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

What is the correct spelling of Pelahatchie?

By Susie A. Wolfe

The name Pelahatchie is believed to be a Choctaw word meaning "crooked creek" that came from the turning and twisting of the creek. In the history of the Town, there have been two spelling variations: Pelahatchie and Pelahatchee.

According to former Mayor Knox Ross, who often serves as a local historian, "The post office official spelling was with the extra 'e' for many years, and the town official spelling was with the 'i.' The post office changed this 'i,' I am guessing sometime in the 40s or 50s. If you look at old postmarks, you will see it spelled with the 'e'."

Tina Mauney, the head librarian at the Pelahatchie Library, said "From Mississippi Rails' website, I found that the post office was referred to as Pelahatchee Depot from 1859 until 1890,

when the word Depot was removed and the town was called Pelahatchee. On December 1, 1950, the post office became Pelahatchie."

She said she spoke with a resident that remembers the name change but does not recall why the name was changed. "She does remember the difficulty of remembering to use the new spelling when posting letters," said Mauney. "It is possible, she thinks, that Pelahatchee Creek was changed to Pelahatchie Creek around this time, but she wasn't certain."

Mauney found no valid, confirmable explanation for why the name changed. "Our reference department in Brandon (Library) did a bit of research, too, and their conclusion was that Pelahatchie was a variant spelling of Pelahatchee. The town clerk said records of board meetings from 1950 were stored off-site."



Photo by Simpson County Historical & Genealogical Society

Pelahatchie Post Office

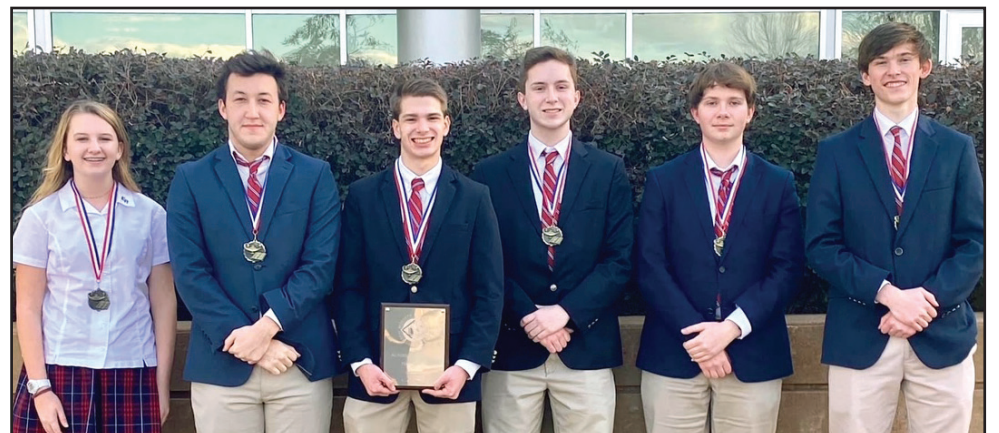
PHS starts first female powerlifting team



Special to Pelahatchie News

The PHS Ladies Powerlifting Team competed in Class I Region 3 Regionals on Wednesday, February 2. The team placed fourth out of nine with four team members advancing to their next round at South State at West Lincoln High School on Saturday, February 26. Pictured (l to r) are winners in their weight class: JaLeah Ford, sophomore, placed third; Collins Doster, senior, placed first; Coach Anna Kilpatrick; Melanie Ball, freshman, placed second; and Aliya Ward, sophomore, placed third. See page 12 for more on the PHS Ladies Powerlifting Team.

ERA wins MAIS Overall Academic Tournament



Special to Pelahatchie News

The ERA Quiz Bowl Team was named the 2022 MAIS Overall Quiz Bowl Champion. Pictured from left to right: Audrey Hawk, Brayden Whitney, Will Price, Colby Stewart, Jonathan Lamberth, and Dylan Davis.

Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Academic Quiz Bowl Team recently competed in the 32 team MAIS Overall Quiz Bowl Tournament.

The ERA Quiz Bowl team successfully competed against Jackson Prep in the semifinals and Presbyterian Christian School in the finals to win first place in the tournament.



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Area beauties recognized at Valentine's pageant

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The Valentine Sweethearts Pageant was held February 12 at Pelahatchie High School Auditorium. Girls and women of all ages vied for crowns. Mother's choice dress was the main attire and outfit of choice was optional. Many area girls were recognized.

Emilee Jo Poole, 3, daughter of Kevin and Casey Poole, won Overall Most Beautiful and Prettiest Hair, Most Beautiful, and Sweetheart Grand Supreme.

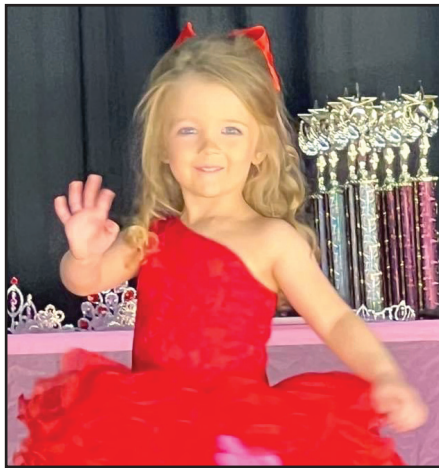
Hollis McDaniel, 8, daughter of Allison Taylor, won Overall Prettiest Smile and Princess. McDaniel is a second grader at East Rankin Academy.

Anna Kate Denton, 5, daughter of Nick and Nicole Denton, won Prettiest Smile, Fashion, and Sweetheart Queen in her age division. She attends four-year-old kindergarten at Pelahatchie Elementary.

