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NEWS Pelahatchie Good News You Can Use

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P.O. Box 771
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Coronavirus impacts every person

By Susie A. Wolfe

With the shelter-in-place order beginning in March, Pelahatchie and the entire U.S. experienced a "new normal." Every person was and is affected from work and school to church and shopping. For about a month, citizens weren't supposed to leave home except for "essential" activities like grocery shopping or doctor or pharmacy visits. Schools did not return from spring break but finished the school year remotely at home.

On April 24, Governor Tate Reeves announced that he was reopening Mississippi's economy.

"We must recognize that there is no such thing as a "nonessential Mississippian," said Governor Reeves. "Every job is essential to the worker and his or her family who depend on its paycheck for food, supplies, and shelter. This morning, I signed a new executive order—a "Safer at Home" order. It went into effect on Monday (April 27) at 8 a.m. and

expires 14 days later (May 11)."

The "Safer at Home" order encourages—rather than orders—all Mississippians to stay at home as much as possible; continues to ban all social gatherings of ten or more; and allows most closed businesses to re-open except for businesses that cannot avoid sustained person-to-person contact like salons, gyms, clubs, spas, tattoo parlors, and barber-shops. Restaurants will continue to be limited to drive-through, carry-out, or delivery. Bars and casinos are still closed. Businesses have to follow CDC and Health Department guidelines like sending sick employees home, wearing masks, screening for symptoms, and social distancing as much as possible.

Governor Reeves said he spoke with doctors on the President's Task Force about the new executive order, and they felt Mississippi's order is approaching this the right way.

"It relies heavily on our trust in you," said Governor Reeves. "Not everything

continued on page 4

SAFER AT HOME

WHAT A STATEWIDE SAFER AT HOME ORDER MEANS FOR MISSISSIPPI

YOU CAN - GO TO GROCERY STORE - GO TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS AND THE PHARMACY - CARE FOR A SICK LOVED ONE - WALK YOUR DOG, GO FISHING, BE IN NATURE - USE DELIVERY OR CURBSIDE SERVICES - TRAVEL FOR WORK IF NECESSARY - ATTEND PARKING LOT CHURCH SERVICES	YOU SHOULD NOT - HOST GATHERINGS OF 10 OR MORE, SUCH AS WEDDINGS OR FUNERALS - GET CLOSER THAN 6 FEET TO OTHERS - LEAVE YOUR HOME FOR NON-ESSENTIAL ERRANDS - VISIT LOVED ONES IN THE HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, OR LONG-TERM CARE - GO TO A SALON OR BARBERSHOP TO GET YOUR HAIR DONE
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GO TO GOVERNORREEVES.MS.GOV/COVID-19 FOR OUR SAFER AT HOME FAQ

Special to Pelahatchie News

Local Dollar General recognized for excellence

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Pelahatchie Dollar General store received two honors on April 14. According to District Manager Shyla Gill, Tammy Stanley-Brown, store manager, was named to the 2019 Circle of Excellence for being a Top 10% Performing store and was also named a St. Jude Top Performer for raising more than \$2,400 in an eight-week campaign in October and November of 2019.

Mayor Ryshonda Beechem, who was there when they recognized Stanley-Brown, said, "I would like to congratulate Mrs. Tammy for being recognized for her store ranking number three out of 16,000 stores in the entire company. This is a huge accomplishment and certainly something to celebrate."



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Dollar General Store Manager Tammy Stanley-Brown received two awards from District Manager Shyla Gill for Top 10% Performing Store and St. Jude Top Performer. Pictured (l to r) are: Gill, Stanley-Brown and Pelahatchie Mayor Ryshonda Beechem.

Stanley-Brown would normally get a trip to Nashville to receive her awards, but because of the Coronavirus Pan-

demic, both Gill and Regional Manager Mark Persons brought the awards to her at the store.

Gill said the criteria for Pelahatchie Dollar General to be ranked as a Top Performing store is sales, customer service, in-stock items and shrinkage. She said she is proud of Stanley-Brown and her team for being community leaders.

Stanley-Brown, who has been with Dollar General for five years, three of which have been in Pelahatchie, said that one of her mottos is "it only takes a bit of kindness to make someone's day."

To raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital, which is a designated company non-profit, she and her team created a Candy Shop Castle display and had two girls, age four and six, to raise money. One girl had a cousin that was a St. Jude survivor. Vendors also donated items that were raffled for additional funds.

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A fond tribute to Jackie Thompson

By Susie A. Wolfe

Jackie Thompson, a well-known Rankin County businessman and host of the 1970s "Hour of the Fifties" television show passed away at 82 on April 14. Thompson grew up near Pelahatchie at Lodebar and got his start in business here.

In an article written in 2018, Editor Susie Wolfe featured Thompson reminiscing about how much he loved Pelahatchie and its folks. He started selling records in Pat Summers' Western Auto in 1954 and perfected his pantomime act at the Pelahatchie Theater. Even then, he was raising money for children's needs. He said of Pelahatchie, "I had a lot of fun there."

