

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Davis achieves top ACT score -
pg. 3

Pastor's Perspective: God's perfect
model for fatherhood - pg. 13

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Hopper named MAIS 5A Cross Country Coach of the Year

Special to Pelahatchie News

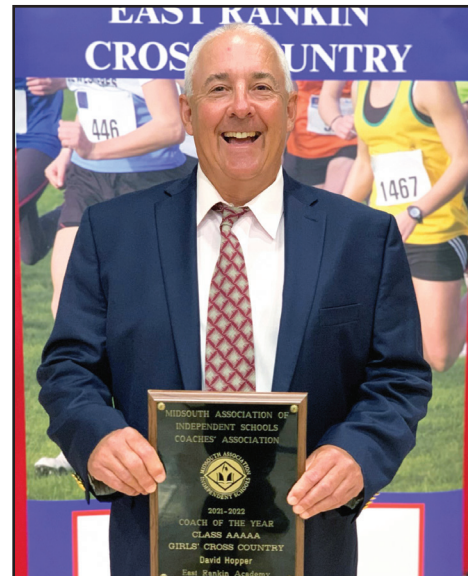
East Rankin Academy (ERA) cross country and track coach, David Hopper, was named the Midsouth Association of Independent Schools (MAIS) 5A Cross Country Coach of the Year following his girls' team's 2021 state title winning season. The cross-country state championship was a first for East Rankin Academy.

Coach Hopper, a 1975 graduate of Jackson Prep, has deep roots in Rankin County as both an athlete and coach. An integral part of Jackson Prep's state title teams in the mid-1970s, Hopper specialized in distance events and relays. Success at the prep level resulted in scholarship offers from Mississippi College, West Point and Florida. Coach

Hopper attended West Point from 1975-1977, running cross country, and then transferred to Auburn, graduating in 1979 with a degree in Speech Communications. Hopper soon returned to Central Mississippi, working in the television industry until the late 90s, when he began coaching and teaching in Rankin County schools, to include Brandon, ERA and McLaurin.

"Coach Hopper was the entire reason that I began competing in track." -Coach Steven Boozer

Returning to ERA in 2018, Coach Hopper set to work rebuilding a traditionally strong running program. With only a few varsity runners, Hopper be-



Coach David Hopper

Special to Pelahatchie News

gan recruiting athletes to support the existing team and develop a championship-caliber team. Since that time, he has added talent each year, some of which contributed to the 2021 state title. A proponent of old school hard work, the team trains five days a week, cycling through short and long distance runs, weights, and hill work. The passion with which Hopper supports each athlete translates into collective commitment from both boys and girls, as they develop athletically and strategically.

Coach Steven Boozer, 2003 ERA graduate, three time state champion, and scholarship athlete at the University of Alabama stated, "Coach Hopper was the entire reason that I began

continued on page 3

ERA 2022 Valedictorian and Salutatorian



The 2022 East Rankin Academy (ERA) Valedictorian is Will Price. Price is the son of Billy and Tracy Price of Forest. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (Mathematics Honor Society), and ERA's ACT 30 or Above Team. He also serves as captain of ERA's Quiz Bowl Team, Science Bowl Team, and History Bowl Team. Price plans to attend Mississippi State University to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

The 2022 ERA Salutatorian is Cole Moudy. Moudy is the son of Tate and Michelle Moudy of Brandon. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (Mathematics Honor Society), and ERA's ACT 30 or Above Team. He is also a member of the Science Bowl Team and Varsity Baseball Team. Moudy has signed to play baseball with Holmes Community College and will be pursuing a degree in civil engineering.

2022 Valedictorian and Salutatorian at PHS



The 2022 Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Valedictorian is Laura Renfroe. She is the daughter of Daniel and Eles Renfroe. She is the 2022 MS High School Journalist of the Year and STAR Student recipient. She was 2021-2022 Beta president and a part of the Social Media Team. Renfroe was Chief Editor of the school's newspaper, Hatchie Headlines. An all-A honor student and Miss. Scholar, she received the Essentials for College Math, Dual Credit British Lit, Contemporary Health, Economics, Social Media Team, Print Journalism awards, and First Place AATSP Poster Contest. She received the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Honors College Discovery and USM Communication Scholarship. Renfroe will attend USM and double major in Graphic Design and Journalism.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

The 2022 PHS Salutatorian is Kaitlyn White. White is the daughter of Jay and Katie White. She is an honor student and President of the Student Council. She is a member of the Beta Club and is a Miss. Scholar. White has received recognition for ACT Honors and Distinguished Service, and she received the College & Career Readiness Award. White has received the Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program and Ole Miss Women's Council scholarships. She plans to major in Elementary Education at the University of Mississippi.

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MDOT hosts Safety Message Contest

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The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) has brought back its annual Safety Message Contest for another year. Bring your A game and come up with the punniest, cleverest messages for your chance to win.

The contest began on June 1 and will end on June 15, 2022. That means there is still a chance to enter.

MDOT's traffic safety messages appears on DMS boards along highways and interstates throughout Mississippi. These messages, which are often related to current events and pop culture, are part of an effort to encourage drivers to change their actions behind the wheel. However, any local emergency messages and traffic updates automatically override scheduled messages on the DMS boards.

There is no limit to the number of messages one can submit, but guidelines include:

- The message must relate to traffic safety.
- Signs can only accommodate three lines and 21 characters per line, including spaces.
- Hashtags, phone numbers and



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website addresses are not allowed.

- No emojis.

For this year's contest, participants are encouraged to focus their messages on the following themes:

- Speeding
- Distracted Driving/Texting and Driving
- Seat Belt Safety
- Sober Driving
- Work Zone Safety
- Turn Signals/Blinkers
- Left Lane Driving Etiquette

Follow @MississippiDOT on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter and then comment with a message to enter.

Report town issues with the 311 Pelahatchie app



Photo by Pelahatchie News

311 Pelahatchie app icon

By Katie White

The Town of Pelahatchie has an app for its citizens to report important issues that affect residents' daily way of life. It's called the 311 Pelahatchie app.

There are several topics to choose from to help with specific needs. Some of the topics are ditch cleaning, power outages, down power lines, gas leaks, stray animals and more.