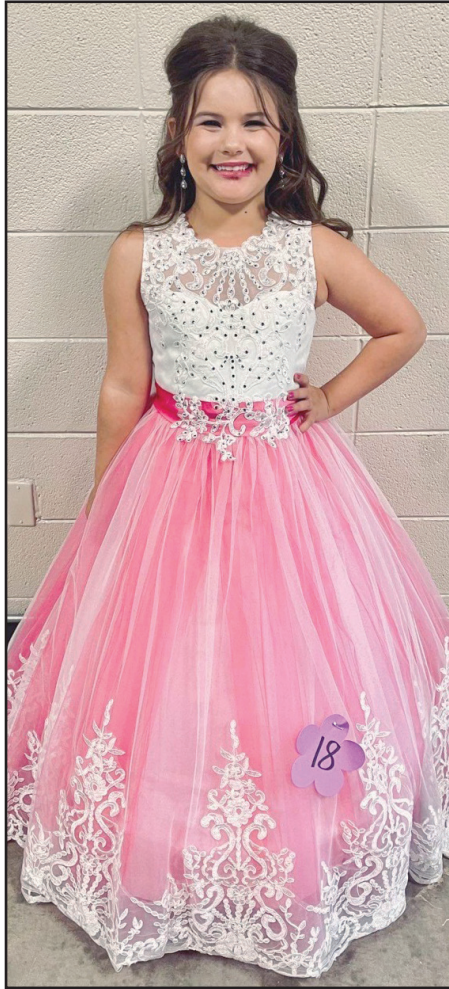
Sisters Stella, 9, and Hayden, 7, daughters of Juley and Shannon Steed, were recognized at the February 12 pageant. Both girls are students at Mt. Zion Christian School. Stella Steed, a fourth grader, won Overall Most Beautiful and Sweetheart Mini Supreme Queen. Hayven Steed, a second grader, won Sweetheart Queen, Most Beautiful, and Overall Prettiest Eyes.



Anna Kate Denton



Emilee Jo Poole



Hollis McDaniel



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Stella Steed, left, and Hayden Steed, right



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PHS boys place is powerlifting meet



Special to Pelahatchie News
The Pelahatchie High School (PHS) powerlifting team had a competitive showing at the Region 3-2A meet in February. Justin Beeman, left, finished second in his weight class, and Roshea McCoy, right, finished third in his. Both will advance to compete in the south state championship meet on March 5.

PHS Archery is off to a great start



Special to Pelahatchie News
Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Archery defeated Morton with a score of 2,929 to 2,591 in February. Pictured above is Kayden Alvarez.

PHS facilities back on campus



Special to Pelahatchie News
The Pelahatchie High School (PHS) baseball facilities are now back on campus. The new scoreboard has gone up, along with numerous other improvements.



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In the fifth week, the House takes up a range of bills



By Guest Columnist
Rep. Tom Miles, State
Representative from
House District #75

Special to
Pelahatchie News

The fifth week of the 2022 legislative session proved to be the busiest that we have had so far this year. Committee meetings to discuss House bills wrapped up early in the week because of Tuesday's general bills deadline. We convened in the House Chamber for longer periods to discuss the legislation that made it to the calendar. We approximately discussed around 130 bills that were discussed with a variety of topics.

House Bill 1313 would establish the Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope (FAITH) Scholarship Program. This scholarship program would provide financial assistance for postsecondary education to all current and former foster children under age 26. The financial assistance includes full tuition, fees, and room and board. We named the program after Representative Bill Kinkade (from Marshall County), who grew up in the foster system. HB 1313 passed by a vote of 118-4.

House Concurrent Resolution 14 recognizes and honors Vietnam War Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange. During the introduction of the concurrent resolution, Amendment 1 was brought forth adding Representative Manly Barton and Representative Mac Huddleston. Both Rep. Barton and Rep. Huddleston bravely served in the Vietnam War. HC 14 passed unanimously by a vote of 122-0 and has been sent to the Senate.

The Mississippi Health Care Workers Retention Act of 2022 (House Bill 764) was introduced on Wednesday. The bill would appropriate \$56 million of the federal American Rescue Plan to the Mississippi Department of



Special to Pelahatchie News

On February 4, the legislators had their inaugural meeting of the Mississippi Legislative First Responders Caucus. This group is working on HB 779 that will cover state law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders just like the federal law does for line of duty death.

Health. These funds would be used to pay health care workers who directly treated COVID-19 up to \$5,000 if they agree to stay at their current facility for five months. Mississippi, among other states, has seen massive health care worker shortages since the start of the pandemic. The bill passed by a bipartisan vote of 112-6.

HB 512 would remove the Department of Revenue from being the wholesale distributor of alcohol within the state and allow for wholesale permits to be issued to private companies. The Department of Revenue currently operates the Alcoholic Beverage Control warehouse in Gluckstadt. A similar bill was passed last session by the House, but it died in conference. HB 512 passed 113-2 and has been sent to the Senate.

The Second Amendment Preservation Act (HB 1418) would preempt any

federal legislation seeking to ban firearms, ammunition and other supplies, excluding universities and colleges. After little debate, the bill passed by a vote of 83-35.

HB 621 would increase certain penalties for the crime of fleeing from law enforcement. Under current law, a person who is found guilty of operating a motor vehicle in a reckless or willfully dangerous manner and fleeing from law enforcement could receive up to five years in prison. HB 621 would increase this time to 10 years. A reverse repealer was added by amendment ensuring the bill will go to conference before the end of the legislative session. The bill passed by a vote of 84-34.

Many bills passed the House with overwhelming majority, including a bill to create an interstate compact for audiology and speech-language pathology licenses (House Bill 424); the

Sexual Assault Response for College Students Act (House Bill 589); two bills creating the Mississippi Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund (House Bills 606 and 1064); a bill prohibiting discrimination against a recipient of an organ donation based on disability (House Bill 20); two bills increasing salaries for Mississippi Highway Patrol and Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics Officers (House Bills 1344 and 1422); a bill creating the Mississippi Healthy Food and Families Program (House Bill 555); and the College Sticker Price Act of 2022 (House Bill 464).

On February 4, we had our inaugural meeting of the Mississippi Legislative First Responders Caucus. Having served as a First Responder and a member of the Scott County Dive team, I want this organization to lead the way in passing legislation that affects our brave men and women all across our State.

One of the main issues that First Responders Caucus is pushing this year that we passed on the House floor is HB 779. HB 779 is a bill that will cover just like the federal law does for line of duty death to our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, and First Responders. We are also still working to try to come up with an opportunity to cover employees that work for private companies, like our ambulance companies and other health care workers.