After posting about his death on the Pelahatchie News Facebook page, there was a huge response from those who knew him growing up and for his love of 50s music and in particular, Elvis Presley. Here are some of the comments posted:

WLBT-TV: "Jackie Thompson was a big fan of 1950's music and hosted a weekend television show in the 1970's called The Hour of the 50's. The Pelahatchie native was also a businessman who opened Eastland Plaza Homes in



Special to Pelahatchie News

Jackie Thompson

1965 with a partner and started a Pearl Christmas parade.

In 2018, Thompson, who lived in Pearl, was awarded the Pearl Chamber of Commerce President's Distinguished Service Award. Jackie Thompson was 82 years old."

PEARL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: "Jackie Thompson was presented with the "President's Distinguished Service Award" by past Chamber President Ron Morgan in February 2018. Jackie was a pillar of our community and was loved by everyone that knew him. He and Elvis are singing and dancing for Jesus in Heaven today."



Special to Pelahatchie News

Jackie Thompson (left) and right with Pelahatchie native Lea Ann Peavy with Thompson in the late 1970s on the set of "The Hour of the 50s."

MARSHA WALTERS: "In memory of my sweetheart, soulmate and bestest friend, Jackie Thompson.

I can honestly say that I never knew another man that gave of himself to help others like Jackie did and expected nothing in return.

Mr. Nostalgia, Mr. Hour of the 50's, King of Pearl, Mr. Rock n Roll, Mr. Eastland Plaza Homes, but I knew him best as "my sweetheart."

In lieu of flowers, you may give in Jackie's memory to: Brandon Baptist Church Building Fund 100 Brandon Baptist Church Brandon, MS, 39042"

Glenda McKay: "Yes, he came on Saturday around or after noon, Johnny Jolly & Jackie Thompson! Watched every chance I got!"

Peggy Busby: "Great guy, always made his rounds as Santa Claus throwing out candy throughout the neighborhoods every year for Christmas, the kids and I always look forward to this!"

Ilene Jones: "Such a nice man. I missed going to the show. A few years ago I was over at his house and boy did he show off his Elvis items. He loved his collections."

Chris Adcock: "He was born in a tiny one-bedroom home in Sardis Community in Smith County before his family moved to Pelahatchie."

Verne Harris: "He's talking to Elvis right now, don't you know."

Kim Sanford Haggerty: "My mother, sister and I use to dance on the show... Such a sweet man.."

Iris McKay Purvis: "Jackie lived next door to my husband in Pelahatchie while we were all growing up. We went all through high school together. Lots of fond memories. Rocking Satellites, Record Shop in Mr Pat's Western Auto, Basketball games and so many many more. We even bought a house from him in '63. It was a great ride Jackie; we'll miss you!!"



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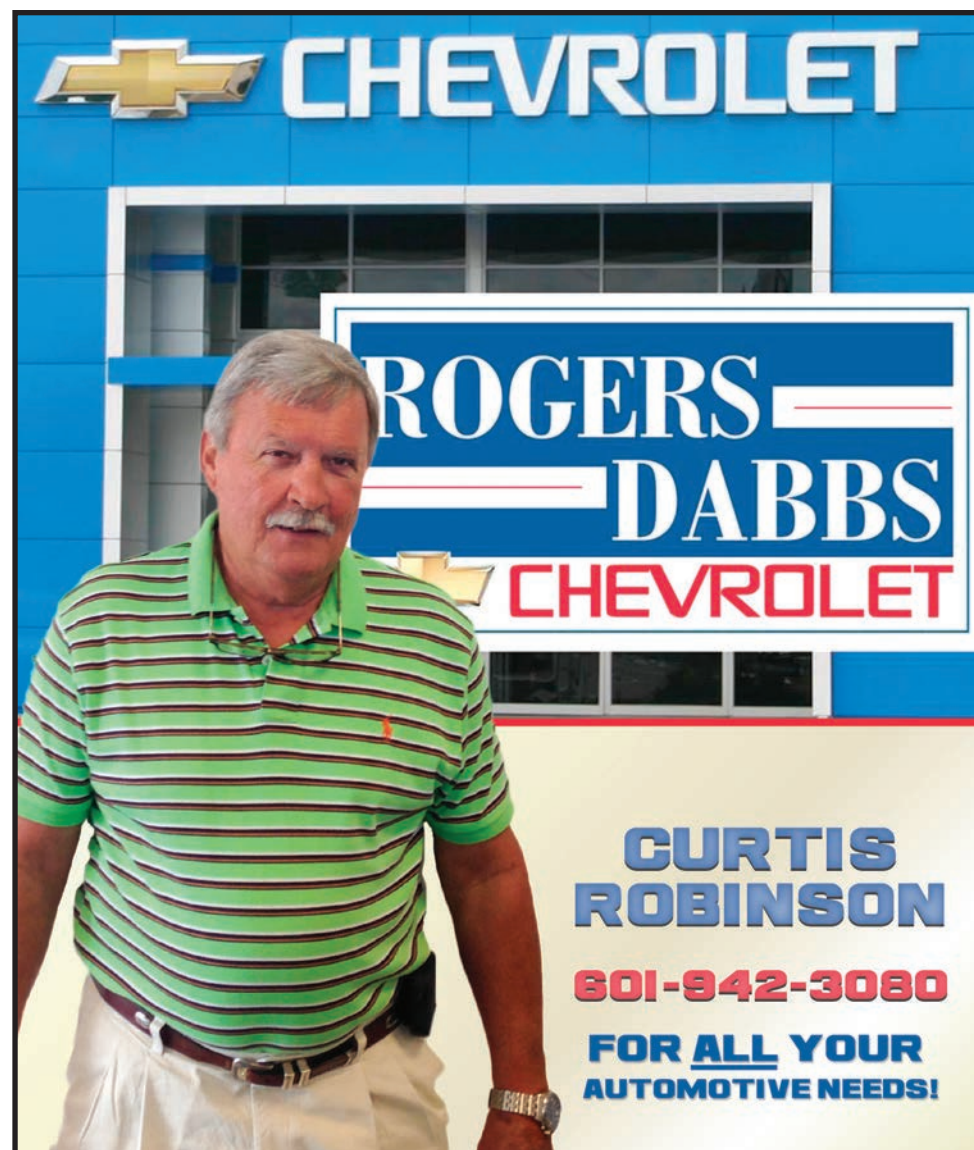
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Betts and Crain named ERA 2020 STAR students

Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy (ERA) recently named two STAR Students-Tyler Betts and Ethan Crain. Both Betts and Crain scored 36 on the ACT.

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 student must have an overall ACT composite of at least 25 and an overall average of 93 or above. If a school has more than one senior with an overall ACT composite score of 35 or above with the required grade point average, each student is designated a STAR Student.

Tyler Betts is the son of Michael and Shirell Betts of Morton. Betts is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (Mathematics Honor Society), and ERA's ACT 30 or Above Team.

He has also been named a Finalist in the National Merit Foundation Scholarship Program. Betts serves as captain for East Rankin Academy's Academic Quiz Bowl Team, Science Bowl Team, History Bowl Team, and the Mississippi College Science and Math Tournament Team. He is also a member of ERA's Robotics Team and Basketball Team. Betts plans to attend the University of Alabama and major in mechanical engineering. Betts chose Mr. Josh Stuart as his STAR Teacher.

Ethan Crain is the son of Joey and Julie Crain of Forest. Crain is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (Mathematics Honor Society), and ERA's ACT 30 or Above Team. He has also been named a Commended Student in the National Merit Foundation Scholarship Program. Crain serves as captain of the school's robotics team and is a member of East Rankin Academy's Academic Quiz Bowl Team, Science Bowl Team, History Bowl Team, and the Mis-

Special to *Pelahatchie News*

Tyler Betts

Mississippi College Science and Math Tournament Team. He is also a member of the Soccer Team and served as videographer for the football team. Crain plans to attend the University of Mississippi and



Special to *Pelahatchie News*

Ethan Crain

has been accepted to the Haley Barbour Center for Manufacturing Excellence with plans to major in electrical engineering. Crain chose Mrs. Julie Crain as his STAR Teacher.



Wiltcher recognized as "local light" volunteer



Special to *Pelahatchie News*

Jimmy Wiltcher volunteers at ERCO twice a week where he assembles food bags and delivers them to the individuals who have applied for assistance.

Pelahatchie resident Jimmy Wiltcher has been volunteering with Ever Reaching Community Outreach (ERCO) for two and a half years. Twice a week, Wiltcher assembles food bags and delivers them to the individuals who have applied for assistance.

He was recognized by Central Mississippi Chapter for Volunteers Mississippi in April for being a #locallight in our community.

"He has a heart for helping others, and Ever Reaching Community Outreach is grateful to have him as a volunteer to our ministry," said KathyJo Lathem, ERCO facility manager.

PHS graduation ceremony set for May 19



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

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) recently announced graduation festivities for the 2019-2020 school year. We realize that our seniors have not only been waiting for this moment their entire lives, but, given the current circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been eagerly awaiting to see their classmates again. After many hours of planning and preparation, we are excited to share with you that, while social distancing expectations will be a part of our graduation ceremony, the "Class of 2020" WILL ALL be able to graduate together as a class and WILL ALL be able to do so in front of family and friends.

Graduation will take place on Tuesday,

May 19, and will be held on the campus of the Clyde Muse Center at the Hinds Community College Rankin Campus at 8 p.m. Due to social distancing expectations, graduation will be an outdoor "drive-in" ceremony for all graduates and spectators. Entry into the ceremony will be limited and by invite only. With that being said, we will adhere to social distancing guidelines while also carrying out a quite traditional graduation ceremony that our graduates, and members of their family, can all experience together.

To close, we really appreciate your patience over the past couple of weeks as we have finalized plans for graduation for Pelahatchie High School's Class of 2020. While we can't get back the time we have spent away from school and each other, it is our hope that the Class of 2020's graduation ceremony will ultimately leave a lasting memory for ALL! GO CHIEFS!

Watkins receives PHS Character Trait award



Special to Pelahatchie News

Caleb Watkins received the Pelahatchie High School February Character Trait award. The character trait was creativity.

continued from page 1

Coronavirus impacts every person

that is legal is wise. There is no government replacement for wisdom. Freedom always carries risk."

"We still believe in personal responsibility. You should do what you think is best for your family. There is no state order that can replace your common sense. That is the best tool we have."

