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June
2023

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Issue 6
Pelahatchie, MS

Ramos named USM Standard Bearer

Special to Pelahatchie News

After moving from Mexico to Pelahatchie to go to high school, Cheyla Muñoz Ramos has earned the highest honor bestowed upon a student during college commencement - serving as the Presidential Standard Bearer. Ramos, who was selected for the honor at The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) based on academic achievement, leadership and campus involvement, served as the Presidential Standard Bearer at USM's Spring 2023 Commencement. In addition, Ramos finished with the highest grade point average of all USM graduation candidates.

Ramos graduated with a double major in International Studies and French through USM's Honors College. Originally born in Minnesota to Mexican-American parents, she spent most of her childhood in Veracruz, Mexico. She moved to the United States about seven years ago to attend high school in Pelahatchie.

Ramos says she chose to pursue International Studies in college because it intrigued her to learn more about the world as she took classes in different fields such



Special to Pelahatchie News

Chyla Muñoz Ramos, a 2019 Senior Beta Graduate of Pelahatchie High School, was recently named the USM Presidential Standard Bearer, the highest honor that can be bestowed on a student during college commencement.

as religion, anthropology, history, English, geography and more.

"After moving to the United States, I had to learn English, which sparked my interest in learning other foreign languages. I started my college career by taking a French class, but I added French as a double major after studying abroad during my freshman year," said Ramos. "Studying what I did was a great decision, and I will be forever thankful with my younger self for deciding on this pathway."

While at USM, she studied abroad in France in USM's Château program in Strasbourg. Now, she is fully tri-lingual.

"From studying abroad to working in the Language Hub and being able to participate in L'AF (the French Club), I feel accomplished and thankful for all the growth opportunities I've had at USM," said Ramos, "Most of my professors have been incredibly supportive, and I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to study in their classrooms."

PHS 2023 valedictorian, salutatorian

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) held their graduation ceremony on May 16 at the Hinds Community College Clyde Muse Center, with Eli Boyer named valedictorian and Maddie Grace Walters named salutatorian.

Boyer, the son of Rachael and Blake Boyer, graduated with honors, ACT honors, is a Mississippi Scholar, a Beta Club inductee, has acknowledged distinguished service and is a member of the PHS Student Council. Boyer is also a Lindy Callahan Scholar Athlete nominee and was inducted in the Hall of Fame. He plans to attend Hinds Community College, then transfer to a university to earn a bachelor's degree in computer science.

Walters, the daughter of Lacie and Gabe Walters, accumulated of \$5,000 in scholarships, graduated with honors, ACT honors, is a Mississippi Scholar, has distinguished service and was inducted into the Hall of Fame. Walters is also a PHS



Eli Boyer
PHS valedictorian



Maddie Grace Walters
PHS salutatorian

Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Lindy Callahan Scholar Athlete nominee. She has been involved in the National Beta Club, PHS FFA, Student Council, volleyball, soccer, cheer and track. She plans to attend Hinds Community College and graduate in the spring of 2024, after which she will attend Mississippi College to earn her bachelor's degree in graphic design with a minor in marketing. Walters aspires to become an entrepreneur with a successful graphic design business.

ERA 2023 valedictorian, salutatorian

Special to Pelahatchie News

Dylan Davis and Peyton Patrick were named East Rankin Academy's Class of 2023 valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively.

Davis is a member of Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, ACT 30+, Academic Team, the ERA Chapter of the National Honor Society and served as captain of East Rankin's championship academic quiz bowl team. Davis was named a National Merit Finalist and was also one of ERA's STAR Students with a perfect score of 36 on the ACT. He plans to continue his education at the University of Alabama.

Patrick, salutatorian, is a member of the ERA Chapter of the National Honor Soci-



Dylan Davis
ERA valedictorian



Peyton Patrick
ERA salutatorian

Photos special to Pelahatchie News

ety, Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, ACT 30+ and Academic Team. He also participated on the science quiz bowl team and East Rankin's championship academic quiz bowl team. Patrick plans to attend William Carey University.

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Free summer telehealth program available for public school students

Special to Pelahatchie News

This summer, Mississippi's public school students can have free video visits with a medical provider through the Mississippi School-based Telehealth program.

The program includes telehealth services for both minor medical care as well as behavioral health care. Care options cover a range of ailments for students, from sore throats and headaches to anxiety and depression.

When a student needs minor medical or non-crisis behavioral health care this summer, the parent/guardian may call 601-815-2020 to schedule a visit with a University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) provider. The parent/guardian will use a computer, tablet or smartphone to let the student and provider see each other, talk and share information.

