

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Christmas in Pelahatchie sprinkled throughout - pp. 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12 and 14

State Board of Education seeks high school sophomores as junior representatives - pg. 14



January  
2023

Volume 12  
Issue 1  
Pelahatchie, MS

Keeton selected as a coach for the 2022 Bernard Blackwell Classic SOUTH All-star

Special to Pelahatchie News

On Dec. 17, 2022, the high school football season was near the end, as Gulfport’s Milner Stadium hosted the 74th annual Bernard Blackwell All-Star game. With 20 seconds left in the game and a final touchdown, the South team won over the North team with a score of 14-10.

Ryan Keeton, Pelahatchie High School Athletic Director, provided his expertise as one of nine football coaches of the South All-Star team that defeated the North.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Football coaches selected for the 74th Bernard Blackwell Classic, pictured (l to r) are: Benjie Merchant (Hazlehurst); Bobby Bass (Newton Co.); Sam Williams (Brandon); Drew Causey (Oak Grove); Blake Pennock (Ocean Springs); Justin Hunter (Pearl); and Ryan Keeton (Pelahatchie). Not pictured: Jay Beech (Poplarville) and Damien Gary (Hazlehurst).

McCrory District Parent of the Year

Special to Pelahatchie News

Kaila McCrory was named the Rankin County School District’s (RCSD) District Parent of the Year in December, 2022.

In November, Pelahatchie Elementary (PE) announced McCrory as the Parent of the Year for the school. The school had the following to say about McCrory, “She has worked diligently to revitalize our parent teacher organization. We thank you (her) for supporting Pelahatchie Elementary.”

McCrory expressed publicly that she is “honored to say the least.”



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pictured (l to r) are: Undray Scott, Assistant Superintendent; Shane Sanders, Deputy Superintendent; Kaila McCrory, Dr. Scott Rimes, Superintendent; Dr. Amanda Stocks, Assistant Superintendent; and Ben Stein, Assistant Superintendent

Subscribe Today!

Call 601-990-9511

PSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PELAHATCHIE, MS  
PERMIT NO. 4

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



**EastRankin**  
FAMILY DENTAL

Dr. C. Stewart Strange  
Dr. Chandler H. Pleasant  
Dr. Garrett Hall

Mon 8a-7p, Wed 8a-5p  
& Tues 8a-5p

601-854-7478

www.eastrankinfamilydental.com

**TREATING CHILDREN,  
ADULTS, AND SENIORS**

Cleanings • Fillings • Extractions  
Whitening • Dentures • Crowns  
Root Canals • Implants and More

Accepting Insurance, Medicaid,  
CHIPS, and CareCredit

**A CARING & FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE**





## Watson named Secondary Teacher of the Year



Special to Pelahatchie News

Rankin County School District names Kimberly Watson as the Secondary Teacher of the Year. Watson teaches the 7th-12th grade at Pelahatchie High School. She teaches Intro to World Languages, Spanish I, Spanish II and Oral Communication.

## Nativity scene in the Town of Pelahatchie



Photo by Pelahatchie News

The Davis Center in the Town of Pelahatchie displayed a warm glow of the nativity scene.



P.O. Box 771  
 Pelahatchie, MS 39145

Volume 13 Issue 1  
 Circulation - 3,600

**Publisher**  
 Clay Mansell  
 claymansell@pelahatchienews.com

**Editor in Chief**  
 Stephanie Tracy

**Managing Editor/Graphic Designer**  
 Katie White, (601) 566-1932 x5  
 news@pelahatchienews.com

**Sales**  
 Judy Duke, (601) 706-9237 x2  
 sales@pelahatchienews.com

**Social Media Manager**  
 Susie A. Wolfe, (601) 566-1932 x2  
 susieawolfe@gmail.com

**Office Manager**  
 Doris Bynum, (601) 566-1932 x0

For submission information, email  
 news@pelahatchienews.com.

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

Copyright 2023. All rights reserved. Materials may not be  
 reproduced in whole or in part without written permission  
 of the publisher.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/PelahatchieNews](http://www.facebook.com/PelahatchieNews)

## Crooked Creek Animal Hospital, Inc.



Charles M. Edwards II, DVM  
 Staci L. Rhodes, DVM

123 Pleasant Pace Dr.  
 Pelahatchie, MS  
[www.crookedcreekanimal.com](http://www.crookedcreekanimal.com)  
 Phone: 601-854-7808  
 Fax: 601-854-7810

Crooked Creek Lodge  
 601-812-7012  
[ccahlodge@gmail.com](mailto:ccahlodge@gmail.com)

Follow us on:



[www.facebook.com/CrookedCreekAH](https://www.facebook.com/CrookedCreekAH)



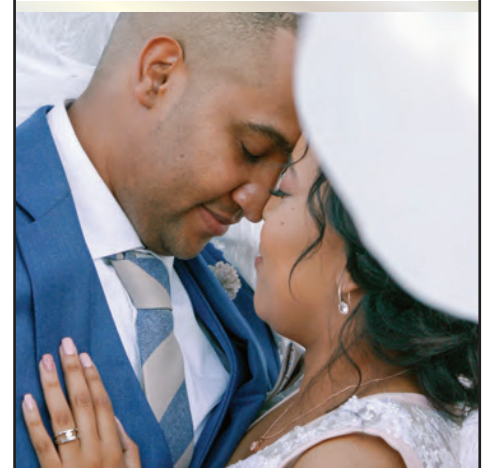
[www.instagram.com/ccanimalhospital](https://www.instagram.com/ccanimalhospital)



[www.facebook.com/CrookedCreekLodge](https://www.facebook.com/CrookedCreekLodge)



Announce Your  
 Big Event with  
*Pelahatchie News!*  
 Call 706-9237 ext. 2!