After selecting a topic, the app user has the option to also add a location, upload media such as photos or videos of the issue and utilize a digital form to sum-

marize the issue.

Karl Vanhorn, Mayor of Pelahatchie, said, "We check this app at least daily, and more often when time permits."

"The app was created through Central Mississippi Planning and Development back during Mayor Ross's term. It's a great tool for the town to have, and it allows our citizens to interact instead of calling the city hall Monday - Friday. They see something, and they can report it."

The app can be downloaded to a smart device easily and at no cost by searching for "311 Pelahatchie."



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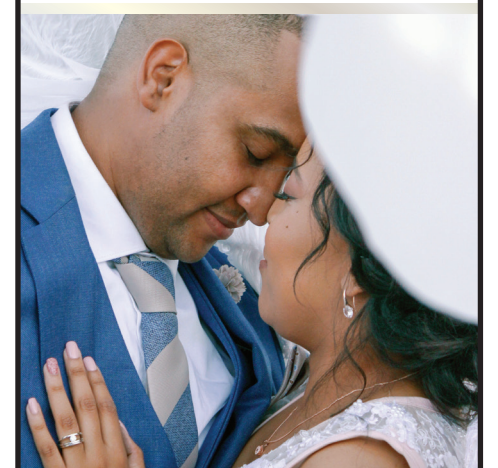


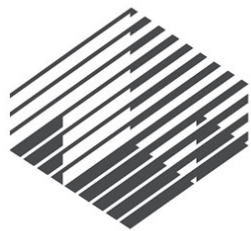
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Davis achieves top ACT score

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Dylan Davis, an upcoming senior at East Rankin Academy, has earned the highest possible ACT composite score of 36.

Fewer than half of one percent of students who take the ACT earn a top score. In the U.S. high school graduating class of 2021, only 4,055 out of 1.29 million students who took the ACT earned a top composite score of 36.

The ACT consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science, each scored on a scale of 1–36. A student's composite score is the average of the four test scores. The score for ACT's optional writing test is reported separately and is not included within the ACT composite score.



Special to Pelahatchie News
Dylan Davis, East Rankin Academy student

“Earning a top score on the ACT is a remarkable achievement,” said ACT CEO Janet Godwin. “A student’s exceptional score of 36 will provide any college or university with ample evidence of their readiness for the academic rigors that lie ahead.”

The ACT is a curriculum-based achievement exam that measures what students have learned in school. Students who earn a 36 composite score have likely mastered all the skills and knowledge they will need to succeed in first-year college courses in the core subject areas.

ACT scores are accepted by all major four-year colleges and universities across the US.

Davis is the son of Heather and Shannon Davis of Morton.

Walters wins first place in national art contest



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Maddie Grace Walters, a junior at Pelahatchie High School, won first place in the national hand-drawn art contest for the 9 - 12 grade division for the 2022 American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP). Walters' artwork reflects the theme of this year's art contest in Spanish and Portuguese - "Valorando nuestras raíces y construyendo nuestro futuro," "Valorizando nossas raízes e construindo nosso futuro," which translates to "Valuing our roots and building our future." The AATSP promotes the study and teaching of the Spanish and Portuguese languages and their corresponding Hispanic, Luso-Brazilian and other related literatures and cultures at all levels of education.

continued from page 1

Hopper MAIS 5A Coach of the Year

competing in track. He saw an athlete that would not only strengthen the track and field program, but also have the potential to further their career after high school. Because of Coach Hopper, I was blessed with the opportunity to attend Alabama and serve as graduate assistant for the track and field program at Mississippi College, where I earned my master's degree. All of this is because of the potential that Hopper saw in me as an eighth-grade student. Throughout my collegiate career, Coach Hopper kept up with my progress, staying in close contact. This continued afterwards in my personal life. He inspired me to be the type of coach that I would like to be. I strive to be a positive influence in the daily lives of my athletes and think this is an important aspect of being a part and influencing the lives of young athletes, who are our future."

Caleb Hammons, a 2000 ERA graduate, cross country individual state champion and team captain of the Ole

Miss cross country team from 2002-2005 stated, "I found a great deal of satisfaction in running and the teamwork associated. The simplicity of it all and the application to everyday life is rewarding. Here are some things that I have taken away from years of running and training: surround yourself with excellence and those who strive for it, work together toward the goals set and, discipline your mind and body. Do not let the fear of failure prevent you from achievement or learning from failure; be consistent and become resilient. During my senior year [at ERA], I will always remember Mr. [Robert] Gates and Coach Hopper and the encouragement they gave me because I had not yet learned, and consistently been able to apply, these principles to my life."

Coach Hopper was presented with his Coach of the Year plaque by the MAIS and the East Rankin Administration at the ERA sports awards ceremony on May 2, 2022.

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	ARRANGEMENTS
Samantha Smith Heard	41	5/3/2022	Lake, MS	Wolf Funeral Home
Amellia Griffin	3 Mths.	5/4/2022	Lake, MS	Wolf Funeral Home
Byron Lowery	63	5/6/2022	Lake, MS	Wolf Funeral Home
Roscoe William Simons	100	5/10/2022	Morton, MS	Wolf Funeral Home
Bobby Joe Phillips	75	5/14/2022	Morton, MS	Wolf Funeral Home
Ronald Timothy Vance	64	5/19/2022	Forest, MS	Wolf Funeral Home
Maria Emilia Lucero	70	5/23/2022	Forest, MS	Wolf Funeral Home
Robert Jackson Singleton	68	5/26/2022	Brandon, MS	Wolf Funeral Home

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Pelahatchie High School graduating class of 2022



