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Pelahatchie News
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SBA selects Multicraft International for Made in America after nomination by BankPlus

By Katie White

Multicraft International has been growing and innovating for 44 years, with its original debut in 1978. The Mississippi Southeast region of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) selected Multicraft International and BankPlus for Made in America this past year.

Andrew Mallinson, Chief Executive Officer at Multicraft International, who is originally from England, acquired ownership of Multicraft in 1991. The company had been owned by two previous owners, the first of which was Ford Motor company.

There are four operations of Multicraft International, and they are all located in Pelahatchie. Multicraft International, with its 115 employees, produces automotive braking, engine parts, heating and cooling, lighting and interior and electronic systems. Beyond the automobile, they have taken their expertise and



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Multicraft International Technologies building

the domestic content threshold - in conjunction with the recently signed Bipartisan Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act - was implemented in hopes of providing infrastructure and global competitiveness in the U.S.

SBA's Region IV Administrator, Allen Thomas, in his commitment to support small businesses manufacturing goods and products made in America, recent-

ly surveyed the SBA districts in the Southeast United States - Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee - to determine and recognize firms creating impact through manufacturing efforts in their local communities.

"Small manufacturing businesses have a vast opportunity for substantial local contracts, under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal. The SBA, along with the Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs) are here to get local businesses set up and ready to compete for these contracts. Aside from the bill, the U.S. government is the largest buyer of goods and services in the world. Small businesses are entitled to 23% of the government's annual spending budget. The government purchases billions of dollars annually from small businesses across the country," said Thomas.

Janita R. Stewart, SBA's Mississippi-
continued on page 4

The return of Muscadine Jubilee on September 17

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Town has been planning and getting ready for the community and visitors that will attend the Muscadine Jubilee on September 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

As with many events during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Muscadine Jubilee was canceled and has been for the last two years. To gain momentum, the Town feels a need to start over in a sense - renewing relationships and hopefully gaining new relationships with vendors, entertainers, organizations and businesses, artists of all kinds and product sellers. Currently, more food vendors are needed.

Admission to the event is \$5. Children six years and under will be admitted at no charge. The \$5 admission allows you into the park where there will be fun for the kids, vendor booths, grape stomping, and live entertainment by Miles Flatt and Backroads Reunion.

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Miles Flatt band



Backroads Reunion band

Photos special to Pelahatchie News

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Everitt directs, shoots movie adapted from the book *Points of Origin*

By Katie White

Curtis Everitt, Founder and President of Saint Studios Films, has been directing and shooting a movie adapted from Dr. Darden North's book, *Points of Origin*.

Everitt spent the first 10 years of his life in Alaska while his parents were teachers there. At age 10, his family moved to Flowood. After inheriting a house in Pelahatchie, he moved into the home in 2014, and he has lived in Pelahatchie ever since.

Everitt received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at Mississippi College. He then utilized his degree knowledge to further his film business, Saint Studios Films. Since 2007, his company has done over 80 feature films.

Saint Studios Films is a single member LLC. Everitt refers to his business as "a hobbyist film company that makes movies because we like to." Occasionally, freelancers are hired to work for a variety of tasks. They will also work with other filmmakers and help them with their movies, especially when, in return, they have worked with his film business before.

One such film business that Everitt



Lewis Lafferty plays Granddad Foxworth.

partners with is Paragenesis Media, a company owned by Mississippi residents James Wilkerson and Thomas Ray.

Through Paragenesis Media, Everitt became involved with the adaptation of *Points of Origin*. He enjoys thriller movies, and, when the opportunity to work on the movie came up, he asked if he could direct for the film as well as shoot and edit. Some of the people he usually works with, both cast and crew, became involved in the production, as well.



Lewis Lafferty plays Granddad Foxworth.

Photos by Curtis Everitt

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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) 566-1932
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.

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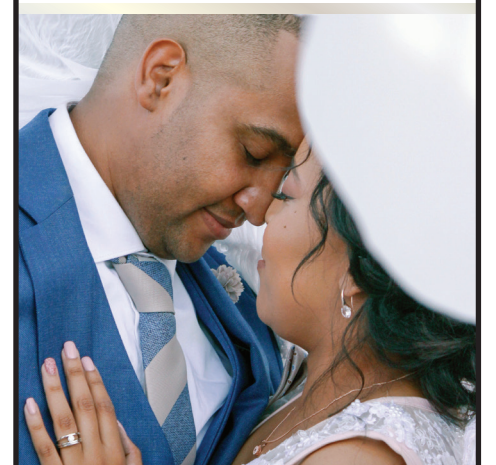
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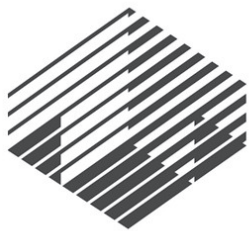


