

Milltown park is progressing

See page 4

Town holds Easter Egg Hunt in the park

See page 14

PELAHATCHIE NEWS

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**April
2018**

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Issue 4

Pelahatchie, MS

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Pelahatchie News
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Walters named RCSD Secondary Parent of the Year

By Susie A. Wolfe

Lacie Walters was selected as Rankin County School District (RCSD) Secondary Parent of the Year. RCSD is the third largest school district in Mississippi and serves nearly 20,000 students in 28 schools.

Walters has been active in the Pelahatchie schools for 13 years, since her oldest, Gabbi, was in kindergarten. "I try to do whatever, whenever it is needed," she said.

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Principal Dr. Bryan Marshall agrees.

"Lacie is always available to help with a smile. She never complains and is the first to volunteer to feed kids, or organize food pantries, or just about anything else you can think of a parent doing. She is awesome."

Walters has three children attending



Special to Pelahatchie News

Lacie Walters was named the Secondary Parent of the Year by the RCSD. She was recognized at the March 21 School Board Meeting. Pictured at PHS (l to r) are: Superintendent Sue Townsend, Cass Walters, Maddie Walters, Lacie Walters, Gabbi Walters, and Principal Bryan Marshall.

Pelahatchie schools this year: Gabbi is a senior; Cass, a ninth grader; and Maddie is in the seventh grade. Cass is involved in football and powerlifting

as well as helping the family's business, Specialty Tree Service. Maddie is into cheerleading and soccer. And, Gabbi, in addition to working part-

time at Crooked Creek Animal Hospital, is a senior involved in Future Farmers of America (FFA) and Rankin County 4-H showing livestock. She is this year's Miss PHS, Most Intellectual and Most Likely to Succeed, plus she is also president of the Student Council, president of FFA, and second lieutenant in the Army ROTC, as well as a member of the Beta Club and Phi Theta Kappa, and she kept stats for the football team.

"Each child is unique in their special way," said Walters, who has been the office manager for Specialty Tree Service for 12 years. "I am fortunate to work from home, or between activities, so I can be a hands-on parent when my children need me."

She has been able to travel with her children and their classes to Washing-

continued on page 5

March Board meeting holds heated discussions; hire interim clerk

By Susie A. Wolfe

At the March 5 Board Meeting, Gold Coast Commodities and Clear Water Consultants asked to lease now idle pre-treatment lagoons in Pelahatchie at around \$9,000 a month for 5-year contract. They would be responsible for operations and maintenance and overseen by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and Environmental Protection Agency. The City of Brandon has had previous problems with Gold Coast Commodities, and the group has had an agreement with the Town of Pelahatchie previously. The Board voted to delay a decision until the next Board Meeting.

Barnard & Sons Construction asked the Board to terminate their contract for construction of the Milltown Park Safe

Room for non-payment. The owner cited that payments were not up to-date, and he was owed approximately \$364,000. The Board Attorney, Brad Mills, said part of the holdup was due to FEMA hold because of Hurricane Harvey. From last August, payment has not been consistent. He was required to give a 10-day notice. The situation was alleviated later in the month, and the Safe Room is set to be complete by mid-April.

Town Attorney Mills asked Chief Kevin Poole to give a cease and desist order to Mayor Beechem's attorney, Thomas Bellinder, for excessive emails. He said he wanted Bellinder to not communicate with him. Mills also reported no update on the state audit of drug seizure funds, and said that even the title used was "improper and out of bounds" and the language "offensive



Photo by Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie Board meetings continue to be standing room only. They are held the first Monday at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

language in way complaint written."

In other business, Town Court Clerk, Kirschen Craft, has been appointed interim City Clerk at the March 19 Special

Meeting after the resignation of both Ruby Burns-Ward and Ellen Davis. Also, the Board approved the Mayor access to the vault.

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Chief's Comments: Safe Room to be complete by mid-April



Photo by Pelahatchie News



Special to Pelahatchie News

By Guest
Columnist Chief
Kevin Poole,
Pelahatchie Police
Department

Mississippi is a leading state for tornadoes during March and springtime. According to a 2016 report, 75 tornadoes scour the landscape during March in an average year in Texas,

Florida, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. The Weather Channel released a Top 10 list of worst tornado cities, of which the Jackson area was the second worst area on the list.

Our Community Safe Room should be finished by the middle of April. It is located at the corner of Grimes and Warren streets, and will be accessible to everyone. The Town is in the process of setting of procedures for use, which we will be sharing with the community soon.

Student reads to Pre-K Class



Special to Pelahatchie News

Zoey Hollingsworth is a kindergarten student at Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES). On March 23, she visited the pre-kindergarten class and read to the students. She said she was so excited to visit her former class.



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Publisher
Clay Mansell

claymansell@pelahatchienews.com

Managing Editor/Sales

Susie A. Wolfe
(601) 566-1932 x2
news@pelahatchienews.com

Graphic Designer

Katie White
(601) 566-1932 x5
designer@pelahatchienews.com

Sales Representative

Suselyn Bennett
(601) 566-1932 x3
susalyn@ourhometownpaper.com

Intern

Josh Carter

For submission information, email
news@pelahatchienews.com.

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Legislative updates: Forward thinking, listening and growth



By Tom Miles, State Representative, House District #75

Against the backdrop of bill consideration and committee action, a number of issues still continue to be

discussed and evaluated in conversations among the members. One of those is the problem of end-of-school tests that seem to overpower every working minute for our school teachers and every worrying minute for so many students and parents. The desire to do away with these so-called "readiness tests" is getting greater and greater. I rarely spend a day without someone either calling me, emailing me, or commenting about this issue. It will take everyone who recognizes that this system is just a money-maker for someone's testing company and a disaster for our students and teachers to stand up with us to make the change.