Photo by Pelahatchie News

The 2022 graduating class at Pelahatchie High School includes: Eriberto Banuelas, Sarah Ryan Bayliss, Chrystianna Ambrielle Beeman, Justin Alonzo Beeman, MyKia Letrinque Boyd, Matthew Nicholas Boykin, Madison Mackenzi Lee Broome, Dakota Lynne Butts, Madelyn R. Cain, Jacob Kyle Carlino, Daizjon Jakeiz Collier James Marion Courtney IV, James Patrick Curtis, Abbigale Grace Davis, Morgen James Dawson, Collins Lanell Doster, Kenner Benjamin Doster, Nicholas Charles Ellingburg, Nataliya Tristesse Garner, Kiara Tanisha Gary, Aaron Lee Gipson, Levi Patrick Goldman, McKinley Brooke Goodin, Kaylee Machelle Hall, Daniel Keith Henley, Megann Alana Hobson, Jinodja Nikila Holifield, Hayden Micha Huff, Jatavious Tywunn Hughes, Mallorie Faith Irby, Taylor McKenzie Jackson, Janay Tyshonda Johnson, Roger Cole Jordan, Kayleigh Elizabeth Keyes, Aniyah Marshae Lloyd, Owen Wesley Lusk, Jactavius Louis Macklin, Malcolm Jordan McGee, Bailey Madison McKee, Skylar Elizabeth Meadows, Caleb Maurice Moore, Julia Ryann Myers, Colten Seth Nickles, Camden Saige Patton, Brianna Nicole Pearson, GaQuaveon De'von Ragsdale, Johnny Ragsdale, Phillip Ryan Rainer, Sharon Elizabeth Nicole Rainer, Kenneth Wayne Reach, Laura Beth Renfro, Charles Carl Daniel Shaw, Sterling Fox Simmons, Cooper Reece Simon, Benjamin Bradford Stribling, Billy Randall Thompson, Adlyn Fair Till, Marie Renee Valentine, Caleb Michael Walters, Dylan Lake Ward, Garland Jerome Ward, Houston Ty Watkins, Kody Mitchell Watson, Callie Johanna Weems, Hayden Thomas Westbrooks, Kaitlyn Grace White, Jefferson Davander Williams, and Prentiss Omarri Wilson Jr.

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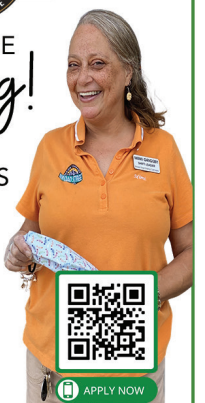
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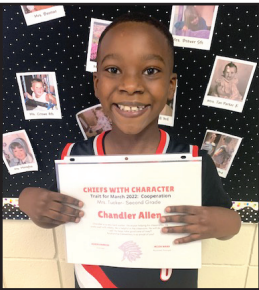
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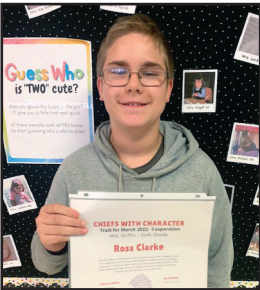
March Character Trait Students at Pelahatchie Elementary



Chandler Allen



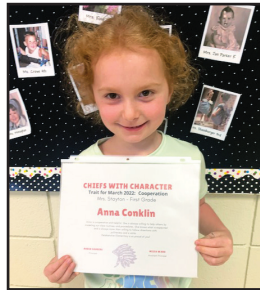
Gracelynn Cannon



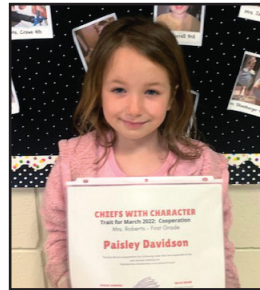
Ross Clarke



Cannon Coghlan



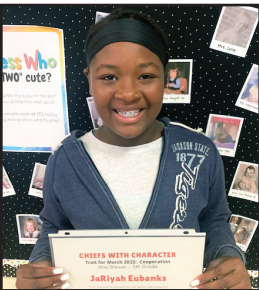
Anna Conklin



Paisley Davidson



Layla Edwards



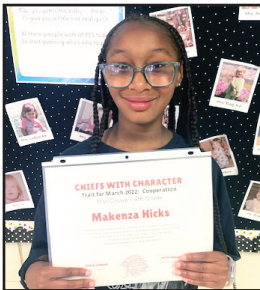
JaRiyah Eubanks



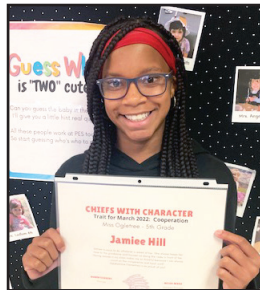
Paisyn Gray



Hunter Hall



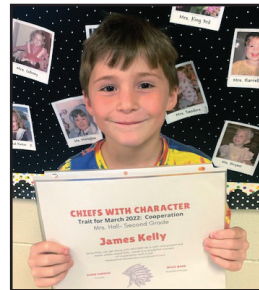
Makenza Hicks



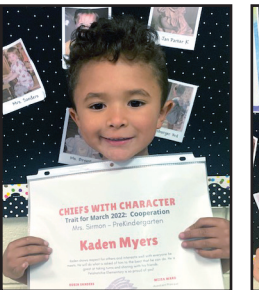
Jamie Hill



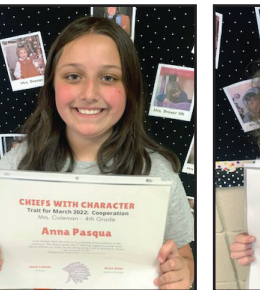
Sarah Brooks Hopson



James Kelly



Kaden Myers



Anna Pasqua



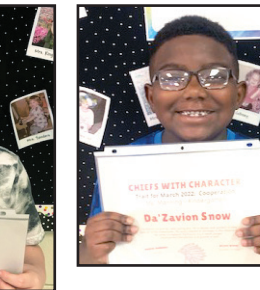
Katie Phillips



Bethany Pilgrim



Angelina Quick



Hagen Scruggs



Da'Zavion Snow

Austin Stevens

Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) named the March 2022 Chiefs with Character Trait students of the month. The students who earned this honor are shown above. The character trait highlighted for the month was "cooperation."

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ERA Track & Field concludes with Warner winning big at MAIS 5A

Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy (ERA) Patriot Track & Field team, coached by Coach David Hopper, concluded the 2022 season on Saturday, May 7, at the Midsouth Association of Independent Schools (MAIS) State Championship.