Floor debate will continue on general bills until the February 10 deadline. After that, discussion will move to appropriation and revenue bills, as well as bills originating in the Senate.

As always, please feel free to contact me for any matters you wish to bring to my attention. You can follow us along at the Legislature's YouTube channel to watch some floor debates, including those from last week. The YouTube channel address is www.youtube.com/c/MississippiLegislature.

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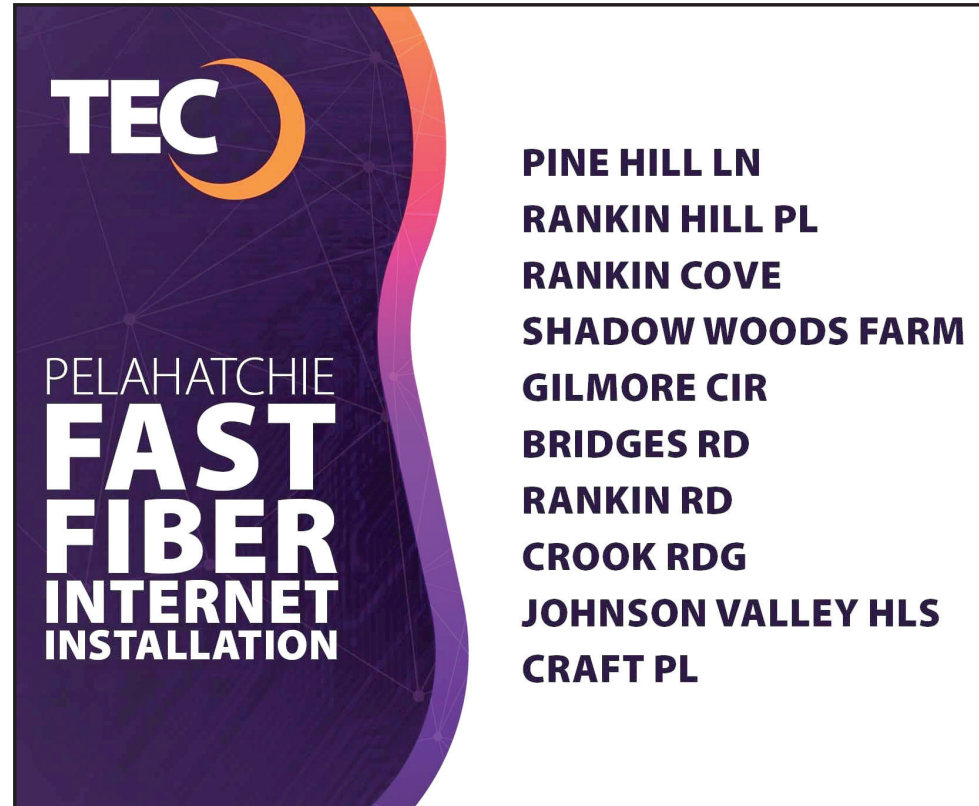
TEC bringing fast fiber internet to Pelahatchie

Special to Pelahatchie News

TEC, a leading rural fiber broadband provider in Mississippi, has started the second phase of fiber expansion in east Rankin County, connecting more Mississippians with dedicated, quality internet options. Construction has been underway, with crews having installed fiber optic cable on Charlie White Road in 2021. This project consists of seven phases that will bring fiber internet to parts of Jasper, Smith, Scott, and Jones counties.

"This new year brings innovative, exciting opportunities for TEC as we continue growing our fiber footprint in Mississippi," says Joey F. Garner, Executive Vice President of TEC. "We look forward to making a positive difference in rural areas by connecting more people with internet services. TEC is dedicated to our customers, and we are thankful for the chance to bring these broadband improvements and advancements to Rankin County."

TEC's goal is to minimize the broadband gap by providing a reliable, high-quality, and affordable internet solution. Dependable fiber internet connections offer improved quality



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of life through telemedicine, distance learning, and work from home options. Additionally, high-speed broadband provides personal enjoyment, such as

streaming videos or gaming. Customer needs are changing when it comes to internet usage during these unprecedented times; there is now a crucial need for

working, learning, communicating, and having the capability to access essential online services, like telehealth, remotely.

"I'm very pleased with the progress being made by TEC. Their persistence and dedication will result in the deployment of fast and dependable internet connections to 400 more homes," Central District Public Service Commissioner Brent Bailey said. "For too long, Mississippians in rural parts of the state have been doing without a reliable connection. Events over the last year have led to the closure of many educational and governmental facilities, as well as local businesses. The lack of internet in rural areas has highlighted just how important it is that we keep expanding, and TEC is doing excellent work in this field."

When completed, this project will cover over 41 miles and pass 367 residential and business customers with TEC's Fast Fiber Internet. Symmetrical Gigabit speeds and home phone services will be available to the residents of rural east Rankin County. If you are interested in signing up for internet service, go to www.TEC.com/SignUp to complete a quick form.

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Chieftacular honored at RCSD



Special to Pelahatchie News

Chieftacular was honored to be asked to perform for the Rankin County School District (RCSD) Board Meeting that was held on February 23 in the MPR building. This was the group's first performance due to Covid restrictions. Their performance consisted of a selection entitled, "It's Showtime" and a Medley of Commercial Songs. Chieftacular is made up of six graders that attend Pelahatchie Elementary. Members this year pictured (l to r) are: KatieBelle Herrington, Amelia Garcia, Bethany Tucker, and Marlie Conn.

Ragsdale signs with NWMCC

Spring has sprung in Pelahatchie



Special to Pelahatchie News

Quay Ragsdale signed to play football with Northwest Mississippi Community College (NWMCC) February 9. His PHS friends said, "Keep working hard and achieving your goals one step at a time, young man. Once a Chief, always a Chief. Your Tribe will always support you!" Pictured (l to r) are: Ragsdale and Coach Ryan Keeton.



Photo by Susie A. Wolfe

Spring has sprung in the Pelahatchie area. Spots of color are seen around Town, from Buttercups to Lily of the Valley, the tiny flowers shown here. Redbuds are popping out, too.

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A photograph of various spring decor items including potted plants, a wicker basket, and a framed picture of birds.

