is almost certain. This abundance of rainwater, and sometimes



Special to Pelahatchie News

sleet and snow, soaks into the soil and feeds the seeds and plants left behind from fall and winter.

So, April showers do exist, and they do bring May flowers in the end! This April, our rainfall totals were above normal. Maybe the flowers of May will be more beautiful than normal as well!

Of course, the realities of life often have a spiritual application, and that is certainly true in this case.

The showers of April can represent our many burdens of life, and they may hit us any month of the year. They could be health issues, financial woes, relationship problems, stress at work or at school, tension within the family, or any

number of other things. Everyone goes through bad times in life. No one is exempt from living "real life." But when you are the one who is facing those "real life" issues, it is easy to wonder what good can come from them.

But God's word tells us that the difficulties of life can actually lead us to

"hope." Listen to the words of Paul in Romans 5:1-5, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

Did you notice the progression? First there are faith, peace and grace. Those are important to have when the problems of life come. Then Paul states that when suffering does come, it can produce perseverance, character, and finally hope. And it's all made possible because of God's love which is poured out on us.

We had showers in April. Let's watch for the flowers in May! And if you are going through a difficult time right now, continue to expect God to help you through it and to ultimately fill your heart with hope!

Be sure to take your family to church on Sunday!

## Cross Roads Baptist Church



### Sunday Schedule:

8:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship Service led by Praise Team  
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages  
11:00 - Blended Worship Service led by the Choir

### Wednesday Schedule:

5:30 p.m. - Family Dinner (Call to make reservations)  
6:30 p.m. - Prayer Meeting; Youth Worship; Children's Activities, Couples Support Group; College Age Bible Study; Ladies Bible Study

### Online Worship Opportunities:

(Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook Page)

8:30 a.m. Worship Service every Sunday

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## Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	ARRANGEMENTS
Linda Jean White	66	Pulaski	3/25/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Stanley Welch	78	Forest	3/28/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Maxwell Gainey	82	Morton	3/29/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Gerald Youngblood	71	Clinton	3/30/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Buddy Crapps	85	Lena	4/1/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Sharon Jennings	43	Morton	4/4/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Betty Sue Herrington	71	Mendenhall	4/9/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
James Reilly	81	Conehatta	4/9/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Kennith Hill	68	Forest	4/16/2021	Wolf Funeral Services



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## Final Stretch: Graduation set for May 20



By Guest Columnist  
Dr. Teague Burchfield,  
Principal, Pelahatchie  
High School

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As May begins and we enter the final stretch, I would like to highlight several of our programs and events from the spring season. We are extremely proud of our baseball and fast-pitch softball programs, as they have both shown growth by making the playoffs this year. Our track teams have proved worthy, as well, this spring season, as they advanced several athletes into the playoffs. Both powerlifting and archery teams have had successful seasons, as well, as they had team members competing at the state level to close out the season. While the weather wasn't too kind, our golf team was able to enjoy a rewarding experience in its inaugural golf season. We are proud of each of these teams and look forward to the future as they continue to build their respective programs.

Not to be outdone, several of our clubs and organizations were highlighted through competition. Pelahatchie High School's BETA program and Newspaper Team competed at very high levels as they managed to return from competition highly decorated. Our band and JROTC programs have completed the year successfully with their spring concert and

awards ceremonies. Finally, our AG/FFA program has represented Pelahatchie High School quite well through its competitions, as well as its service projects. As you can see, extracurricular programs are critical to the success of schools, and these experiences become tremendous memories for those involved.

The month of May also brings about our statewide testing season. Our accountability grade is established through these assessments, and we are confident of a solid showing during our two-week testing window (5/4-5/14). We have prepared for this event through daily instruction, benchmark assessments, as well as multiple review sessions. The goal for Pelahatchie High School is "100% Participation/100% Growth." At this time, the testing schedule is posted on the web page and on social media. Parents, to ensure a successful performance on our "End of Year" assessments, please assist by making sure our students get a good night's rest prior to their exams.

Finally, please join us (due to COVID-19 - by invitation only) at 7 p.m. on May 20, 2021 at the Muse Center for our graduation ceremony. We are extremely proud of our seniors and their many accomplishments over the past 12 years. Let's give them the appropriate send-off they deserve as they begin a new chapter in their lives. Thanks for your support of our students and as always, Go Chiefs!

## Hatchie Headlines wins big with Press Association awards

Special to Pelahatchie News

The *Hatchie Headlines* newspaper staff placed in nine different categories for the Mississippi Scholastic Press

distinction. She also won 'Best Photo Illustration' and 'Best Lede.'

Malik Latin won for 'Best Feature Photo' with a picture of staff writer Senadrian Johnson. The student newspa-



Laura Renfro received a number of recognitions at the Mississippi Scholastic Press Association awards including being named an 'All-Mississippi At-Large' Honoree.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Malik Latin also received a number of awards, including Best of Show winner for 'Best Feature Photo.'

Association awards and won four of those categories. The Pelahatchie High School (PHS) student newspaper took the entire 'Best Photo Illustration' category. No other school was a finalist for this category.

The biggest win of the day went to junior Laura Renfro, who earned an All-Mississippi placement. This was given to only thirteen journalists in the state. The award is normally given to seniors, with Renfro as an exception, and this is her second time to receive the

per also placed as finalists in the other categories, including Mrs. Laura Grice, who has been a finalist for the Joanne Sellers Newspaper Adviser of the Year three years in a row.

The finalist winners include: 'Best Candid Photo' - Malik Latin; 'Best Photo Illustration' - Malik Latin, a finalist with two separate photos; 'Best Lede' - MaKaylee Hester; 'Best Sports Story' - Meghan Herrington; 'Best Review' - Laura Renfro; and 'Best Sports Writing' - *Hatchie Headlines* staff.

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### Pelahatchie High holds 2021 Gala



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) hosted the Junior/Senior 2021 Gala on April 10. Pictured are King and Queen, Damarquis Gilbert and Telaar Lewis. Mrs. Emily Hayes coordinated the event with the help of faculty and administrators.

### Pelahatchie High School regional track results

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) placed in the Regional Track Meet held in April. Here are results:

Alana Hobson, second place in Hurdles; Mackenzie Melton, Collins Doster, Maddie Grace Walters, and Payton Sanders, second place in 4x800; Collins Doster, Addison Archie, Maddie Grace Walters, Payton Sanders, first place 4X400; Mackenzie Melton, fourth place 400M; Payton Sanders, third place 1600M; Abby Grace Hemeter, third place 3200M; Maddie Grace Walters, second place, Pole Vault; Chrystianna Beeman, second place Triple Jump; Sharetha Hobbs, fourth place Triple Jump; Quay Ragsdale, fourth place Long Jump; JD Williams, third place Long Jump; JD Williams, fourth place 100M; and Quay Ragsdale, JD Williams, Elijah Williams, and Ashton Jones, second place in both 4X200 and 4X100.



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