House Bill 1592, the K-12 appropriations bill, was amended in the House when I offered a change to incorporate doing away with mandated state exit tests in favor of using student's ACT scores to indicate graduation readiness. The House approved the amended bill 113-2. That action generated a strong pushback by the state's education administrative establishment, due in great part, I believe, to their affinity toward testing organizations. My amendment was removed by the Senate. The bill came back to the House for us to either agree with that omission or invite conference to put it back in. We invited conference, and the final result will be voted on in the last week of the session. There will no doubt be a big effort to keep the amendment out, but I believe in letting the teachers teach, and this is one way to accomplish that goal.

After it was reported that North Dakota had decided to let students' ACT scores act as exit exams, I provided that information to House members.

Shortly after, Rep. Richard Bennett, chair of the Education Committee, sent a letter to members stating he was not opposed to this idea.

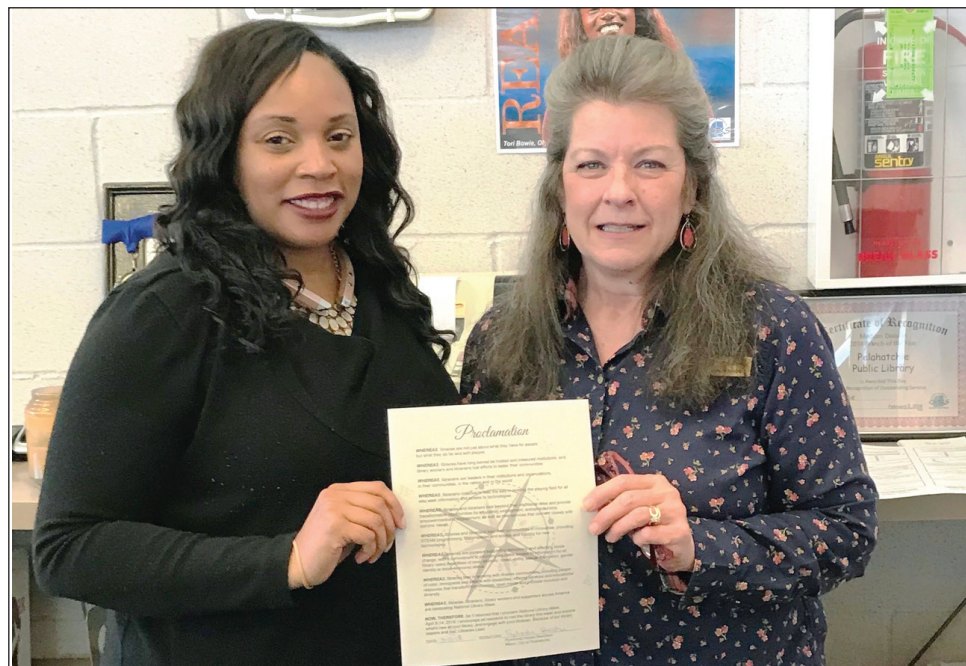
I believe the time is right for Mississippi to be among the forward-thinking states that remove the burden of graduation readiness testing and use the already required ACT test for this purpose. We need to let the teachers teach and get out of the business of subsidizing testing companies. I hosted a press briefing on March 23 to discuss this matter while conferees were working on the bill.

A top issue that people are concerned about is safety in our public schools. House Bill 1083, which would have allowed school districts to have armed teachers in their schools died after passing both chambers. I think that solving the issue of making sure our children and educators are safe in our schools will take a lot of sober discussion of the facts. We can't just knee-jerk the next "great idea," and expect to really solve this problem. I don't agree that every individual who suffers from a mental illness is a murderous maniac, but I do believe that some people just aren't capable of handling a weapon responsibly and safely. We have sworn law enforcement officers, former military personnel and others who are most qualified to help frame this debate and offer solutions. And, we must listen to the professional educators. Most of us in the House are very concerned that we come up with a workable, sensible and constitutional solution that respects those who are on the front lines of the debate.

I enjoyed touring the Brandon Amphitheater with my colleagues. This is going to be a wonderful venue for music entertainment that's great for the entire family. Congratulations to those who had this vision and saw it through to completion. Our area of the state will soon become a real destination spot because of it.

Next month I will give you a final wrap up of the session.

Mayor signs Library Proclamation



Special to Pelahatchie News

Proclamation

WHEREAS, libraries are not just about what they have for people, but what they do for and with people;

WHEREAS, libraries have long served as trusted and treasured institutions, and library workers and librarians fuel efforts to better their communities;

WHEREAS, librarians are leaders in their institutions and organizations, in their communities, in the nation and in the world;

WHEREAS, librarians continue to lead the way in leveling the playing field for all who seek information and access to technologies;

WHEREAS, libraries and librarians look beyond their traditional roles and provide transformative opportunities for education, employment, entrepreneurship, empowerment and engagement, as well as new services that connect closely with patrons' needs;

WHEREAS, libraries and librarians lead their communities in innovation, providing STEAM programming, Makerspaces and access and training for new technologies;

WHEREAS, libraries are pioneers supporting democracy and effecting social change, with a commitment to providing equitable access to information for all library users regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or socio-economic status;

WHEREAS, libraries lead in working with diverse communities, including people of color, immigrants and people with disabilities, offering services and educational resources that transform communities, open minds and promote inclusion and diversity;

WHEREAS, libraries, librarians, library workers and supporters across America are celebrating National Library Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I proclaim *National Library Week*, April 8-14, 2018. I encourage all residents to visit the library this week and explore what's new at your library, and engage with your librarian. Because of our library leaders and you, Libraries Lead.

DATE: 3-12-18

SIGNATURE: Ryshonda Beechem
Ryshonda Harper Beechem
Mayor, City of Pelahatchie

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie Library proclaims April 8-14, National Library Week. On the sixtieth anniversary of National Library Week, Mayor Ryshonda Beechem is shown signing the Proclamation shown. Each of the 20 Central Mississippi Regional Libraries had proclamations signed by the mayor of each town.