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continued from page 2

Everitt directs, shoots *Points of Origin*

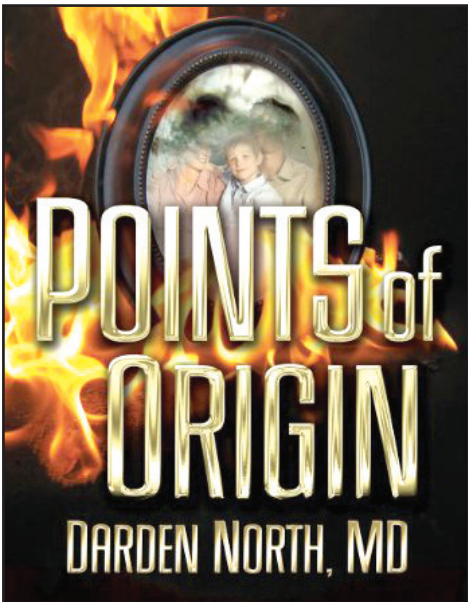
tion, Scott Hambach, created a variety of visual effects. The film is about an arsonist, and several scenes include fire.

Everitt commented on some of the more awe-inspiring aspects of the original shoot, by saying, “we filmed most of it across four days with actors. Eighty percent of the film was shot at author Darden North’s house in Eastover. There is such a variety of looks in his house and on his property, that we were able to contain the production, which helped to expedite it.”

“Paragenesis Media has the goal of getting this film into several local film festivals, especially the Rails to Reels Film Festival in Meridian, which is extremely supportive of local filmmakers. Right now, we have about a dozen titles available on the free streaming app Tubi, and most of those are horror thriller titles.”

Points of Origin was written by Darden

doctor, they are also after Cordell Pixler, the community’s conniving trial lawyer. Many in the boiling southern town seek



Special to Pelahatchie News



Photo by Curtis Everitt

Author Darden North, M.D., plays Mr. McDougal. Above, a shot of North in a tool closet making a phone call.

North, M.D. - a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist and daVinci Robotic Surgeon practicing at Jackson Healthcare for Women in Flowood. Darden North’s mystery and thriller novels have been awarded nationally, including an Independent Publisher Book “IPPY” Award in Southern Fiction for *Points of Origin*. North’s book is described as “set in a contemporary southern town, the death of patient Flowers Ridley costs Dr. Dan Foxworth his plastic surgery dynasty and his own life. While several families are consumed with retribution against the overly ambitious

revenge against Pixler - some because of sex and some because of money. In the race to see who nails him first, an arsonist plans the ultimate revenge.” Currently, more shooting of the film will take place in Tupelo. Those involved in the film *Points of Origin* are hoping the film will be completed close to the end of September. Local film festivals are coming up this Fall, and they want to meet their deadlines to participate. Beyond the film festivals, the group needs to work out distribution and getting the film out to as many different streaming services as possible.

2022 ERA Homecoming Court



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy (ERA) will celebrate Homecoming on Friday, September 23, at 7 p.m. The 2022 Homecoming presentation will commence during halftime. The ERA Patriot football team will compete against the West Lincoln High School Bears. The ERA 2022 Homecoming court, pictured (l to r) front row, are: Sarah-Kate Alexander, Abbie Hutson, Abbey Kelly and Rylee Sojourner; and back row: Rachel Smith, Katie Tadlock, Addison Brown and Mary Kellan Sartin.

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	ARRANGEMENTS
Bennie P. Vanderford	83	Lindale	08/02/22	Wolf Funeral Services
Margaret L. Z. Stewart	90	Morton	08/02/22	Wolf Funeral Services
Audrey Nell Carr	86	Forest	08/11/22	Wolf Funeral Services
Van M. “Pete” Fortenberry	73	Forest	08/12/22	Wolf Funeral Services
William Jerry Porter	74	Morton	08/12/22	Wolf Funeral Services
Jimmy Paul Dobbs	60	Walnut Grove	08/12/22	Wolf Funeral Services
Jimmy B. Stokes	80	Petal	08/12/22	Wolf Funeral Services
Flossie M. Measells	79	Morton	08/13/22	Wolf Funeral Services
David Lee Weems	82	Newton	08/15/22	Wolf Funeral Services
Dwayne Edward Shields	31	Morton	08/15/22	Wolf Funeral Services
Jimmy Dale Gibbs	82	Lake	08/25/22	Wolf Funeral Services
Ruth Louise Ogletree	92	Lake	08/28/22	Wolf Funeral Services
Rodney Jack Willis	69	Pearl	08/28/22	Wolf Funeral Services
Erik Lashawn Estrada	35	Morton	08/26/22	Wolf Funeral Services

continued from page 1

SBA selects Multicraft International for Made in America after nomination by BankPlus

pi District Director, expanded on what Administrator Thomas said, “He’s referring also to the fact that the federal government did so well this past fiscal year in terms of buying from small businesses.”