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Local students named to university honor lists

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Several Pelahatchie students were recently named as scholars at their respective university institutions for the fall 2021 semester.

Joseph Winstead, Jordan White, Hannah Whitney, Reagan Sanders and Jesi Thompson were named to the Fall 2021 Chancellor's Honor Roll at the University of Mississippi. This honor is reserved for students who earn a se-

mester GPA of 3.75-4.0.

Laura Wingo of Pelahatchie was named to the Fall 2021 President's List at Mississippi College. To be eligible for the President's List, a student must maintain a 4.0 grade point average, based on a 4.0 system. Scarlett Castillo and Cody Myers of Pelahatchie were named to the Dean's List for Fall



Special to Pelahatchie News

2021. To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must maintain a 3.5 grade point average, based on a 4.0 system. To be named to the President's and Dean's Lists at Mississippi College, students must take a full course load of at least 12 semester hours of undergraduate credit, with all academic courses impacting their grade point

average.

Tiffany Hoard and Kristen Tullos were named to the President's List at the University of Southern Mississippi. The President's List includes full-time students who earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Makia Arvella Lewis, Peyton Lamar McKinion and Cheyla Gissell Munoz Ramos were named to the Dean's List at USM. Dean's List scholars are those with at least a 3.5 grade point average, but less than a 4.0.

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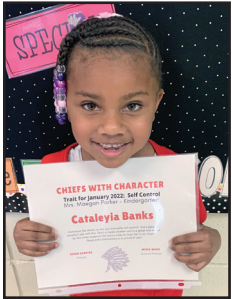


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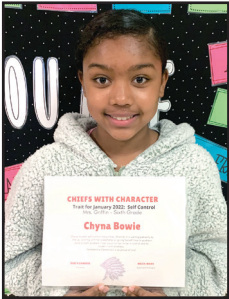
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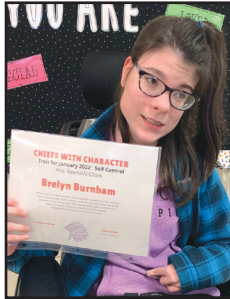
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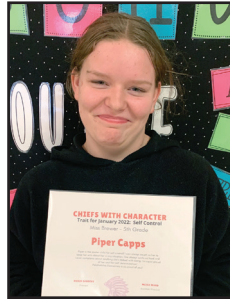
Cataleya Banks



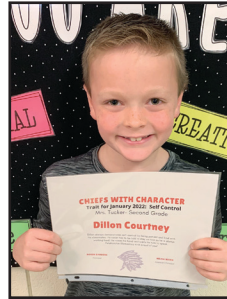
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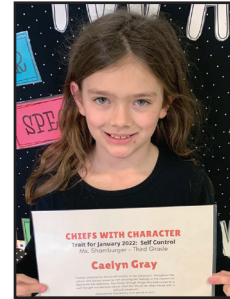
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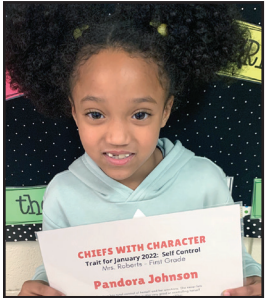
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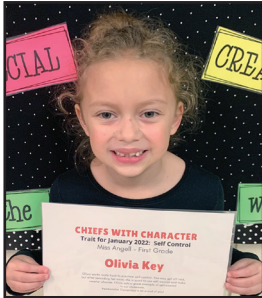
Layla Hillie



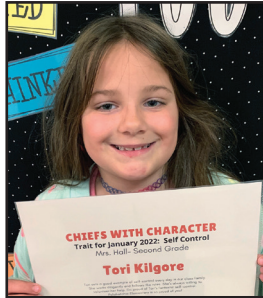
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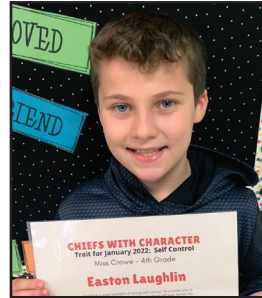
Pandora Johnson



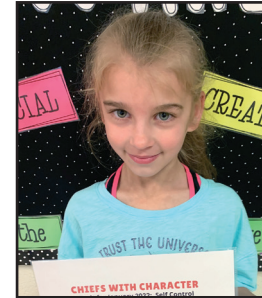
Olivia Key



Tori Kilgore



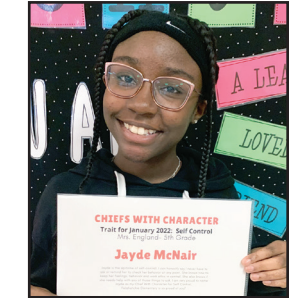
Easton Laughlin



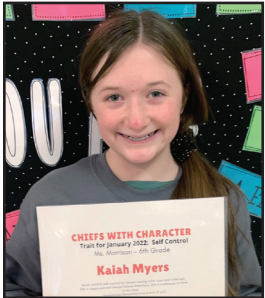
Allyson McDaniel



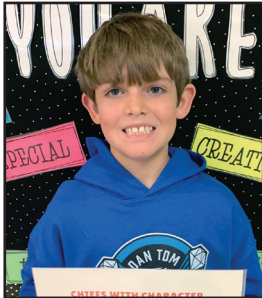
Jayla McKinnis



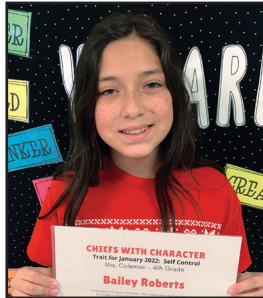
Jayde McNair



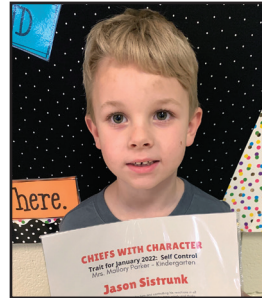
Kaiah Myers



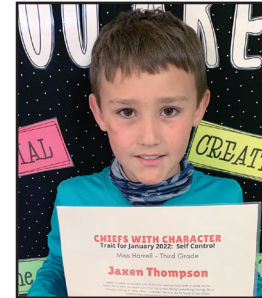
Jax Parker



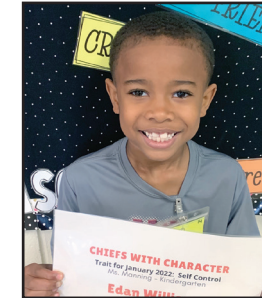
Bailey Roberts



Jason Sistrunk



Jaxen Thompson



Edam Williams



Kane Wilson

Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) named the January 2022 Chiefs with Character Trait students of the month. The students who earned this honor are shown above.



