

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Vote April 6th for Ward 3
Republican Primary.**

**June 8 is General Election
for all Wards.**

NEWS Pelahatchie

**April
2021**

**Volume 10
Issue 4
Pelahatchie, MS**

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Pelahatchie News
P.O. Box 771
Pelahatchie, MS 39145

In our community, no one battles alone

By Guest Columnist Amy Till Lyle

Chris Doster and his family became members of the Pelahatchie School community around five years ago. You would think they had been around forever the way they immersed themselves and became priceless members of our community. If there was a musical, a PHS sporting event or any need at all, Chris and his family are always one of the first to volunteer to help. Chris is self-employed, and his wife, Kim, is an assistant teacher at Pelahatchie Elementary. Their twin children, Kenner and Collins, are juniors at Pelahatchie High School.

There are so many wonderful things that could be said about this family. The Doster family does things with passion and purpose, and now it's our turn to

follow their example and join them in their battle. There will be a benefit on April 10 to raise funds to help the family with general and medical expenses.

Chris had surgery in June 2017 to remove cancerous cells and was cleared. In October of that same year, the cancer cells returned and had metastasized to the lymph nodes around his bladder. With that came the diagnosis of Stage 4 bladder cancer. Chris continued to work through all of this, but recent medical treatments have made it nearly impossible for Chris to work full time.

This is where our community steps in...Here's how you can contribute:

Box Lunches will be presold and will be picked up on April 10 from 11-2 at the Pelahatchie Fairway parking lot. Lunches will include a ribeye steak sandwich, a side and a dessert. Cost of



Special to Pelahatchie News

There will be a benefit on April 10 to raise funds to help the Doster family with general and medical expenses. Pictured (l to r) Kenner and Collins Doster are active students at Pelahatchie High School.

the lunch is \$12.

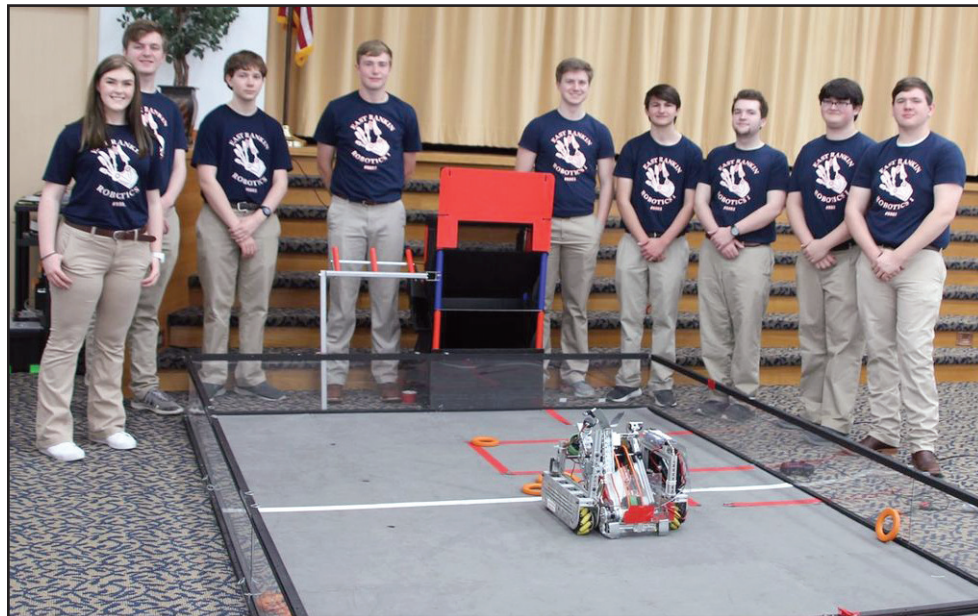
Shirts can also be pre-ordered for \$16. Shirts will also be available for pick up on April 10 at the Pelahatchie Fairway parking lot from 11-2.

NOTE: In the event of inclement weather, box lunches and shirts will be picked up at the side/service entrance of Lyle's Power Equipment, directly across the street from Fairway.