Mallinson commented on the SBA having selected Multicraft International for Made in America by saying, “I thought it was a very good recognition for ourselves and our lender BankPlus. I honestly think that we’re the sort of company that has been plugging hard and doing everything we can, so it was nice to get a pat on the shoulder working with a big government organization that throughout all these things, has been unfailingly supportive and very professional in all our dealings with them. It is a nice connection.”

Multicraft International was nominated by BankPlus through Leigha McLendon, Senior Vice President and Director of Guaranteed Lending, and Janet Jones, Senior Vice President, Commercial Lending Group.

“When BankPlus learned of the ‘Made in America Initiative’ by SBA to support small business manufacturers, our local Mississippi District Office was accepting nominations. Multicraft International quickly came to mind, as they are not only a valued BankPlus customer, but also a great example of how SBA’s various funding programs can benefit small businesses and turn their visions into realities,” said McLendon.

“Multicraft is not only a solid workforce in Pelahatchie providing 100+ jobs, but they are a strong pillar in the community. It was our privilege to nominate Multicraft International, and we are thankful they were selected by SBA for this well-deserved, national recognition.”

When asked why Multicraft International was ultimately selected, Stewart said, “We looked in the system, and we looked at all this information, but, over the course of many years, Multicraft International has made an economic impact in Mississippi and, in my opinion, has taken advantage of the multiple SBA lending programs that help the other programs expand and grow busi-

nesses.”

“They utilized lots of SBA’s lending programs over time, and that includes our 7A Guaranty Loan Program - our flagship program where we work in conjunction with a whole host of in- and out-of-state banking lending institutions - and we partnered together to provide loans to credit-worthy eligible small businesses. He also has loans under our international trade arena, and he took advantage of the Pandemic Paycheck Protection, our COVID title loan program. He’s also taken advantage of the CAPLine Program and something



Multicraft International Ventures building

Photo by Pelahatchie News

we call the America’s Recovery Capital (ARC) Loan Program. He’s taken advantage of all of these opportunities, smartly, because they got the funding. All of these loans are in good standing, or they are paid in full. On top of that, Multicraft International came highly recommended by one of our top SBA of Mississippi lenders which, of course, is BankPlus,” said Stewart.

Multicraft International was also featured in the Mississippi Manufacturers Associations (MMA) “Made in Mississippi” spot, and Mallinson reports being very glad to be featured as one of the manufacturers in Mississippi.

“I was chairman of the board with the MMA prior to this. I’m still on the board. It’s a very important organization to promote all aspects of manufacturing within the state. It’s really appreciated. We have a brand, and we like to promote it, and this helped us do that.”

In the past, making and selling products in America has been thought of as too expensive, and Multicraft International discussed how they have worked hard to overcome this challenging line of thought.

“The biggest challenge is the perception of economic advantage by going over-seas, and there’s a theory called total cost of ownership (TCO) that when you look at what it costs to buy something, you look at not just the price on the purchase order but the cost of freight, the cost of carrying more inventory, the cost of longer lead times,

products and raise the domestic content threshold is considered by Stewart and Mallinson as important for the manufacturing industry and employment.

“We have been in this business a long time, and global sourcing practices have changed considerably in 40 years. America’s productivity is very strong, and strategically for companies to have an American company with the communication and the connection and the confidence to know that your supply line is going to be assured is very important. It’s good for the country. It’s good for employment, and it’s good for self-sufficiency to be able to have more American content,” said Mallinson.

Stewart continued the conversation, “In terms of President Biden’s Build America initiative - the SBA has an office within the whole threshold called the Office of Advocacy, and what they do is they have statisticians add up their economy and such. Right now, there are approximately 265,000 small businesses in our state. And that represents 99.3% of all businesses. Of that, there are about 1,600 small businesses in our state that are manufacturing employers, and they employ over 43,000 employees on their payroll. So, that’s pretty significant - build America, buy America can enhance that in our state.”

When asked what it might take for other small businesses to support the Made in America mission, Mallinson said, “it takes passion, and it takes a never-give-up attitude and relying on the fact that there are very good people all around you who can and will help if you ask them. People are very supportive, and the SBA is one agency that fits in the same realm as that.”

Mallinson hopes that the Made in America spot and recognition will help with growth and other important initiatives that Multicraft International is hoping to implement in the future. Multicraft International products are shipped worldwide to Australia, Brazil, Argentina, India and Italy, but mostly North America.

For more information on the SBA, visit sba.gov. For more information on Multicraft International, visit multicraft.com.

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Pelahatchie Library gets new flooring

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Public Library in Pelahatchie was closed for three weeks in order to install new flooring. Librarian Tina Mauney opened the doors on Monday, August 8, after the library's shelves were reinstalled and the 16,000 books were put back on the shelves.