The road to State began April 20 with the team competing in the District meet at Madison Ridgeland Academy.

Eighteen athletes qualified to the North State championship among the top-four finalists. Additionally, all four girls relay teams and the boys 4x100 and 4x200 relay teams qualified to the North State meet.

The North State Championship was held April 30 at Bayou Academy in Cleveland, Mississippi, pitting schools from MAIS Districts 1 and 2. The top four finalists in each event qualified to the MAIS State Championship. The Patriot girls' team finished fourth and the varsity boys finished eighth.

Finally, the MAIS State Championships were hosted by Jackson Prep on May 7. The ERA varsity

girls scored 41 points, finishing 6th and varsity boys scored 17 points, finishing 11th overall out of the eighteen MAIS 5A schools. The varsity girls improved one spot over the 2021 track season, and the boys, currently building in depth, improved six spots over 2021.

Brayden Warner's win in discus ended a ten-year drought of state titles for the ERA track and field team. A multi-sport athlete, Warner has been working with the budding throwing team for the past two years. Entering the season ranked second in the state, Warner quickly took control of the top spot in discus division rankings and never relinquished it through season end.

ERA throwing coach Steven Boozer stated, "Brayden is an exceptional athlete. What makes him special is his ability to take instruction and apply them into every part of the throw that we are working on. He is a quick learner and has a very bright future in the throws. I can't wait to see how far this young man can go!"



Special to Pelahatchie News

ERA athletes winning a spot on the discus podium are: Caleb Leach (left), fourth place; and Braden Warner (center), MAIS 5A State Champion.


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Edwards' art featured in USM Annual Senior Show

Special to Pelahatchie News

Artwork by senior Maggie Edwards, who is in the Art and Design program and housed in the School of Performing and Visual Arts at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), was on exhibit for its 2022 Annual Senior Show, from May 5 through May 13 on the Hattiesburg Campus. An awards ceremony was held May 5, at 6 p.m.

The Senior Show in Drawing and Painting featured the work of Edwards, a native of Pelahatchie. Edwards' exhibit of drawings is tied together thematically through the depiction of a solitary figure in an architectural interior or exterior environment.

Associate Professor in the Art and Design program Marcus Michels described the figures in Edward's drawings to be caught in a moment of contemplation

while performing an everyday task. He continued, "Edward's expressive use of contour line and graphic light and dark patterns translate these relatable moments into formal two-dimensional compositions."

"In my student work, I create linear drawings to try and capture the subtle moments of everyday life," Edwards said. "Depicting these moments helps to remind me of the soft, relatable sides to humanity that are often drowned out by the madness of the world."

"As a very quiet and introverted person, I spend much of my time just observing

the environment and people around me. Living in such a noisy and chaotic world is overstimulating at times, so I enjoy witnessing moments of people doing simple, everyday things: two friends laughing in a coffee shop, an old man

sitting on a bench reading a book, a secretary typing away on their computer. I find moments such as these comforting, as they remind me to take time to stop worrying about the complexities of life and to just enjoy the present. It is these ordinary moments of life that I aim to capture in my drawings."

"I take familiar figures and objects from the world and draw them using only the most basic lines and shapes. A house turns into a rectangle, a nose shifts into a triangle, a jacket fold becomes a mere line. The simplicity of these lines and shapes not only reflects the structural aspects of the object matter; it also reflects the simplicity of the mundane moments that I am striving to portray."

Edwards graduated this spring and has plans to go to stenography school and become a forensic artist.



Maggie Edwards



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Maggie Edwards' art was on exhibit May 5 through 13.

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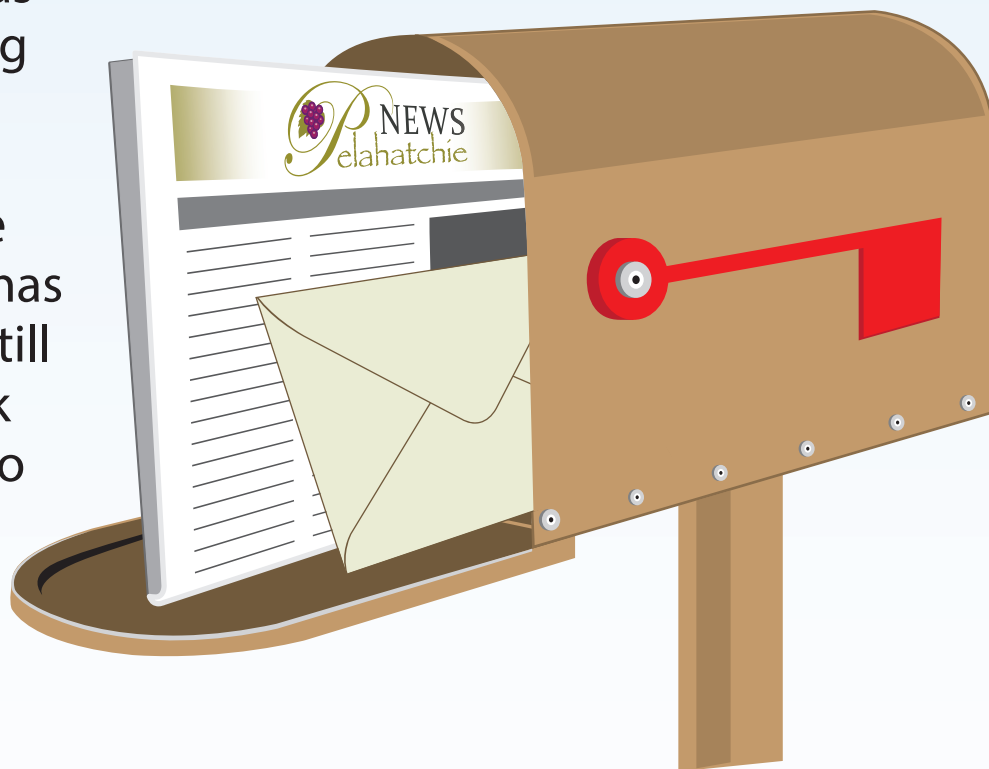
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The difference between carpenter bees and bumble bees



Special to
Pelahatchie News

By Doug Carter, Rankin
County Extension Agent

Carpenter bees may look a lot like bumble bees, but they are not bumble bees. There are big differences in the habits and biology of these two groups of bees. In fact, they do not belong in the same entomological family. One of the most easily observed physical differences is that the top of the abdomen of carpenter bees is slick and shiny, while bumble bees are covered with black and white or yellow hairs. Also bumble bees nest in the ground, while carpenter bees nest in above ground wood galleries.