The provider will recommend treatment or make a referral during the video visit. Each video visit will require the consent of a parent or guardian and will include the parent/guardian, the student and the UMMC provider. The program is available to Mississippi public school students this summer through a grant from the Mississippi Department of Education.

Minor medical care will be available seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and behavioral health will be available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Medical professionals say that telehealth is a good choice for treating minor medical issues, including asthma and allergies, skin irritations, colds and flu, head lice, sore throat, pinkeye, headaches, rashes and fever.

Behavioral health care will be provided by experienced specialists in non-crisis situations for anxiety, depression, behavioral difficulties, coping skills, trouble expressing feelings and more. However, if a child is at risk of harming themselves or others, 911 or 988 for the National Suicide and Crisis Hotline should be called immediately.

Any Mississippi public school student can participate in the program this summer at no cost, and insurance is not a requirement for being seen through the program. Any costs for prescriptions and follow-up visits with primary care physicians or specialists, however, will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

The program is available to all children in Mississippi, but families outside the Mississippi public school system may be charged for the telehealth visit. For more information, visit www.umm.edu/Healthcare/Telehealth/Schools/Home.html.



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What vegetables to plant in Mississippi home gardens



Special to Pelahatchie News

By Doug Carter, Rankin
County Extension Agent

What should be planted in a home garden? While Mississippi's climate is not suitable for all fruits and vegetables, one can easily grow a tremendous assortment.

Gardeners can enjoy produce from their own garden. Sometimes only minutes elapse between harvest, preparation and consumption. Even if you do not consume the food on the day of the harvest, it typically lasts longer in storage than store-bought items. Additionally, diversified gardeners have more available to them and are not limited to what is in stock at the store.

Once a person decides what to plant, they should consider how much to plant. The decision is based on the number of days required for a plant to reach maturity. It also depends on how much of each vegetable a family can eat and the amount of garden space available. Some vegetables take a lot of garden space and a long time before being harvested. Others are planted and harvested in a short time, producing abundantly with a small space.

Most melons, pumpkins, vining types



Special to Pelahatchie News

of squash and sweet potatoes take several months to mature and take up a large amount of garden space. Most okra, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and pole beans also grow for several months in a garden, but they typically can be harvested continuously. Sweet corn takes a considerable amount of space, but many home gardeners feel the pros outweigh the cons.

For gardeners with limited space, consider planting smaller vegetables: bush, snap and lima beans; leafy green vegetables like spinach, mustard, collards, and turnips; green onions, tomatoes, sweet peppers and eggplant. As space permits,

add broccoli, cabbage, hot peppers, okra, summer squash, southern peas and pole beans.

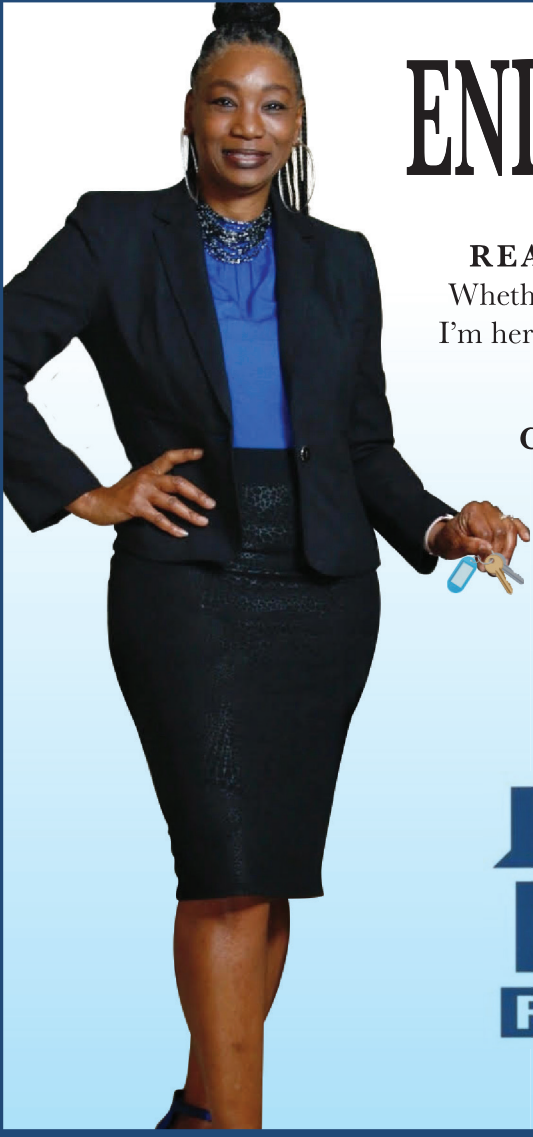
Vegetables grown for their fruits or seeds, such as sweet corn, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, beans and peas, should be planted in the sunniest spots. Vegetables grown for their leaves or roots, such as beets, cabbage, lettuce, mustard, spinach and turnips, can grow in partial shade, though they perform better in direct sunlight.