She said that she and four others from headquarters packed the books in 600 U-Haul boxes when the shelving was removed.

Mauney wanted to thank the Rankin County Board of Supervisors and the Town of Pelahatchie Board members for funding the project. She said Mayor Karl Vanhorn gets a special thank you for personally pressure washing the exterior of the building.

The library has been in the Muscadine Park location for approximately 14 years. A new library sign should be ready in 6 to 8 weeks.



Central Mississippi Library System Director Mara Polk is shown helping pack up the 16,000 library books in the front room of the Pelahatchie Library that recently had the flooring replaced. The library opened back up on Monday, August 8, at 10:30 a.m. The new flooring is shown in the second photo.



Photos by Pelahatchie Library

East Rankin Academy defeats Heritage Academy



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy (ERA) defeated Heritage Academy in what some would call a "nail biter" game on August 30. The final score was ERA-2, Heritage Academy-1. Pictured, ready for a kick, is Ansley Grace Miller.

continued from page 1

The return of Muscadine Jubilee

The Miles Flatt concert is described as "a high-energy show that will keep you on your feet for hours. Miles Flatt likes to think they have a little something for everybody. Miles Flatt performs every show as true professionals who just happen to love what they do and take pride in turning events into parties." Band members include: Jon Clark, lead vocals/frontman; Charlie Granthem, lead guitar/vocals; John Andy Bowen, lead guitar/vocals; Jeremy Carroll, bass guitar; and Daniel Nolen, drums.

Backroads Reunion calls Bay Springs, their home. Sources say Backroads Reunion has an unusual combination of musical talent, high-energy, and versatility. Band leader Stacy Blackwell said recently, "I never would have dreamed when we first got together that 30 plus years later, we would still be in demand quite like we are. We still put on an exciting, energetic show, and we can get as wild as we always have, just not as often!" Band members include: Stacy Blackwell, lead singer/lead guitar; Ken Craft, lead singer/bass guitar; Amy Duke, lead singer/acoustic guitar; John Douglas, lead singer/keyboards; and Darrell Dean, drums.

The well-known muscadine stomp will feature prominent participants: US

Country 96.3, Nate West; Carmen Poe, WLBT 3 News reporter; Brian Rhodes, local poultry and cattle farmer and State Senate hopeful; and Voncille Anderson, Pelahatchie High School Principal.

The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will occur one week before the Muscadine Jubilee on September 10, at 8 a.m., located at Pelahatchie Baptist Church. Judge Kent McDaniel will be the Guest Speaker. Tickets may be purchased at Pelahatchie City Hall for \$10.

Also happening in conjunction with the Muscadine Jubilee is the Muscadine Pageant. The pageant will be held on September 11, at 3 p.m., at Pelahatchie Attendance Center in the auditorium. To be eligible to enter, a participant must be 0-16 years of age. For more information or to enter, contact Melissa McDonald at 601-759-0888 or Haley McDonald at 601-759-0600.

For booth rental, food vendors, submitting an application or more information, contact Pelahatchie City Hall at 601-854-5224.

The event will take place at Muscadine Park on 2nd St. (Hwy. 80) and Go Forth St. in Pelahatchie. The park is located downtown near Pelahatchie City Hall, Pelahatchie Fire Department and the Pelahatchie Public Library.



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The Cooper's host exchange student Yu-Ting Chen from Taiwan

By Katie White

The Town of Pelahatchie has increased in population - at least for this school year - when the Cooper family decided to become a host family for an exchange student.

The Cooper family consists of J.T. Cooper, Angel Cooper, and the couple's two daughters, Ainsley, ninth- grade and Arlie, first- grade. Yu-Ting Chen, a tenth-grader, has traveled to Pelahatchie all the way from Taiwan. Chen speaks Chinese and some English. In fact, learning to speak better English is one of the reasons she decided to become an exchange student in the U.S. Chen is attending Pelahatchie Public School along with Ainsley and Arlie.

The family was searching for ways in which they could be accommodating in aiding a child. They learned about the student exchange program from the Rankin County School District. The exchange program is called International Cultural Exchange Services (ICES). After learning more about the program, the Coopers decided that hosting an exchange student would be educational and a good fit for the entire family and Chen.

ICES will allow you to select the gender, age, nationality, and interests of a participating student. The Coopers knew

they wanted a female because they have two daughters, and one of their daughters is the same age as Chen.

Chen has a F-1 Visa. The F-1 Visa allows an exchange student to enter the

experienced is the difference in Taiwan meals and southern American meals. Taiwan meals are usually very simple - rice or noodles with meat or vegetable in a soup. Americans may have a meat side

Seeing a cow in a pasture was also new for Chen. In Taiwan, she has only seen cows in a zoo. She also wanted to walk to school or other places - a standard practice in Taiwan - but the family explained why it was different here.

