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Pelahatchie pair pitch *Belle Collective*

By Susie A. Wolfe

Lateshia Payton Pearson and Jacoby Magee pitched the idea of female entrepreneurs in Mississippi to OWN, Mississippi native Oprah Winfrey's television station. That idea became *Belle Collective* in February 2020. The nine episodes of the reality series are currently airing on OWN Network.

Pearson, a 1999 graduate of Pelahatchie High School (PHS), is one of Mississippi's Top Entrepreneurs and one of Mississippi's Top 50 Under 40 rising stars. She and four other females are featured in the new OWN reality show *Belle Collective*, which she and Magee pitched to producer Carlos King of Kingdom Reine, also the producers of *Housewives of Atlanta*.

Jacoby Magee, a 2017 PHS graduate, was working with Pearson's brunches

in his event planning business. She said,

"He is a visionary assisting me with creating the platform 'cotton and country.' He developed the idea for the show and is currently serving as its producer."

"I wanted Mississippi to be seen in a different light," said Magee. "The show has sparked conversations to better the area that would not have happened. I believe there is a lot of talent here that goes undiscovered."

Magee's day job is serving as a Shelter insurance agent in Meridian and a real estate investor with his father Jerold in Jackson. He said he will continue to be



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Lateshia Pearson, left, and Jacoby Magee grew up in Pelahatchie and became entrepreneurs still based in Rankin County. They currently are part of the reality show *Belle Collective* about Mississippi female entrepreneurs that is airing on the OWN Network.

involved in television in Mississippi. Moving is not an option to him.

Pearson is the granddaughter of L.C.

Macklin, Sr., well-known in town for 46 years, and his wife, Maxine, and Peggy Stokes of Pelahatchie. Pearson is also the oldest child of Faye Payton and Pete Stokes. Pearson has fond memories of growing up in Pelahatchie.

"Pelahatchie is a place of love, family, riding bikes, and neighborhood baseball games," Pearson said.

After attending Hinds Community College and Belhaven University, where she received a certification as a paralegal, she worked for a law firm as a senior paralegal until December 2013. Then, she and her husband, Glen, had a company in Richland providing cartoon characters, which they sold in 2018. She has been "following her dreams" as an entrepreneur since 2014 and the birth of her son, Joshua.

"Pelahatchie made me," said Pearson.
continued on page 4

Dollar General opens DG Market



Special to Pelahatchie News

Dollar General is moving across Highway 80 in Pelahatchie in March. They will occupy the old Fred's store next door to Wards. District Manager Shayla Gill said she was told the store will open around March 23. The signage for the new store went up in February.

Pelahatchie voters heading to polls for municipal elections

Special to Pelahatchie News

Every four years, Pelahatchie voters go to the polls to decide key municipal elections.

The February 5 deadline for candidates to file has passed. It's left Pelahatchie residents with several options for some competition for the incumbents in City Hall.

Pelahatchie Mayor Ryshonda Beechem is seeking re-election for another four-year term. She faces opponent Fire Chief Karl Van Horn in the June 8 election.

In other city contests, incumbent Alderman-At-Large Eddie Jones will face Catherine Poarch, and Summer Scruggs.

There are three Pelahatchie residents in the hunt to be the City alderman in Ward 1. They are: incumbent Michael Adams, Diane Hill, and Scott Walters.

There's a two-man battle for Town alderman in Pelahatchie's Ward 2. Challenger Sandra Harvey faces incumbent Frank Boyd.

In Ward 3, incumbent Margie Warren faces Walt Robbins, and JW "Boomer" Graham. Ward Four is incumbent James Harrell against Patsy Watson.

The Pelahatchie Municipal Election Committee is made up of Bettye Massey, Patricia Givens, and Kathy Varner.



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ERA excels at shooting sports



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These three ERA students placed first in Varsity out of 898 shooters. Pictured (l to r) are: Brock Tullos, Ben Carter and Knox Ross. East Rankin's JV squad also placed first.

Special to Pelahatchie News

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks recently held The Mississippi Scholastic Shooting Program (MSSP) Second Fall Qualifier Tournament at Turcotte Shooting Facility.

Brock Tullos, Ben Carter and Knox Ross placed first in Varsity out of 898 shooters. East Rankin's JV squad also placed first.

The results of this tournament plus the

first one held in November will determine the students that will advance to the state tournament in May.