In the last several years, things have gotten a little more confusing with the arrival of the giant resin bee. This is a non-native bee that looks a lot like the carpenter bee, but has a longer, more cylindrical body and a larger head. Giant resin bees do not bore into wood but they nest in holes, and they find old carpenter bee galleries to nest in. Like carpenter bees, they are not aggressive, and the stings are rare.

Although there are other carpenter bees in the state, the eastern carpen-

ter bee is the most common. The white-faced males are hard to miss because of their habit of bussing about, hovering in mid-air. This threatens people, but the males are harmless because they have no sting. Many folks remember playing with white faced bumble bees as children.

Female carpenter bees can sting, but they are not aggressive and do not sting unless forced to do so. Females are easily distinguished from males because their face is solid black, while the males have a distinct white spot in the middle of the face. Females also behave differently than the males.



Female carpenter bee



Bumble bee

Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Females don't take time for the idle buzzing and aerial acrobatics like the males. They spend their time boring nesting galleries, collecting pollen and nectar to provision the gallery and laying eggs.

Carpenter bees overwinter as adults inside their wood galleries and emerge in early spring. After the females of this generation finish boring galleries and laying eggs, there will be a mid-summer lull in activity while the immature bees develop. Through much of Missis-

issippi, a second generation will emerge in late summer to repeat the process. In the northern part of the United States,

they will produce just one generation per year.

Galleries which are a little less than a half inch in diameter and can be more than a foot long are usually made in unpainted softwood lumber. They prefer pine, cypress and cedar, but will occasionally bore in other types of lumber. Timbers can be weakened by the presence of multiple galleries, and galleries can also allow moisture to enter the wood and hasten decay.

Painted or sealed wood is seldom attacked by carpenter bees, so painting or sealing the wood surface is a long-term solution for carpenter bees. When using paint to prevent a carpenter attack, it is important for the paint or sealant coat to be thick enough to totally cover the wood grain.

The most effective way to control carpenter bees with insecticide is to apply small amounts of insecticide dust directly into the galleries. The dust remains active in the galleries for many months and kills the bees as they come and go and come in contact with it. Female bees are killed when they return to the gallery, and newly hatched bees are killed when they emerge.

Source: *Bug-Wise*, Mississippi State University Extension, No. 5, April, 2011.

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11:00 a.m. - Blended Worship Service led by the Choir

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Rev. Miller appointed Pastor at Gulde and Pelahatchie

By Katie White

Rev. Beth Miller of Madison began her appointment and leadership at Gulde and Pelahatchie United Methodist Church (UMC) on March 2, 2022, with a service of worship for Ash Wednesday.

Before earning her license to preach, Rev. Miller earned a B.S. in Sociology at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), M.Ed. in Guidance & Counseling and a M.S. in Marriage & Family Therapy at Mississippi College and a Ed.S. in Adult Education at USM. She also earned professional credentials as a Licensed Professional Counselor.

Rev. Miller then began her Biblical education in Theology at Emory / Candler School of Theology Extension School at Millsaps College. She furthered her career with an advanced course of study at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Rev. Miller earned her license to preach in 1999, earning her the title of Second Career Clergywoman and a membership in full connection with the Mississippi United Methodist (UM) Annual Conference. In 2020, she was recognized as an Ordained Elder.

Rev. Miller has held a part-time local pastor position at Monterey UMC, and she has held full-time appointments at Rolling Fork UMC, Pontotoc First UMC, Ridgeland UMC, Christ UMC and Rexford and Harrisville UMC. She is a Board of Medical Benefits member with the Mississippi UM Annual Conference and is involved with the District Committee on Ordained Ministry with



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Rev. Beth Miller shows a cake that was made for her welcome lunch.

the District Leadership Team and SLI County Connection Team.

Rev. Miller was raised in Florence, and was brought up at Marvin UMC. Her son, Marc Miller, is married to Britney Miller. Marc and Britney Miller have two children: an eleven-year old son, Eli; and a five-year-old daughter, Ellie.

Sunday morning worship service begins at 10 a.m. at Gulde UMC and 11 a.m. at Pelahatchie UMC.

Hanson graduates from Belhaven University



Special to Pelahatchie News

Haley Hanson, a Pelahatchie resident, recently graduated from Belhaven University with a Bachelor of Science degree. She also played for the Belhaven Blazers softball team. She was among more than 600 students who received degrees from Belhaven University during the Spring 2022 commencement.

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Dr. Daniel Edney appointed new State Health Officer

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Mississippi State Board of Health recently announced that Daniel P. Edney, MD, FACP, FASAM, will be appointed as the new State Health Officer of the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), effective August 1, 2022.

Edney currently holds the position of Deputy State Health Officer. He initially joined MSDH as chief medical officer and regional health officer for the Central Public Health Region in February 2021.

According to State Health Officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs, Edney has been a tremendous asset since he joined the health department, and especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Among his various contributions, Dr. Edney worked with various organizations and partnerships to explain COVID-19 and answer questions. He has also worked with providers to sign them up to give COVID-19 vaccine, and he fielded questions from providers about allergies and other complica-

tions related to the administration of the vaccine,” said Dobbs.

Edney appreciates the time he has spent working closed with Dobbs.

“Following in the footsteps of Dr. Dobbs, I, too, hope to serve as a catalyst for change – especially with infant and maternal mortality, the opioids battle plaguing the country right now, and moving the needle in preventive health and health equity issues,” Edney added.

A summa cum laude graduate of both William Carey University and the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, Edney is a board-certified General Internist with sub-



Special to Pelahatchie News

Daniel P. Edney, MD, FACP, FASAM

specialty board certification in Addiction Medicine. He completed his internship and residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Virginia.