A local COVID-19 nurse said in April, "While there have been success stories, the numbers of positives have gone up considerably in the last few days. We are now spilling onto other floors. We must

remain diligent. You cannot catch a virus you haven't been exposed to. Any human contact is a risk. Gloves only raise confidence/face and mask touching. It reduces hand/glove sanitizing. Wear a mask to protect others from you. They don't provide much protection FOR you unless you are trained how to use them."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Also in this issue are articles on graduation ceremonies observing CDC recommendations and Coronavirus Christianity from the church's perspective.

MDOT projects proceed in Central Mississippi

Special to Pelahatchie News

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) continues progress on several infrastructure improvements on highways across central Mississippi.

Not only are Hinds County projects moving forward, but also projects in Madison and Rankin counties. A major infrastructure improvement project to reconstruct and widen nearly eight miles of U.S. Highway 49 continues in Rankin County. Traffic



has switched to the completed Phase I work in the median. Phase II, which includes bridge, roadway and drainage work, remains underway. Once Phase II is complete, all traffic will be pushed to the outside for Phase III, where the existing concrete pavement and median will be removed. Some Phase III work in the median north of Lyle Machinery remains underway. During Phase IV, the final phase, all paving and striping

will be completed.

Once complete, there will be three travel lanes and a shoulder in each direction. The project was awarded to W.G. Yates & Son Construction Company. Motorists are reminded to drive slowly and be on high alert for roadside crews for the remainder of the project.

A project to mill and overlay five miles of State Route 471 between Grant's Ferry Road and State Route 25 in Rankin County is nearing completion. Crews have repaired areas of failed asphalt.

The remaining work includes permanent striping and final shoulder dressing. Work remains on track to be completed by summer 2020. Dickerson & Bowen, Inc., was awarded the \$2.5 million contract.

For more information about these or other MDOT maintenance and construction projects, visit MDOTtraffic.com, download the free MDOT Traffic app or like and follow @MississippiDOT on Facebook and Twitter.

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Arrangements
Bennie Ware	85	Forest, MS	3/23/20	Wolf Funeral Serv.
CN Taylor	82	Newton, MS	3/26/20	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Ouida Mitchell	97	Mobile, AL	4/1/20	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Robert Earl Brown	60	Pulaski, MS	4/3/20	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Lloyd Gray	87	Morton, MS	4/8/20	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Lyndell Easterling	90	Morton, MS	4/12/20	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Bill Bailey	91	Ridgeland, MS	4/15/20	Wolf Funeral Serv.
David Earl Jr. Gilmore	44	Morton, MS	4/16/20	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Ruth Speed	71	Forest, MS	4/20/20	Wolf Funeral Serv.
George Neal Tadlock	63	Lake, MS	4/21/20	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Lawrence Ashely	70	Pelahatchie	4/22/20	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Patsy Stuart	68	Morton, MS	4/23/20	Wolf Funeral Serv.

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Reasons for growing your own vegetables



By Doug Carter,
Rankin County
Extension Agent

There are many good reasons for growing a garden in Mississippi. Especially this year, since we have been quarantined because of COVID-19. Having a chance to get outside and work in a garden will be so good for us.

A garden offers the opportunity to enjoy vegetables at their freshest. Sometimes only minutes elapse between harvest, preparation, and eating. On the other hand, most fresh vegetables available at the grocery store travel about 1,800 miles between producer and consumer, and this travel often occurs, over a period of time, usually several days. So, there is a lot to be said about "home-grown" freshness.

Vegetable gardens are traditional in Mississippi. When the state was more rural, most of the family food was grown at home. Even now, many older Mississippians grow gardens that are much too large for their own use, just to have fresh vegetables to give family friends, and others who are unable to garden.



Special to Pelahatchie News

We select vegetables and the amount to plant by looking forward to harvest, and how we will use the vegetables. There is no sense in planting something which will not be used.

When looking for something to grow, consider your available space. Some vegetables take a lot of garden space for

a long time, while others are planted and harvested in a short period of time, producing a lot, in a little space. Melons, pumpkins, vining types of squash, and sweet potatoes are in the garden for a long time, yet the harvest is short. Okra, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and pole beans are also in the garden a long time,

but these produce a continuous supply of food.

Sweet corn is another example of a vegetable that takes much space, but many folks plant it because it is so good.

Vegetables to consider for small gardens are bush snap and lima beans, leafy greens like lettuce, spinach, mustard, and turnips, green onions, tomatoes, sweet peppers, and eggplant. As space permits, add broccoli, cabbage, hot peppers, okra, summer squash, southern peas, and pole beans.

Use plant varieties that are recommended for growing in Mississippi. Don't continue to plant old vegetable varieties, when there are new varieties that resist disease and give higher yields and quality.

Also, the amount of sunlight your garden receives is important. Ideally, the garden should receive full sun all day.

Sometimes, full sun is just not possible. Vegetables grown for their fruit or seeds, such as corn, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, beans, and peas, should be planted in the sunniest spots.

For more information on gardening, please stop by the Rankin County Extension Office, 601 Marquette Road, in Brandon, and pick up a Garden Tabloid.