There are 52 shooters that will have make-up dates due to COVID quarantine protocols from their schools. A full list of winners is posted on the Pelahatchie News Facebook page.

East Rankin had five squads in the top three for varsity and JV. This tournament is also the largest tournament in the southeast. The MSSP program has grown that much in the past year.

ERA students win All-District distinctions



East Rankin Academy (ERA) announced MAIS All District Athletic Awards for Fall Sports for the 2020-2021 school year in January. First team football awards pictured (l to r) are: Lawson Wuestefeld and Brock Tullos; and second team: Tucker Loper, Caleb Leach, and Jack Pittman.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

MAIS All-District Soccer awards were presented to ERA students pictured (l to r) Mary Hayden Logan, Madeline Logan, and Presley Thompson.



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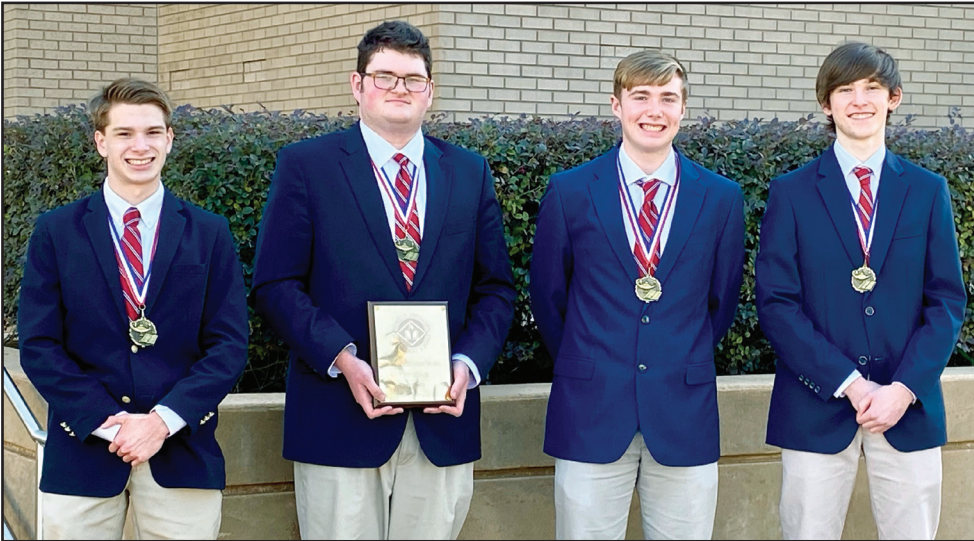
Days sign with ECCC



Matthew Day and Garrett Day signed to play football with East Central Community College (ECCC). Their signing day ceremony was held on February 3. Pictured (l to r) are: Matthew Day, Garrett Day, and Pelahatchie Athletic Director Ryan Keeton.

Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy named 2021 MAIS Overall Quiz Bowl Champions



Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Academic Quiz Bowl Team recently competed in the MAIS Overall Quiz Bowl Tournament. The ERA Quiz Bowl team successfully competed against Heritage Academy in the semifinals and Jackson Prep in the finals to win first place in the tournament. Pictured (l to r) are: Will Price, Barron Burnham, Elijah Moore, and Dylan Davis.



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Beeman named Player of the Week



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Pelahatchie High School (PHS) junior Chrystianna Beeman was voted SBLive's Mississippi High School Girls Basketball Player of the Week for February 1-7. Beeman had 17 points, 7 rebounds, 5 assists, 1 steal and 3 charges in the Chiefs' game against St. Joseph Catholic. Beeman also had 23 points, 5 steals, and 6 rebounds in a 52-15 win over South Delta.