He has practiced general primary care internal medicine in Vicksburg since 1991 and has worked actively in the field of addiction medicine since 2013. He currently serves as an addiction medicine specialist for various inpatient residential facilities and outpatient programs in the state and has a private practice at the Medical Associates of Vicksburg.

Edney is a former president of the Mississippi State Medical Association and currently serves as a board member on the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure. He has also served as a fellow and laureate for the Mississippi Chapter of the American College of Physicians and a fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

Edney will be replacing Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH, who is resigning from his position at the end of July.

Locals named to President's and Dean's lists at MC

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Mississippi College (MC) Office of Academic Affairs releases the President's list after the close of fall and spring semesters each academic year. To be eligible for the President's list, a student must maintain a 4.0 grade point average, based on a 4.0 system.

The following students who are on the President's list are from Pelahatchie:

- Colburn Jones
- Laura Wingo

The MC Office of Academic Affairs also releases the Dean's list after the close of fall and spring semesters each academic year. To be eligible for the Dean's list, a student must maintain a 3.5 grade point average, based on a 4.0 system.

The following students who are on the Dean's list are from Pelahatchie:

- Scarlett Castillo
- Jason Wuestefeld

ERA Shooting Sports Team wins third consecutive state championship title



Students from ERA earned scholarships at the MSSP, held by MDWFP. Pictured (l to r) are: Coach Vince Bynum; Gabe Nutt of Morton (\$3000); Brayden Warner of Brandon (\$250); Lana Jones (\$2000); and Coach Phillip Nettles.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

The 2022 ERA Shooting Sports Team includes, front row (l to r): Coach Vince Bynum, Irby Rawson, Garrett Gregory, Gabe Nutt, Lana Jones, Brayden Warner, Evan McIlwain, Olivia Griffing, Addison Brown, Claire Myrick and Coach Phillip Nettles; second row (l to r): Isaac Young, Hudson Bynum, Aiden Boyd, Chylen Williams, Will Burrow, Parker Davis, Grayson Williams and Abram Rowell; and third row (l to r): Gavin Thomas, Braiden Warren, Riley Huff, Garreth Barham, Tyler Burgess, Rhodes Warner and Landon Haas.

Special to Pelahatchie News

In a two-day shoot, April 30-May 1, 2022, the Mississippi Scholastic Shooting Program (MSSP) welcomed the top 150 sporting clay, skeet and trap shooters between seventh- and twelfth- grade. The Foundation for Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) awarded \$12,000 in scholarships to the tournament winners. East Rankin Academy's (ERA) Shooting Sports Team took home the State Title for the third consecutive year and brought home \$7,500 of the scholarships given.

The following students from ERA were

recognized for their sharp shooting in the state tournament: **Combine HOA (High Over All)**, Gabe Nutt; **Combine HOA Squad**, Gabe Nutt, Lana Jones and Brayden Warner; **Combine 1st Place Female**, Lana Jones; **Combine 1st Place Squad**, Hudson Bynum, Addison Brown and Landon Haas; **Combine 2nd Place Male**, Brayden Warner; **Combine 2nd Place Female**, Addison Brown; **Combine 3rd Place Male**, Hudson Bynum; **Combine 3rd Place Female**, Olivia Griffing; **Sporting Clay HOA**, Brayden Warner; **Sporting Clay 1st Place Female**, Lana Jones; **Sporting Clay 1st Place Squad**, Brayden Warner, Lana Jones and Gabe

Nutt; **Sporting Clay 2nd Place Female**, Addison Brown; **Sporting Clay 2nd Place Squad**, Addison Brown, Hudson Bynum and Landon Haas; **Sporting Clay 3rd Place Female**, Olivia Griffing; **Skeet 1st Place Male**, Hudson Bynum; **Skeet 1st Place Female**, Lana Jones; **Skeet 1st Place Squad**, Gabe Nutt, Lana Jones and Brayden Warner; **Skeet 2nd Place Female**, Olivia Griffing; **Skeet 2nd Place Squad**, Hudson Bynum, Addison Brown and Landon Haas; **Skeet 3rd Place Female**, Addison Brown; **Trap 1st Place Female**, Olivia Griffing; **Trap 1st Place Squad**, Gabe Nutt, Lana Jones and Brayden Warner; **Trap 2nd**

Place Male, Gabe Nutt; **Trap 2nd Place Female**, Addison Brown; **Trap 3rd Place Female**, Lana Jones; **Top Gun 1st Place Male**, Brayden Warner; **Top Gun 2nd Place Male**, Gabe Nutt; **Top Gun 2nd Place Female**, Addison Brown; **Top Gun 3rd Place Male**, Hudson Bynum; **Top Gun 3rd Place Female**, Lana Jones; **Honorable Mention 6th Place Female**, Evan McIlwain; **7th Place Combine Squad**, Parker Davis, Riley Huff and Abram Rowell; **10th Place Combine Squad**, Olivia Griffing, Chylen Williams and William Burrow; and **23rd Place Combine Squad**, Braiden Warren, Aiden Boyd and Evan McIlwain.

White earns Technical Certificate

Special to Pelahatchie News

Northwest Mississippi Community College officials announced 106 graduates have been awarded the Technical Certificate for the spring 2022 semester. Certificates were officially awarded by Dr. Michael Heindl, Northwest president, on May 6, 2022, during the college's 110th Commencement.



NORTHWEST
MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Andrew White of Pelahatchie is included on the list of graduates. White was a student at Pelahatchie High School.

The Technical Certificate is awarded to students completing a minimum of 45 hours in a specific technical program. It is designed to meet the educational needs of students who are seeking preparation for employment in occupational fields not requiring a four-year degree. Students must make a passing



Special to Pelahatchie News

Andrew White

grade and average a minimum 2.0 grade point on those courses required in the curriculum.

HCC 2022 President's and Dean's Scholars

Special to Pelahatchie News

Hinds Community College (HCC) announced its Spring 2022 Graduates, President's Scholars and Dean's Scholars.

Students from Pelahatchie named as President's Scholars who have a cumulative 4.0 grade point average include: Christina Alvarado; Wendy Bennett; Rebecca Bond; Eli Boyer; Logan Carlin; Hamilton Davis; Daniel Henley; Madison Holmes; Joseph Houston; Roger Jordan; Colby Stewart; Diana Tucker; Kayla



Vanderford; Kaitlyn White; and Thomas Woods.