ERA Elementary students attend quiz bowl camp



Special to Pelahatchie News

Third grade elementary camp students pictured (l to r) are, front row: Maci Jo Rakinic, Laney Powell, Brylee Wall, and Leah Collipp; second row: Claire Myrick, Brynlee Davis, Liz Stevens, Krissi Joe Simmons, Hayden Faulkner, and Jayla Wedgeworth; and back row: Jon Riemann, James Wall, Bristol Bowman, Liam Polk, Colby Kelly, Callan Hunt, and Irby Rawson.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Fourth grade elementary camp students pictured (l to r) are, front row: Paige Mayatte, Savannah Smithers, Addison Vowell, Allison Crout, and Olivia Griffing; second row: Emily Williams, Makayla Gainey, Jensen Baker, and Emma Grace Aitken; and back row: R.T. Tate, Nicholas Gordon, Barron Everett, Jake Tucker, Jacob Soto, and Cole Thompson.

Special to Pelahatchie News

Third and fourth grade East Rankin Academy (ERA) students recently participated in an elementary quiz bowl

camp that tested players on a wide variety of academic subjects.

During camp, students were read questions and scored points for their team by buzzing first on a quiz bowl

buzzer system and responding with the correct answers. Teams with correct answers then worked together on team bonus questions. Students gained exposure to a broad range of school and

cultural subjects along with the opportunity to increase higher level thinking and speed skills. Quiz bowl camp participants also developed their abilities to cooperate and work in teams.

Milltown Park is progressing

By Josh Carter

Milltown Park is undergoing renovations and continued construction of additional facilities.

"The greater plan for Milltown Park is the completion of it," said Mayor Ryshonda Beechem. "We are definitely pushing and working hard to complete it. How the layout is, it is supposed to be four fields, so we have two-and-a-half up. The third field is technically up, we just have to work on the back, which we are currently working on. We are beginning the fourth field, and after that we will start the enhancement of the area, the perimeter of [Milltown] and the walkway. I'm excited about it."

Beechem then talked about the Safe Room being constructed at the front of the park, which she hopes will be completed in April. "In case the weather gets bad, it allows people the opportunity to go to the Community Safe Room for tornadoes and things of that nature."

As for the budget for the Safe Room and the enhancements to Milltown Park, Beechem said it is allocated on a per-project basis.

"With the third baseball field, we looked at how much it could possibly

take to get it up, got a quote, then present it to the board - got that taken care of. Okay, the next item, we look at the fourth field. How much will it cost to get that up? It's basically piece-by-piece in order to get it all up. I think that's the best way to look at it."

Beechem hopes that by adding more baseball fields, this could place the town on the roster as a potential tournament location.

"It will not only help our children and community, but it will also boost our revenue and help the economy of Pelahatchie by inviting others here. It helps the town as a whole, especially if we are able to host tournaments here."

Future projects of Pelahatchie in-



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Milltown Park is home to the Pelahatchie Chief's baseball team, plus other baseball leagues. The Safe Room is expected to open in April.

clude the ongoing construction of new subdivisions and an added waterline, which are at the top of Beechem's list. The improvements to the lagoon, which is the Town's water source, is something that will also be a main concentration.

"Other things that I haven't started,

that I may want to, is a track for the Town," concluded Beechem. "Neither Pelahatchie or East Rankin have a track. We are always going off to run, and I think it would be beneficial for the town to invite people to have a track-meet here, and then both of the schools are able to utilize it."

Effects of winter weather on summer insect numbers



By Doug Carter,
Rankin County
Extension Agent

Special to
Pelahatchie News

Several people have asked about how the single digit temperatures will effect this summer's insect populations. The hope is that this will drastically reduce insect populations through the coming growing season.

Unfortunately, cold winter temperatures don't affect insect numbers as much as we might wish. Most of our native insect species also live in more northern regions of the county, and are well adapted to surviving cold winters. Native insects cope with cold winters in a variety of ways and are prepared to spend the winter in some type of overwintering stage. Depending on the insect, this could be as an egg, larva, pupa, or adult. Overwintering insects often seek out some sort of protected habitat, where they can spend the winter months and be somewhat protected from cold. Many insects burrow in the soil to pupate, others seek out protect-

ed sites such as leaf litter, hollow trees, or under tree bark. Also, many insects are able to survive exposure to freezing temperatures and have something inside their blood, which prevents them from suffering cold injury. This is not to say that abnormally cold winters do not reduce survival of native insects, but even when this occurs, those that survive are usually able to reproduce rapidly, allowing populations to quickly rebound to normal summer levels.

Thermometer readings aren't the only thing to consider when thinking about the effects of winter temperatures on insects. Duration of sub-freezing periods is even more important. Here in Mississippi, we rarely have more than a few days in a row with low temperatures in the teens or single digits, and it is even less common to have more than one or two days, when the high temperature does not exceed 32 degrees. Also, it's not the ambient air temperature that's important, but the actual temperature experienced by the insect, and many insects overwinter in some type of sheltered insulating situation.



Special to Pelahatchie News

So, most native insects are not likely to be much affected by this year's colder temperatures. Likewise, non-native insects that come from similar or colder

climates will not be much affected, but non-native insects invading from tropical or sub-tropical climates may experience significant winter kill.



Cross Roads Baptist Church

Sunday Schedule

- 8:30 - Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:00 - Bible Study for all ages
- 11:00 - Blended Worship Service
- 6:00 - Evening Worship

Wednesday Schedule

- 6:00 Family Dinner
- 7:00 - Children's Mission Activities • Student Worship
- Ladies Bible Study • Couples Support Group
- Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

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continued from page 1

RCSD Secondary Parent of the Year

ton D.C.; Atlanta, Georgia; and Birmingham, Alabama; to name a few spots.