Pelahatchie pair pitch Belle Collective

continued from page 1

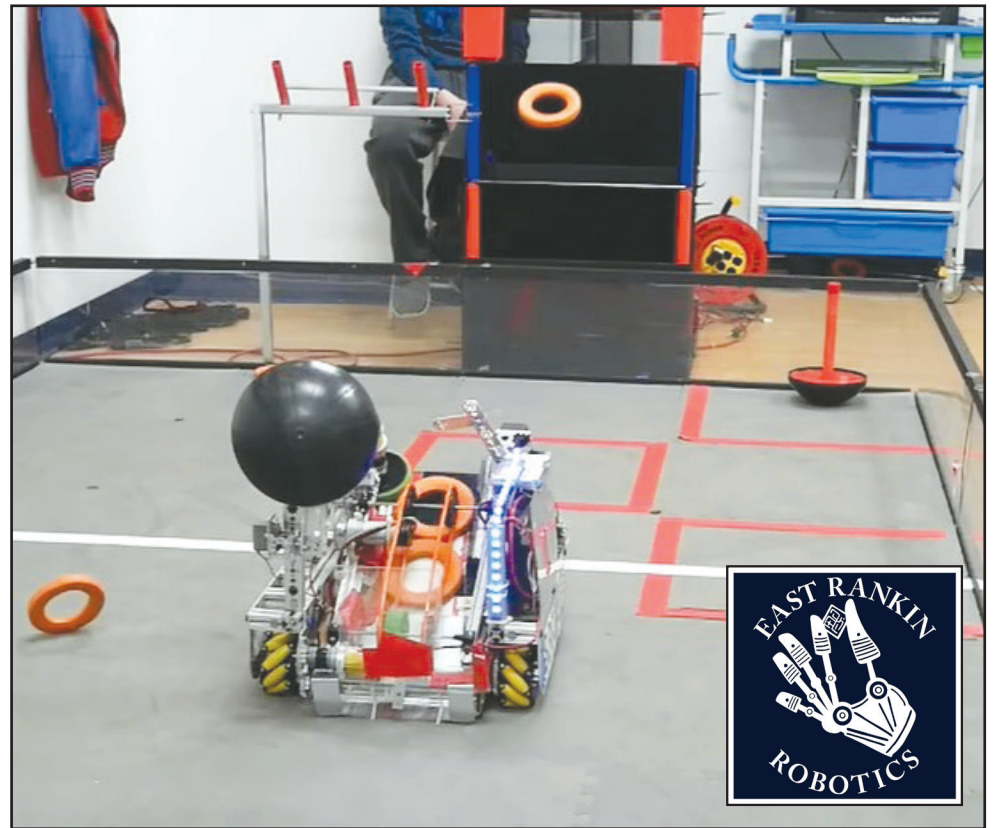
"It gave me everything I needed to succeed in this world...love, values and morals."

Pearson, still based in Rankin County, now works from Richland with Lateshia Pearson Enterprise. She has written a book and does private coaching for en-

trepreneurs.

"I never thought I would be on television," she said. "It took a lot of prayer and trusting. Filming and working around the show schedule is an adjustment on steroids! But it's about helping others to be the best they can be."

ERA breaks state robotics' scoring record twice



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy's robot shoots and scores in more ways than one.

Special to Pelahatchie News

In February, the East Rankin Robotics team broke the state scoring record in the FTC Ultimate Goal Challenge Robotics

at Central Mississippi Meet #8 Competition. Then, the next weekend, they shattered that score of 210 with a new score of 285 in the Central Mississippi Meet #9 Competition.

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NEWS
Pelahatchie



Adams brings arts to Pelahatchie Elementary

By Susie A. Wolfe

Whitney Adams, Rankin County's first female judge, was named the Rankin County School District (RCSD)'s 2020-2021 Elementary Parent of the Year. In the January *Pelahatchie News*, it was announced that Adams was named Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES)'s Parent of the Year. She was then chosen from all winners from the 28 RCSD schools, the "A" rated school district, third largest in the state.

A Pelahatchie graduate, both of Adams' children attended Pelahatchie Elementary, and her daughter, Celeste, is currently a fifth-grade student there.

PES Counselor Dana Lee said that Adams and her husband have brought assemblies for the students through the years by such groups as Mississippi Ballet, Ballet Magnificat, New Stage Theater, and Belhaven University Opera numerous times.

Adams said, "My heart is at Pelahatchie schools. It's my passion to expose the children to the arts." She and her sister, Shannon, were taken to many live theater events growing up, so she wants to share that experience with others who may not have the opportunity. She said she was



Two former Pelahatchie teachers, pictured (l to r) are Jewel Carter, and her sister, Peggy McKay, both of Pelahatchie. They help Whitney Adams provide programs for Pelahatchie schools.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Dr. Staci Rhodes of the Crooked Creek Animal Clinic and her staff captured the attention of Celeste Adams (top, left) with this dog's heartbeat, heard through a stethoscope. Shown with Parker Jones.

inspired by taking her son's 10-year-old friend to the theater for the first time. She said that it's amazing to experience new things through the eyes of a child.