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Barnes to serve on Governor's Commission for Economic Recovery

Special to Pelahatchie News

PriorityOne Capital Corporation and PriorityOne Bank announced that Robbie Barnes, President and CEO, has been appointed by Governor Tate Reeves to serve on Restart Mississippi, the Governor's Commission for Economic Recovery.

The Governor's Commission for Economic Recovery was established in April 2020 to make recommendations to the Governor on short-term and long-term economic revitalization. The Commission is led by a Chairman and Executive Team who represent the diverse geographical regions of the state. Together with Impact Committee Chairmen, this Commission will work to restart Mississippi's economy, growing and expanding as it explores specific recovery needs related to agriculture, construction, education, energy, finance, hospitality and manufacturing, as well as examines the unique impact that COVID-19 has had on Mississippi's minority and small business communities.

Barnes currently serves as president and CEO of PriorityOne Bank headquartered in Magee, Mississippi. PriorityOne Bank is a Community Bank with over \$700 million in total assets and 15

locations throughout south/central Mississippi. He joined the bank as a teller in 1983 while still attending the University of Southern Mississippi. After graduating with a BSBA in Banking and Finance, he continued with the bank as a loan officer. Since then he has served as Branch Manager, Division President and as the Chief Credit Officer for the bank.

He currently serves on the Board of Directors of PriorityOne Bank, PriorityOne Capital Corporation, Mississippi Bankers Association, Copiah-Lincoln Community College Foundation, Simpson County Development District, Magee Benevolent Association, Mississippi Public Funds Guaranty Pool, Mississippi Baptist Foundation and the Independent Community Bankers Association as the Legislative Committee Chairman and Federal Delegate Board Member for the State of Mississippi. He is past President of the Simpson County Development Foundation, the Magee Chamber of Commerce and the Magee Lions Club.

He has always been very involved in civic activities and has served as Chairman of the Adopt-a-School program and as a founder of the Youth Leadership program for Simpson County. He is a graduate of Magee High School, Co-

piah-Lincoln Community College, the University of Southern Mississippi and The School of Banking of the South at LSU. He and his wife, Melissa are the parents of two daughters, and they have five grandchildren. They are both active members of First Baptist Church of Magee where Mr. Barnes serves as a deacon and church treasurer.

When asked how he chose members of the task force, Reeves said they are among the "best and brightest minds" of Mississippi's business community. Reeves went on to state, "They are going to be making recommendations to me and to our leadership team in state government. They will not have direct ability to spend any of the federal funds that come in," Reeves said. "They are simply going to make recommendations, and then we will make decisions based upon what we believe is in the best interest of Mississippi's citizens."

Other members of this task force and more information regarding their efforts can be found at www.restartms.ms.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Robbie Barnes, PriorityOne president and CEO, has been appointed by Governor Tate Reeves to serve on Restart Mississippi, the Governor's Commission for Economic Recovery. The commission will examine, among other things, the unique impact that COVID-19 has had on Mississippi's minority and small business communities.

NOTICE OF

INTENTION TO DIVERT OR WITHDRAW FOR BENEFICIAL USE THE PUBLIC WATERS OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Notice is hereby given that on the 8TH day of March 2019, the Town of Pelahatchie, PO Box 229, Pelahatchie, MS 39145, filed renewal application No. MS-GW-01802 for a permit to continue to divert or withdraw the public waters of the State of Mississippi for beneficial use from the Sparta Aquifer, in the county of Rankin, for Standby/Public Water System purposes, subject to existing rights, the following amount of water at the indicated location:

PERMIT #	VOLUME	RATE	LOCATION
MS-GW-01802	0.0 MG/D	650 GPM	NW, SE, S32, T06N, R05E

Any person, firm, association, or corporation, deeming that the granting of the above application will be truly detrimental to their rights to utilize the waters of said source, may protest in writing to the Permit Board of the State of Mississippi, ATTN: Chris Hawkins, PO Box 2309, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, setting forth all reasons why said application should not be approved. Letters of protest must be received within ten (10) days of this publication. If not protested, a permit will be issued on or after ten (10) days following publication date.

If protested, the application will be taken for consideration by the Permit Board of the State of Mississippi in its offices at 515 East Amite Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on or after, Tuesday, the 12TH day of May 2020, at which time all interested persons may appear and be heard by the Permit Board.

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VFD drives Easter Bunny around Town



Photo by Pelahatchie News

During the COVID-19 Shelter In Place mandate, the Pelahatchie Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) gave the people in Town some excitement to see the Easter Bunny wave from the back of a truck riding along with two fire trucks and a police vehicle. Pictured (l to r) are: Megan Hall, President, Pelahatchie VFD Auxiliary; LT Sean Peters; Assistant Chief Kevin Hall; Alderman Margie Warren; Chief Karl VanHorn; Captain Debbie Scarberry; and Felicia VanHorn. Whitney VanHorn was in costume.

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Rachel Wilson in MSU
Doctor of Veterinary
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Special to Pelahatchie News

Rachel Marie Wilson is from Pearl. She grew up spending time with her family on her grandparent's farm in Pelahatchie. She was also active in her county's 4-H where she showed cattle, sheep, and horses. After graduation, she will be working as a Mixed-Animal, Associate Veterinarian at Crooked Creek Animal Hospital in Pelahatchie.