Tickets for box lunches or shirt orders can be purchased from the following people: Amy Lyle, Brandi Johns, Shellie Pennypacker, Krista Lightle, Doug Doster or Bob Robinson. All inquiries, donation and sponsorship information can be directed to amymlyle@gmail.com.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email. Thank you in advance for any and all you can do to help.

ERA ranked number one at March 6 robotics tournament



Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Robotics finished as the highest ranked team in the FTC Mississippi Central League Tournament held on March 6. The team also won the Collins Aerospace Innovate Award and qualified to compete at the Mississippi FTC State Championship in April. Pictured (l to r) are: Mallory Ellis, Carson French, Jonathan Lamberth, Elijah Moore, Elijah Vining, Brandyn Luke, Kellar Brown, Brennan Rials, and Knox Ross. Not pictured is Tyler Williams.

Lady Chiefs softball back after two years



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Lady Chiefs softball team hit the field in March to play for the first time in almost two years due to the pandemic. Principal Dr. Teague Burchfield took this photo of a gorgeous night. He said, "We are excited to see what the season brings. Keep working hard and playing harder." See softball game schedule on page 11.

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Students build drop box for Pelahatchie Police Department



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Pelahatchie High School Shop teacher Bob Robinson and his students built an evidence drop box for the Pelahatchie Police Department. Maddie Grace Walters did the artwork. Chief Mahaffey said the much-needed box will be placed into service and utilized for the temporary storage of evidence for many years to come. Pictured (l to r) in photo one are: Bob Robinson and Chief Robert Mahaffey; and photo two, front: Maddie Grace Walters and Jimmy Holifield; second row: Officer Watkins, Tyler Johns, Hayden Huff, and Eli Boyer; and back row: Bob Robinson, Landon Moore, Officer Lockwood, and Officer Greer.



P.O. Box 771
Pelahatchie, MS 39145
Volume 10 Issue 4
Circulation - 3,600

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Pelahatchie News is published
on the first Tuesday of every month
in Pelahatchie, MS.

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Hinds Community College volunteers at ERCO



Photo by Pelahatchie News

The Ever Reaching Community Outreach (ERCO), based in Pelahatchie, was recently blessed with volunteers from Hinds Community College staff. These ladies worked packing food boxes, making hygiene kits, organizing the clothes room, book shelves, shoes and much more. The kindness they have shown will benefit and bless many families who come to ERCO for assistance, said Facility Director KathyJo Latham.

Harris-Magee named PHS Student Athlete of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Javon Harris-Magee received the Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Farm Bureau's February Student-Athlete of the Month. Pictured (l to r) are: Tanner Wilson of Farm Bureau, Harris-Magee, and Dr. Teague Burchfield, PHS principal.