Adams has also invited people in the

community to come talk to PES classes about their work, like Stacy Rhodes from Crooked Creek Animal Hospital; Marcus Williams, a veteran; and the Town postmaster. These informal meet-and-greet sessions give the chance for the speaker to eat breakfast and shake hands with the kids, then share their experiences.

She said that these are "amazing experiences for the children." Rhodes brought two service dogs and a squirrel in her pocket. She had shaved the dogs' legs and let the students bandage it. She said the kids were excited to talk with Williams about what it means to be a veteran. When the postmaster came, the teacher had helped the kids write letters that were mailed to them at home.

Due to COVID-19, Adams said that in January, she hosted a virtual tour of the new courthouse in Brandon.

She said she did not organize all this alone. Her mom, Peggy McKay; aunt, Jewel Carter; and mother-in-law, Eva Adams, helped. They are all former teachers. McKay and Carter taught at Pelahatchie. She said that she "loves our school" and wants to inspire others in the community to share their ideas and talents with the students and teachers.

Carrico invited to serve on Raymond James Longevity Advisory Board

By Susie A. Wolfe

Christian Carrico has been invited to serve on the Raymond James Longevity Advisory Board, as the Financial Institutions Division Representative. As a board member, he will have the opportunity to impact the creation of useful resources for all advisors and their clients. Robert J. Barnes, President and CEO of PriorityOne Bank stated, "We are very fortunate to have Christian representing PriorityOne Financial Services, his dedication to serving his clients and communities will make him a valuable asset to

this advisory board."

The Longevity Advisory Board (LAB) exists to represent advisors and branch professionals and provide feedback on Longevity Planning initiatives, impacting the creation of useful resources for all advisors and their clients. Board members are chosen based on their focus on retirement and longevity planning.

Christian first joined PriorityOne Bank in 2000 and held the position of Vice President, Alternative Investments before pursuing a career with Mississippi Investment Management Company where he served as Principal/Chief Com-

pliance Officer. He returned in 2012 as Vice President – PriorityOne Financial Services; Branch Manager/Financial Advisor - Raymond James. Carrico holds an MBA from Millsaps College as well as a B.S. Economics from Millsaps College.

Carrico is also very active in the community having served on various boards and committees including serving as Past



Photo special to Pelahatchie News

Christian Carrico

President of Simpson County Academy Board of Directors and Past President of the Magee Chamber of Commerce. Christian will be President of the Simpson County Development Foundation beginning later this year. Christian and his wife Dana Tullos Carrico have two children, Shelby and Cooper.

Working in cooperation with well-respected Raymond James Financial Services, (an independent firm), PriorityOne Financial Services, a division of PriorityOne Bank, is able to provide a full line of investment products and services to its customers.

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	ARRANGEMENTS
Tommie Dennis	70	Lake	1/21/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Herbert Windham	49	Forest	1/22/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Gladys Williams	94	Forest	1/23/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Sara Anthony	91	Forest	1/24/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Frances Almon	91	Pelahatchie	1/2/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Virgil Homer Harrison	90	Morton	1/30/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
John Earl Coleman	69	Brandon	1/29/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Winnie Jewel McLemore	101	Morton	2/3/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Beverly Jo Thornton	64	New Iberia, LA	2/3/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Willie J Smith	85	Brandon	2/5/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Chester Ray Barnes	86	Morton	2/6/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
W E Franklin	86	Morton	2/7/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Randall Gainey	83	Morton	2/8/2021	Wolf Funeral Services

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Keep your home lawn and turf healthy



By Doug Carter,
Rankin County
Extension Agent

Special to
Pelahatchie News

Home lawns and turf areas around homes, office buildings parks, and churches serve as pleasant green backdrops, but do so much more. These little grass plants that make up the lawn serve as miniature air-conditioners and help decrease pollution.

On a block of eight houses or buildings, the front lawns have the cooling effect of 70 tons of air-conditioning. The plants in these front lawns transpire water to cool themselves; they also cool the surrounding area. Roughly 50 percent of the heat or sunlight striking a turf area is eliminated by transpiration. The plants in transpiring water to cool themselves also cool the surrounding areas. When the temperature of the sidewalk is 100 degrees F, the adjacent turf remains near 75 degrees F. This cooling may well last into the night, with studies showing a 13-degree cooling at 9 p.m.