HCC also announced the Deans' Scholars for the Spring 2022 semester.

Students from Pelahatchie named as Dean's Scholar who have a cumulative 3.5 to 3.9 grade point average include: Katie Boyer; Kealey Bradford; Anna Carter; Kimberly Cochran; James Conklin; Dylan Delaughter; Summer Georger; Landri Gray; Alaina Hughes; Brooklyn Johnson; Charay Johnson; Madison McCarley; and Roxie Smith.

Spring 2022 graduates at HCC

Special to Pelahatchie News

Hinds Community College graduated more than 1,300 students in one of four graduation ceremonies over two days May 11 and 12 at the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus and a fifth Saturday May 14 ceremony at J.D. Boyd Gymnasium on the Utica Campus. Hinds awarded 1,671 certificates and degrees, with some students receiving more than one credential.

Of those graduating, 252 graduated cum laude with a grade point average of 3.2 to 3.59; 199 graduated magna cum laude with a grade point average of 3.6 to 3.99 and 209 graduated summa cum laude with a grade point average of 4.0.

Among those from Pelahatchie who graduated in Spring 2022 are: Rebecca Bond; Katie Boyer; Kealey Bradford; Anna Carter; Christian Earby; Alaina Hughes; Charay Johnson; Jimmie Lewis; and Jessica Shamburger.

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When life gives you lemons, make a Lemon Refresher!

Pastor's Perspective: God's perfect model for fatherhood



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

Special to Pelahatchie News

June 19 will be Father's Day, when we honor our fathers and celebrate the role of fathers in society. The idea for Father's Day began in 1909, when Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, heard a Mother's Day sermon. Her father was William Smart, a Civil War veteran from Arkansas. As a single parent, he had raised his six children there. Sonora decided that, while it was appropriate to recognize and honor mothers, that fathers should also be celebrated. She spoke with her pastor about the idea. He carried the suggestion to the pastors of the Spokane Ministerial Alliance, who agreed, and the first Father's Day was held the following year in churches throughout Spokane.

In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers, designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Six years later, the day was made a permanent national holiday, when President Richard Nixon signed it into law in 1972.

When you think about Father's Day,

what comes to your mind? Can you relate to Sonora Dodd, who was concerned about taking her father for granted? Honoring fathers is important. After all, the Bible commands us to honor them; but, this year, think of Father's Day with a new twist. Take some time to consider all the things your Heavenly Father has done for you and how you might be taking Him for granted. After all, He is the perfect example of what it means to be a dad. Looking at each of the letters that make up the word "father," consider some of the characteristics that set Him apart and provide a model for our human dads.

F - Forgiveness is a huge part of your relationship with your Father. He is willing and able to forgive you of any sin you commit if you will only ask Him. It's comforting to know that nothing you do is ever so bad that God won't forgive you. His forgiveness is unconditional.

A - He is active in your life all the time. God is always at work around you. Ask God to show you what He is doing. You will be amazed at all that is going on. More important, the invitation is open for you to get involved with Him. You never have to wait for your turn to be active with God.

T - Time for you. While humans get



Special to Pelahatchie News

too busy to do this or that, God always has time for you. Whenever you feel lonely, struggle with a problem, want to share a thought, or need to deal with a concern, He is there for you. You can't find a time in your day when He is too busy to talk or listen to you.

H - The heart of the matter is that God knows your heart, and He loves you anyway. Proverbs tells us that the heart is deceitful above all things. Some people may not want to be in your life if you make mistakes. God wants to be with you anytime, and He alone is able to change your heart to be all you were created to be.

E - Everywhere sums up God's place

in your life. If you're a Christian, there is nowhere you can go where He isn't with you. It can be encouraging to realize that when you are in a tough place in your life, He is right there with you. Whether other people are there or not, God is always by your side.

R - Rest and read. These are two areas where most people could use a little work. Rest is important to you, because it's easy to become so busy that you don't take time with the Lord. He wants you to set aside daily time to rest in Him and to read His word. The Bible is His letter to His children. The best way to get to know your Father is to spend quality time resting and reading all about Him in His Word.

All these attributes of God's character make Him a perfect model for fatherhood. If you have been blessed with an earthly dad who has a lot in common with our Heavenly Father, be grateful. If you have missed out on a relationship with an earthly dad, be thankful that God is there for you and wants to meet the needs in your life. Let God know how much He means to you. (The idea for this devotion comes from an article by Rachel Lovingood.)

Be sure to take your family to church on Sunday!

University of MS 2022 Chancellor's Honor Roll



Photo by Kevin Bain/Ole Miss Digital Imaging Services

A busy day on the University of Mississippi campus in Oxford.

Special to Pelahatchie News

The University of Mississippi announced students named to the Spring 2022 Honor Roll lists, including the Chancellor's Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.75-4.00. The following students are on the Chancellor's Honor Roll list and are from Pelahatchie:

- Joseph Winstead, who majored in Mechanical Engineering. He received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the School of Engineering in May 2022.

- Hannah Whitney, majoring in Film Production.
- Jessi Thompson, majoring in Biological Science.
- Reagan Sanders, majoring in Elementary Education.

"The remarkable students achieving Chancellor's Honor Roll are among the best and brightest at the University of Mississippi," said Chancellor Glenn Boyce. "I commend them for their hard work and dedication resulting in their outstanding academic achievements and this well-deserved recognition."



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Secretary



Kate Betts
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Brayden Whitney
Class Treasurer



Abby Blair



Brett Bridges

East Rankin Academy Class of 2022



Stephens Bulger



Candice Crain



Madelyn Denson



Mallory Ellis



Hunter Everett



Ryan Ferguson



Walker Floyd



Olivia Goolsby



Garrett Gregory



Landon Haas



Caiden Hall



Karlee Harrison



Neely Hawthorne



Tyler Henderson



Anna Lane Hutson



Jonathan Lamberth



Brooklyn Luke



Emily Maroney



Parker Martin



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The 2022 graduating class of East Rankin Academy

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Students from Pelahatchie among 959 UMMC graduates

Special to Pelahatchie News

The University of Mississippi Medical Center recently conferred degrees to hundreds of students who are beginning their careers in the health sciences or entering into a new chapter of an existing one in this state and beyond.