**Trustmark**  
Banking and Financial Solutions



**ENDIA BANKS**

**REAL ESTATE AGENT**  
Whether you're buying or selling,  
I'm here to help you through every  
step of the process.

**CONTACT INFO**  
601-212-3418  
endiab@yahoo.com  
www.cparealty.com  
MRP, C2EX



## ERA students receive superior ratings



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy students receive superior ratings at the Midsouth Association of Independent Schools (MAIS) Music Festival. Pictured (l to r) are: Charity Johnston (solo), Maury Walley (solo), Abby Porter (solo) and Peyton Patrick (Piano).

## Christmas lights on the water



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Yogi Bear on the Lake provided the warmth of Christmas for all who stay and all who play.

## NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS

### 1 & 2 BEDROOMS PELAHATCHIE APARTMENTS

713 College Street, Pelahatchie, MS 39145  
601-854-5814, TTY: 711

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday & Wednesday  
8:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

*Appliances Furnished • Central Heat & Air  
Laundry Facilities • HUD Vouchers Accepted*

For more information or to place an application call the office number  
listed above or come by the office during office hours.



**J&A Management**  
Corinth, MS  
662-287-6158



"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employee."



# Grant program offers free graduate degree to aspiring educators

Special to Pelahatchie News

Applications are now open for new candidates to the Mississippi Department of Education's Mississippi Teacher Residency (MTR) program, where up to two hundred aspiring educators can receive a graduate degree in elementary and secondary education and professional mentorship at no cost.

The priority deadline to submit applications is Feb. 15, 2023. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree and either meet the minimum required passing score on the Praxis Core, have a 21 or higher on the ACT/SAT equivalent or have a 3.0 GPA (last 60 hours of coursework).

Last year, the MDE used \$9.8 million of its American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to award grants to five universities – Delta State Uni-

versity, Jackson State University, Mississippi State University, University of Southern Mississippi and William Carey University – in the MTR program over a two-year period. A total of 103 candidates were admitted with several MTR partner universities currently initiating a midyear application process.

In this next round, those universities will once again enroll diverse participants into their educator preparation programs to work toward their graduate degree and Mississippi teacher certification. Individuals accepted into the MTR program will receive full scholarships, testing

fees, books and mentor stipends. MTR will include training alongside a mentor teacher, testing support, professional development, ongoing assessment and a commitment to teach in a geographical critical shortage district serving

low-income children, racial/ethnic minorities and children with disabilities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Candidates admitted in the latest round of the MTR program should graduate by summer 2024.

When applying, applicants will indicate what university program they want to join and select up to two school dis-

trict options to work in. Confirmed participating school districts are included in the application and will be updated as needed on the MTR website based on each university's established process for selecting district partners in geographical critical shortage areas.

All complete applications will be provided to MTR universities to determine candidate eligibility. Eligible applications will then be provided to each candidate's top-choice MTR partner school districts, which may then opt to interview applicants either in-person or virtually. After interviews are complete, the MDE will conduct a matching process based on information from MTR applicants, universities and school districts. Applicants will be notified of their possible acceptance into the MTR program by May 2023.

For more information on the MTR program, visit [mdek12.org/OTL/MTR](http://mdek12.org/OTL/MTR).



Special to Pelahatchie News

## UMMC, BCBSMS reach agreement



Special to Pelahatchie News

Special to Pelahatchie News

The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) and Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi (Blue Cross) have reached an agreement.

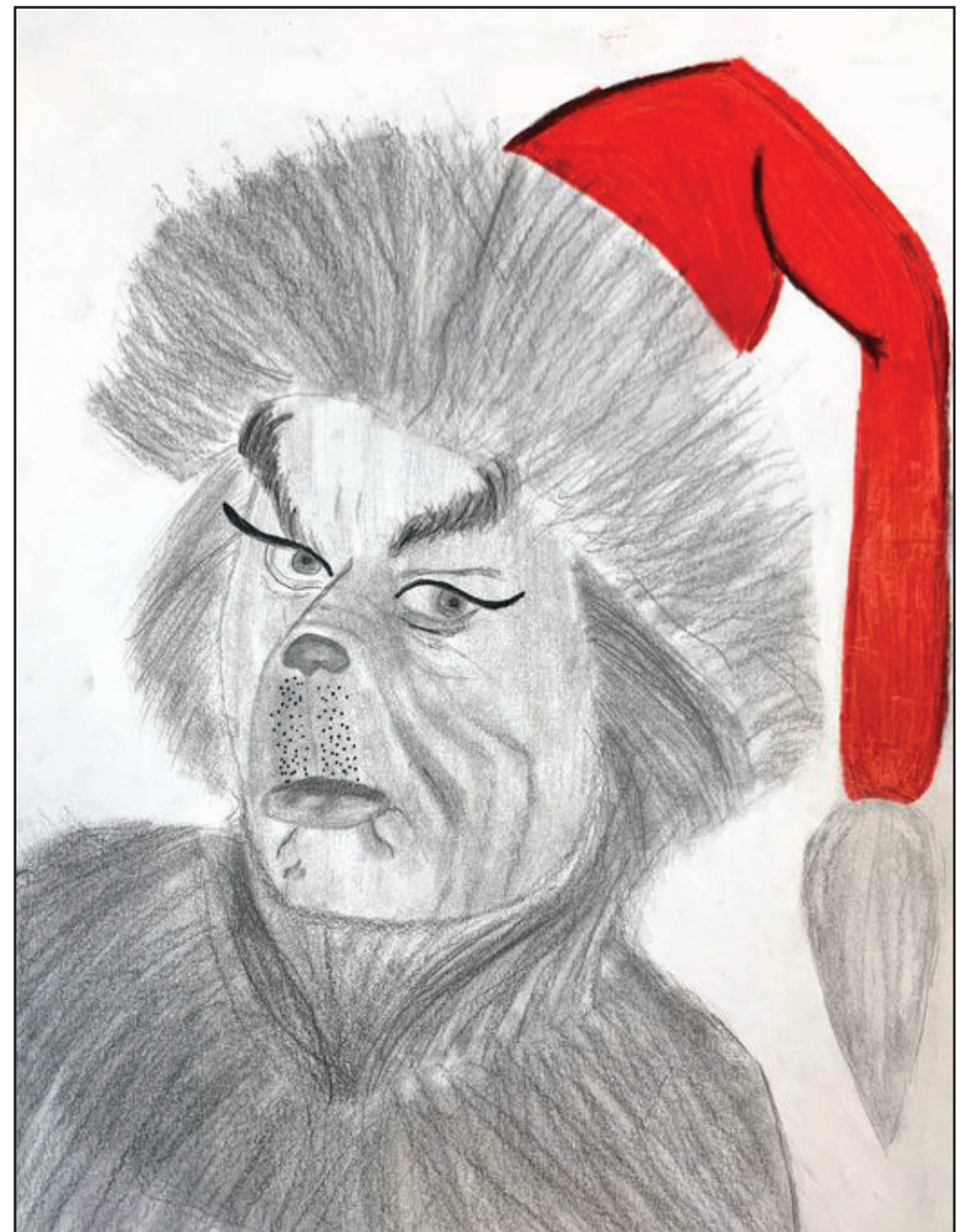
Effective Dec. 15, 2022, all UMMC facilities, physicians and other individual Professional Providers are fully participat-