However, this air-conditioning is not free. An average 5,000-square-foot lawn transpires about 3,000 gallons of

water on a hot summer day. This water can either be supplied by rain or irrigation.

A 250-square-foot lawn produces enough oxygen for a family of four. A lawn helps prevent soil erosion and enhances ground water exchange. Water infiltration is much higher on turfed areas than bare dirt areas. This higher infiltration prevents water from running off and encourages it to enter the ground water streams. Grass roots hold the soil in place better than any other plant.

Some folks love working in the yard and maintaining a quality turf. Others despise yard work and want a low-maintenance lawn. Still others are confused about how to keep a well-maintained lawn.

One of the first steps to having a good lawn is choosing the best turfgrass to suit the time and money you have for maintenance. Each variety of grass has its advantages and disadvantages. Do you need grass that grows in the shade or full sun, do you want a fast growing or slow growing grass, a warm season grass or cool season grass?

Choosing the best lawn grass involves your personal judgment based on your needs and the conditions of your prop-



Special to Pelahatchie News

erty. It gets down to four things:

1. The amount of sunlight. This is the most important factor in the selection of the best grass to grow. No species of turfgrass will grow well in complete shade. If an area receives at least half a day of direct sunlight, one can grow any of the grasses adapted for our region.

2. Temperature. Temperature is important in determining which grasses will grow. People who try to grow St. Augustine or Centipede in northern areas of the state may see some damage every winter.

3. Maintenance. Decide how much work you want to put into your lawn. Some grasses are established with seed, others require sprigs, or plugs. After the lawn has been established, some grasses require little care other than mowing, while others require almost constant attention to fertility, water, and pest control.

4. Soil. Each species of grass has a soil type to which it is well adapted. All grasses perform well in well drained, loamy soils, but most Mississippians do not have the ideal soil. The most important consideration of soils is the ability of water to move into and through the soil. No grass survives long in standing water. A second factor is the acidity level or pH of the soil. It is easier to plant a grass that is adapted to a certain pH level, than to constantly fight to adjust the pH.

(Sources - *Establish & Manage Your Home Lawn*, Extension Publication 1322)

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Mahaffey named Pelahatchie Police Chief

By Susie A. Wolfe

Robert Mahaffey was named Pelahatchie Police Chief at the February 1 Board Meeting and started immediately. Mahaffey brings 26 years of police service to his position as Chief of Police.

Originally from Clinton, Mississippi, Mahaffey began his career with the Hinds County Sheriff Department in 1995 and served with detention and support services before working with the Jackson-Hinds SWAT team for 21 years, four years as commander. He worked with the Pearl Police Department from 2016 until 2021. He started the Narcotics Unit in Pearl and served as the Task Force Officer and Drug Force Administrator.

"After doing high risk work with SWAT for 26 years, I wanted to finish my career as a small-town chief," said Mahaffey. "So, when this opportunity came up, it was a no-brainer for me."

Mahaffey and his wife, Penny, live in Rankin County and have four children. Twins Laurel and Sydni Mahaffey are students at the University of Southern Mississippi; Mason Manuel is a student at Hinds Community College Allied division; and Isabella Manuel is a student at Holmes Community College.



Special to Pelahatchie News

PHS honor senior basketball players



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) hosted Basketball Senior Night on Friday, February 5. Both teams competed in the district tournament hosted at Madison St. Joe in February. Pictured (l to r) are: Assistant Coach Lauren Peresich, Head Coach and Assistant Athletic Director Alexia Jones, Reagan Sanders, Ja'Karis Stokes, JaDeryk McKinnis, Head Coach Lavadius Lyles, and Assistant Coach Duncan Tucker.

Spring fever and expectations



Special to Pelahatchie News

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

This month, we look forward to closing out another successful nine weeks as well as what will hopefully be a beautiful Spring Break holiday. Upon return, we will begin preparing our students for "End of Year" assessments by taking our second and final benchmark of the year. We expect everyone's best as outcomes from the benchmark will allow us to see mastery of content as well as skills that need to be retaught prior to our "EOY" assessments. It will take everyone's best to close out the year successfully.

Parents, we are always grateful for the expectations you place on your children. These expectations allow us to reinforce our expectations for our students at school. As the days get longer and the weather becomes more favorable, it is easy to let down the "parental" guard. There is still much work to be done as we close out the school year.