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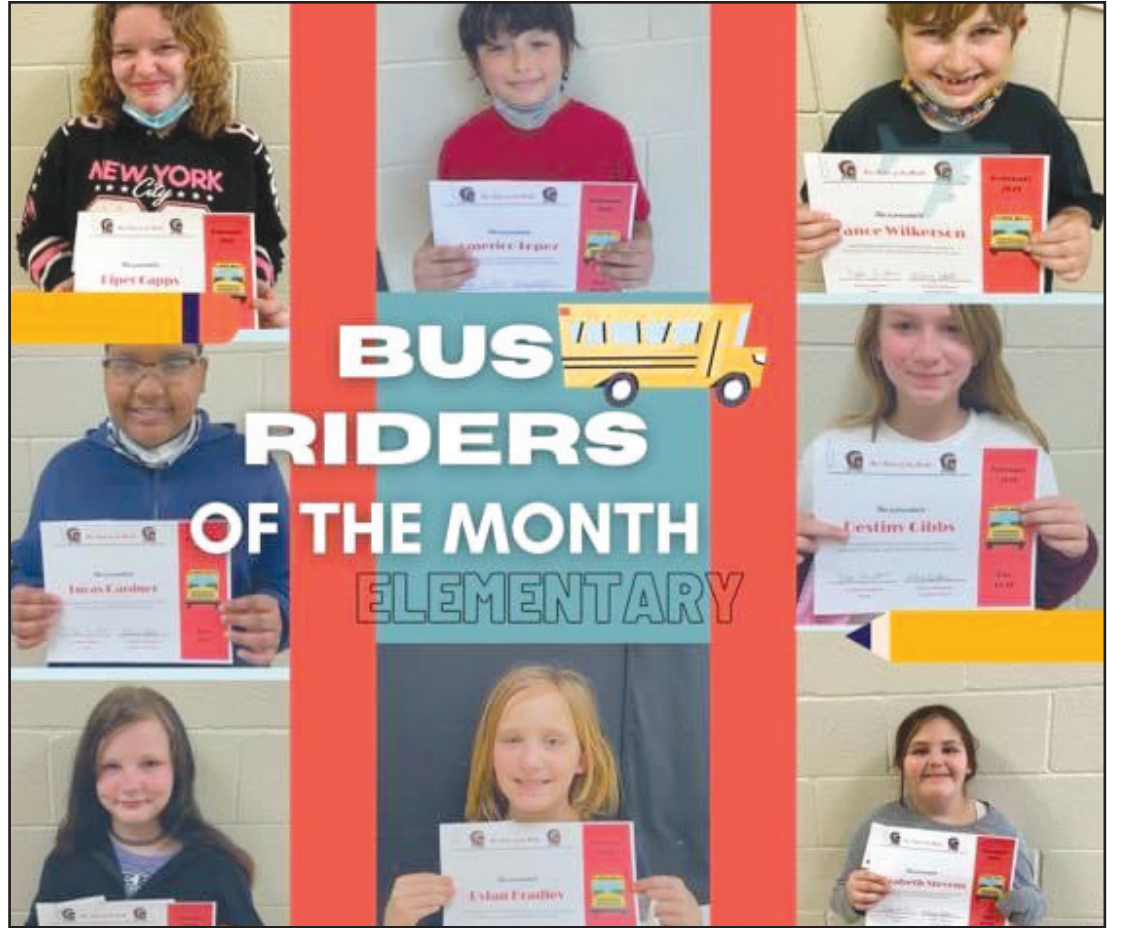


"More homes sold in Pelahatchie than any other agent." Src. Central MS MLS

Pelahatchie schools name February Bus Awards



The winners of the February Bus Awards for Pelahatchie High School are, front row: Amelia Griffin and Skyyler Ousby; middle row: Keith Henley; and top row: Driver Terrell Walters, Daniel Shaw, and Driver Lee Lusk.



Images created by Laura Renfro

The winners of the February Bus Awards for Pelahatchie Elementary are front row: Araya Perkins, Rylan Bradley, and Elizabeth Stevens; middle row: Lucas Gardner and Destiny Gibbs; and top row: Piper Capps, Americo Lopez, and Lance Wilkerson.

Vote for ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DIANE HILL

 THE PLACE TO PROSPER

ALDERMAN OF WARD 1
Pelahatchie, MS

JUNE 8TH

My name is Diane Hill, and I am vying for the seat of alderman for Ward 1. Pelahatchie has been my home for 21 years. Ward 1 needs an alderman that cares about the people of Pelahatchie. I, Diane Hill CARE about the people. Pelahatchie should show unity, and the alderman should work together with Mayor for the betterment of our town. I am READY to work for the people in Ward 1. Vote for Diane Hill on June 8, 2021. A vote for Diane Hill is a vote for a listening ear, a problem solver, and someone who cares.



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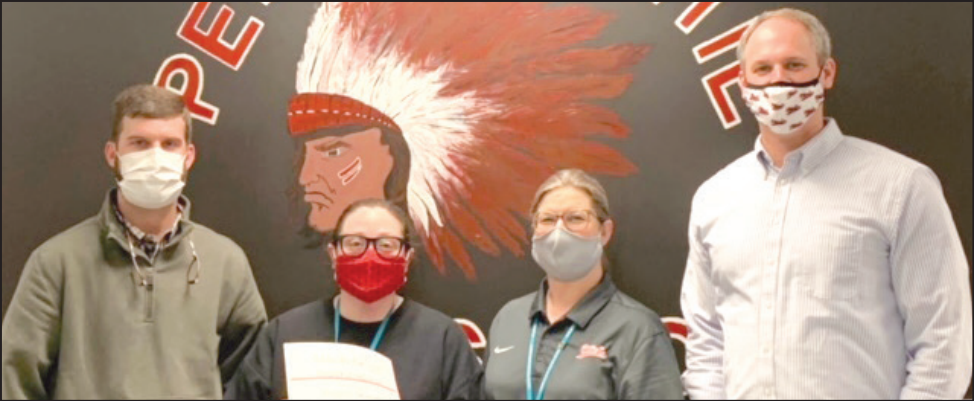
PHS welding team places second in Capital Federation



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie High School (PHS) welding team placed second in Capital Federation and competed in district on March 12. Pictured (l to r) are Hayden Westbrooks, Colten Nickles, Caleb Moore, and Hayden Huff.