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ERA holds National Honor Society induction



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy (ERA) recently recognized students inducted into the East Rankin Academy Chapter of the National Honor Society for the 2021-2022 school year. Pictured (l to r) first row, are: Abby Blair, Candice Crain, Mallory Ellis, Maddie Denson, Skylar Simmons, Brooklyn Luke, and Tyler Henderson; second row: Lindsey Watkins, Neely Hawthorne, Sarah-Kate Alexander, Abbey Kelly, Kate Betts, Abby Porter, Hollyn Griffin, and Madison Tigrett; third row: Rylee Sojourner, Karlee Harrison, Brayden Tucker, Reese Harper, Colby Stewart, Jett Stuart, Parker Martin, Grayton Roberts, Aiden Boyd, Max Gainey, and Peyton Patrick; and back row: Will Price, John Luke Johnston, Cole Moudy, Walker Floyd, Stephens Bulger, Dylan Davis, Lawson Wuestefeld, Judson Giordano, Elijah Bowman, Jonathan Lamberth, and Jonas Vining. Not pictured is Olivia Goolsby.



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Lindsey participates in Livestock Showdown



Special to Pelahatchie News

Rep. Tom Miles, left, participated in the Annual Legislative Livestock Showdown with Addison Lindsey, right, a Pelahatchie High School student, and her prize-winning bull JJ. Lindsey and JJ also won the Dixie National Junior Roundup 2022 AOB non Brahman Champion in February.

Rankin County deputies seize 214 pounds of cocaine



Special to Pelahatchie News

Rankin County deputies seized 213 pounds of cocaine near Pelahatchie on February 4. The estimated street value was approximately \$14,000,000.



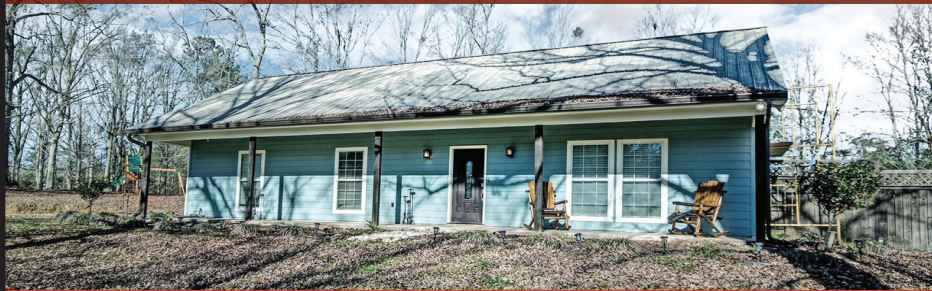
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Special to Pelahatchie News

On Friday, February 4, a deputy with the Rankin County Interstate Interdiction Team observed a large passenger bus traveling eastbound on Interstate 20 driving erratically. The deputy made a stop for a traffic violation near Pelahatchie. After speaking with the driver and his passenger, the deputy observed extremely nervous behavior coming from both occupants. The deputy asked for and received consent to search the bus.

After other deputies with the interdiction group responded, deputies began to search the bus. When a search of the bus was started, one of the suspects at-

tempted to flee the scene and was quickly apprehended. Deputies continued their search and located approximately twenty (20) wrapped packages. Fredy Gutierrez and Gabriel Manuel were then placed under arrest. A further search of the vehicle then resulted in 96 kilograms (213 pounds) of what was later determined to be cocaine. The estimated street value of the cocaine is approximately \$14,000,000. Gutierrez and Manuel were transported to the Rankin County Adult Detention Center, where they are being charged with aggravated trafficking. District Attorney Bubba Bramlett will bring both before Rankin County Court Judge David Morrow for an initial appearance.

PES student gets support from Monkey in My Chair



By Guest Columnist
Robin Sanders,
Principal, Pelahatchie
Elementary

Special to
Pelahatchie News

There is a lot of excitement in Mrs. Paige Tucker's second grade class this semester.

Mrs. Tucker's class at Pelahatchie Elementary has a new face in the room, a stuffed monkey named Joey. Joey is visiting the room and participating in class while 8-year-old Ames Lee, son of Chad and Wendy Lee, is out for an extended period of time. Ames was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. Ames is receiving treatments at Batson Children's Hospital. The monkey (Joey) is part of an organization called Monkey in My Chair. Joey sits at Ames's desk while Ames is unable to be at school. Students take turns being responsible for Joey and carrying him to and from activities within the school.

Monkey in My Chair keeps kids in cancer treatment connected to their classmates in school.

Monkey in My Chair is a program originally developed in honor of Chloe Watson Feyerherm for Preschool and elementary aged children who are away from school because of a cancer diagnosis. As a result of Chloe's experience, her mother, teachers and community got together to develop the Monkey in My Chair program through the efforts of their newly established charity, the Love, Chloe Foundation.

Through the program, each child is provided with a "monkey kit" which includes a big stuffed monkey that



Pictured above, Aniyah Harvey, is one of the students who helps tote Joey when they leave the classroom for different school activities.

takes their place in school when they are unable to be there. The kits include the monkey with a backpack, a book to help teachers explain to students the situation their classmate is facing and how it affects them, teacher companion guide, along with other items that can be utilized by the child and/or their classmates. All kits are sent out at no cost to the families or hospitals.

When students from Mrs. Tucker's class were asked, "How does Joey help Ames feel connected to the classroom?" Sunnie McCrory said, "Joey gets to be here when Ames can't." Dillon Courtney said, "Joey pretends to read books and write like Ames would if he were here." Ava Keeton said, "Joey makes



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Ames Lee's monkey, Joey, sits in his chair while he is out for an extended period of time.