The following graduates are from the Town of Pelahatchie:

- Benjamin Mack Willoughby, BS
- Kristi Nicole Cofer, MHSA
- Joseph D Easterling, BSN
- Cameron Lee Padgett, BSN
- Lauren Elizabeth Shoemaker, MSN

The graduates of the schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences, Population Health, and Health Related Professions are leaving campus with the aim of improving health and quality of life. Of this year’s graduating class of 959 students, more than 700 walked across the stage in cap and gown to receive their diplomas in person.

“There are just four things I want you to take with you,” Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, told graduates.

“Today is a milestone. It is not the end. In fact, this is only the beginning of your learning process,” Woodward said. “As you go forward, you will learn from one another, and you will learn from the greatest teachers of all: the patients.

“You will make choices every day that will impact others in a significant way. Deal with others and those you serve with a deep respect for our differences,” she said. “Choose respect. Choose kindness. Choose courage.

“Our nation will continue to struggle with ways to care for the sick. I challenge every one of you to be part of the solution to this struggle. In all things, leave it better than you found it.

“You will never practice any health profession well if you don’t have a good time doing it,” Woodward said. “The work before you is hard. It is important. It is heavy. And, it is rewarding and it is worth doing. Remember the excitement, the spirit, the passion you have today. Look for the joy. Have a good time.”

Dr. Glenn Boyce, chancellor of the University of Mississippi, told graduates that he’s confident they are well prepared for their next steps of training or for launching their careers as a health care provider or researcher.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Wearing the colors of their fields of study, UMMC graduates await the start of ceremonies Friday.

“We’re especially grateful for this class of graduates who demonstrated perseverance and resilience during one of the most challenging periods in our nation’s history,” Boyce said. “You’ve reached this pinnacle and your educational goals through hard work, grit, and determination.

“And, I know you’ve done so with the steadfast support, and many times sacrifice, of your loved ones,” he said.

“It is my honor to join you here today as we mark the culmination of years of study, sacrifice and diligent preparation, and the fulfillment of many lifelong dreams.”



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Incoming Honors College student relishes the opportunity to excel

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie's Margaret Wingo is among fifteen of the nation's brightest high school graduates committed to academic excellence, spiritual maturity, and civic engagement. She will soon develop life-long friendships while challenging her colleagues as they challenge her scholastically, creatively, and biblically as participants in the Honors College at Mississippi College (MC).

Members of the incoming, fourth cohort hail from five different states, have varied educational backgrounds, and seek degrees in a wide array of academic programs, but they all share the same goal: to closely follow the college's mission to "imitate Christ, cultivate virtue, and pursue human flourishing."

This summer, they will go through general freshman orientation before meeting with their respective departmental advisors and enrolling in Honors 101.

While the main threshold for Honors College consideration is an ACT of 29 or above or equivalent SAT score, Dr. Erin Norcross, director of the Honors College, said each participant is selected after a rigorous application process.

"The first part of the application consists of two essays they write in response to questions the selection committee asks," said Norcross, assistant professor

in the Department of Biological Science at MC. "Then students are selected to be interviewed by multiple faculty members, who ask a variety of questions to get to know them better. That's where their personalities get to shine.

The desire to excel scholastically comes naturally to Wingo, a Pelahatchie native and Hartfield Academy graduate who will be pursuing a degree in Christian Studies.

"I have always tried to push myself and broaden my opportunities as much as possible, especially in academics," Wingo said. "Honors College seems like the perfect place to be challenged and grow more than I would otherwise. The Honors College faculty have already been incredibly welcoming, and the other students in Honors College are amazing. The sophomores and juniors have reached out already and made me feel like a part of the family.

"The Honors College will help me focus on what I need to accomplish my career

goals and provide more experience and training in the specific area that I need. It will better prepare me and connect me with where I need to go."

Honors College students also have the opportunity to interact with notable guests, including community leaders, physicians, politicians, and athletes, and gain valuable insight into numerous professional fields.

Earlier in May, in conjunction with MC's McMillan Center for Education Abroad, the inaugural cohort of Honors College students toured the country of Thailand. They visited the Queen's Botanical Garden in Chiang Mai and experienced horticulture from around

the world. They stayed in Kanchanaburi and visited the River Kwai. They learned about events in World War II and the hell-fire pass death railway. They explored several palaces and saw various forms of Buddha, contrasting their religious practices and beliefs with those in Thailand.

Dr. Beth Stapleton, director of the McMillan Center and professor of Spanish and linguistics at MC who accompanied the Honors College students on the excursion, said, "The overarching theme for them was discovery. They each discovered aspects of themselves in the new culture.

It was an experiential learning opportunity that Dr. Blake Thompson, MC president, envisioned when he announced the formation of the Honors College during his inauguration in 2018. Established by J.L. Holloway, a Mississippi businessman, Honors College students receive a four-year, full-ride scholarship covering all educational costs at the Baptist-affiliated University, including the summer international experience.

Stapleton said the highlight for many of the first Honors College cohort's trip to Thailand was the unscripted information the tour guide shared with them during the visit.

"During their first two years, they take Honors College classes together," Norcross said. "Once they get to their junior year, they take honors classes more directly related to their individual areas of interest.

"The international experience brings everyone back together. How they travel and study and look at various cultures becomes interdisciplinary once again."



Special to Pelahatchie News

Dr. Erin Norcross, front row, right, and Dr. Beth Stapleton, front row, second from right, join the inaugural cohort of MC Honors College students enjoying the scenery near Chiang Mai, Thailand. MC Honors College Class of 2026 Cohort Roster includes: Avery Foret, Nathan Heard, Eva Henderson, Charlie Hight, Mia Hyme, Aiden Knudsen, Micah Lindley, Kennedy Maloney, Anna Robbins, David Schmid, Brinley Sullivan, Anne Taylor, Brandon Welch, Margaret Wingo and Hannah Winston.

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