ing Network Providers for all Blue Cross commercial health plans, including the Federal Employee Plan and Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans from other states.

Blue Cross and UMMC remain focused on their missions of serving Mississippians' health care needs.

The terms of the contracts are confidential.

## Whiddon's art featured in Rankin magazine



Art by Savannah Whiddon

Pelahatchie High School Savannah Whiddon's art of The Grinch was featured in the Hometown Rankin Magazine's December Art Cover Contest. Whiddon is in the 9th-grade. Hometown Rankin stated, "We want to encourage the artistic ability in the county's brightest young artists."

# BANKRUPTCY

**CHAPTER 7**  
DEBT ELIMINATION

\$545 + court cost  
uncontested

**CHAPTER 13**  
DEBT CONSOLIDATION

\$37 Attorneys fees \$313 Court fee  
\$50 Credit Counseling  
\$400 to file

## Grindstaff Law

**840 E. River Place Ste 605**  
**Jackson MS 39202**  
**601-346-6443**

**121 1/2 W. Cherokee St**  
**Brookhaven, MS**  
**601-684-1798**

WE ARE A DEBT RELIEF AGENCY, WE HELP PEOPLE FILE FOR BANKRUPTCY RELIEF UNDER BANKRUPTCY CODE



# Picturesque of a classic Christmas



Sartin Law Firm, PLLC displays a classic Christmas look.

Photo by Pelahatchie News

# Retirement reception for Rev. Vaughn

Special to Pelahatchie News

Cross Roads Baptist Church will honor Rev. John W. Vaughn with a retirement reception on Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023, from 2 to 4.

Rev. Vaughn retired on Dec. 31, 2022. He served in the ministry for 40 years.

Rev. Vaughn served as pastor at Cross Roads Baptist for almost 20 years.

Cross Roads Baptist Church invites the public to join them as they celebrate his ministry. The reception will be held in the fellowship hall at Cross Roads Baptist Church. The church is located at 104 Crossroads Rd., Pelahatchie.



Cross Roads Baptist Church



Special to Pelahatchie News

Rev. John Vaughn and wife, Kathy Vaughn

MADE A  
NEW YEAR'S  
RESOLUTION TO  
BUY OR SELL?  
I'M HERE TO HELP!  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2023

MEGAN HALL  
REALTOR  
601-540-4084  
601-427-5088  
WWW.THETKP.COM

TurnKey  
PROPERTIES

## Cross Roads Baptist Church

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

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

**Online Worship Opportunities:**  
(Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook Page)  
8:30 a.m. - Worship Service every Sunday  
7:30 a.m. - Morning Devotion every weekday morning

Cross Roads Baptist Church, 104 Crossroads Road, Pelahatchie, MS 39145  
(601) 546-2297 • [www.crbc.online](http://www.crbc.online)  
(5 miles south of Interstate 20 on Highway 43 South)



## Cross Roads Grill “must see” Christmas village



Special to Pelahatchie News

While customers ate, they dined in the joy of a Christmas Village that was a must see.

## Magee named the Student Athlete of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie High School (PHS) November Student Athlete of the Month is Javion Magee. The PHS athlete award is sponsored by Brick House Fitness. The school's coaches acknowledge that Magee is "reliable, a good team member. He excels in the classroom as well as the field. Always has a good attitude. Javion doesn't need to direct his peers with his words necessarily; he leads by example. Congratulations Javion Magee for being the PHS and BrickHouse Fitness Student Athlete of the Month."

## PHS Teacher of Innovation is Montana Baker



Special to Pelahatchie News

Montana Baker is the Pelahatchie High School Teacher of Innovation for November. PHS stated, "Baker's work with our exceptional students is outstanding. She holds high expectations while providing opportunities for growth in all aspects of her students' lives. If you have not seen the amazing garden she and our Ag Science class planted, you are missing out! Congratulations Mrs. Baker for being November's Teacher of Innovation!"

EZ WHEELS INC.

**Kubota**

For Earth. For Life.

Your authorized Kubota dealer!

601-854-5112 601-854-5162

NEWS  
Pelahatchie

**Mailed for FREE**  
to every resident and business  
in the Rankin Zip Code of 39145.

To advertise, call Clay at  
601-397-4442.

**WE MAKE HOUSE CALLS**

*We Will Purchase for CASH...*

SCRAP GOLD • COIN COLLECTIONS  
GOLD & SILVER COINS • STERLING FLATWARE  
DIAMONDS • OLD PAPER MONEY  
RARE COINS • ROLEXES/HIGH-END WATCHES

**NICK CLARK • 601-317-2536**

LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED

AUCTIONEER • APPRAISER • BUSINESS BROKER



**GOATS FOR SALE**

601-927-9141 DallasFitzhugh@yahoo.com  
408 Antioch Shiloh Rd., Pelahatchie, MS



# September PHS Chieftain and Academic Awards recognized

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) recognizes the Chieftain Award as an award that goes beyond academics and looks at the character of an individual. The school asks teachers to nominate students for behavior, attendance, citizen-

ship, and other characteristics that exemplify what it means to be a Chief.