Walters and her husband, Gabe, who will be married 20 years this summer, have done things they never imagined with their children. They go mud riding and to football games with Cass, to the New Orleans Jr. Beta Club Convention and cheerleading with Maddie, and to livestock shows with Gabbi. Walters has helped show cows with Gabbi at livestock events, which she said she never would have dreamed of doing,

though she grew up on a farm in Cross Roads. This year, she also helped deliver a calf after the cow went into labor when she was home alone.

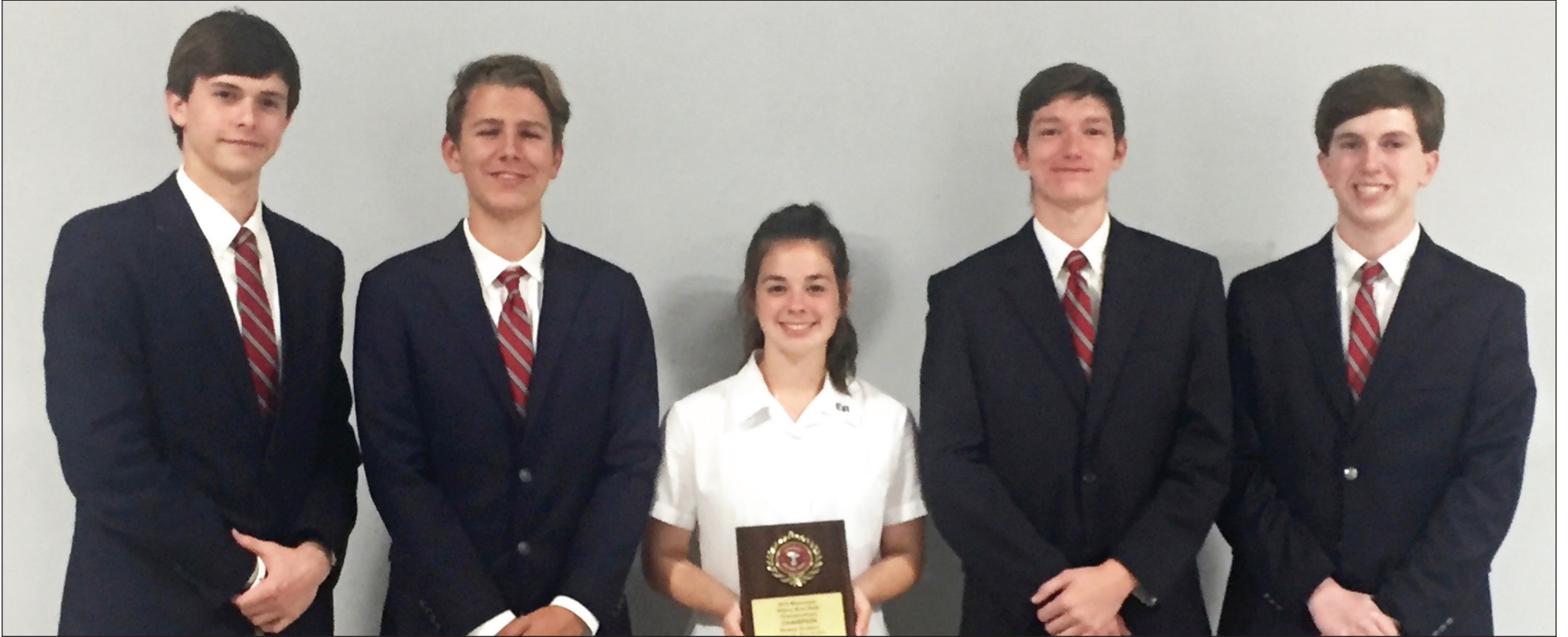
She said she is fortunate to have family close by to help with everything. Both she and Gabe, plus both sets of their parents, are all graduates of Pelahatchie schools. Her father, Ricky White, has been calling the Chief's football games for years.

"It has been an amazing ride so far, and I wouldn't have it any other way," said Walters. "I enjoy every minute."

Obituaries

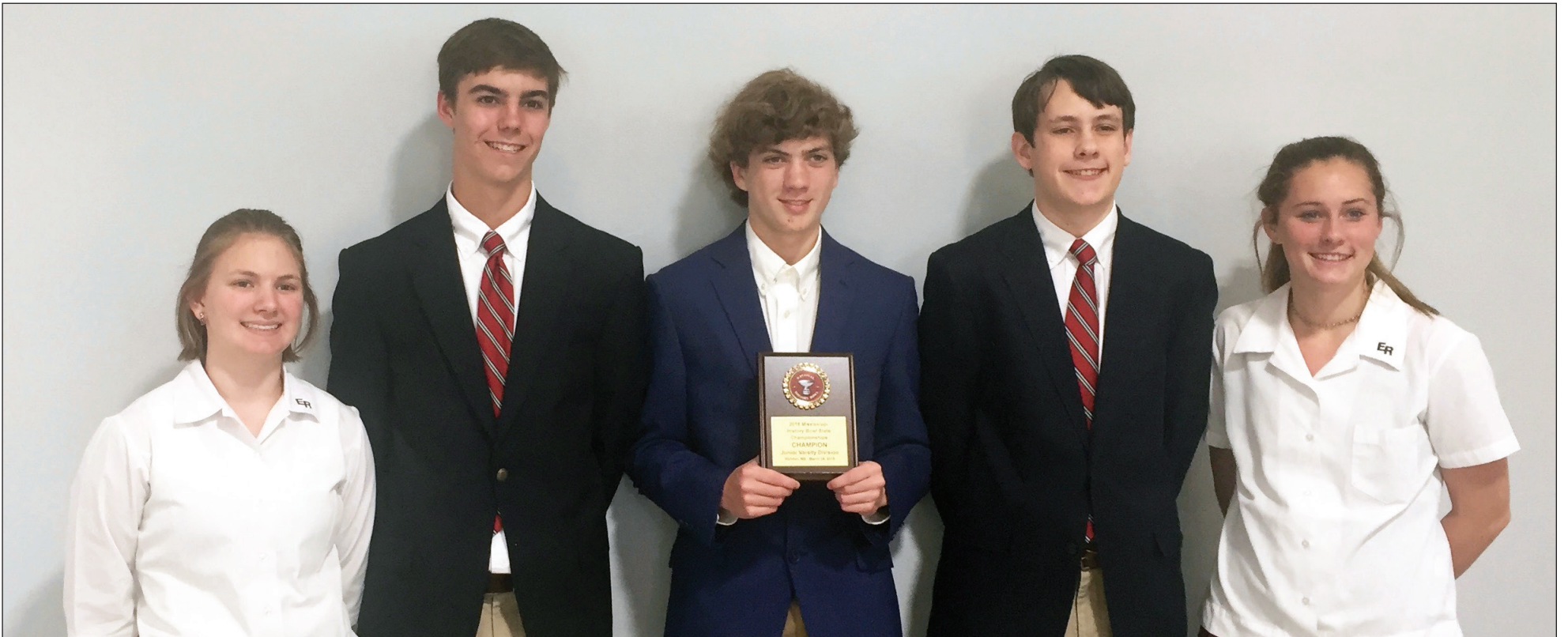
NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Arrangements
Rebecca Sue Bennett	70	Pelahatchie, MS	3/5/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Carolyn Lanthrip	84	Newton, MS	3/18/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Robert E. McCurdy	66	Morton, MS	3/5/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Christopher N. McCurdy	39	Morton, MS	3/5/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Bessie Lee McEntee	73	Morton, MS	3/5/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Jason A. Moncrief	91	Lake, MS	3/5/2018	Wolf Funeral Serv.