H & H Electrical hands out hand sanitizer



Photo by Pelahatchie News

On Saturday, April 18, H & H Electrical in Pelahatchie gave away bottles of hand sanitizer to townsfolk who drove by its location on Highway 80. They had provided the 12.68 oz. Cathead Distillery-produced product to businesses the day before. They gave away 500 bottles. Pictured (l to r) are: Jennifer Quick; Mark Quick, behind, Brandi Upton, Brian Hall, Kevin Hall, Megan Hall, Debbie Scarberry, Allison Dufour, Kerri Sanders, and Sean Sanders.

Current Routine

Try not to touch face 	Accidentally touch face 	Wash hands
Check the latest news 	Accidentally touch face 	Wash hands
Check the latest news 	Keep up with normal life stuff 	Accidentally touch face

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Jones named pastor at Eastside Baptist

By Susie A. Wolfe

Parker Jones succeeded his dad, Jeff Jones, as pastor of Eastside Baptist Church in Pelahatchie. Jeff was pastor from June 2018 through January 2020. Parker, who was serving as associate pastor, began as pastor in March. He is also attending New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary remotely, where he previously attended classes at the seminary's extension center at Mississippi College.

Jones graduated from Mississippi State University in 2018 with a degree in philosophy and religion. He also attended East Central Community College where he met his wife, Jenna, at the Baptist Student Union there. He previously served as a youth minister at Noxapater Baptist Church and a missionary to the Philippines.

Jones said, "Going to the Philippines was one of the best experiences I've had in my life. Seeing how they live and their faith."

His goals for Eastside Baptist, a group of about 30 currently, include reaching out to the community and serving people. He wants to implement a Life Serve Sunday once the Coronavirus Pandemic is over to help meet any need in the community like Vacation Bible School, raking leaves, painting or even having a city-wide Easter Egg Hunt. Currently, he is either filming his

sermons or going live on Facebook to reach his congregation.

"We are the church and are the hands and feet of Jesus," said Jones. "We fix a meal for the Billy Brumfield Homeless Shelter in Jackson once a month and plan to meet any need in the community once this madness is over. We also want to implement Disciple Groups and do door-to-door outreach."

Jones and his wife, Jenna, commute between Pelahatchie and Philadelphia where she works as an engineer with MDOT.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Parker Jones is the new pastor at Eastside Baptist Church. Pictured (l to r) are: Parker Jones with his wife, Jenna. She is holding Cross.

Peyton Rhodes Inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

Special to Pelahatchie News

Peyton Rhodes of Pelahatchie, Mississippi, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Rhodes was initiated at Mississippi State University (MSU).

Rhodes is among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top

10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

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Pastor's Perspective: Coronavirus Christianity



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

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Coronavirus has caused a major disruption in all of our lives. Hundreds of thousands of people have been infected with the virus, and tens of thousands have died. And because of the nature of the virus and the response by governments around the world, everyone on the planet has been affected by the disease. Businesses have closed their doors, or changed the way they do business. Jobs have been lost. Store shelves are void of some items. Masks, hand sanitizer and toilet paper are in high demand!

Our churches have not been immune to the disruption. Worship services and other activities at churches have been cancelled. Social distancing policies have affected the way we conduct funerals and weddings. I've done both under the social distancing guidelines. Churches have reverted to social media for worship services. As someone said in jest, "And just like that, our preacher turned into a televangelist!" Sunday School classes, committee meetings,

children's and youth activities and other functions have been in "Zoom mode."

We look forward to the time when we can gather once again in corporate worship. But we must understand that it could look much different now than it did before the virus hit. So, from a Christian viewpoint, how should we respond to the coronavirus?

First, watch for God's activity. God is always at work around us! But He often does His best work in crises. When facing a deadly pandemic, people may be more open to talking about life and death. Our mortality, generally a taboo subject, suddenly becomes front and center in people's minds. People who were fiercely independent may suddenly have needs you can meet. People with whom you might never have been able to talk about God may suddenly be open to spiritual discussions. Keep your spiritual senses attuned to such opportunities.

Second, make the best of changed routines. When we go to church, most families are separated into different areas of the building. Since church services have only been available online, make the most of the opportunity for your family to worship together. Have Bible study together. Pray together. If you can't go

to work, try to exercise more. That's another activity your family might be able to do together. Use your time to catch up on projects on the "to do" list. If your schedule has changed, look for



Special to Pelahatchie News

opportunities to do things that result in positive outcomes.

Finally, check your own spiritual vital signs. When you test the health of your heart, you don't monitor it while you're sleeping. Doctors put you on an inclined treadmill. How your heart handles adversity reveals what it's made of! America has been placed on a spiritual treadmill. Many are panicking! Some are frantically stocking up on a year's supply of toilet paper and retreating to the safety of their house. Many are glued to their televisions, grimly wait-

ing for the next breaking news. Some are focused entirely on themselves and any sign they might not be well. Crises have a way of exposing us for what we really are.

Yet others are calm, even peaceful. Some are making a special effort to check on the elderly and vulnerable. Some are ministering to medical professionals who are under unusual strain. Such people are determined to produce the maximum good during this time of unprecedented disruption. What has the crisis revealed about you?