The following students received the September Chieftain award:

- 7th grade, Mallarie Adams
- 8th grade, Jermya Johnson
- 9th grade, Savannah Carlino
- 10th grade, Abbi Brown

- 11th grade, Remington Hopson
- 12th grade, Ayden Stewart

PHS recognizes that the “Academic Achievement award speaks for itself. These are the students who work diligently to complete all assignments to the best of their ability.”

The following students received the Academic Achievement award:

- 7th grade, Carlye Grogan
- 8th grade, Mary Taylor Nutt
- 9th grade, Benjamin Burnham
- 10th grade, Isabel Brown
- 11th grade, Chevelle Haven
- 12th grade, Tyler Bayliss



Mallarie Adams, 7th grade



Jermya Johnson, 8th grade



Savannah Carlino, 9th grade



Carlye Grogan, 7th grade



Mary Taylor Nutt, 8th grade



Benjamin Burnham, 9th grade



Abbi Brown, 10th grade



Remington Hopson, 11th grade



Ayden Stewart, 12th grade



Isabel Brown, 10th grade



Chevelle Haven, 11th grade



Special to Pelahatchie News  
Tyler Bayliss, 12th grade

## JOB NOTICE

We are looking for a reliable reporter and manager to join our team. The position is freelance/part-time, with flexible hours, with the exception of required Town meeting attendance and newspaper deadlines.

**Send resumes to  
Clay Mansell at  
claymansell@pelahatchienews.com**



**Good News  
You Can Use.**



YOUR AD  
HERE

YOUR AD  
HERE

# Fusion Martial Arts

503 2nd St., Pelahatchie, MS  
601-941-3937  
Michael Harvey - Owner/Instructor



**Now enrolling new students!**  
Classes held Mondays and Thursdays  
5:30-6:15 -Beginner/Little Dragons  
6:00-6:45 - Beginner/Intermediate  
6:45-7:30- Adult/Advanced



# East Rankin Academy officers for 2022-2023 announced



East Rankin Academy 9th grade class officers include: Jacob Soto, President; R.T. Tate, Vice-President; Paige Mayatte, Secretary; and Tate Ogden, Treasurer.



East Rankin Academy 10th grade class officers include: Jonathan Soto, President; Marshall Poole, Vice-President; Brady Stewart, Secretary; and Aiden Harrell, Treasurer.



East Rankin Academy 11th grade class officers include: Abigail Stevens, President; Addison Brown, Vice-President; Brayden Warner, Secretary; and Lana Jones, Treasurer.



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy 12th grade class officers include: Abby Porter, President; Caleb Leach, Vice-President; Aiden Boyd, Secretary; and Katiana Hayman, Treasurer.

 **PriorityOne**  
MEMBER FDIC

PROTECTION PLANS FOR LARGE PURCHASES  
AS PART OF YOUR CHECKING ACCOUNT?

**YEAH, WE DO THAT.**

ASK FOR KACHING! CHECKING

[www.priorityonebank.com](http://www.priorityonebank.com)

<sup>1</sup> CELL PHONE PROTECTION AND PERSONAL IDENTITY THEFT  
BENEFIT ARE SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL  
TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

<sup>2</sup> INSURANCE PRODUCTS ARE: NOT A DEPOSIT.  
NOT FDIC-INSURED. NOT INSURED BY ANY FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT AGENCY. NOT GUARANTEED BY THE BANK.



# Mississippi Businesses Against Trafficking (MBAT) summit

Special to Pelahatchie news

Secretary of State Michael Watson is pleased to announce a Mississippi Businesses Against Trafficking (MBAT) Summit to be held the afternoon of Jan. 24, 2023, during National Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

In collaboration with the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation (MBI), the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), and the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Center for Human Trafficking Research and Training (CHRT), this live event will be held on the USM campus in Hattiesburg and will include educational information as well as a panel discussion with leading experts around the state and nation.

"We are excited to offer an MBAT Summit for Mississippi businesses to ensure they have the tools and resources needed for educating their employees, customers, and communities to combat human trafficking in our state. I'm ex-

tremely grateful for our partners who have helped plan this event tailored specifically to the business community. It truly takes a team effort," said Secretary Michael Watson.

The MBAT Summit is open to all MBAT partners and those interested in learning more about how to combat human trafficking in Mississippi. Attendees must register prior to the event.

"As co-directors of USM's Center for

Human Trafficking Research and Training, my colleague, Dr. Kim Hogan, and I are thrilled to partner with the Secretary of State's Office in their effort to bring awareness and resources about anti-human trafficking efforts to Mississippi's businesses. We welcome the opportunity to highlight what businesses can do to prevent all forms of human trafficking while effectively responding to their customers and clients who are

affected by this illegal activity," said Dr. Tamara Hurst, Associate Professor, USM School of Social Work.

MBAT is a statewide initiative to raise awareness and empower Mississippi businesses to combat human trafficking. It is open to any business, nonprofit organization, or association in the State of Mississippi that is interested in promoting human trafficking awareness both internally and externally.

## Event details:

- Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023
- Time: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Location: Joe Paul Theater, 118 College Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39406
- Click on registration link at: [www.sos.ms.gov/press/secretary-watson-announces-mbat-summit](http://www.sos.ms.gov/press/secretary-watson-announces-mbat-summit)

For questions regarding the MBAT Summit, contact our External Affairs Division at [ExternalAffairs@sos.ms.gov](mailto:ExternalAffairs@sos.ms.gov) or 601-359-4454.



**SECRETARY MICHAEL WATSON**  
**MS BUSINESSES AGAINST TRAFFICKING**

Special to Pelahatchie News

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT DIRECTORY

For Daily Specials  
Find us on Facebook

Dine-In or Call-In  
Orders Welcome!