ERA Championship History Bowl Team to go to D.C.



Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Academy (ERA) Varsity History Bowl team competed in the Mississippi History Bowl State Championship held at Richton High School in March. The Varsity Team finished in first place and qualified to compete in the National History Bowl in Washington D.C. Team members are pictured (l to r): Thad Webb, Jackson Harper, Claire Reeves, Will Blossom, and Andrew Stewart.



Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Academy (ERA) Junior Varsity History Bowl team competed in the Mississippi History Bowl Junior Varsity State Championship held at Richton High School in March. The Junior Varsity Team finished first place and qualified to compete in the National History Bowl in Washington D.C. Team members pictured (l to r) are: Dana Watkins, Tyler Betts, Trent Wuestefeld, Ethan Crain, and Kariana Simmons.

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ERA basketball girls recognized at State Capitol

By Josh Carter

On Mar. 23, ERA basketball girls were recognized at the State Capitol. The recognition was in part due to their state championship title, but also for overcoming the death of teammate, Leah Cunningham. The team was acknowledged before the Senate and House of Representatives.

Upon entering the Senate chamber, the team was introduced by Senator Terry Burton, representative of District 31. The team then made their way to the House of Representatives, where they were introduced by Representative Tom Miles.

While at the Capitol, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 636 and House Concurrent Resolution No. 89 were read before the team.



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Hedgepeth helping community in his retirement

By Susie A. Wolfe

Joe Hedgepeth, 78, owner of Country Boys Hardware and Country Boys Furniture and Appliances, came out of retirement to build chicken houses, and now operates two retail stores in Pelahatchie along with Steve Garrett, his junior partner.

"God has had a hand in it each step of the way," said Hedgepeth. "It's not me. It's God working through me."

During his 22 years in the Navy, Hedgepeth had assignments in Hawaii, Key West, Guantanamo Bay and Japan, but knew he would move back home to Mississippi. The Lawrence County native, and son of a sharecropper, built chicken houses for seven years before retiring in 2007. Later, folks approached him about repairing and building chick-

en houses again. He had contacts for a crew and materials, so he got back in the business. He said this construction is still their bread and butter, and they build around 100 chicken houses a year all over the United States.

Because of all of the materials needed for the building, he and Garrett decided to open a hardware store in Pelahatchie in 2014, since the Town didn't have one, and the building on Highway 43 was open. They needed more storage, so they bought the Highway 80 location and opened the furniture and appliance store in 2016.

"If you do right by people, they'll come back to see you," said Hedgepeth. "And, what you give to help others will be returned to you two-fold."

A member of Antioch Baptist Church, Hedgepeth believes in giving

back as God has blessed him. He helps support the work of Scott Walters, a former pastor at Antioch, when Walters ministers to people in the community or for his bi-annual trips to Reynosa, Mexico. Hedgepeth said that "he is doing a lot of good around here."

Garrett and Hedgepeth were approached last year about buying the church on North Brooks Street since the church body was moving to Morton. He said that they "hadn't been looking for one," but purchased it and gave it to Walters and Ever Reaching Community Outreach (ERCO) to use to serve the community.



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Joe Hedgepeth spent 22 years in the U.S. Navy, many of those working on a submarine.

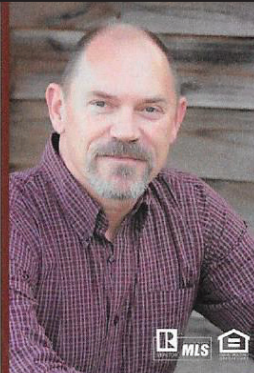
"If everybody would find someone that needs help, and do it without asking," he said. "That's what I want to see happen."

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Upward Soccer draws 60+ kids



Photo by Pelahatchie News



Special to Pelahatchie News



Special to Pelahatchie News



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Ten teams made up of approximately 62 kids are participating in Pelahatchie's inaugural season of Upward Soccer. Hosted at Pelahatchie Baptist Church, games are held on Saturdays at 9, 10 and 11 a.m. The practices are held beside the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday and Thursday nights between 6 and 8 p.m.



Congratulations
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Top CEOs in Mississippi
for 2018



Six PHS powerlifters head to state meet



Special to Pelahatchie News

Coach Sam Williams reports that six athletes have qualified for the state meet on April 21. They are J.D. Williams, 132 weight class; Avery Lewis, 165 weight class; Ahmad Johnson, 198 weight class; Garrett Day, 220 weight class; Greg Beemon, 275 weight class; and Gunner Till, 308+ weight class.