Skinner named PHS Teacher of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Mrs. Angela Skinner was named Pelahatchie High School (PHS)'s February Teacher of the Month. Pictured (l to r) are: Tanner Wilson with Farm Bureau; Skinner; Leslie Herbert, instructional supervisor; and Dr. Teague Burchfield, PHS principal.

Jenkins Student-Athlete of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

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

PHS names Students of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Students of the Month pictured (l to r) are, front row: Malori Scherer, Leah Carter, Keith Henley, and Alexis Jordan; and back row: Bailey McKee, Makaylee Hester, Mackenzie Melton, Harley Jack Lawson, and Jessie Stewart. Not pictured are Destinee Purvis, Rylee Watson, and Makayla Macklin.

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Steven Pace	63	Newton	2/24/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Barbara Crain	65	Morton	2/24/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Serlena Dennis	80	Morton	3/7/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Cassie McCoy	95	Forest	3/10/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Margaret Maness	70	Walnut Grove	3/12/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Bradley Young	79	Bowdoin, ME	3/15/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Willie McIntosh	68	Lake	3/19/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Leon Haymon	85	Raleigh	3/19/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Mary Ann Warren	74	Forest	3/21/2021	Wolf Funeral Services

Explaining El Niño and La Niña weather patterns



By Doug Carter,
Rankin County
Extension Agent

Special to
Pelahatchie News

Weather is one of my favorite subjects. As we go into spring, we wonder what to expect. One thing that can help us to predict the weather and plan our daily activities, is to learn about the different weather cycles.

El Niño and La Niña are opposite phases of what is known as the El-Southern Oscillation Cycle. El Niño is sometimes referred to as the warm phase, and La Niña is sometimes referred to as the cold phase.

El Niño means the little boy, or Christ child in Spanish. El Niño was originally recognized by fisherman of the coast of South America in the 1600s with the appearance of unusually warm water in the Pacific Ocean. This was important to them, because of the warm water, they did not catch many fish. The name was chosen based on the time of the year (around December) during which these warm water events occurred.

The term El Niño refers to the large-scale ocean atmosphere climate interaction linked to periodic warming in sea surface temperatures, across the central

and east-central Pacific.

Typical El Niño effects are likely to develop over North America during winter season. Those include warmer-than-normal-average temperatures over the western and northern United States. Wetter-than-average conditions are likely over portions of the U.S. Coast and Florida. Drier-than-normal average conditions can be expected over the Pacific Northwest and Ohio Valley region.

La Niña means little girl in Spanish. It is sometimes called "A Cold Event." El Niño and La Niña behave like a brother and sister. Like a lot of siblings, they are opposite in every way. La Niña causes water in the eastern Pacific to be colder than usual. In the same region, El Niño can cause water to be warmer than usual. Areas that are hard hit with drought during La Niña years are pummeled with rain in El Niño years. A La Niña year usually happens a year or two after an El Niño year. Scientists now do not think that a La Niña is always caused by an El Niño.

La Niña is a weather pattern that occurs in the Pacific Ocean every few years. In this pattern, winds along the equator push water westward. Warm water from the ocean's surface blow from South America toward Indonesia. As the warm water moves west, cold

water from the deep part of the ocean rises up to the surface. The cold water ends up off the coast of South America.