Live & Cooked  
Louisiana  
Style Crawfish  
Begins Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>

Bar-B-Que  
All Day Fri & Sat

**CROSS ROADS  
STORE & GRILL**  
PELAHATCHIE MISSISSIPPI

1186 Hwy. 43 South • Pelahatchie

**601-546-2255**  
Tommy & Diana Key, Owners

Home of the  
Hand-pattied  
Burger & Pattied  
Hamburger Steak  
& Gravy

**LAMPTON-LOVE GAS CO.**

PEOPLE TRUST  
OUR PRODUCT  
AND SERVICE

RESIDENTIAL - FARM - INDUSTRIAL  
SALES & SERVICES  
GAS - SYSTEMS - CARBURETION

**DANIEL ROBINSON**  
MANAGER

PELAHATCHIE, MS  
601-854-5256

WE ARE A  
GAS MAN COMPANY

**Specialty Tree Service LLC**  
601-405-5857

Specializing in large and  
dangerous tree removal

**Free  
Estimates!**

Gabe Walters  
601-405-5857

**Tree Removal • Tree Trimming  
Stump Grinding • Lot Clearing  
Debris Removal**

**TOMMY MILES**  
AGENCY PRINCIPAL

  
**Allstate**  
You're in good hands.

**TRI-COUNTY INSURANCE AGENCY**  
89 HWY 481 SOUTH  
MORTON, MS 39117

Phone: (601) 732-6769  
Fax: (601) 732-8777  
Email: [insurant@bellsouth.net](mailto:insurant@bellsouth.net)

 **KIMBERLY BANKS, PLLC**

physical address mailing address  
407 FONTAINE PLACE P.O. BOX 12303  
SUITE 101 JACKSON, MS 39236-2303  
RIDGELAND, MS 39157

P. 601-300-8101 F. 1-855-708-0677  
E. [KBANKS@KIMBERLYBANKSPLLC.COM](mailto:KBANKS@KIMBERLYBANKSPLLC.COM)  
[kbanks@kimberlybankspllc.com](mailto:kbanks@kimberlybankspllc.com)



136 Front Street  
Lake, MS 39092  
601-775-3400

3054 Highway 80 W.  
Morton, MS 39117  
601-732-3624

**WOLF FUNERAL SERVICES, INC.**  
"Familiar faces providing personal service in your time of need."

[www.wolffuneralservices.com](http://www.wolffuneralservices.com)

**RICHLAND WRECKER SERVICE  
& AUTO REPAIR**

We Go The Extra Mile • 24 Hour Service  
22 Years Experience in Auto Repair

Brakes • Timing Belts • Water Pumps • Clutches • Certified A/C and More

Bus. 601-936-0003 **24 HOUR** 2651 Hwy. 468  
Fax 601-936-0353 **601-502-3706** Pearl, MS 39208

**WE BUY JUNK CARS**

**SUBSCRIBE**

 NEWS  
Pelahatchie

Delivered for only **\$12**  
outside the 39145 zip code.  
If you live within the 39145 zip code  
the newspaper is delivered at no charge.

Do you enjoy *Pelahatchie News*? Then have it delivered! We are  
pleased to announce that *Pelahatchie News* is now offering  
subscriptions for \$12 per year if you live out-of-zip code 39145.

Visit [pelahatchienews.com/s/9/subscriptions](http://pelahatchienews.com/s/9/subscriptions) for payment options.

Master Card American Express Discover VISA

 **Crossgates Jewelers, Inc.**  
Tammy & Gerald Frazier  
Owners

(601) 939-9313 401 Cross Park Drive  
Watch & Jewelry Repair Suite A  
Custom Design Pearl, MS 39208





Visit the library  
online at  
[cmrls.lib.ms.us](http://cmrls.lib.ms.us).  
Tina K. Mauney,  
Branch Manager  
601-854-8764

PELAHATCHIE LIBRARY  
JANUARY 2023 ACTIVITIES

Winter Reading Challenge

Sign up on Beanstack or stop by the library to sign up. The challenge includes an opportunity to waive library fees and a chance to win a \$50 gift card.

Sensational Senior (Citizens) Social

Tuesdays @ 11 a.m., weekly, starting January 10

Adult Book Club

Wednesday, January 18, 11 a.m., discussing  
Ken Follett’s novel *Never*



December Senior’s meeting

Special to Pelahatchie News

Hardware store shines bright



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Power Equipment sparks the feeling of a merry Christmas!

Obituaries

| NAME                             | AGE    | CITY        | DOD      | ARRANGEMENTS          |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Jonathan Richard Edwards III     | 85     | Pelahatchie | 12/2/22  | Wolf Funeral Services |
| Joy Beth Short                   | 58     | Morton      | 12/2/22  | Wolf Funeral Services |
| Thomas David Reid                | 78     | Forest      | 12/3/22  | Wolf Funeral Services |
| Timothy James Ivey               | 60     | Newton      | 12/7/22  | Wolf Funeral Services |
| Hubert Arnold Atkinson           | 80     | Carthage    | 12/11/22 | Wolf Funeral Services |
| Glen William Stewart             | 66     | Morton      | 12/11/22 | Wolf Funeral Services |
| William Randall “Randy” Parks    | 66     | Lake        | 12/11/22 | Wolf Funeral Services |
| George Robert Sims               | 80     | Morton      | 12/12/22 | Wolf Funeral Services |
| Trieu J’Khenzie Davis            | 6 mos. | Lena        | 12/13/22 | Wolf Funeral Services |
| Lavelle Lee “Pepper” Culpepper   | 71     | Lake        | 12/14/22 | Wolf Funeral Services |
| James Bobby Kirby, Sr.           | 78     | Forest      | 12/14/22 | Wolf Funeral Services |
| Judy Elizabeth Wallace           | 77     | Morton      | 12/14/22 | Wolf Funeral Services |
| Larry Charles Gibbs              | 62     | Lake        | 12/15/22 | Wolf Funeral Services |
| Kimberly Michell Dilmore Chipley | 48     | Forest      | 12/17/22 | Wolf Funeral Services |
| Clarissa “Rissa” O. Tagert       | 60     | Branch      | 12/21/22 | Wolf Funeral Services |
| Samuel Edward “Sammy” Harrell    | 23     | Kosciusko   | 12/22/22 | Wolf Funeral Services |
| Irvin Lenord Harris, Sr.         | 90     | Forest      | 12/26/22 | Wolf Funeral Services |
| Inga Lynn Cox Braswell           | 58     | Pearl       | 12/26/22 | Wolf Funeral Services |
| David Benson “Benny” Reid        | 60     | Meridian    | 12/29/22 | Wolf Funeral Services |