Source: "Mississippi Vegetable Gardener's Guide," Mississippi State University, Extension Service, Publication, 3616



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76 percent of 3rd graders pass state reading assessment on first attempt



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The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) recently announced that 76.3 percent of 31,623 third graders passed the initial administration of the third-grade reading assessment, given this spring for the 2022-23 school year.

The percentage exceeds the 2021-22 initial rate of 73.9 percent, as well as the 2018-19 initial rate of 74.5 percent before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I applaud the teachers, administrators, literacy coaches and families who worked to support students in achieving this goal," said Mike Kent, interim state superintendent of education. "The work will continue until all students are proficient and showing growth."

In accordance with the Literacy-Based Promotion Act (LBPA), third graders who do not pass the initial administration of the reading test are given up to two attempts to retest. After the final retest in 2021-22, eighty-five percent of third graders passed the test. After the final retest in 2019, 85.6 percent of third graders passed the test. Students did not test in 2020 due to the pandemic.

The test was given in 2021, but the passing requirement was waived, so no retests were administered.

The LBPA became law in 2013 to improve reading skills of kindergarten through third-grade students in public schools, so every student completing the third grade is able to read at or above grade level. The LBPA requires Mississippi third graders to pass a reading assessment to qualify for promotion to fourth grade. An amendment to the law in 2016 raised reading-level expectations starting in the 2018-19 school year, requiring third graders to score at level three or higher on the reading portion of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) English Language Arts (ELA) assessment.

Students who did not pass the reading assessment on their first attempt this school year were retested May 8-12. The second retest window is June 19 – 30. Some students may qualify for good cause exemptions to be promoted to fourth grade.

Final district-level pass rates will be published this fall in the Literacy-Based Promotion Act Annual Report of Performance and Student Retention for the 2022-23 school year.

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June Pelahatchie library events

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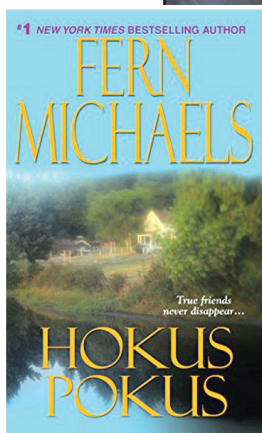
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Tuesday, June 27, 11 a.m.

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Krissy Hamilton
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Movie nights coming to library



Photo by Curtis Everitt

Pictured (l to r) are Tina Mauney and Mara Villa Polk.

By Curtis Everitt

During the May 1 Board of Alderman meeting, a yearly summary of the Pelahatchie Library was given, including statistics identifying how many patrons visited the library, used the computers and even connected to the Wi-Fi.

Local librarian Tina Mauney shared details about a program implemented for senior citizens to provide opportunities to socialize through various activities, including playing games and listening to guest speakers. Mauney encouraged anyone with ideas for ways the library could increase its outreach to step forward and volunteer them.

Mara Villa Polk, director of the Central Mississippi Regional Library System (CMRLS), gave many

updates about things to be expected from the local branch. Polk informed the Board that the CMRLS is in the process of obtaining a licensure to allow their libraries to hold movie screenings for patrons. The licensure will allow for movies to be shown inside the library, as well as outdoors.

Mauney assured those in attendance that the Pelahatchie Library has an LCD projector and DVD player they will use for movie nights. She said that, since their current outdoor screen might not be large enough, they are exploring ways in which the movie could be projected onto the side of a building or onto sheets in order to display a larger image.

For more information about the offerings of the Pelahatchie Library, call 601-854-8764. The library is located at 718 2nd Street.