Rain clouds usually form over warm ocean water. La Niña blows most of this warm water to the western Pacific. Because of this, places like Indonesia and Australia get much more rain than usu-

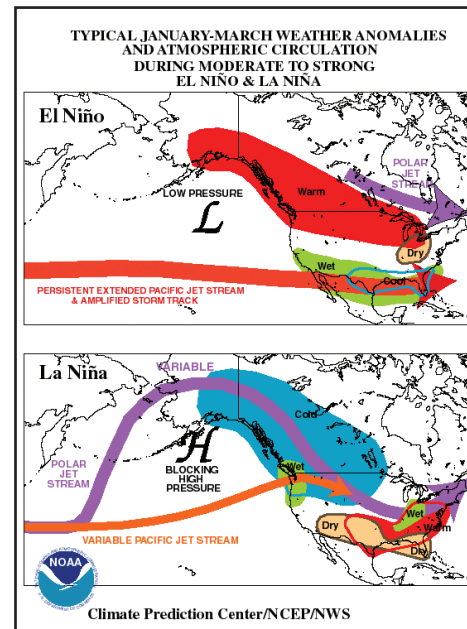
U.S. can be much dryer than usual.

Even though La Niña is caused by an interaction between the Pacific Ocean and the atmosphere above, it can have large effects on weather all over the world. These changes in the atmosphere can lead to more lightning activity around the Gulf of Mexico area and along the Gulf Coast. Also, the environmental conditions during La Niña can lead to more hurricanes or cyclones forming.

According to the National Weather Service, we are in a Transition or Neutral Period between El Niño and La Niña. We are entering a La Niña Pattern. Near normal to above normal rainfall with afternoon thunderstorms is expected for the next few months. The temperature will be normal to slightly warmer than normal.

We just came off two major weather events, or six days of ice, snow and sleet. We have seen the effects of these storms, broken limbs, car accidents, businesses and offices closed, dead and sick livestock, emergency rooms full of folks injured from falls, and a municipal water shortage. We know who controls the weather, and it's certainly not us.

Sources: NOAA SciJinks, "All About Weather," NOAA Climate Prediction Center/NCEP/NWS



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al. The cold water in the eastern Pacific causes less rain clouds to form overhead. So, places like the southeastern

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Building student stamina is key



By Guest Columnist,
Robin Sanders,
Principal, Pelahatchie
Elementary

We are beginning the last quarter of this very challenging school year, and we want our students and staff to finish strong. In order for us to complete this year successfully, we must display several qualities. Perseverance, stamina, grit and persistence are all key. They are important qualities to work through difficult challenges.

It is important for us as parents and educators to teach our children how to build stamina and how to put in the effort necessary to face the challenges of education today. There are several ways educators and parents can teach students about "effort stamina." Effort stamina is described as teaching students perseverance rather than stopping short and saying, "I'm done!" Saying "I'm done," can be a common classroom phrase. Effort stamina is not learned overnight.

The process of building any stamina is a long-term commitment.

Students need the right learning environment to create stamina. Learning positive self-talk is crucial for success. Students need encouragement to use the power of "yet." When teachers or parents hear a student say they can't do something, they need to respond with "You can't do it YET!" We all learn at different speeds and levels and students need to have knowledge of positive self-talk.

When we give high, but reasonable expectations to students and give them the resources and support needed to help them, they can blossom. When the teachers express confidence in their students, they can achieve their goals.

An important part of stamina is developing a growth mindset. One of the biggest predictors of success is how hard a student works. A growth mindset in a student means that the student understands that the more they exercise their brain, the stronger it gets. Intelligence is not fixed and can change with hard work and persistence.

So, Chiefs, let's finish strong!

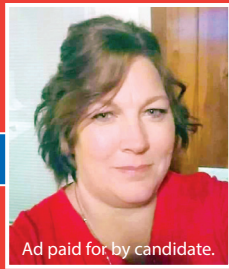
PES names the Students of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) named the Students of the Month for February. Pictured (l to r) first row, are: Braxton Brown, Khyla Hines, Emalynn Atkinson, Jayde McNair, and Araya Perkins; second row: Jose Cortes, Logan Rovano, Gage Blaylock, Aiyanna Satcher, and Trinity Johnson; third row: Colton Becker, Breanna Goggin, Cayleigh Roby, and Braylan Boyd; fourth row: Gabby Phillips, BoScruggs, Corban Robinson, Cada Magee, and Addison Irby; and fifth row: Alana Cupstid, Angel Cortes, Mia Lopez, Casen Kilgore, and Wesley Maddox.