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Mary Ann Roper  
Sales Associate  
REALTOR®  
601-720-2002



Allison Palmer  
Broker Associate  
REALTOR®  
601-506-1420



HOPPER  
PROPERTIES

HopperMS.com

12 Woodgate Drive, Suite A, Brandon, MS 39042  
601-724-1435

NOW OPEN

PAPA T’S

BUY SELL & BARTER

329 Hwy. 481 South ♦ Morton, MS 39117

601-383-6933

Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 4:30 pm & Sat 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

ANTIQUES ♦ JEWELRY  
NEW AND USED ITEMS

Tim Lawrence Owner/Auctioneer #546



# Controlling fire ants can seem neverending



Special to  
Pelahatchie News

By Doug Carter, Rankin  
County Extension Agent

Fire Ants are the most common insect pests of our home lawns. They occur in practically every lawn in Mississippi. Even if you work to achieve a totally fire ant free lawn, it probably won't stay that away for long. New fire ant colonies thrive especially well in areas that are free of other, competing colonies. Fire ant control is a never-ending battle in the South, but there are steps to take to keep your lawn and landscape relatively free of fire ants.

The easiest, cheapest, and most effective way to control fire ants is to use baits. Learn to use baits properly and preventively, and the number of fire ants in your yard can be reduced by 80 to 90 percent. The key to success with baits is applying them as broadcast treatments instead of treating individual mounds. You will never win the battle against fire ants by treating individual mounds. When properly applied, granular fire ant baits are low cost, quick and easy to apply, they are safe to children and pets and give up to 80% control. Baits are

"fire ant edible" granules that contain low doses of slow acting insecticides or insect growth disrupters.

In addition to the big mounds, which you can see, there are a lot of little colonies that are just getting started. If you eliminate only the big mounds, the small colonies will grow into big mounds. Broadcast bait treatments target all colonies in the yard, regardless of size.

Early spring is one of the best times to apply fire ant baits because fire ants are actively foraging for food at this time. If you are going to treat only one time per year, do it in the spring. But you can improve control by treating again in midsummer and a third time in the fall, especially if you live in a rural area where fire ants are abundant. If you live in a more urban area, you may only need to treat once or twice per year.

We need to be proactive. We need to treat before we see big fire ant mounds

in our yard. We can use the holidays Easter, Independence Day, and Labor Day to remind us when it is time to put out fire ant bait. It is better to pick a time when it is not likely to rain for a couple of days. This will give the ants time to collect the bait and carry it back to the mound before it is washed away.

Most fire ant baits are applied at a rate of 1 to 2 ½ pounds per acre. It is easy to over apply if we don't read and follow the directions. Baits are a cheap way to control fire ants if we use the proper rate.

The insecticides used in fire ant baits are slow acting to allow time for the insecticide to be spread throughout the colony. A fast-acting insecticide would kill the worker ant before it got back to the colony with the bait granule. Depending on the bait used, it can take 2 to 6 weeks to obtain maximum control. Baits work. We just have to be patient.

Baits will give 80 to 90 percent con-

trol, when properly applied two or three times per year. To get extra control, we can spot treat any mounds that survive the bait treatments. It is best to wait several days after applying baits before you treat individual mounds that survive the bait treatment. This allows time for foraging worker ants to carry the baits into colonies and improves your chances of killing the queen.

You can use baits to treat individual mounds, but they won't work as fast as other types of mound treatments. However, if you were to use baits on individual mounds, don't put the bait directly on top of the mound. The ants won't find it on the roof. Instead, spread the bait on the area around the mound, so the foraging workers can find it readily. I remember wondering where the entry and exit is to a fire ant mound? I assumed it was in the middle. I have discovered that ants enter and exit through underground tunnels that radiate away from the mound. The entrances to these tunnels are anywhere from 5 to more than 20 feet away from the mound.

Source: "Control Fire Ants In Your Yard," *Mississippi State University Extension*, Dr. Blake Layton, Publication 2429



Fire ants building a bridge.

Special to Pelahatchie News



## MULTICRAFT INTERNATIONAL

4341 Hwy 80 Pelahatchie, MS 39145

**\$ HIGHER STARTING RATES \$**  
**Great Benefits and 10 Paid Holidays**

Full-Time Day/Night Positions Available  
For Plant Assemblers

Visit our website for full job description  
[www.Multicraft.com](http://www.Multicraft.com)

Apply on-line or walk-ins welcome  
Resumes may be faxed to 601-854-1258  
Or emailed to [Patrice.bailey@multicraft.com](mailto:Patrice.bailey@multicraft.com)  
EOE Employer

## Tradition of a Pelahatchie Christmas



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchians are accustomed to seeing many traditional Christmas decorations during the holidays.



## Griffin Family Medical Clinic brings *The Grinch* to Town



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Griffin Family Medical Clinic brings the characters of *The Grinch* to town on their clinic front windows.

# COVID \$

The Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) program is one of the most misunderstood elements of the pandemic relief package passed by congress.

**Your business is likely eligible and should immediately explore the ERTC!**

- Qualify even if you did not lose revenue.
- Qualify even if you received PPP.
- Claim up to \$26k per W2 employee.

# 601-786-2012



# Pastor's Perspective: New beginnings, new challenges...new year



Special to  
Pelahatchie News

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

January is the month of new beginnings. A new year. New challenges. New resolutions. New hopes and dreams and goals to strive for. New seasons of life and new opportunities all await us.

Of course, new things, by definition replace older things. So we leave the old year behind. Unfulfilled resolutions, unkept promises and unmet goals, are all in the past, and we move forward with renewed expectations for what lies ahead.