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Obituaries

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Ronnie Joe Anthony	76	Sebastopol	5/02/2023	Wolf Funeral Services
Zelda Ruth Gaskin	83	Pulaski	5/03/2023	Wolf Funeral Services
Jean Lovett	75	Morton	5/03/2023	Wolf Funeral Services
Stanley C. Puckett	68	Forest	5/08/2023	Wolf Funeral Services
Garland L. Usry, Sr.	72	Decatur	5/11/2023	Wolf Funeral Services
Alma T. Bates	70	Forest	5/16/2023	Wolf Funeral Services
Percy Wayne Everett	83	Lake	5/17/2023	Wolf Funeral Services
Sebastian Mejia	34	Forest	5/12/2023	Wolf Funeral Services
Betty Jean Waggoner	82	Forest	5/25/2023	Wolf Funeral Services
Delmos Bynum	78	Morton	5/27/2023	Wolf Funeral Services
Mary Peavey	82	Raleigh	5/27/2023	Wolf Funeral Services
Bobby Whinton, Sr.	74	Lake	5/28/2023	Wolf Funeral Services

PHS students reap harvest of benefits from school garden

The Exceptional Education students at Pelahatchie High School, under the direction of Mrs. Baker, recently spent a sunny morning harvesting vegetables from their school garden. The students were able to experience their efforts become something tangible, and they cleaned and bagged their harvest to share with faculty members.



All photos special to Pelahatchie News

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Preparedness is key in preventing the unthinkable

By Katie White

May 24, 2023, was the one year anniversary of the Robb Elementary School shooting in Uvalde, Texas, where two teachers and 19 children were killed by a Uvalde High School student. There were signs that the 18-year-old teen was a troubled youth. He seemingly walked in effortlessly, and then did the unthinkable once inside the school. But this is not the first time this has taken place in America's schools and other public places, as we are all too familiar.

There is an alarm among parents and educational professionals about the possibility of the unthinkable happening at their school or their child's school. Parents have likely thought, are my children safe at school? And for a parent, it's difficult to know that your child may worry about their safety. But on the other side of that, it's good to know that something is being done to protect our children.

There is also much debate about how this type of crime keeps happening, and what can be done to stop it. Some may believe the root of the problem lies within the psychology of the assailant(s). Some may feel that the problem is in the legality of guns. No one really seems to have a concrete answer on how

to prevent it from happening in the first place, but a school can be prepared in the event that it does.

In speaking with school administrators and security staff at Rankin County School District (RCSD), it is clear that they are very active in securing the safety of their staff and children. They work and plan with law enforcement and emergency systems in the local area. Law enforcement can communicate with the school through a special radio channel. The Rankin County - Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is tasked with being in control of fire and Emergency Management Services (EMS) response. EOC and EMS work together on drilling and running exercises to implement strategies.

They mentioned that the schools meet once a year with local responders to cover topics such as updates to the emergency plan and new construction. If there is any new construction on the building, plans may need to be tweaked. They also conduct walk-throughs of the building to get the overall layout of the building.

In addition to their full time jobs as teachers, coaches and custodians, some



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Elementary.

staff also work within a Campus Emergency Response Team. These teams have special training in medical care as well as other emergency procedures, and they have access to the necessary medical supplies to render immediate care until EMS can arrive.

At RCSD, they utilize modern methods such as the See Something Say Something App, which directly communicates

with a staff member to quickly address problems and threats. They also encourage students to communicate with trusted adults such as teachers and coaches.

All RCSD schools have an emergency plan. Their plans are tested and updated often. Pelahatchie Schools will not divulge secrets about certain technology or strategies - rightfully and understandably - that have been put in place to protect staff and students. The school does not take threats lightly.

Reports of potential threats are taken very seriously at RCSD. Anytime a word-of-mouth tip comes in, they immediately act on the threat and investigate its validity. If needed, law enforcement is contacted, and the subject is turned over to them.

The RCSD website has resources on their website such as, *What Can You Do as a Parent, Coping with Tragedy, Talking to Children About Violence, Tips for Talking With and Helping Children and Youth Cope After a Disaster or Traumatic Event*. The school district also provides a link to "Say Something" at sandyhookpromise.org/say-something-tips/, provided by the Sandy Hook Promise. Visit RCSD online at rcsd.ms/resources/school-safety to learn more about what you can do as a caregiver.

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SALUTE TO EDUCATION

Rankin County Schools focus on educational excellence



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie schools are part of the Rankin County School District (RCSD), the third largest school district in the state of Mississippi. In 2022, RCSD had sixteen out of twenty-seven schools rated as “A” schools, and the entire district is an A-rated district and one of the top ten districts in the state.

Last year, RCSD grew its graduation rate, as well as its reading proficiency and growth, math proficiency and growth, history profi-

ciency and the number of students who are getting college credit while in high school. Overall, while the district was already A-rated, it still managed to grow an additional twenty-six points.