A translator app was added to Chen's phone so that she can better understand her teachers in class. Chen can be messaged in English, and she will receive the message in Chinese.

She is participating in graphic design and art at school. She also plays the piano. Ainsley also enjoys graphic design, art and playing the piano. These similarities in interests are a few reasons Chen was selected to be hosted by the Cooper family.

One of Chen's hurdles is trying to find time to speak to her friends and family in Taiwan. When it's night here, it's daytime in Taiwan.

School hours in Taiwan are much different. There, Chen will attend school from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. At 6 p.m., they have cram school, where they study for entrance testing until 9:30 p.m.

Chen hopes to improve her English and experience different cultures. Her family encouraged her to participate in the exchange student program. Her mother is an English teacher, and her father is an engineer.



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Pictured (l to r) are, Arlie Cooper, Angel Cooper, Yu-Ting Chen, J.T. Cooper and Ainsley Cooper.

U.S. as a full-time student at an accredited college, university, seminary, conservatory, academic high school, elementary school, or other academic institution or in a language training program.

Chen is learning a lot about how the culture in Mississippi is different than where she is from. One of the things Chen has

along with vegetable sides or legume sides and sometimes dessert.

J.T. and Angel have also offered to purchase and prepare foods that Chen would prefer to eat, but they also encourage her to sample some of the dishes in Mississippi - for the culture experience. Chen has been very apt to try new things.



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Fall ITEMS





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Cody Myers picked for 2022 Gulf South Conference

By Datti Jinkiri

The Mississippi College Choctaws have been picked to finish in sixth in the 2022 Gulf South Conference (GSC) football standings, courtesy of an announcement by the league office on August 3. The Choctaws earned 17 points in the rankings, finishing ahead of North Greenville and Shorter. Two players –

Nick Walker and Cody Myers – earned spots on the Preseason All-GSC team.

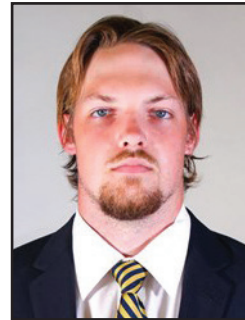
Myers, who played football for Pelahatchie High School, is an important cog in the Choctaws' Special Teams Unit. The Pelahatchie native handles the team's long snapping and utility duties.

Walker, a defensive back, had 29 total tackles, 2.0 tackles for loss, and a forced

fumble last season. More notably, the St. Louis, Missouri, native finished tied for second in the GSC with

Special to Pelahatchie News

Cody Myers



three interceptions.

The Choctaws will also be looking for contributions from new players this season.

The Choctaws finished 4-6 last season with wins over three GSC opponents: North Greenville, Shorter, and West Alabama. They opened the 2022 season with a meeting with Albany State on Saturday, September 3.

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Irwin completes Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy



Special to Pelahatchie News

Ofc. Garrett Irwin completed the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy. He graduated with MLEOTA basic class #268 on August 25, after completing 12 weeks of training. "Since his date of hire, Ofc. Irwin has shown dedication and a desire to serve and protect our community. We feel fortunate to have him as part of our Pelahatchie family and we're glad to have him back on the job," said Pelahatchie Police Chief Robert MaHaffey. Pictured (l to r) are Sgt. Greer, Ofc. Garrett Irwin and Chief Robert MaHaffey.

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Pelahatchie

Town of Pelahatchie

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September 17th

10 am - 5 pm



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September 10th, at 8 am
Pelahatchie Baptist Church
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The Muscadine Pageant will be held on
September 11, 2022 at 3:00 pm at the
Pelahatchie Attendance Center Auditorium.
Ages 0-16 to enter.
For more information or to enter, contact
Melissa McDonald at 601-759-0888 or
Haley McDonald at 601-759-0600.

Children's of Mississippi seeing rise in RSV cases



Special to Pelahatchie News

By Guest Columnist Ruth Cummins, University of Mississippi Medical Center

Children's of Mississippi is seeing rising cases of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) among children at the state's only children's hospital as well as in its clinics and Emergency Department.

Case numbers have not reached the level seen last summer, when 316 patients from the emergency department and inpatient floors had been diagnosed with RSV from July 1-30, 2021.

"We saw a spike this month with the highest number of positive RSV tests, 52, recorded the week of Aug. 14," said Dr. April Palmer, professor and chief of pediatric infectious diseases at UMMC. "That number was for adults and children, but most of the RSV was in children."

RSV is a common virus that brings on cold-like symptoms and can cause serious illness in young children as well as in older adults. Spread via respiratory droplets when a person coughs or sneezes, RSV is among the causes of pneumonia and bronchiolitis in children younger than 1.