VOTE IN APRIL 6
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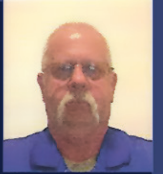
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Legislative Update: Budget numbers are up for the State



By Guest Columnist
Mississippi
Representative
Tom Miles

Special to
Pelahatchie News

We got some good news last week. First, we have a \$500 million surplus over estimates in the current budget, and, second, we should be receiving \$1.8 billion from the American Rescue Plan that can be spent flexibly. Despite the year-long pandemic, it looks like Mississippi is financially stable, right now anyway.

Here at home our estimated portion of the money from the American Rescue Plan for local government:

- Scott County: \$5,503,133
- City of Forest: \$1,248,235.80
- City of Morton: \$795,254.27
- Town of Lake: \$73,054.26
- Town of Sebastopol: \$62,231.41
- Town of Pelahatchie: \$311,608

We are going into the final days of the 2021 Session, and it's the time when

final budget matters are sorted out. So-called "Conference Weekend" is this coming weekend. That's when legislators from both chambers meet together in conference committees to iron out any differences between the House and Senate versions of various bills.

It is my hope with the unexpected income that we can do even more for the important areas that have suffered extreme budget cuts in the recent past -- public safety, education, mental health, roads and others. We should know in a week or so where priorities lie.

We have already passed some bills that are either on their way to the Governor or have already become law by his signature.

- HB 852 provides a pay raise for all teachers and teacher assistants. Teachers & assistant teachers will see at least \$1,000 dollars per year, with \$1,100 going to newer educators. While I am very proud of these raises, this should be only the beginning. Our teachers have worked creatively and non-stop to make

sure our children received excellent educational opportunities this year under the most difficult circumstances. With this bill being signed into law, since I've been elected as your Representative, we have fought to give our teachers over a \$8,000 in combined pay increases.

- HB 1263: allows individuals who move to Mississippi to transfer their valid occupational license from another state if they meet specific requirements and their license is in good standing. We are hoping that this will help entice more people to come here to work. Reciprocity is an important component of welcoming workers. We shouldn't make someone sit through unnecessary tests and training if they were good at their jobs in Alabama, for example.

- SB 2746: requires the Department of Health to gather information on chromosomal disorders, and make that information available to physicians and providers who give a diagnosis to prospective parents. We are living in a time where this information is commonly available.

Thankfully, we better can help folks be prepared for potential health issues now.

- SB 2788: provides the Highway Patrol with joint jurisdiction on I-55. This will provide assistance to the Jackson PD and Hinds SO to make sure adequate enforcement is available on this important highway.

Here at home, we will begin to see local road construction on Highway 80. A \$2.5 million contract was awarded to W.E. Blain & Sons, Inc., of Mount Olive, for a 5-mile mill and overlay project on U.S. Highway 80 from State Route 13 to Kalem in Scott County. This money is being appropriated from Lottery proceeds.

To view all of the legislation which is still alive and under consideration, visit: <http://www.legislature.ms.gov/legislation/all-measures-not-dead/>.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve you, and, if you have any suggestions or input, please feel free to reach out to me anytime at tmiles@house.ms.gov or 601-469-7886.

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RCSD recognizes Employees of the Month



Photos special to Pelahatchie News
Assistant Superintendent Shane Sanders of Pelahatchie, left, was named the Rankin County School District (RCSD)'s February District Certified Employee of the Month. Amber Beeman was named the February Elementary Classified employee, and Coach Tyler Walters, right, received the Secondary Certified Employee of the Month. Superintendent Sue Townsend Zoomed into his class to present his award virtually.

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Pastor's Perspective: Easter celebrates Christ's win over death



Special to
Pelahatchie News

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

It's Springtime! Even if the calendar didn't confirm it, the evidence is all around! With flowering bushes bursting forth in vivid colors; new leaves turning trees bright green overnight; the pollen that those trees create and that settles on anything outside, and our lawns asking for a haircut, we can't deny the reality that Springtime has arrived. Of course, we must be prepared for the inevitable surprise cold snap, which should never really surprise us, because it happens every year. And then, we have had some snow fall in April. So be prepared for whatever comes our way!