RCSD Superintendent Dr. Scott Rimes said the District’s positive gains are “the direct result of tireless efforts from each and every student, staff member, family, and our stakeholders. We have a certain expectation in RCSD, and there is always room for growth as we look ahead for the next testing season.”

Shamburger named Rankin Chamber Teacher of the Year



Special to Pelahatchie News

Jessica Shamburger of Pelahatchie Elementary School was recently named the Rankin Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year. Shamburger has taught for almost eighteen years in the Rankin County School District. A lifelong resident of Pelahatchie, she has her master’s degree in school leadership and administration and has been at Pelahatchie Elementary School since July of 2021.

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SALUTE TO EDUCATION

Boyd awarded multiple scholarships



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy's Aiden Boyd (center) was recently awarded the Laquita Steen Scholarship, as well as the Cash Medders Memorial Scholarship. Boyd is pictured with his grandparents, Jane and David Boyd.

PHS representatives honored



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Rankin County Chamber of Commerce recently held their annual Salute to Education event and recognized several Pelahatchie High School representatives. Maddie Grace Walters (left) was the recipient of the Miss Laquita Steen Scholarship, Kim Watson (center) was recognized for being Pelahatchie's Teacher of the Year, and Payton Sanders (right) was recognized for being a participant in the Rankin Youth Leadership Program.



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SALUTE TO EDUCATION

East Rankin Academy students have highest ACT scores in MAIS



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy (ERA) recently recognized two ERA students who had the highest ACT scores out of all seniors in the Mid-South Association of Independent Schools (MAIS). Max Gainey (left) was awarded the MAIS Distinguished Scholar ACT Award for having the second highest ACT score in the MAIS, and Dylan Davis (right) was awarded the David Derrick ACT Award for having the highest ACT score out of all seniors in the MAIS for the 2022-2023 school year. The two were also named ERA’s Mississippi Economic Council STAR Students for the 2022-23 school year.

Pelahatchie ES parent McCrory named District Parent for 2023



Special to Pelahatchie News

Kaila McCrory, the Pelahatchie Elementary Parent of the Year, was named the overall Rankin County School District Parent of the Year.

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FROM ALL THE STAFF
AT PELAHATCHIE NEWS



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Steve Gaines, RC Supervisor

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ERA shooting sports team named 4-peat state champs



Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Academy shoot sports team recently brought home the 2023 Mississippi Scholastic Shooting Program (MSSP) state championship, for the fourth year in a row. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Branton Miller, Gabe Nutt, Lana Jones, Brayden Warner, Addison Brown, Evan McIlwain and Olivia Griffing; second row: Payson Knight, J.R. Murphey, Seth Peden, Parker Davis, Cole Parkman, Gavin Thomas and Coach Vince Bynum; third row: Walker Sartin, Gunner Barham, Irby Rawson, Chylen Williams, Riley Huff, Aiden Boyd, Isaac Young and Abram Rowell; and back row: Karson Williams, Hudson McMillan, Briggs Moses, Garreth Barham, Grayson Williams, Braiden Warren, Hudson Bynum and Tyler Burgess.