The natural process of leaving older things and addressing newer things always requires change. Sometimes change can be subtle, and other times it is obvious. Sometimes change is easy and other times it is very difficult. But change is a part of life. And the new year is a good time for changes to take place.

On a personal level, the new year has brought about a drastic change for me. I have retired as the Pastor of Cross Roads Baptist Church, after having served in that role for 19 and a half years. So, as I begin a new year, I am dealing with the



Special to Pelahatchie News

effects of that change in my life. I surrendered to the ministry and was licensed to preach on Thanksgiving weekend in 1980. I was ordained to the Gospel Ministry and began to serve as the pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Simpson County in December of 1981. I then moved to Arkadelphia Baptist Church in Lauderdale County. From there, the Lord called us to serve as missionaries in Brazil for 16 years before coming to Cross Roads. So, for over 40 years, I have tried to be faithful to the calling the Lord placed on

my heart to be a Pastor. The reality is though, that I have not retired from ministry! I can't find in Scripture where the Lord affords us that luxury. Moses was 80 years old when God sent him back to Egypt to confront Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of captivity. He led them for another 40 years and still had strength and vitality when he died. Caleb was 85 years old and full of vigor when he said, "Give me that mountain!" He was courageous and trusted

the Lord for the strength to drive the giants out of the land in order to possess it. Anna was faithful to the Lord and served Him in the Temple daily. She was 84 years old when she finally got to see the baby Jesus, the promised Messiah of Israel. The Apostle John was thought to be of advanced age when he had the vision of the Revelation while living in exile on the Island of Patmos. Of course, I am grateful for the years the Lord has allowed me to serve Him in ministry. Kathy and I plan to continue to live in our home and be involved in our Church and in the community. The Editor of *Pelahatchie News* has also graciously agreed to allow me to continue to write an article for the newspaper each month. I have had a monthly article since shortly after the paper was started. I look forward to other opportunities that the Lord might provide for me in the days and years ahead. On another personal note, Cross Roads Baptist Church will be hosting a retirement reception for Kathy and me on January 29. Everyone is invited to come to the party! In 2023, keep moving forward, keep serving the Lord, and keep taking your family to church on Sunday!

FIND YOUR  
**BETTER  
LIFE**

- ACADEMIC
- CAREER-TECHNICAL
- ADULT & CONTINUING EDUCATION

With over 90 different options, our Pathways are designed to take the guesswork out of your future.

[hindscc.edu/betterlife](https://hindscc.edu/betterlife)

**HINDS**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



JACKSON | NAHC | RANKIN | RAYMOND | UTICA | VICKSBURG



## State Board of Education seeks high school sophomores as junior representatives

*Special to Pelahatchie News*

The Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) is seeking applications from high school sophomores to serve as the new high school junior student representative on the SBE Board for the 2023-24 school year. The application deadline is January 27, 2023.

Now in its fifth year, the Student Representatives of the Mississippi State Board of Education program includes a high school junior and a high school senior, who serve as non-voting SBE members, to share their viewpoints on policy decisions regarding Mississippi's public schools.

The current SBE junior representative, Charlie Frugé of Oxford High School, will serve as the senior representative in 2023-24. Through a competitive process, the SBE will appoint a new junior representative to serve a two-year term starting July 1, 2023.

The top ten semi-finalists among applicants, including the junior representative

appointed and an alternate representative, automatically get to serve on the State Superintendent's Student Advisory Council. There were thirty-five students who applied to be the 2022-23 junior representative.

The SBE adopted policy in 2018 outlining criteria for adding student representatives to the State Board. Student representatives are responsible for attending monthly SBE meetings and any standing committees or subcommittees to which they are assigned. They are excused from school to attend SBE meetings as official school business, and they also work as liaisons for their peers to SBE.

The application packet must be mailed and postmarked by January 27, 2023. The application is available at [www.mdek12.org/MBE/Student-Representatives](http://www.mdek12.org/MBE/Student-Representatives). A video component of the application must be uploaded by 5 p.m. on January 27.

For questions, contact Donna Hales at 601-359-2331 or [dhailes@mdek12.org](mailto:dhailes@mdek12.org).

MAKE THINGS  
HAPPEN!



*Special to Pelahatchie News*

## Christmas in the park lights the way



*Photo by Pelahatchie News*

*Christmas at Muscadine Park is a brighter this time of year.*



EXPLORE  
CANTON

*See the sites in the City of  
Lights and the Movie Capital  
of Mississippi!*

[WWW.CANTONTOURISM.COM](http://WWW.CANTONTOURISM.COM)



**Griffin Family Medical Clinic**

507 Hwy 80 West, Pelahatchie, MS 39145

**601-854-8002**



**Mary Ann Griffin, CFNP • Kim Risher • Keli Robertson**



# By popular demand the Magic of Lights has been extended

Special to Pelahatchie News

This holiday season has been brighter, bolder and more colorful as the Brandon Amphitheater was transformed into a vibrant drive-thru, holiday-themed light display called the Magic of Lights. Due to the popularity, the light show which started on Friday, Nov. 18, 2022 and was due to end on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023, has been extended until Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023. Tickets for this event are on sale now.

Produced by Family Entertainment Live and presented by WLBT, "Magic of Lights" made its debut at the Brandon Amphitheater, featuring dozens of displays, illuminated canopies, and digital animation, all constructed with over a million individual LED lights.

"We are excited to bring Magic of Lights to the Brandon community and the Brandon Amphitheater for the first time ever and hope it becomes an annual holiday tradition," says Ken Hudgens, CEO of Family Entertainment Live.

"With our focus toward being a quality community for families to live, work, and play, the City of Brandon Amphitheater is the natural destination to host an enjoyable, drive through Christmas

presentation for people of all ages. Our efforts are geared towards transforming our Quarry Park Trails that surround the Brandon Amphitheater into a magical experience filled with memorable

moments for years to come," says Mayor Butch Lee.

"We are excited to present the Magic of Lights. Brandon's Amphitheater is the perfect setting for this fantastic family holiday experience.