The church has tended to grow most in times of crisis, not in periods of prosperity. While the business community rightly fears loss as a result of the crisis, the kingdom of God may be about to experience enormous gain. So, be sure to use hand sanitizer and stay out of public areas as much as possible. But, at the same time, keep your spiritual eyes and ears alert, for we may be at the brink of one of the greatest movements of God in recent history.

As soon as you can, take your family to church on Sunday. Until then, worship at home with them.

The basis for this devotion came from an article by Richard Blackaby, with a few added thoughts of my own.



Due to the COVID-19 virus, all services and activities at Cross Roads have been suspended until further notice. Please join us for our "On-line Services."

Sunday Worship Service
10:00 a.m. at CrossRoadsPel.org

Wednesday Prayer Meeting
6:00 p.m. on the Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook page

Morning Devotions
7:30 a.m. on the Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook Page

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Pelahatchie High School Seniors 2020



As the Pelahatchie High School (PHS) year was disrupted by COVID-19 and the seniors had to finish their classwork remotely, the Pelahatchie News wanted to recognize them in these photos of some of the school activities. Pictured (l to r) front row, are: Kennedy Dixon, Elsi Munoz-Ramos, Jamison Bennett, Abby Dawson, Sydni Goldman, Ahmad Johnson, and Heather Smith; second row: Kelreiz Stokes, Chloe Hamilton, Anna Grace Carter, Olivia Sirmon, Kimberly Cochran, and Riley Bowman; third row: Tayla Martin, Anna Scherer, Cody Holmes, Thomas Edwards, and Reesie Till; and fourth row: Holden Gray, Wesley Anderson, Jayla Macklin.



Pictured (l to r) first row, are: Jenterius Denson, Dana Bennett, Ian Jackson, and Jacey Cooper; second row: Devin Irvin, Wesley Anderson, Jada Hodges, Brianna Galbraith, Ahmad Johnson, Victoria Thornton, Destiny Turnage, Jayla Macklin, Rachel Wraight, Elsi Munoz-Ramos, and Aliza Myers; third row: Maddie Toney, Riley Bowman, Greg Beemon, Doneshia Johnson, Holden Gray, Heather Smith, Maria Banuelas-Lopez, and Chloe Hamilton; and fourth row: Reesie Till, John Huston Elliott, Cody Holmes, Kimberly Flores, Ethan White



Pictured (l to r) front row, are: Heather Smith, Maria Ellingburg, Kimberly Flores, and Kennedy Dixon; and back row: Anna Grace Carter, Kimberly Cochran, Scarlett Castillo, and Elsi Munoz-Ramos.



Pictured (l to r) are: Coach Cedrick Wilder, Kimberly Flores, Brianna Galbraith, Jacey Cooper, Aliza Myers, Jenterius Denson, CJ Earby, and Coach Patrick Creel.



Pictured (l to r): front row, are: Brianna Galbraith, Coriah Jones, and Sydni Goldman; second row: Jada Hodges, Mrs. Key, Mrs. McMillian, and Mrs. Hayes; and third row: Cody Holmes, Devin Irvin, Hunter Langley, Javian McKinnis, Ahmad Johnson, Ms. Rayner, Dashaun Gipson, and DaMarkyus McNair.



Pictured (l to r) front row, are: Elsi Munoz-Ramos and Scarlett Castillo; and second row: Denver Sturgill, Chloe Hamilton, Maria Banuelas-Lopez, Anna Scherer, and Holden Gray.



Pictured (l to r) front row, are: Victoria Thornton and Aliza Myers; and second row: Maria Ellingburg, Jamison Bennett, Jacey Cooper, CJ Earby, Coriah Jones, Brianna Galbraith, Reesie Till, and Wesley Anderson.



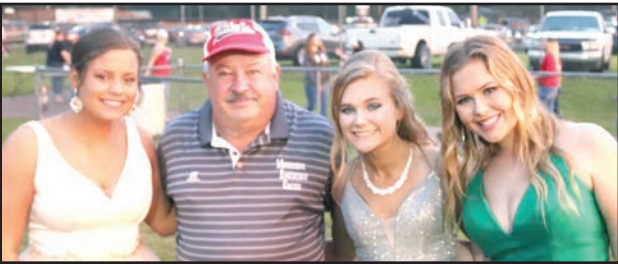
Entire battalion is pictured. Seniors include C/Major Maria Banuelas-Lopez, C/Major Heather Smith, C/Captain Holden Gray, C/Captain Gavin Spears, C/First Lieutenant Christian (C.J.) Earby, C/Staff Sergeant Levi Falcon, C/Staff Sergeant Chloe Hamilton, C/Corporal Hunter Westbrooks, and C/Private First Class Jenterius Denson.



Pictured (l to r) are: Ian Jackson, Greg Beemon, and Ahmad Johnson.