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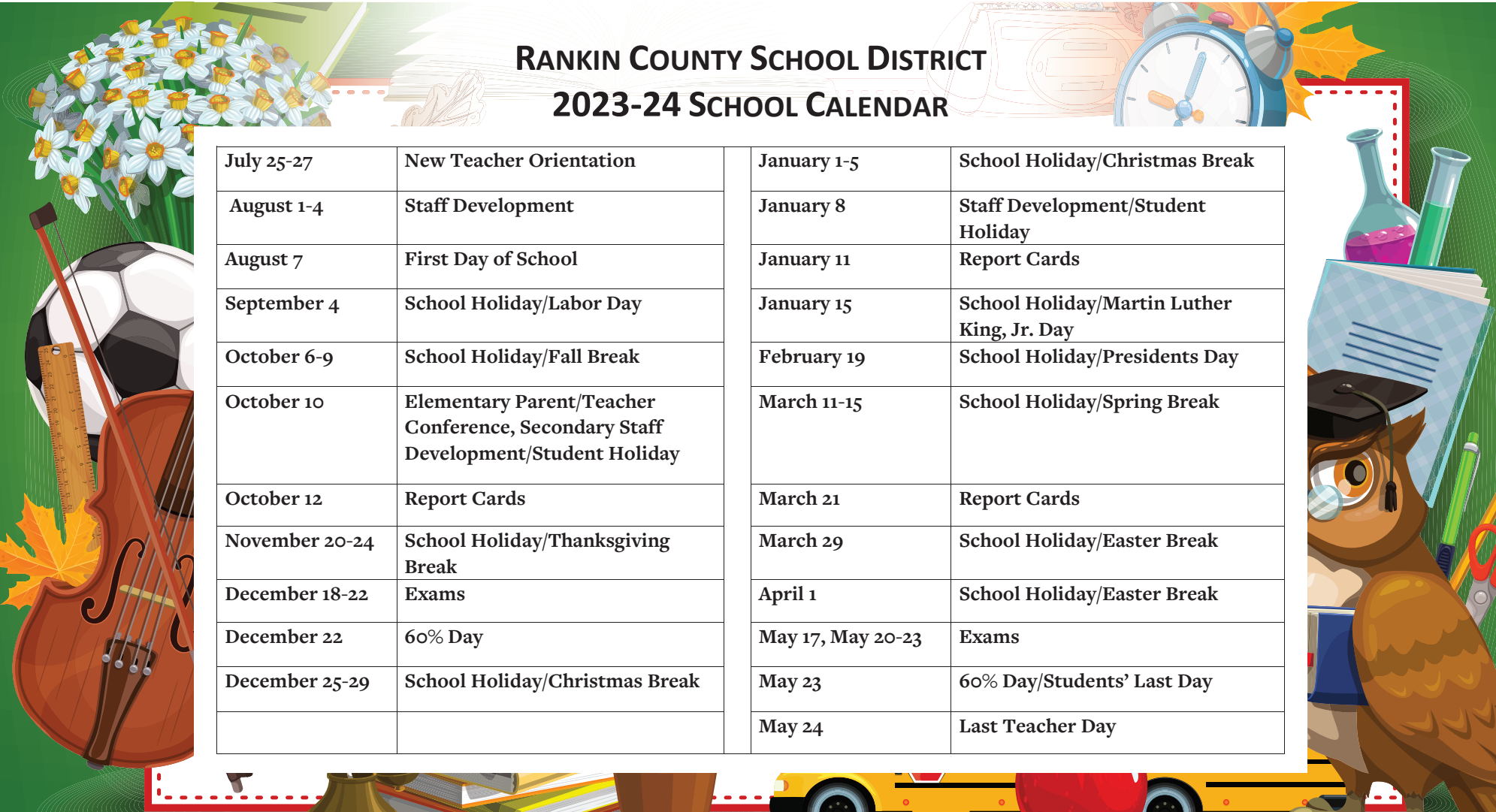
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July 25-27	New Teacher Orientation	January 1-5	School Holiday/Christmas Break
August 1-4	Staff Development	January 8	Staff Development/Student Holiday
August 7	First Day of School	January 11	Report Cards
September 4	School Holiday/Labor Day	January 15	School Holiday/Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
October 6-9	School Holiday/Fall Break	February 19	School Holiday/Presidents Day
October 10	Elementary Parent/Teacher Conference, Secondary Staff Development/Student Holiday	March 11-15	School Holiday/Spring Break
October 12	Report Cards	March 21	Report Cards
November 20-24	School Holiday/Thanksgiving Break	March 29	School Holiday/Easter Break
December 18-22	Exams	April 1	School Holiday/Easter Break
December 22	60% Day	May 17, May 20-23	Exams
December 25-29	School Holiday/Christmas Break	May 23	60% Day/Students' Last Day
		May 24	Last Teacher Day



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Parents of new high school grads should consider insurance needs

Special to Pelahatchie News

As students transition from high school to college and move out of the family home, the Mississippi Insurance Department suggests that parents consider how their insurance needs are changing.

“Students living off-campus should consider renters insurance,” said Mississippi Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney. “If your student will have one or more unrelated roommates, each person in the rental property will need their own individual renter’s policy.”

Whether living on- or off-campus, documenting student’s valuables is important. The insurance department suggests creating an inventory of expensive items like laptops, tablets and phones. An inventory will make filing an insurance claim easier if these items are stolen, lost or damaged, they say.

Students leaving their vehicle at home may qualify for a discount on auto insurance. Those who plan to take their vehicle with them are encouraged to let an agent know, as insurance rates may fluctuate based on the primary location of the vehicle. Parents can also control student auto premiums, in some cases, with “accident forgiveness,” a promise not to raise insurance rates after a first accident.



Students could also qualify for a “good student” discount on auto insurance.

Before leaving home, parents are encouraged to make sure students have a copy of all the insurance cards they will need. Having conversations about in-network and out-of-network health providers and finding a provider close to campus in case they need to see a doctor are suggested.