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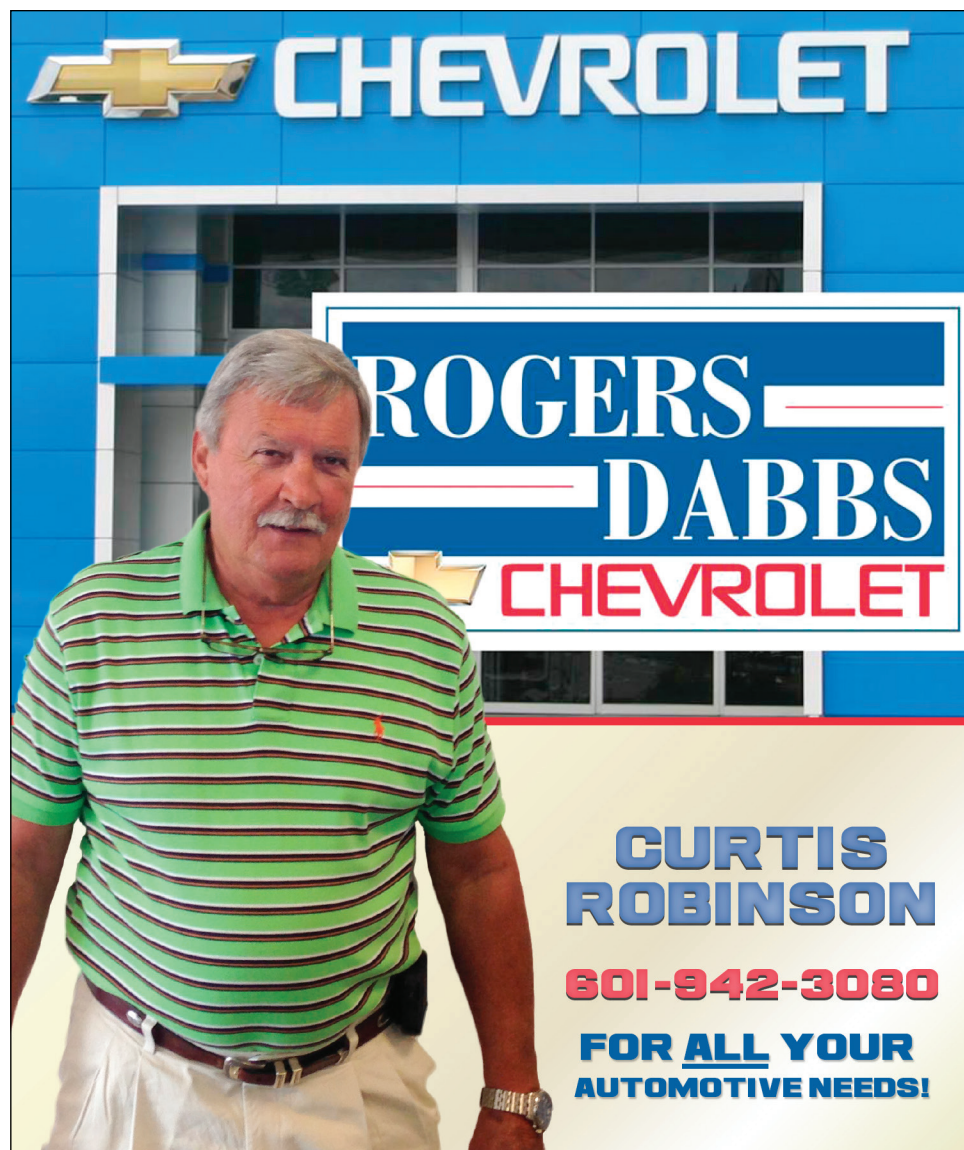
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High school students offered multiple pathways to graduation



By Guest Columnist
Rosemary G. Aultman,
Chair, Mississippi State
Board of Education

Special to
Pelahatchie News

There are no exit exams required for graduation in Mississippi. Yet there seems to be confusion or simply mis-information that continues to persist around this topic. I'm hopeful this information will provide clarity around the issue of end-of-course assessments in high school.

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) administers assessments in four subject areas upon completion of the courses. Subject areas are Algebra 1, Biology 1, English II and U.S. History. Tests for mathematics, science and English are required by state and federal law. The U.S. History test is established by policy of the Mississippi State Board of Education (Board).

In 2013, state law required students to pass the end-of-course assessments in order to earn a diploma. However, that is no longer the case. In 2014, the Board adopted a policy that provides alternate routes to graduation. Therefore, a passing score on each assessment is not the sole requirement for graduation in Mississippi. However, more than eighty percent of high school students in the state meet graduation requirements by passing the end-of-course exams. The remaining twenty percent meet the requirements through an alternate pathway.

Because we realize that all students have academic strengths and weaknesses, providing multiple options for showing mastery has proven beneficial for the students. These options include



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scoring a seventeen or better on the ACT in core areas of the college entrance exam, scoring C or better on college courses taken while in high school, and certain scores on military entrance or career technical exams.

As a result of providing multiple pathways to earn a diploma, and contrary to some mis-information, graduation rates have risen. In fact, Mississippi's graduation rate has reached an all-time high of eighty-three percent, just one-point shy of the national rate of eighty-four percent. Since the policy change, drop-out rates have declined for the fourth consecutive year to 10.6 percent, down from 13.9 percent in

2014.

School districts across the state are working diligently to provide support for students who need additional help in order to receive a traditional diploma. Mississippi is being recognized nationally for the hard work taking place in classrooms across the state. Every indicator the Board and the MDE monitors is on the rise, from kindergarten readiness and literacy to student academic performance, and, yes, graduation rates. We have set more rigorous learning standards which are comparable to many high-performing states, and we are reaping the benefits. And, yes, progress is measured through challenging

assessments at the end of course; but, when students understand the expectations and are provided the support and resources, they will rise to meet those expectations. The Board and MDE will continue to set high goals, but, in doing so, will also provide professional development to teachers and administrators to ensure the rigor in the classroom reflects the learning goals for the state.