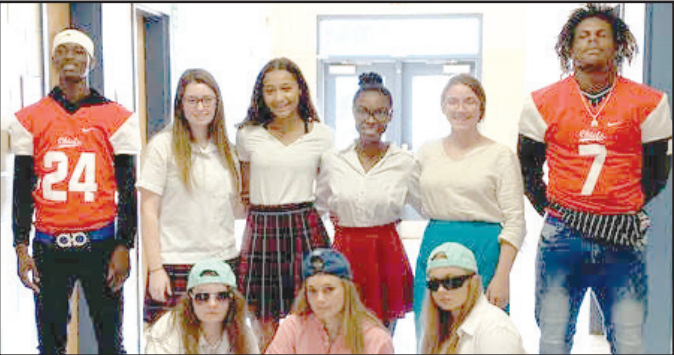
Pictured (l to r) are: Kimberly Cochran, Abby Dawson, Aliza Myers, Victoria Thornton, Olivia Sirmon, Brianna Galbraith, and Jacey Cooper.



Pictured (l to r) are: Kimberly Cochran, Coach Mike Chambless, Brianna Galbraith, and Victoria Thornton.



Pictured (l to r) are: DeMarkyus McNair, Cody Holmes, Hunter Langley, Hayze Hutzel, Greg Beemon, Coach Sam Williams, Jenterius Denson, Javian McKinnis, Dashaun Gipson, Joe Alexander, Ahmad Johnson, Ian Jackson, and Anna Grace Carter.



Pictured (l to r) are: Abby Dawson, Brianna Galbraith, Sydni Goldman, Jenterius Denson, Isabella Atkinson, Jacey Cooper, Aliza Myers, Jamison Bennett, and Ahmad Johnson.

Photos special to Pelahatchie News

ERA committed to graduation ceremony to honor its seniors



Special to Pelahatchie News

Hayden French was named Mr. ERA 2020.



Special to Pelahatchie News

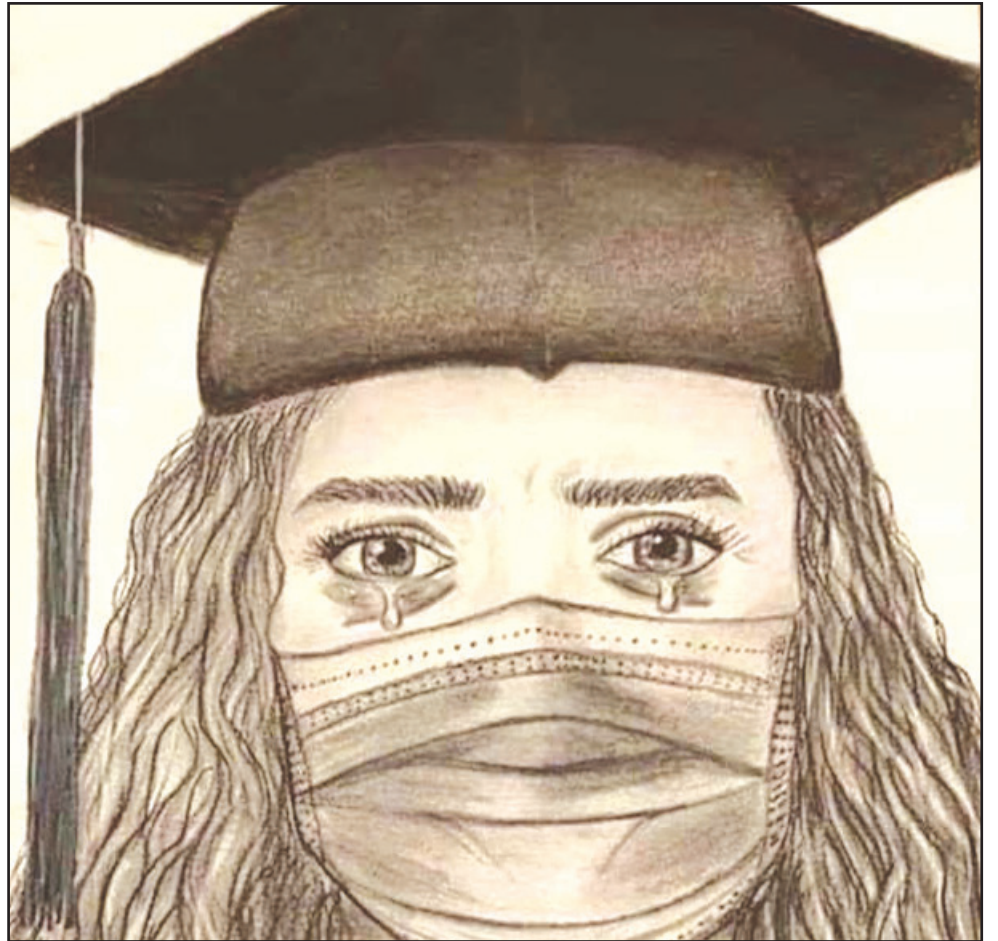
Lexey Stuart is Miss ERA 2020.

The East Rankin Academy (ERA) graduation ceremony currently scheduled for May 17 is being postponed; however, ERA is still committed to having a graduation ceremony to honor its seniors. They are asking the seniors and their parents to please save the

dates of Sunday, June 14, and Sunday, July 26, with the choice of date and location to be finalized in the weeks to come.

"We look forward to celebrating the ERA Class of 2020!" Said Headmaster Robyn Winstead.

Artist represents feelings of missing graduation due to COVID-19 through art



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This drawing was on the Pelahatchie High School's Facebook page. Artist unknown.



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