College students may be more vulnerable to identity theft because of the availability of personal information and the way many students handle this data. Identity theft insurance provides coverages for the cost of reclaiming the parents’ and/or the student’s financial identity, such as the costs of making phone calls, making copies, mailing documents, taking time off from work without pay (lost wages) and hiring an attorney.

Pelahatchie High School receives gift from community partner



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Jeff Reed (right), with Reed Food Technology, recently surprised Mrs. Mandy Herrington (left) at Pelahatchie High School with a side-by-side refrigerator and two prep tables for her nutrition and wellness lab space. Reed Food Technology has partnered with Herrington the entire school year to provide cooking items and kitchen space needs to help her provide expanded opportunities for learning to her students.


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Pastor's Perspective: Who is really number one in our lives?



Special to
Pelahatchie News

By Guest Columnist
Spencer Sullivan, Pastor,
Pelahatchie Baptist

My wife Melanie and I are both super competitive. We both have athletic backgrounds: mine in baseball and hers in basketball.

However, I believe we are both just naturally wired that way. We both love to win and hate to lose.

It also extends to games or sports played with our children. As parents, we have never purposefully let them win at anything, whether it is driveway basketball or tabletop UNO. They do win sometimes, but not because we let them. If they win, it is because they genuinely won the game. As a result, each of them is competitive.

We all naturally want to be first. Putting other people's desires above our own is not the natural way of thinking or behaving. Toddlers do not have to be taught to be selfish; it is inherent.

The Bible has a lot to say regarding our selfish, sinful nature. For ex-



Special to Pelahatchie News

ample, Paul wrote to the Philippian church: "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

This is not natural for anyone, but followers of Christ are called to be different. Even still, obedience to these commands can be incredibly

difficult. This is an example of the constant battle waged between the spirit that comes through a relationship with Christ and the flesh that we are naturally born with.

One of my favorite verses in all of Scripture happens to contain one of my favorite words in all of scripture. In fact, this word is only used once in the entire Bible. It is the word "preeminent." It is not a word that we often use

in our everyday vocabulary. It means "to be first" or "to have first place."

So, if we use that word in relation to our lives, we could say that we all naturally want to be preeminent or to be first. But, the one time this word is used in scripture, it is not used to describe just anyone. Paul used the word in his letter to the Colossian church - but he didn't use it to describe himself or anyone in that particular church. He used it to describe the only One that is worthy of the word, the Lord Jesus!

Colossians 1:18 says: "And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent."

Jesus' rightful position in the church and in each one of our lives is number one. Surrendering the authority in our lives and submitting to someone else is not natural. When we surrender first place in our lives to Him, there is immeasurable satisfaction and joy to be found!

Who is preeminent or first in your life? I challenge you to willingly become second and surrender to the preeminent King Jesus!



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ERA varsity girls 4x800 relay team wins 2023 MAIS 5A State Title

Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Academy (ERA) Patriots' track and field team, led by Coach David Hopper and Assistant Coach Steven Boozer, concluded the spring track and field season with a championship win on May 6 at the 2023 Midsouth Association of Independent Schools (MAIS) State Championship.

The varsity girls 4x800 relay team came home with a gold medal win, with a time of 10:08.64. The four girls, **Emma Raines**, **Audrey Mayatte**, **Leah Collipp** and **Lydia Collipp**, neared the ERA school record of 10:07.52, which was set by the team earlier in the 2023 season. This same relay team competed fiercely all year, winning the Pearl Pirate Opener, the Southern Mississippi Invitational, the Rankin County Championships and the Bianca Knight Invitational.

The ERA varsity girls overall finished sixth, and the varsity boys finished tenth out of the eighteen MAIS 5A schools.

ERA had a number of state finalists, including **Eli Bowman**, who took sil-

ver in pole vault; **Brayden Warner**, who brought home bronze in discus; **Audrey Mayatte**, who earned bronze in the 1600m, and the varsity girls 4x400 relay team, composed of **Audrey Mayatte**, **Leah Collipp**, **Lydia Collipp** and **Emily Williams**, who brought home bronze.

Other outstanding Patriot athletes included **Jack Boyd**, with a fourth in shot put; **Emily Williams**, with fourth in both the 200m and the 400m; **Taylor Woods**, with fourth in the 200m; **Emma Raines**, with fourth in the 3200m; **Caleb Leach**, with a fifth in discus; and **Leah Collipp**, with a fifth in the 800m.