Ames feel happy because he knows the monkey is supposed to be like him. I wish he had red hair like Ames!" All three of the students agreed Joey needs red hair. We are so thankful we have

a way to keep Ames connected to his class while he is receiving treatment. Pelahatchie Elementary School is sending positive thoughts to Ames and his family during this challenging journey.

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Sledge pleads guilty in murder-for-hire plot

Special to Pelahatchie News

Jessica Sledge, who is accused of using the internet to hire a hitman to kill her husband, changed her plea to guilty on February 7.

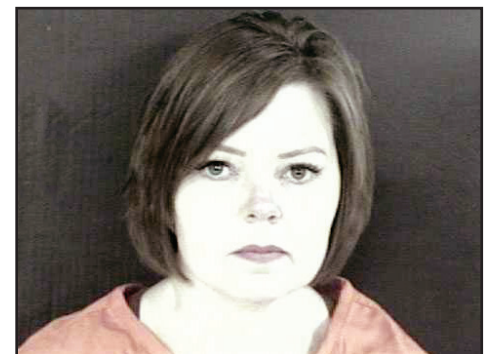
Sledge used the dark web to hire a hitman, made three Bitcoin payments totaling \$10,000 to the alleged hitman, and communicated with an FBI agent posing as a hitman via a cell phone and WhatsApp, all of which was a violation of federal statute.

U.S. District Court Judge Carlton Reeves accepted Sledge's plea during a hearing Monday, February 7, and set a sentencing date for May 16, 2022.

She will remain behind bars at the Madison County Detention Center until then.

She and her attorney appeared at the hearing via teleconference.

Sledge showed little emotion as the judge asked her various questions and read the record to her.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Jennifer Sledge

The 40-year-old is facing up to 10 years in federal prison and three years of supervised release.

She also faces up to \$250,000 in fines related to the crime.

The U.S. Attorney's Office is providing a sentencing recommendation as part of the plea agreement.

That recommendation has not been made public.

Pelahatchie High School starts first female powerlifting team

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) started a ladies' powerlifting team this semester due to a high interest from students and an experienced head coach. Anna Kilpatrick teaches English I and II and has lifted weights in her spare time for the past 13 years.

She said she heard through the grapevine last school year that there was a surprisingly high interest in a female powerlifting team.

The twelve members of the school's first female powerlifting team meet three times a week at six o'clock in the morning before school and train hard for their meets.

The PHS powerlifting team includes: Collins Doster; Kiara Gary; Julia Myers; Kayleigh Keyes; Holly White; JaLeah Ford; Maggi Gilliam; Gracie Grogan; Abby Grace

Hemeter; Aliya Ward; Melanie Ball; and Jessie Stewart.

The PHS Ladies Powerlifting Team competed in Class I Region 3 Regionals on Wednesday February 2. The team placed fourth out of nine with four team members advancing to their next round at South State at West Lincoln High School on Saturday, February 26. The winners were: Collins Doster, senior, placed first in her weight class; JaLeah Ford, sophomore, placed third in her weight class; Aliya Ward, sophomore, placed third in her weight class; and Melanie Ball, freshman, placed second in her weight class.

"With this being the first female team at PHS, I couldn't be more proud of each of the young ladies on my team. I am extremely excited about the future of Lady Chiefs Powerlifting!" said Coach Kilpatrick.



Special to Pelahatchie News

The twelve PHS girls powerlifting team members pictured (l to r) front row, are: Gracie Grogan, JaLeah Ford, and Kayleigh Keyes; middle row: Melanie Ball, Abby Grace Hemeter, and Kiara Gary; and back row: Aliya Ward, Maggi Gilliam, Coach Anna Kilpatrick, Collins Doster, Julia Myers, Holly White, and Jessie Stewart.

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Pastor's Perspective: Spring forward on March 13



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

Special to Pelahatchie News

Happy March to you! Two significant things will happen during the month of March. The first day of Spring will be on the March 20. Are you ready??

The second significant date in March will be March 13, which is the first day of Day Light Savings Time (DST). There is always a lot of discussion about DST. Some like it and some don't! Most folks I know would rather stick to one or the other time and not switch back and forth.

One year, right after DST had gone into effect, there was a heated discussion on a radio talk show. Those on both sides were calling in to the host to express their approval or their dislike of DST. One older lady called in and said, "I wish they would just leave the time alone. That extra hour of sunlight is 'bout to burn my 'maters up!"

Then there was the old American Indian Chief who said, "Only the government would believe that you can cut a foot off of one end of the blanket, sew it on the other end of the blanket, and end up with a longer blanket!"

Remember that this month, we'll be going "on" DST, so on Saturday night,

March 12, you need to set your clock ahead by one hour. Spring forward. Of course, the net effect is that we'll have a 23 hour day, and you'll lose an hour of sleep!

It was Benjamin Franklin who in 1784 proposed the idea of aligning waking hours to daylight hours. He wasn't thinking about "saving" daylight. His thought was that if people got up at sunrise and went to bed earlier, then they could conserve candles and save a lot of money! Remember, he also said, "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise!"

In 1916, Germany and the United Kingdom put DST into practice during World War I. The United States instituted DST in 1918 in order to conserve fuel needed to produce electricity during the war. Other countries followed, but most areas reverted to standard time after the war. In 1942, the United States reinstated DST for the duration of World War II.

The Uniform Time Act of 1966 established a system of uniform DST throughout the country, except for states that voted to stay on standard time. Only Arizona and Hawaii opted



Special to Pelahatchie News

to stay on Standard Time year round and don't have to go through the ritual of changing their clocks twice a year. Proponents of DST point out the reduc-

tion in energy consumption. Opponents claim that the benefit doesn't justify the adjustment of clocks twice a year and note that the disruption of sleep patterns in the spring corresponds to a spike in the number of serious auto accidents, among other problems.

In the spiritual realm, this biannual changing of the clocks can serve as a reminder that we have a limited time on this earth. Jesus was keenly aware that he had only three years to carry out his earthly ministry. He wanted his followers to have that same awareness and dedication to their God-given assignments. Jesus made the most of his "daylight" and accomplished his mission before he died. And He told His followers in John 9:4, "As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work."