Another annual event that reminds us of Springtime is the celebration of Easter. The date of Easter varies from year to year, but always falls between March 22 and April 25. This year Easter is being observed on April 4.

Interesting enough, the date of Easter is determined by the moon! Specifically, Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the full Moon that occurs on or just after the spring equinox, which is

the first day of spring.

Scholars differ on where the word "Easter" come from? Some think it is derived from various Latin, Greek, or even German words. Others think it is associated with an ancient goddess. In the end, it



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placed in a borrowed tomb. Then, on the third day, He came back to life! He defeated death and in so doing also defeated the curse of sin. He was resurrected on Sunday, the first day of the week. So that's why we always have the celebra-

baskets, Easter egg hunts, dying Easter eggs, and even having an Easter ham! They don't understand what Easter is all about, and why it is a special day.

But those who are believers know that if it were not for the resurrection on that first Easter Sunday, then our faith would be in vain!

Paul writes in I Corinthians 15: 1-4, "1: Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2: By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3: For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4: that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

That's what Easter is all about! It is a recognition and celebration of the victory that Christ won over sin and death. It's ok to have an Easter egg hunt and to give your kids an Easter basket, and even to have a ham for lunch on Easter Sunday. But don't forget why we have Easter, and be sure to celebrate His resurrection!

Don't forget to take your family to church.

Cross Roads Baptist Church



Sunday:

Beginning April 11, there will again be two services.

The contemporary service will be at 8:30 a.m. with music led by the Praise Team, and the more traditional service will be at 11 a.m. with the choir. Sunday School will be held at 10 a.m.

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.

"The Church has not been closed...the Church has been deployed!"

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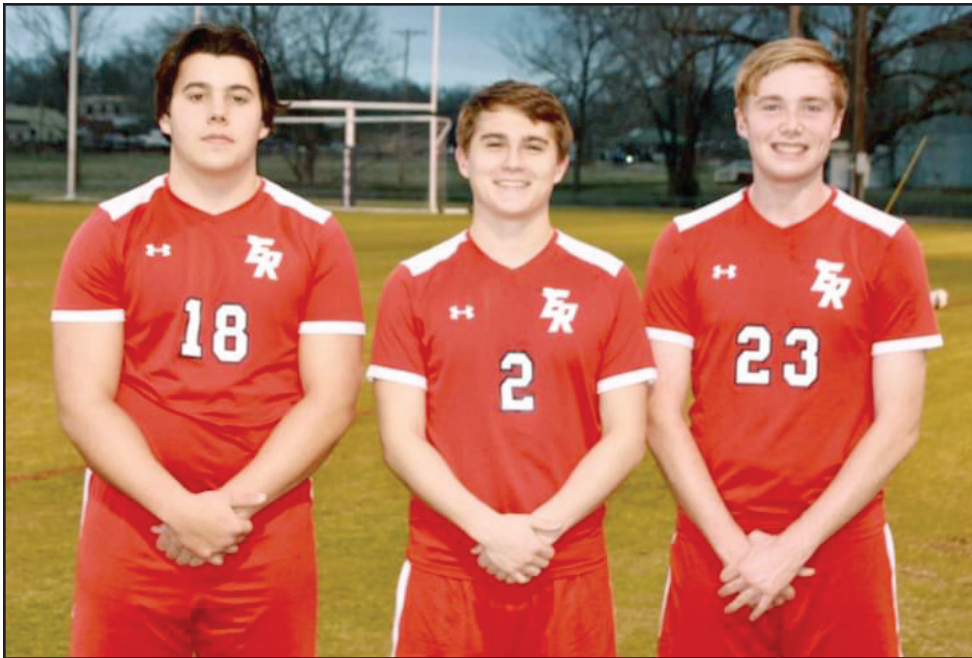


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Rials signs to play soccer at Jones CC



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East Rankin Academy (ERA) senior Brodie Rials signed a letter of intent to play soccer at Jones Community College (JCC) on March 5. Pictured (l to r) are the ERA soccer all-stars: Jack Pittman, Rials, and Elijah Moore.