If Mississippi's educational system is to reach its full potential of producing young people who can meet the challenges of college or a highly skilled job, we must continue to offer students multiple paths for reaching their full potential. Our state's future depends on it.

Learn more about human trafficking at April 14 seminar

Special to Pelahatchie News

What do teens and parents need to know about human trafficking in our midst? How can you protect yourself from falling prey to human predators?

Advocates For Freedom, a Mississippi nonprofit fighting human trafficking, is providing a program on how to recognize signs and to teach how to protect yourself, friends and family at a Saturday, April 14, program from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at The Pavilion at Rehoboth Farms in Pelahatchie.

The program is designed for youth

ages 12 and up, parents, teachers, or anyone who works with young people. Topics to be discussed include:

- Come hear from a victim of sex trafficking and her mom.
- Law Enforcement will speak about the reality of human trafficking in your schools and communities.
- Advocates For Freedom will learn how to



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spot human trafficking and how to report it.

- Find out who the predators are and how to steer clear of them.
- Who is tracking you on your smart phone?
- Who is stalking you on social media?

"Human trafficking is alive and well in all parts of Mississippi," said Trish Sanderford, Regional Director of Advocates For Free-

dom. "It is happening in the cities and in rural areas as well."

"If you have not been trained in human trafficking awareness and prevention, you and your family are at risk," said Sanderford. "Advocates For Freedom works hard to help the victims of human trafficking and their families, but we do not want you to join their numbers."

A light breakfast will be provided. Tickets are \$5, and a limited number of scholarships are available. Contact aff-trish@gmail.com for tickets or more information.

Band earns superior in sight reading



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Band earned a superior rating in sight-reading, which they had not ever done previously, at the Central Mississippi Concert Band Festival at Ridgeland in March. The students put in a lot of work including after school sectional time.

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Pastor's perspective: Make preparations for time eternal



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

Special to
Pelahatchie News

As I write this note, we are in the first week after beginning Day Light Saving Time for this year. By the time you read it, several weeks will have passed. But probably, there will be some folks who are still adjusting to the "time change." Each year at "spring forward" and "fall back" time, there is always a lot of discussion about the time change. Some people seem to like having more daylight in the afternoon, but don't like getting their morning started in the dark. Others question why we even do it or suggest that we not do it at all!

There is a story about a radio talk show that was discussing the time change one year. A lady called into the show and went on a rant. She railed against Washington and the way they interfere with our lives. She was obviously very upset with the whole time change topic. Finally, she said, "Besides everything else, that extra hour of sunshine is 'bout to burn my 'tomatters' up!"

Then there was the old Indian who pondered one day, "Only a pale face would think that you can cut a foot off of one end of a blanket, sew it on the other end, and believe you have a longer blanket!"

In the United States, Day Light Saving Time was first used during World War One in an effort to reduce coal consumption because that vital commodity was needed for the war effort. After the war, Day Light Saving Time was abandoned.

During World War Two, it was reintroduced and called "war" time. After the war, states and even cities were allowed to stay on Day Light Saving Time or not. That caused a great deal of confusion. For example, some cities would choose to be on the Saving Time, while the state they were in did not.

In 1966, Congress passed the Uniform Time Act requiring all states to abide by Daylight Saving time unless the state legislature voted to opt out. Currently Arizona and Hawaii are the only two states that do not observe Daylight Saving Time.

In an interesting twist, last month Florida voted to stay on Daylight Sav-



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ing Time all year long. But apparently, the Federal Congress will have to approve that change. It seems the law allows for a state to decide not to observe Daylight Saving Time, but it does not allow a state to stay on Daylight Saving Time permanently! So, it literally will require "an act of Congress" for Florida to be able to do this.

Whether you like it or not, Day Light Saving Time appears to be with us to stay! So, every March we will have to "spring forward" and in November we will "fall back."

The Bible has a great deal to say about time, as well.

Galatians 4: 4-5: "But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."

Hosea 10:12: "Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfaill-

ing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you."