As we coach our students to be "Selfless" and to "finish" what has been quite

a tumultuous school year, we ask you to assist us with those very actions. Performing solidly on the aforementioned assessments will absolutely shed positive light on the work that has been done by ALL this year. Prepare our students for each day by getting them to bed at a decent hour, rolling them out of the bed in the morning, and making sure they are prepared to enter the building. These practices are critical for a strong academic finish this school year.

To close, our winter sports programs are truly grateful for your support of the past several months. While social distancing expectations have placed constraints on participation from families and friends, our Chiefs have always felt your support. As we transition to the spring sports season, we look forward to your continued support. The baseball and softball programs, led by Coach Tip Nutt and Coach Michael Chambless respectively, are now in "Full Swing." The same goes for Coach Cotnam and Coach Walters and their archery and powerlifting programs. All have had successful starts to their seasons; we look forward to seeing our athletes continued growth on and off of the field. Go Chiefs!

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Lady Chiefs earn district distinctions



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Lady Chiefs played in the District Championship game February 12 against the Lady Bruins at Madison St. Joe. The final score was St. Joe 37 Pelahatchie 32. The following Lady Chiefs were selected as members of the All-District team: Reagan Sanders, Chrystianna Beeman, Collins Doster, and Sharetha Hobbs. Also, Chrystianna Beeman received this year's District Sportsmanship Award. Shown is the team photo. Pictured (l to r) front row, are: Taylor Franklin, Idaja Beemon, Sharetha Hobbs, Chrystianna Beeman, Janay Johnson, Makayla Macklin, Addison Archie, and Abby Hemeter; and top row: Reagan Sanders, Alana Hobson, Collins Doster, and Payton Sanders.

RCSD names Reagan Sanders Secondary Student of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Reagan Sanders was named the Rankin County School District (RCSD) Secondary Student of the Month for January. As a member of the Class of 2021, Reagan currently ranks second in her class, serves as Student Council President, and is a member of the varsity basketball, soccer, track, and volleyball teams. She has earned the opportunity to be a part of Rankin County Youth Leadership and the Mississippi State Superintendent Student Advisory Council.

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It's time to invest in our State parks, not sell them



*By Guest Columnist
Mississippi
Representative
Tom Miles*

Special to
Pelahatchie News

One of the biggest discussions at the Capitol this year has been turned to our State Parks.

Are you grateful, like I am, for our State Parks with their recreational facilities, campgrounds, nature trails, fishing and boating access, cabins, playgrounds, swimming pools and other amenities close by and available for low costs? If you are, be warned that there is an effort at our State Capitol to sell off much of this public property for private profit or shift responsibility for them to our cash-strapped municipalities and counties.

Senate Bill 2486, authored by Sen. Neil Whaley of Marshall County, proposes to make radical changes in how parks are operated and who is in charge of them. Why? The excuse is that parks are in disrepair and it would cost too much to bring them up to their full potential. So, supporters of this idea think it would be best to sell off the people's property to profit-motivated private owners. Either that, or push the state's responsibility down to already hurting counties or local municipalities.

It is no wonder that the State Parks are in disrepair. Over the past 20 years, state funding for these family-friendly, natural treasures has been cut by 60 percent with a 70 percent reduction in staff. To add insult to injury, if SB 2486 doesn't pass, there's another effort out there waiting to slash the whole Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks budget by \$900,000.

Why has the Legislature driven destabilization of some of Mississippi's most treasured assets for two decades? Other states, like Arkansas and Alabama, have done just the opposite – making sure their State Parks are fully funded, up-to-date and welcoming. Consequently, the tourism dollars they are realizing from that effort are tremendous – annually about \$1 billion for Arkansas and \$375 million for Alabama.

One of the outcomes of this pandemic has been the desire of Mississippians to get out and enjoy nature. Families want to experience our beautiful outdoors. Our State Parks are welcoming an influx of folks who are tired of looking at four walls. Why would we want to make their adventures a source of profit for private companies rather than the State? Good question.

Over 40 million Americans own RVs. The RV industry brought in over \$114

billion to the national economy in 2018. RVs and campers are hot commodities. Mississippi should be enjoying the benefits of this upsurge in the outdoor economy instead of giving it away.

Second, we wonder if any county or municipality suffering from tax losses, closed businesses, and dramatic reduction of other income right now would want to be saddled with a property that needs repairs and staffing to operate. It doesn't make sense, does it?

I'm proud to see the House of Representatives is taking a different approach to help improve our parks and are against selling them.