We live in the day of salvation, when God's grace shines like the sun. We need to be about the business of bringing others into his kingdom. But time is short. God has fixed the date, since the foundation of the world, when this present age will end. We don't know how brief or how long our life will be.

So while you are changing your clock this month, remember to make a renewed commitment to make the most of every day in your service to the Lord. Be sure to take your family to church on Sunday!

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	ARRANGEMENTS
Booker T. King	72	Laurel	1/20/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Tiffany Youngblood	41	Morton	1/24/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Elizabeth Lovett	82	Forest	1/29/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Francisco Contreras	68	Forest	2/7/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Clara L. Johnston	82	Lake	2/8/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
James Hodges	68	Forest	2/9/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Elmer Harville	76	Conehatta	2/9/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Kimberly Ficklin	48	Forest	2/9/2022	Wolf Funeral Services
Roger Jones	71	Pelahatchie	2/11/2022	Wolf Funeral Services

PHS students get lesson in physical therapy



Special to Pelahatchie News

Lee Newman, a physical therapist with Elite Physical Therapy in Brandon, visited Ms. Luker's Medical Science classes at Pelahatchie High School (PHS) in February. Students learned about body balance and alignment with a Bosu ball, strength measurements and assessing reflexes, exercises to strengthen shoulders and hips, slow motion video analysis of tuck jumps and overhead squats, plus the students were able to see a demonstration of dry needling.

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Protect your trees against granulate ambrosia beetles this spring



By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

The summer before last, I was called to look at five dead mature Sassafras Trees in a yard. Upon arriving, we discovered what looked like tooth-

picks growing out of the trunk of the dead trees. The toothpicks were columns of compacted saw dust that was forced out by Granulate Ambrosia Beetles, as they bored into the trees.

The Granulate Ambrosia Beetle (GAB), is one of the most damaging insect pests of young trees in Mississippi landscapes, nurseries, and fruit orchards. Most of the damage will occur in the early spring, just before or when the trees are leafing out. A homeowner may notice that the Japanese Maple they planted two years ago does not leaf out in the spring. A commercial nursery may notice a 10% to 15% mortality rate in a couple of different species of their container-grown hardwood saplings.

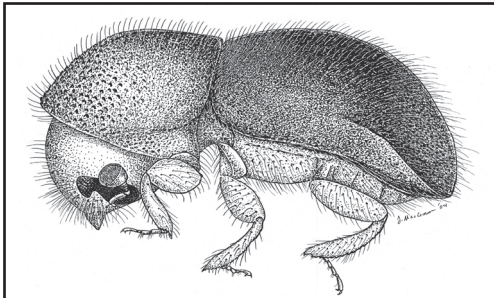
The non-native GAB was first detected in the U.S. in 1974, and it is now established throughout our state. We have a lot of wood-boring beetles in the state. The GAB is one of the most destructive be-

cause the trees attacked by it usually dies. It also does not take many GABs to kill a tree. Like most tree borers, the GAB is attracted to stressed or injured trees, as well as newly cut wood, but they will also attack healthy trees, especially trees less than 3 inches in diameter. Unfortunately, these attacks are unusually fatal, because the beetle inoculates its galleries with a fungal disease, which grows within the tree and provides food for the larvae.

An adult female GAB is about 1/10 of an inch long, reddish brown in color, and their heads are bent downward, so the head is not visible when the insect is viewed directly from above. These insects are very difficult to find and identify, but trees being attacked by the GAB are easy to spot because of the toothpick-sized sticks of tightly packed saw dust that are projecting from the tree. These frass sticks are one of the more distinctive symptoms of a GAB attack. These sticks may be straight or curved

downward, and they may be up to three inches long. In time, rain and wind will break these off, leaving only bird-shot-sized holes.

The GAB attacks many different species of hardwood trees, but it seems to be fond of species that are relatively smooth-barked, especially if they are growing in containers or have been recently trans-



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Granulate Ambrosia Beetle (GAB), is one of the most damaging insect pests of young trees in Mississippi landscapes, nurseries, and fruit orchards.

planted. Some of the species we see attacked by GAB most often are: Bradford Pear, fig, crape myrtle, maple, sweet gum, magnolia, pecan, peach, ornamental cherries, and sometimes woody vines like muscadine and shrubs like azalea. There

are more than 100 other documented hosts. The GAB does not attack conifers.

Steps to prevent or control the GAB include keeping trees healthy and free of stress. This helps even though the GAB will successfully attack and kill "apparently healthy" trees. It seems newly transported trees in landscapes, containerized plants growing in nurseries, and

fruit trees that have been recently pruned or stressed are some of the most common victims of GAB.

Homeowners shouldn't be too hasty to remove trees that are already under attack from the GAB. It would make sense to get rid of these, either by burning or in some way removing these trees. Trees that are under attack are highly attractive to other GABs in the area. GABs will usually come to a tree that is already under attack, rather than going to a nearby uninfested tree. Just be sure to cut and destroy the infested tree before the beetle has time to complete their life cycle, which usually last around 55 days.

Preventive insecticide treatments can be applied to the trunks and large limbs of susceptible trees. The objective is to provide an insect barrier on the bark that kills the beetles before they are able to bore into the wood and deposit eggs. No insecticide treatment will kill beetles that have already bored into the trunk.

The problem with preventive treatments is that GAB outbreaks are sporadic. You may have damage one year and very little or none the next year. Also, spring flight times of the GAB may vary from one year to the next.