Helping to bring in events like Magic of Lights so families can create life-long holiday memories fits perfectly with WLBT's commitment to serve the communities of Central and Southwest Mississippi," says Ted Fortenberry, Regional Vice President and GM of WLBT.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Inside the comfort of their own vehicle, guests can enjoy the tour's brand-new displays, including the 32 foot tall animated Mattel's Barbie, Prehistoric Christmas featuring life sized dinosaurs celebrating the season, Big Foot Monster Trucks, Winter Wonderland, as well as Magic of Lights favorites including the 12 Days of Christmas, Toy Land and the 200 foot long Enchanting Tunnel of

Lights. Created with over one million sparkling lights, Magic of Lights is a nostalgic and festive experience for guests of all ages.

## Quick Facts about the Magic of Lights:

- A 32-Foot-Tall Animated Barbie Display

- 2+ million lights per Magic of Lights event
- 12.6 miles of light cord per Magic of Lights event
- 3,750 manhours to set up each Magic of Lights event
- The steel displays are designed, bent, cut and welded into about 800 frames that are combined in different configurations to create each show's giant winter holiday scenes. Each frame of each scene is designed using the latest CAD technology and hand built in-house from 15 pages of design specifications each.
- Each magic of light event uses about 10 miles of steel to build the displays and 10 miles of LED lighting installed inside the displays, there are 10 different colors of LED bulbs used in the shows.
- Scenes are as high as 32 ft tall and as long as several hundred feet.

Magic of Lights shines daily from 5:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. Tickets for this festive holiday event are on sale now and can be purchased for any day starting at just \$19 per vehicle. For a complete schedule and to purchase tickets, visit [magicoflights.com](http://magicoflights.com).

## Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!  
**601-460-0256**

**FREE**  
7-Year Extended Warranty\*  
A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer – Call for Details

**Special Financing Available**  
Subject to Credit Approval

\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



YOGI BEAR™, CINDY BEAR™, AND BOO BOO™ WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO JELLYSTONE PARK™ IN PELAHATCHIE, MS.

**JELLYSTONE PARK**  
PELAHATCHIE  
JANUARY 14, 2023  
JELLYSTONEMS.COM

**POLAR WEEKEND**  
ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

**After Hours Emergency Number**  
801-759-0974

**Additional Info**  
\*Events are subject to change without notice.  
\*All outdoor activities and events are weather permitting.  
\*Activities end 10 minutes after start time if no participants arrive.  
\*Wristbands must be worn at all times!  
\*All guests should adhere to the quiet time hours. No exceptions!  
\*For the safety of our guests, all vehicles should follow the speed limit of 9 1/2 miles per hour.  
\*Questions or concerns? Please see the Ranger Station.

**10am Snowman Scoot and Scat Game** at the Activity Center  
**10:30am Igloo Building Contest** at the Activity Center  
**11am Polar Scavenger Hunt** (Meet in the Activity Center at 11am. Don't be late! The first team back wins the biggest prize!)  
**11:30am Snowball Fight** at the Activity Center \$\$ (Buy a bag of snowballs for \$1 and join us!)  
**12noon Polar Plunge Giant Waterslide** at the Activity Field  
**12:30pm Hot Cocoa Bar** \$\$ Come by the Activity Center and warm up after your plunge. (\$1 per cup)  
**1pm Candy Bar Bingo** \$\$ (Bring a candy bar or buy one from us and join us at the Activity Center for some classic, competitive fun!)  
**1:30pm Snowman Building Contest** at the Activity Center  
**2pm Activity Center Closes**  
**5:30pm-6:30pm Laser Tag** at the Laser Tag Arena (We will not go past 6:30pm. Games are \$10 per person.)  
**6:30pm - 8pm Pajama Party and the Polar Express** Movie Showing at the Activity Field (Popcorn & Hot Cocoa will be available for \$1 each.)  
**WEATHER PERMITTING** In case of rain, the movie will be held in the Activity Center.

Head over to our website for more info on activities!

Don't miss a thing! Download the Jellystone Park™ App and Campers App for the most up-to-date schedule and event reminders.

Get your Yogi Gear at the Ranger Station!

**Legend of Symbols:**  
\$\$ Additional Fees  
🐻 Bear Appearance  
🎬 Movie Time

YOGI BEAR AND ALL RELATED CHARACTER AND ELEMENTS © & ™ HANNA-BARBERA. (523)



## Southern Pine hosts Cooperative University for area students



Special to Pelahatchie News

Thirty high school juniors met with local legislators to ask questions about important matters at the Southern Pine Electric Annual Cooperative University. They also learned about Southern Pine Electric, electric cooperatives and electric safety.

### Special to Pelahatchie news

Southern Pine Electric held its annual Cooperative University for over 30 high school juniors, representing 19 high schools. Each student was nominated by their high school counselor based on demonstrated leadership traits.

The students learned about Southern Pine Electric, electric cooperatives,

and electric safety. The students also participated in various leadership activities. They also met with their local legislators to ask questions that are important to them. Ten students were selected to return for interviews to vie for Southern Pine's Youth Leaders.

"Other than providing safe, reliable, and affordable electric service, this is one of the most important things we do at Southern Pine," said Chris Rhodes,

president, and CEO. "Investing in tomorrow's leaders will pay dividends for our communities. Seeing these young leaders makes me feel great about those leading the way in years to come."

A panel of outside judges chose four students to be Southern Pine's Youth Leaders at ECM's Youth Leadership Program. Ruby Sage Rogers of Presbyterian Christian School, Carlee Har-

rell of Seminary High School, Claire Hennington of Union High School, and Emma Thomas of Morton High School will all attend a youth leadership workshop in Jackson in the spring. In June, the four young women will attend ECM's Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.

For more information, email Southern Pine Electric at [sbryant@southernpine.coop](mailto:sbryant@southernpine.coop).



**Happy New Year!**  
**2023**  
THE BRANCH



Come shop our  
after Christmas  
sales and save!

2861 Hwy. 80 E.  
Brandon, MS 39042  
601-825-5051