The House has introduced several measures to answer what we believe are the pressing issues involving our State Parks. I am a co-sponsor on each of these bi-partisan efforts.

House Bill 148 would provide an advertising stream of funds to promote our State Parks.

House Bill 152 would divert a portion of lottery proceeds to help with maintenance and infrastructure costs of funding to the State Parks.

House Bill 278 would divert a portion of sales tax revenues collected in State parks to repair and maintain the parks.

And, finally, House Bill 1238 establishes the Mississippi Outdoor Stew-

ardship Trust Fund to ensure ongoing support of our important natural treasures. The Fund will provide sustainable funding for many important programs including improvements for the parks.

Let's hope wiser heads prevail on this subject, and that the Legislature will turn its effort toward improving and maintaining our cherished natural areas. Mississippi families deserve no less.

We are blessed across our State to have many great outdoor opportunities for families with our State Parks, and they are all important to all of us. The one good thing about all of this I see is that we are finally discussing that our State Parks need help to be improved and updated.

The park system has always had a special place in my heart and many Mississippians across our State. I will continue to push for more funding and more ways to improve our parks across our State, not sell them.

Please reach out to your local Legislature and tell them you are against selling our State Parks.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Representative Tom Miles is the State Representative from House District #75 representing Rankin and Scott Counties.



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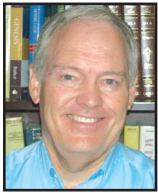
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Pastor's Perspective: What are you looking forward to?



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

Special to Pelahatchie News

As I am writing this, we are in a terrible winter storm, with snow and ice, record low temperatures, thousands without electricity, dangerous road conditions, vehicles stranded on the highways, schools closed, no mail service and a bitter north wind to remind us that it won't be over soon!

As you are reading this, you are wondering, "Why bring THAT up? It's March and that's behind us now!"

So, what can we expect in March? Who knows what the weather will bring? But the calendar gives us some things to look forward to this month. We'll have the beginning of Daylight Savings Time on the March 14. Remember, "Spring Forward" and lose an hour. St. Patrick's Day will be on March 17, so be sure to wear green that day or get pinched. According to folklore, you get pinched on St. Patrick's Day for not wearing green because green makes you invisible to leprechauns, and leprechauns like to pinch people! Then on the March 20, we



Photo by Tommy Moore

will officially enter the Spring season.

But the most important date on the March calendar is March 28. That is Palm Sunday, which recognizes the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem before His crucifixion. All of the people shouted "Hosanna" that day, and just a week later, the crowd shouted, "Crucify Him!" That prompts the question, "What would you be shouting in the presence of Jesus?"

Be sure to take your family to church on Sunday or watch a worship service together online!

Patton wins at State Fairgrounds



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School FFA student Camden Patton won Champion AOB (All Other Breeds) heifer at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds in February. Patton's showing also received: Angus, Second in Class; Commercial, Second in Class; Semi, Third in Class; and Semi Bull, Second in Class.

Cross Roads Baptist Church



WINTER SCHEDULE

*Sunday Worship Service:

9:00 a.m. - Blended Worship Service
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School for All Ages

*Wednesday:

5:30 p.m. - Family Dinner
6:30 p.m. - All Activities

Morning Devotions

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

*Services broadcast live on the Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook page.

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Special to Pelahatchie News

Interested in driving a school bus for Pelahatchie High School? Contact Kelsey Williams to get more information on how to make that interest a reality. Contact the main office at 601-854-8135 or email Kelsey Williams at kelsey.williams@rcsd.ms.

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Special to Pelahatchie News

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PES fifth-graders write poetry

By Guest Columnist Sydney Ogletree, PES ELA teacher

My fifth grade students have the unusually rare gift of words. Since August, this particular group of students has continued to amaze me with their creativity in word choice, particularly with figurative language, during writing lessons. Recently, my partner teacher and I planned a unit study on analyzing figurative language in poetry, and given that my students are brilliantly creative writers, we decided to have them do a project where they would take their creativity, love of writing, and knowledge of figurative language and make their own poem.

Before assigning this task, we read the book Hoopsby Robert Burleigh, which describes one player's deep connection to the game of basketball. We acted out the complex figurative language that the author used to describe how dribbling a basketball felt like an extension of his hands and analyze the compar-

ison of prey versus predator, used to explain the tension between opposing players. Using our mentor text, the students were instructed to write a poem about a hobby that they were passionate about, much like the author of the book. The assignment would require at least two stanzas and three examples of figurative language. As the students worked, I walked around the room to observe their different writing processes, and, as always, I was amazed at the talent in the room. Each student lit up as they talked about a hobby they deeply cared for and that has helped shape them into who they are today.