RSV leads to about 58,000 hospitalizations with 100 to 500 deaths among children younger than 5 each year, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics show. In babies younger than 6 months, RSV results in irritability, poor feeding, lethargy and apnea, sometimes with fever. Older infants and young children will experience cough, sneezing, fever and sometimes wheezing.

Three-month-old Wyatt Rankin of Pearl was admitted to Children's of Mississippi Aug. 11 with RSV. "We couldn't wake him up, and he was lethargic," said

his mother, Donna. "Four days later, he was intubated and in intensive care."

Wyatt is recovering from pneumonia, a collapsed lung and a bacterial infection, she said, "but it all started with RSV."

RSV is usually a winter illness, but in 2021, Children's of Mississippi saw a surge of RSV following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic the previous year. "It's interesting that we are seeing a spike this August," Palmer said. "We did not know if last year's spike was an aberration, and we're not certain how long summer RSV waves will continue."

Adults with RSV may not always show symptoms, but infants almost always do. Early symptoms of RSV – lower appetite, runny nose and coughing – may seem like a common cold. Babies younger than 6 months may be irritable with decreased activity and appetite. Fever may not always occur with RSV infections.

Parents should call their pediatrician or healthcare provider if they or their children are having difficulty breathing or experiencing worsening symptoms.

There is no vaccine against RSV, and treatment includes making sure children are getting enough oxygen and are not becoming dehydrated. To fight RSV and other viral infections, Palmer recommends good hand hygiene and keeping children home from school or daycare when ill.

Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, keeping hands away from the face, coughing or sneezing into the inside of the elbow and cleaning and disinfecting surfaces people frequently touch such as countertops and door-knobs will prevent the spread of RSV as well as other viruses such as influenza and COVID-19.



PELAHATCHIE LIBRARY SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

Celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month

To celebrate National Library Card Sign-Up Month, the library will draw someone's name for a special prize package. How to get a name in the drawing? Apply for a library card or show the library a current CMRLS Library card. It is easy.

Closed for Labor Day

September 5

Adult Book Club

Wednesday, September 21, 11 a.m.

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The Pelahatchie Adult Book Club recently celebrated reading their 100th book since the club's inception!

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Midges can be a nuisance, but at least they don't bite



By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

Special to Pelahatchie News

Chironomid midges are a common problem around homes and buildings located near water. Midges are small, mosquito-like flies, belonging to the family Chironomidae. They superficially resemble mosquitoes, but are incapable of biting, they are sometimes called "blind mosquitoes." Midges can easily be distinguished from mosquitoes by looking at their antennae, which are large and somewhat resemble a feather duster, while the antennae of mosquitoes are smaller and less conspicuous.

The larvae of most midges live in the water, on the bottom of the lake, or attached to rocks, wood and other structures within the water. There they feed on decayed organic matter and smaller organisms. Most species complete several generations per year.

Midges are a very important part of the ecosystem and play a key role in the food chain. Therefore, healthy midge populations often translate into healthy fish populations. Midges are such a key part of aquatic ecology that they are often studied and used in assessing

water quality. Drastic shifts in numbers of species of midges present in a body of water can be indicators of changes in water quality. During some years and/or during certain times of the year, populations of adult midges can be especially high, resulting in significant nuisances to homeowners and businesses located



Chironomid midge



Mosquito

Photos special to Pelahatchie News

near bodies of water, that are inhabited by midge.

Adult midges are strongly attracted to lights and minimizing outdoor lights during the midge season or changing

to sodium vapor lights, rather than mercury vapor lights bulbs, is one way to reduce the concentrations of midges in sensitive areas. Sodium vapor bugs are less attractive to insects but are also more costly. Recently, LED lights have been developed for outdoor lighting, and many of these emit a light spectrum with low attraction to insects. Replacing older exterior lights with new LED lights

that are not attractive to insects is an excellent way to reduce the numbers of nuisance insects, including chironomid midge, around buildings. Just make sure the lights you select have low insect at-

traction.

Insecticides are not very helpful for controlling adult midges around buildings that experience heavy midge populations. Light management is the key thing to focus on for midge control. Any steps that can be taken to reduce the amount of light visible around a building at night, especially light wavelengths that is attractive to insects, will reduce its attractiveness to midge and this should reduce the number of midges that accumulate around a building.

This will include steps such as:

- Minimizing outdoor lighting
- Keeping light-proof blinds closed over windows at night
- Shading outdoor lights so that light is directed downward and not out into the night
- Mounting outdoor lights on poles 50 plus feet away from buildings with light directed back towards areas of the building that need to be lit
- Installing outdoor lights that emit frequencies that are less attractive to midge and other insects
- Painting houses in midge-prone areas with darker colors.

Source: *Bugs Eye View*, Mississippi State University Extension, Chironomid Midge, vol. 4, no 18, Dr. Blake Layton.