Rhodes featured on Farm Bureau cover



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Anna Belle Rhodes of Pelahatchie and her Australian Shepherd, Maggie, were featured on the cover of Mississippi Farm Country recently. She is the daughter of Brian and Ashley Rhodes. The Rhodes family are members of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation.

The home stretch: 4th nine weeks



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

Special to
Pelahatchie News

The fourth nine weeks is finally here! This time last year, so many uncertainties existed as we attempted to navigate what would become the COVID-19 pandemic. Through tough times, Pelahatchie High School's resolve was tested. With the help of federal and state guidelines, along with resources from the Mississippi Departments of Health and Education, as well as leadership from the Rankin County School District, we are able to positively reflect on what has been quite a successful year at Pelahatchie High School.

As we move through this final quarter, our focus, like every year, is to finish! For seniors, it's the final stretch until graduation. We are extremely proud of their resiliency and look forward to seeing what the future, beyond Pelahatchie High School, will bring. For most underclassmen, comprehensive benchmark assessments are behind us, and the

plan is to focus on reviewing the necessary skills that will translate to success on "End of Year" (EOY) MAAP testing.

The faculty, staff, and students have all made tremendous strides in this regard and with that being said, there is more work to be done as we move toward the season of accountability. Per the Mississippi Department of Education, statewide accountability through "EOY" testing is in full force. Our goals have not changed because of our past year of uncertainty. We plan to not only participate, but to excel as well on these assessments. We expect 100% of our students to test as well as to meet growth from prior "EOY" assessments. The expectation is to compete. The expectation is to be our very best. As stated earlier, the expectation is to finish!

As always, we appreciate your support by establishing and maintaining high academic, attendance, and behavioral expectations for your children. Thank you for your involvement and investment into arguably the most important time in your child's life.

Together, let's wrap the 2020-2021 school year in RED and BLACK! Go Chiefs!

2021 PELAHATCHIE HIGH SCHOOL FASTPITCH SCHEDULE

APRIL 6 VS RIVERSIDE JV/V 5:00	APRIL 8 @ PISGAH JV/V 5:00	APRIL 9 @ YAZOO COUNTY JV/V 5:00	APRIL 12 VS RICHLAND JV/V 5:00
APRIL 13 @ RAYMOND JV/V 5:00	APRIL 15 VS ST. JOE JV/V 5:00	APRIL 20 @ RIVERSIDE JV/V 5:00	APRIL 23 VS YAZOO CITY SR. NIGHT JV/V 5:00

Yellow - Away Game • White - Home Game

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April 6 is Primary Election Day

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A Republican Primary Election will take place on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 in Pelahatchie Ward 3. Polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. Any voter in line at 7 p.m. is entitled to cast a ballot.

The election is for Ward 3 Republican candidates only. No other ward votes, since no other ward has two Republicans running.

All Ward 3 candidates are running as Republicans, including incumbent Margie Warren, Walt Robbins and JW "Boomer" Graham.

The Secretary of State's office will have observers in precincts across the State. Problems at the polls observed by State observers or otherwise reported to the Elections Division will be referred to the authorities, including the Attorney General's Office or appropriate District Attorney's Office. As a reminder, the Secretary of State's Office has no enforcement authority to resolve problems.

The last day to vote in-person absentee at the Municipal Clerk's Office was Saturday, April 3. Other reminders include:

Mail-In Absentee Voting Deadline:



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All mail-in absentee ballots must be postmarked by Primary Election Day (April 6) and received by Municipal Clerk Offices within five business days of Primary Election Day in order to count.

Voter Photo ID: Voters are required to show photo identification at the polls.

A voter without an acceptable form of photo identification is entitled to cast an affidavit ballot. An affidavit ballot may be counted if the voter provides an acceptable form of photo identification to the Municipal Clerk's Office within five business days after the election.

Campaigning: It is unlawful to campaign for any candidate within 150 feet of any entrance to a polling place, unless on private property.

Loitering: The polling places should be clear for 30 feet from every entrance of all people except elections officials, voters waiting to vote, or authorized poll watchers.

Camera Phones: Voters are prohibited from taking pictures of their marked ballot.

COVID-19: Voters are encouraged to practice good hygiene and follow CDC guidelines at the polls.

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