After the assignment, the students invited the principal, Mrs. Sanders, to a poetry reading. It was inspiring to see their faces light up with pride as they read their pieces because they knew that they had put their best foot forward on this assignment. It was a day that will live in my mind forever because every students' light was turned on that day to the art of poetry.

The Magic Words

Chase Parker

The shotgun clicks.
Now we wait.
The Freezing cold pricks
you like needles,
Though the sun is out.
Like vultures they circle
the freezing water.
Taking their chances,
Their wings go up,
But they make the magic
words come out.
"Take 'em!!"
Chaos occurs upon them.
Green heads smash water
like flying torpedoes.
Hi-fives all around.
Three-way limits conclude
the hunt.

A Sketching of Words

Bethany Tucker

The twirling
And swirling
Of pen to paper
For eyes to read
And hands to open
And ears to hear
The precious sound
Of words to fill one's heart
The scratch scratch of a pencil's tip
And the blankness of an empty paper
To make the page filled with words
As if a bucket to be filled with the
sweet and bitter taste
Of a heart's desire to know beyond
their gates of knowledge
And to know what has never been
known before
Across the page of emptiness
To fill it with memories
The happy and the sad

Speed Skater

Kyniah Morgan

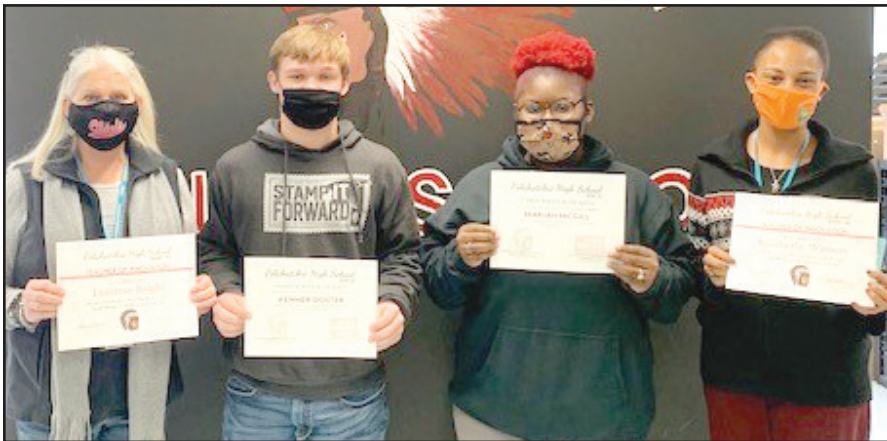
I put on my skates pulling the back of them
I'm trying to put my foot in, finally my foot goes in.
I get up as I'm staking slow
Like a turtle walking
Toward the edge of the skate floor.
One skate
Two skate
Action.
I made it.
I started off slow
I'm picking up speed.
Whoosh!

I'm passing people like I'm a cop on a high-speed chase.
I'm going to pass this itty-bitty little boy.
I feel him lose his balance as I catch his little arm.
I'm skating one more round
I can feel the wet sweat dripping across the floor
I hop on the snack bar floor
I feel my knees lock
I grip the edge of the wall and pull my knees up.

PHS names December and January Students of the Month



December Students of the Month pictured (l to r) front row, are: Antwon Collier, Olivia Ishee, Erica Hunt, and Faith Smith; and back row: Devan Sinclair, Mikilan Taylor, Revonda Renfrow, Mary Frances White, and Justin Beeman. Not pictured are Rylee Covert, Ethan Stevens, and Skilar Squires.



Teacher of the Month and Farm Bureau Student Athletes of the Month pictured (l to r) are: Mrs. Tammie Bright, Kenner Doster, Mariah McGill, and Ms. Kimberly Watson.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

January Students of the Month pictured (l to r) front row, are: Mickey Jennings, Jimmy Holifield, Tyler Johns, Ally Hutzel, and Baela Belle Crosby; and second row: Anthony Boyd, Sterling Simmons, Daizjon Collier, Amelia Griffin, and Meghan Herrington. Not pictured are Hunter Cain and Addison Lindsey.

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