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2022 Promote the Vote registration now available

Special to Pelahatchie News

Registration for the Secretary of State's 2022 Promote the Vote (PTV) program is now available online at sos.ms.gov/PTV. This year's theme "Why Vote?" encourages students to consider the importance of voting and how it corresponds to their beliefs and values.

PTV is the Secretary of State's comprehensive K-12 voter education program that consists of a statewide mock election, an essay, art, and video production contests.

"Our children are the most valuable resource we have and, through the commitment of Mississippi teachers to utilize PTV in the classroom, we are able to begin educating our youngest generation of voters on civic engagement and responsibility," said Secretary of State Michael Watson.

The PTV Mock Election is open to all students who are enrolled in a Mississippi school or program registered for Promote the Vote. Students will "vote" for their mid-term election candidates during a statewide mock election on Wednesday, October 26.

In partnership with Mississippi Public

Broadcasting's (MPB) Education Department, a social media contest for all participating schools will be held. Details regarding the social media contest can be found on the SOS website.

The PTV art contest is available for kindergarten through 12th grade students, and the PTV essay and video production contests are available to any student in grades 6-12.

All contest winners and their teachers will be invited to attend an awards ceremony in Jackson in early 2023.

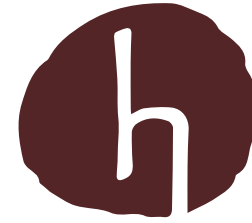
Anyone wishing to participate in our PTV program must register online. If you have any questions or need assistance registering for the mock election or PTV contests, please contact our External Affairs Division at PTV@sos.ms.gov or 601-359-4454.

PTV Registration will remain open until November 25, 2022, at 5 p.m. It is free, easy, and only takes a few minutes to complete. All contest submissions will be due December 16, 2022, at 5 p.m.

For more information about PTV, or to register to become a participating school or classroom, visit Mississippi Secretary of State online at www.sos.ms.gov/PTV.

**WHY
VOTE?**

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2022 PELAHATCHIE HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

SEPT
6

**@ PISGAH
JH 5:00 | JV 6:00
V 7:00

SEPT
8

**VS PUCKETT
JV 5:30 | V 6:30

SEPT
13

**VS PISGAH
JH 5:00 | JV 6:00
V 7:00

SEPT
19

**@ VELMA JXN
V ONLY
5:30

SEPT
20

**@ PUCKETT
JV 5:00
V 6:00

SEPT
22

VS M'EVANS
JV 5:30
V 6:30

SEPT
26

VS HARTFIELD
JH 4:30 | JV 5:30
V 6:30

SEPT
27

@ SCOTT CENT.
JV 5:30
V 6:30

SEPT
29

VS M'EVANS
JV 5:30 | V 6:30
SENIOR NIGHT

OCT
4

@ FLORENCE
JH 5:00 | JV 6:00
V 7:00

OCT
6

@ WARREN CENT.
5:30 | 6:30

@ AWAY
VS HOME



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Pastor's Perspective: The vineyard and the grapes



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

Special to Pelahatchie News

After a few years off because of the COVID Crisis, the Muscadine Jubilee is back on the schedule for our town! The Jubilee will be held on September 17 at Muscadine Park in downtown Pelahatchie. While it has been several years since the festival has been held, everyone is invited and encouraged to come and support the event this year. There will be local entertainment, food, craft vendors and activities for the whole family. So mark your calendar, and meet up with your friends at the Muscadine Jubilee this year!

The Muscadine Jubilee reminds us of our time as missionaries in Brazil. During most of the sixteen years that we served in Brazil, we lived in the city of Caxias do Sul in the southernmost state of Rio Grande do Sul. The area was settled by Italian immigrants in the 1800s. Even today, there are pockets of people out in the country who still speak Italian in their family conversations. Many customs and traditions that were brought from the "Old Country" are still being



Special to Pelahatchie News

followed with conviction and almost a sense of reverence.

When the settlers came from Italy, not only did they bring their language and cultural customs with them, they also brought grape vines, because the area of Italy where they came from was prominently known for producing grapes and wine. The countryside in the Northeastern section of Rio Grande do Sul was also similar to their native land, with high rolling hills and rushing rivers in the valleys.

So the settlers soon had large vineyards producing abundant grapes. Even today, a drive through the grape producing hills is very picturesque, with grape

trellises stretching as far as you can see. And there are family vineyards that are proud of the fact that they still have some vines that were brought to Brazil by their forefathers.

Every even numbered year, the National Grape Festival is held in Caxias do Sul. Tourists from all over Brazil migrate toward the city for the fourteen day event. Caxias boasts the largest open air, covered pavilion in all of South America. Each year that the Grape Festival is held, the pavilion is filled with displays from the many manufacturers in the area, as well as displays of the many types of grapes that are grown in the region. The National Grape Festival is one

of those things that we miss about living in Brazil.

