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Renfroe, 2021-2022 Mississippi High School Journalist of the Year

Special to Pelahatchie News

Laura Renfroe, a senior at Pelahatchie High School, made history in March, when the Mississippi Scholastic Press Association (MSPA) declared her the 2021-2022 Mississippi High School Journalist of the Year.

Renfroe serves as editor-in-chief for the school's paper, *Hatchie Headlines*. She has received MSPA honoree status three times, an unprecedented feat both for Pelahatchie and the state of Mississippi.

Renfroe will represent Mississippi and compete for the national title at the Journalism Education Association's/National Scholastic Press Association convention held April 7 through 9, 2022.

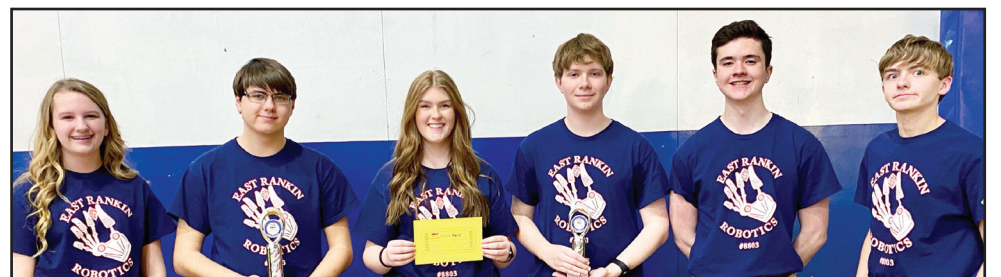
Renfroe has a gofundme account to help her raise money for convention attendance and to view her online portfolio. Visit <https://gofund.me/8e789d43> to help Renfroe attend the convention and to read her work.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Laura Renfroe

Robotics Team at East Rankin Academy wins Innovate Award



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Pictured (l to r) are: Audrey Hawk, Tyler Williams, Mallory Ellis, Jonathan Lamberth, Jonas Vining and Jackson Fountain.

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The East Rankin Robotics Team competed in the FIRST Tech Challenge Central League Tournament on February 19. The FIRST Tech Challenge is a judged robot competition.

The team won the Innovate Award sponsored by Raytheon Technologies for the

most innovative and creative robot design solution to any specific components in the FIRST Tech Challenge Game and was also part of the Finalist Alliance in the final rounds of robotics competition.

The team qualified for the Mississippi FIRST Tech Challenge State Competition to be held on March 4 and 5 on the campus of the University of Mississippi.

Town of Pelahatchie proposes not adding fluoride to drinking water

By The Town of Pelahatchie

The Officials of Association/System are proposing to stop adding fluoride to your drinking water. As the customers of this public water supply, you have the right to know how this can impact an individual's health.

Community water fluoridation helps to prevent tooth decay and saves money for families and the healthcare system, this proposed decision will have a public health impact on the customer.

The following are facts which should be taken into consideration if this decision were to move forward:

- The safety and benefits of water fluoridation that are well documented and have been reviewed comprehensively by several scientific and public health organizations will no longer be available through your drinking water system.

- Community water fluoridation remains an effective public health strategy for delivering fluoride to prevent tooth decay and is the most cost-effective way to reach entire communities regardless of socioeconomic status.

- People in the United States are living longer and retaining more of their natural teeth than ever before. As the older population in America grows, and as more people keep their natural teeth for longer periods of time, dental decay may remain a significant health problem. Therefore, water fluoridation is an essential prevention method for all age groups.

- Water fluoridation reduces tooth decay by about 25% in children and



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adults.

- For every dollar spent on community water fluoridation, \$38 is saved in health and dental care costs.

The following are reasons as to why your public

water system's governing board is proposing to discontinue community water fluoridation:

- Fluoride is already found in toothpaste, and most developed countries do not fluoridate their water.

- The chemical fluoride affects many tissues in the body besides the teeth, i.e., thyroid, endocrine disruption, and is not a natural process, and

- The use of fluoride causes severe health risks to Town employees, and an increased expense to its citizens.

- In addition, several water systems in the state are non-fluoridated.

For any concerns, please come to Pelahatchie Town Hall at 705 2nd Street, Pelahatchie, MS and comment forms will be located at the first window. If you have questions about Community Water Fluoridation, please contact any of the following:

- The State Health Department at 601-576-7500
- Your local family dentist
- www.ILikeMyTeeth.org or www.cdc.gov/fluoridation

If you have questions about the reason(s) that your water system officials chose to discontinue this proven public health practice, please contact us at the local water system office at 601-854-5224.

To find a dentist in your community, please contact 601-576-7500 and ask for the Mississippi State Department of Health Office of Oral Health.



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

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