Source: MSU-ES Bug Wise, No. 1, January 2012

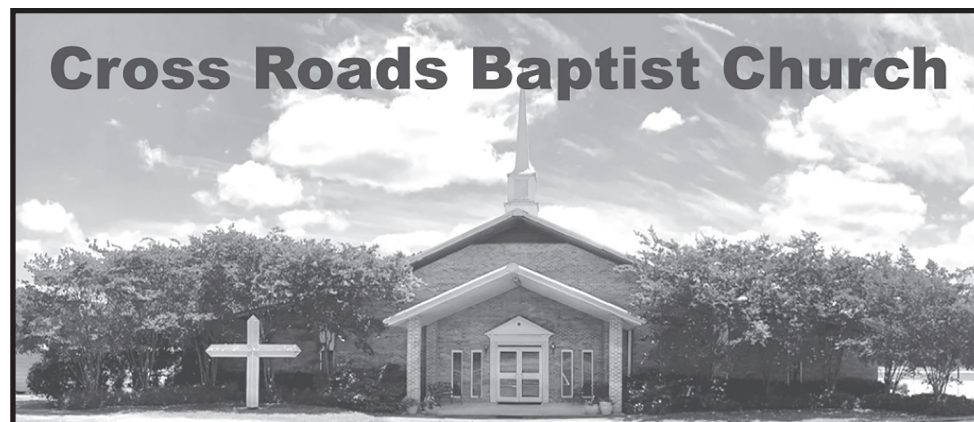


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Stevens excels in February basketball game



East Rankin Academy (ERA) sophomore Abigail Stevens had 39 points and 18 rebounds in the February 5A North battle against Pillow Academy.

Strong third nine-weeks finish



Special to Pelahatchie News

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

March brings us the end of the third nine weeks as well as a much needed break for our staff and students. As we close the term, there are a couple of items worth highlighting so that a positive finish can occur.

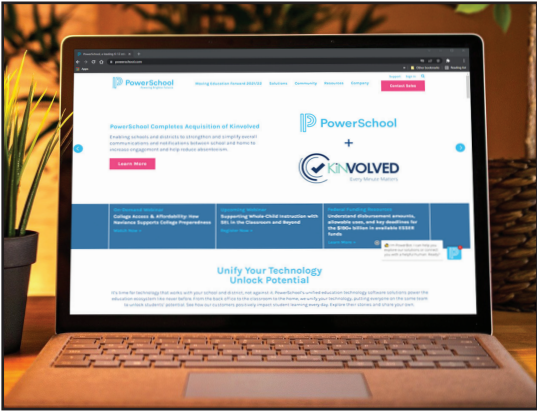
On Tuesday, March 1, our junior class will take the ACT exam on our campus. Our juniors recently attended a boot camp led by Mr. Montgomery Hinton to gain insight on many test taking tips. A good night's rest, breakfast, as well as a charged calculator can all be beneficial to those who are taking the ACT.

The benchmark season also begins in early March. Those taking their second

and final comprehensive benchmark for the year will do so either during the week prior to Spring Break or the week after. Benchmarks, when honest effort is applied, can be a great tool for validating what has been taught as well as an opportunity to review any skills that students may have struggled with.

Last, with basically two weeks remaining in the third nine weeks, make sure

to check your child's grades to ensure that all of their assignments have been completed AND turned in. Assignments with a grade of 0 can really damage a student's overall average. Checking your student's Powerschool



Special to Pelahatchie News

account will allow you to view their grades in real time. If you have any questions regarding your child's current status, feel free to contact your child's teachers and they will be glad to assist in any way. Let's finish the 3rd nine weeks strong...Go Chiefs!!!

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Grant awarded to improve roads and highways in Rankin County

Special to Pelahatchie News

More than \$25 million is expected to be spent on 33 different projects in Madison, Rankin, and Hinds counties.

The Central Mississippi Planning and Development awarded the grant through their Metropolitan Planning Organization and chose the areas they believed needed the most attention.

"The local communities, all the cities, counties, They apply for these funds. We grade them based on this system. The higher level rated projects get approved," said Mike Monk, of the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District.

Eligible jurisdictions applied in October to have specific projects chosen. The money is coming from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Ward 3 Councilman Kenneth Stokes believes that the city of Jackson needs the most work done.

"We're not trying to take away from wards that have been rewarded these funds, because they need the help also, but if the Capitol city is going to keep growing, we've got to have better roads and better development," Stokes said.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Hinds County will spend at least 41% of the money, with Rankin at 32% and Madison at 27%.

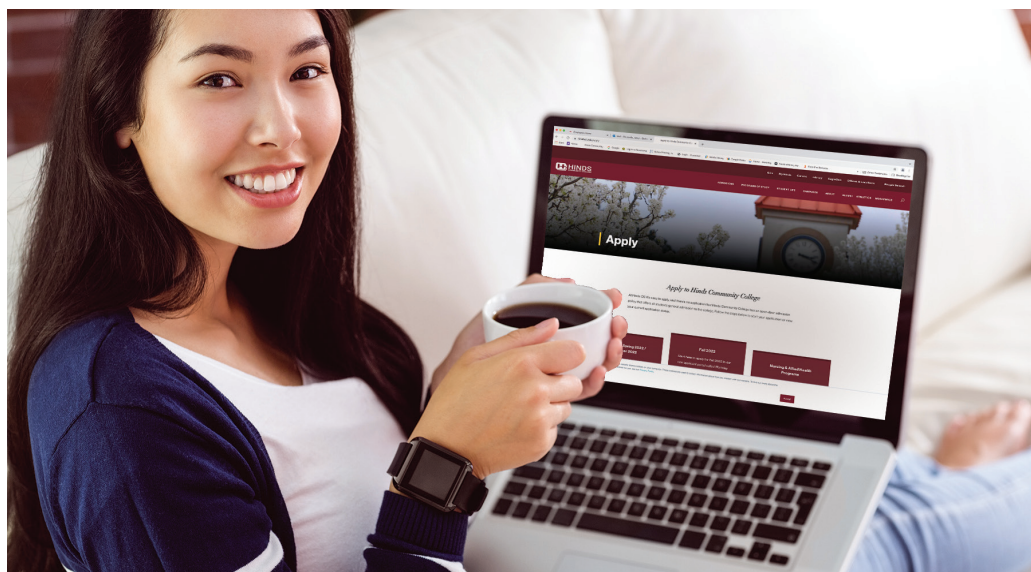
"Every year the cost of building these improvements goes up, and we have to deal with the inflationary costs as well," Monk said.

The Mississippi Department of Transportation will work with crews to complete projects, which are expected to be completed throughout the year.

Meetings to finish these plans will begin in the next couple of weeks.

The 33 projects are expected to take up to 10 years, if not longer.

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