Several times during his ministry, Jesus spoke about the vineyard and the grapes that are produced there. In chapter 15 of John's Gospel, Jesus talks at length about the vine and the branches on the vine. He talks about the importance of the branches producing fruit. He also explains what should be done with branches that do not bear fruit.

Jesus said in John 15:5-6, "I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me. Those who do not remain in me are thrown out like a branch and dry up; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, where they are burned."

If you are a follower of Jesus, you must be careful to remain connected to him! And you must also do what he expects you to do and that is to "bear much fruit." If you are not doing those things, maybe it's time for you get started. And if you are not a follower of Jesus, there would be no better time than today to get connected to Him. Make plans to go to the Muscadine Jubilee this year, and also be sure to take your family to church on Sunday!

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First ever PHS Engineering Pathway



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School teacher, Nikki Nutt, kicked off the school's first ever Engineering Pathway program this school year. Engineering students have begun building a VEX catapault robot. Through this hands-on experience, students will learn how to work together, communicate and problem solve. Pictured are Engineering Pathway students Harmony McGill (left) and Jaci Smith (right).

Students "go the extra mile"



Haley Adams



Elijah Williams



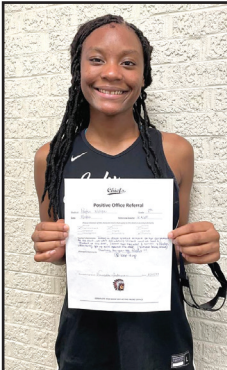
Valerie Galindo



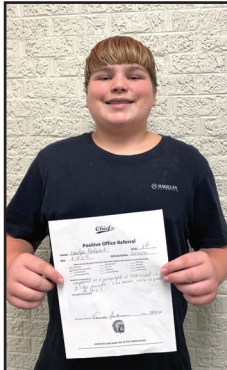
Sarah Westbrooks



DaMarion Snow



Payton Wilson



Landon Rodgers

Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School started a new recognition project where students receive positive office referrals for behaviors that identify them going above and beyond what is considered the "norm." These students were noted this month for going the extra mile around campus without expecting recognition. When each student receives this positive referral, principal Voncille Anderson sits down with them and contacts the parents.

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Cross Roads Baptist Church



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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)
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7:30 a.m. - Morning Devotion every weekday morning

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(601) 546-2297 • www.crbc.online
(5 miles south of Interstate 20 on Highway 43 South)

STEM lab enrichment time at Pelahatchie Elementary



5th grade students working as a team to create a tower without touching the cups with their hands.



Kindergarten students building and designing pipeline structures.



By Guest Columnist Robin Sanders, Principal, Pelahatchie Elementary

Special to Pelahatchie News

School at Pelahatchie Elementary is in full gear for the new school year, and students are settling into the routines of learning and growing, as they do every year. But this school year brings about a few changes that are sure to bring out the creativity and problem solving skills necessary for readiness in today's workforce. One of those changes is the creation of a STEM Lab that students will use during their enrichment time throughout the school year.

The STEM Lab was created using Title 1 funding and is equipped with the tools and resources needed for students to design creative solutions and build a strong foundation in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. The STEM Lab will also allow for students to meet the new computer science standards that have recently been created by the state.

Students will learn many things in their new STEM Lab this year, including the engineering design process, computer



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

STEM Lab Makerspace

science skills and safety, computer coding, and robotics. Students at every grade level will explore and discover how to code and operate robots using Lego robotics through Lego Education, Sphero Bolts, and Bee Bots. They will also have the opportunity to use the craft and recycled materials within the Makerspace to build prototypes of their creative solu-

tions to everyday problems and to complete design challenges.

Students and families are invited to see and experience some of the great things students are using and learning this year in STEM at the first ever STEM night on Thursday, October 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. STEM night will also coincide with the school Book Fair.

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Pelahatchie Elementary introduces 12 new teachers for 2022-2023

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES)

welcomed 12 new teachers for the 2022-2023 school year, teaching K5 to sixth grade.

The new PES teachers include: Britnee Barnett, Juleah Boyd, Kayla Boyles, Kimberly Cochran, Brianna Fairley,

Keely Gates, Jennifer Hardwick, Erin Johnston, Cailey Keen, Nathan Lepard, Rebecca Nelson and Melanie Sullivan.



Britnee Barnett, 6th Grade, English Language Arts (ELA) and Science



Juleah Boyd, Accelerated Reading Instruction (ARI)



Kayla Boyles, Venture



Kimberly Cochran, ARI



Brianna Fairley, 3rd Grade



Keely Gates, The ARTs and ARI



Jennifer Hardwick, ARI



Erin Johnston, Speech



Cailey Keen, ARI



Nathan Lepard, 5th Grade, Math



Rebecca Nelson, STEM



Photos special to Pelahatchie News
Melanie Sullivan, 1st Grade



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