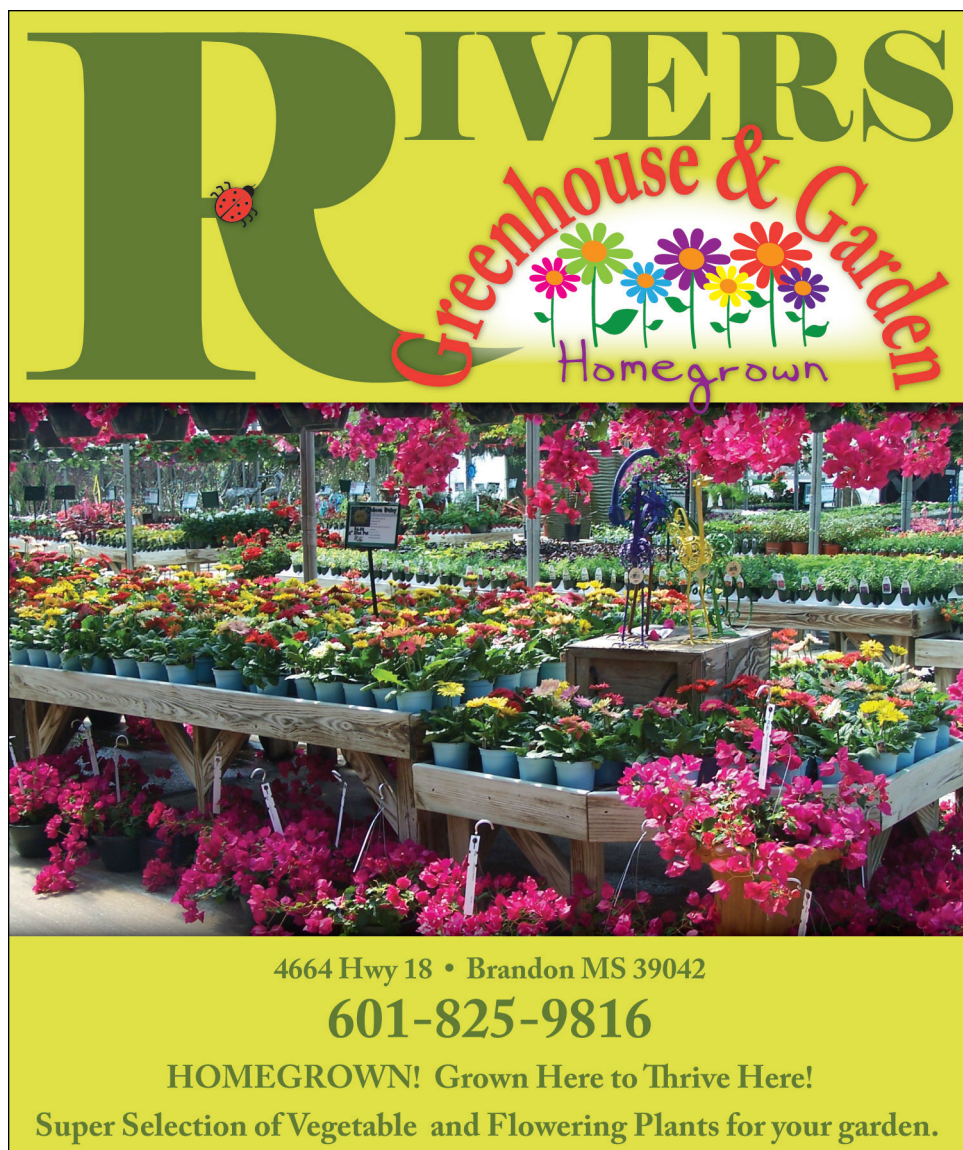
I Peter 4:17: "For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?"

Ephesians 5:15-17: "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

II Corinthians 6:2: "For he says, 'In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.' I tell you, now is the (accepted) time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation."

None of us knows how much time we have felt in this life. Therefore, it is important to make preparations for time eternal. If you need help understanding how to do this, please contact your pastor, or you can check with me. Our time is short! Ask the Lord to help you make the best use of the time you have left.

And be sure to take your family to church on Sunday!



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Town holds Easter Egg Hunt in the park



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Approximately 50-75 kids came out to Pelahatchie's Annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 24 at Muscadine Park. The winners received special prizes.



Photo by Pelahatchie News

First place winners (l to r) are: Nicholas Anderson and Camron Hotty Lanyuy



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Second place winners (l to r) are: Aiden Robinson, Austin Stevens, Lucas Atkinson, and Colette Eichelberger.



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Third place winners (l to r) are: Jordan Hurst, Caydon Lanyuy, and Killion Gibbs.

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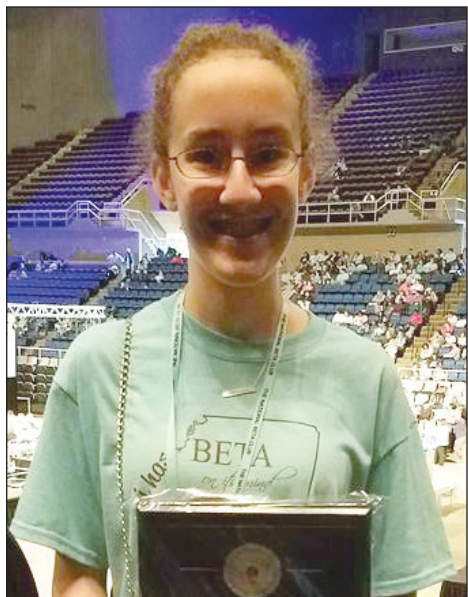
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Six PHS Beta Club students to attend National Convention in June



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Brenna Renfroe



Special to Pelahatchie News

Grace Alman



Special to Pelahatchie News

PHS Living Literature group pictured (l to r) are: Morgan Boyd, Abby Dawson, Katie Bayliss, and Amanda Trest.

Special to Pelahatchie News

Six Pelahatchie High School (PHS) students will advance to the National Senior Beta Club Convention on June

17-20 in Savannah, Georgia, where they will represent PHS and the State of Mississippi.

At the Mississippi Senior Beta Club Convention in Biloxi in Feb-

ruary, the six students were award winners, which qualified them for the National Convention: Brenna Renfroe placed third in Language Arts Eleventh Grade Division; Grace Al-

man placed third in Visual Art: Recyclable Art; and Morgan Boyd, Abby Dawson, Katie Bayliss, and Amanda Trest placed fourth in Living Literature.

PHS Archery Team developed in second year



Photo by Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie Archery season started the end of January and finished at South State in March. They placed twelfth in their division. They won their first match at Pisgah, and Brianna Rowland won the Top Female Archer at that match. The team had a great season, with the team score going up at each match. Taken at South State in Hattiesburg, the team pictured (l to r) are, front row, are: Chance Boone, Ben Stribling, Deuce Ward, James Courtney, and Levi Goldman; and back row: Emily Ingram, Marie Valentine, Brianna Rowland, Carmen Hamilton, Maleigh Edwards, Madison Broome, Dakota Butts, Angelica Lopez, and Britney Lanford.

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February PHS Students of the Month named



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Pelahatchie High School February Students of the Month are pictured (l to r) front row: Ella Tucker and Tyler Bayliss; middle row: Michelle Moore, Brianna Pearson, Kimberly Cochran, Jactavious Macklin, and Mr. John Gandy; and back row: Ahmand Johnson, Quay Archie, Anna Gill, Wes Goss, and Cameron Watkins. Not photographed is Suzy Romero.

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