The 2023 Patriot team featured three seniors, all of whom played a role in field team success throughout their Patriot careers. They leave ERA with a multitude of records: **Eli Bowman** is the ERA pole vault record holder and 2023 state silver medalist, with a personal record of 10'6"; **Caleb Leach** is a three-time state finalist in discus, with personal records of 140'3" in discus and 43'5" in shot put; and **Reagan Vinzant** is a two-time regional qualifier in discus, with a personal record of 92'6".



The State Championship 4x800 relay team included Lydia Collipp, Audrey Mayatte, Coach David Hopper, Leah Collipp and Emma Raines.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Pictured with their bronze medals and Coach David Hopper (center) are the 4x400 relay runners Emily Williams, Lydia Collipp, Audrey Mayatte and Leah Collipp.

Continued on Page 15

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ERA varsity girls 4x800 relay team wins 2023 MAIS 5A State Title



Audrey Mayatte took home the bronze medal in the 800 meter run.



Brayden Warner (second from right) won the bronze medal and Caleb Leach (far right) was fifth in discus.



Eli Bowman (second from left) was the silver medalist in pole vault.

Photos special to Pelahatchie News

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Chiefs offer summer baseball camp

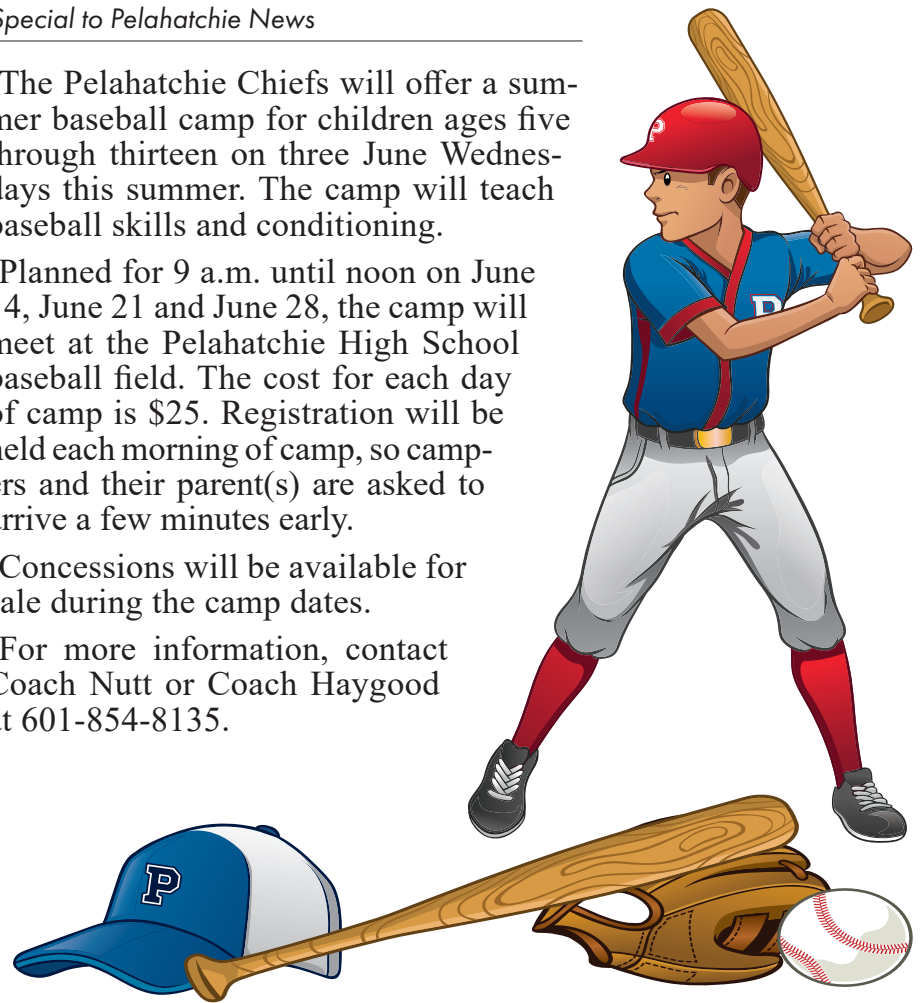
Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie Chiefs will offer a summer baseball camp for children ages five through thirteen on three June Wednesdays this summer. The camp will teach baseball skills and conditioning.

Planned for 9 a.m. until noon on June 14, June 21 and June 28, the camp will meet at the Pelahatchie High School baseball field. The cost for each day of camp is \$25. Registration will be held each morning of camp, so campers and their parent(s) are asked to arrive a few minutes early.

Concessions will be available for sale during the camp dates.

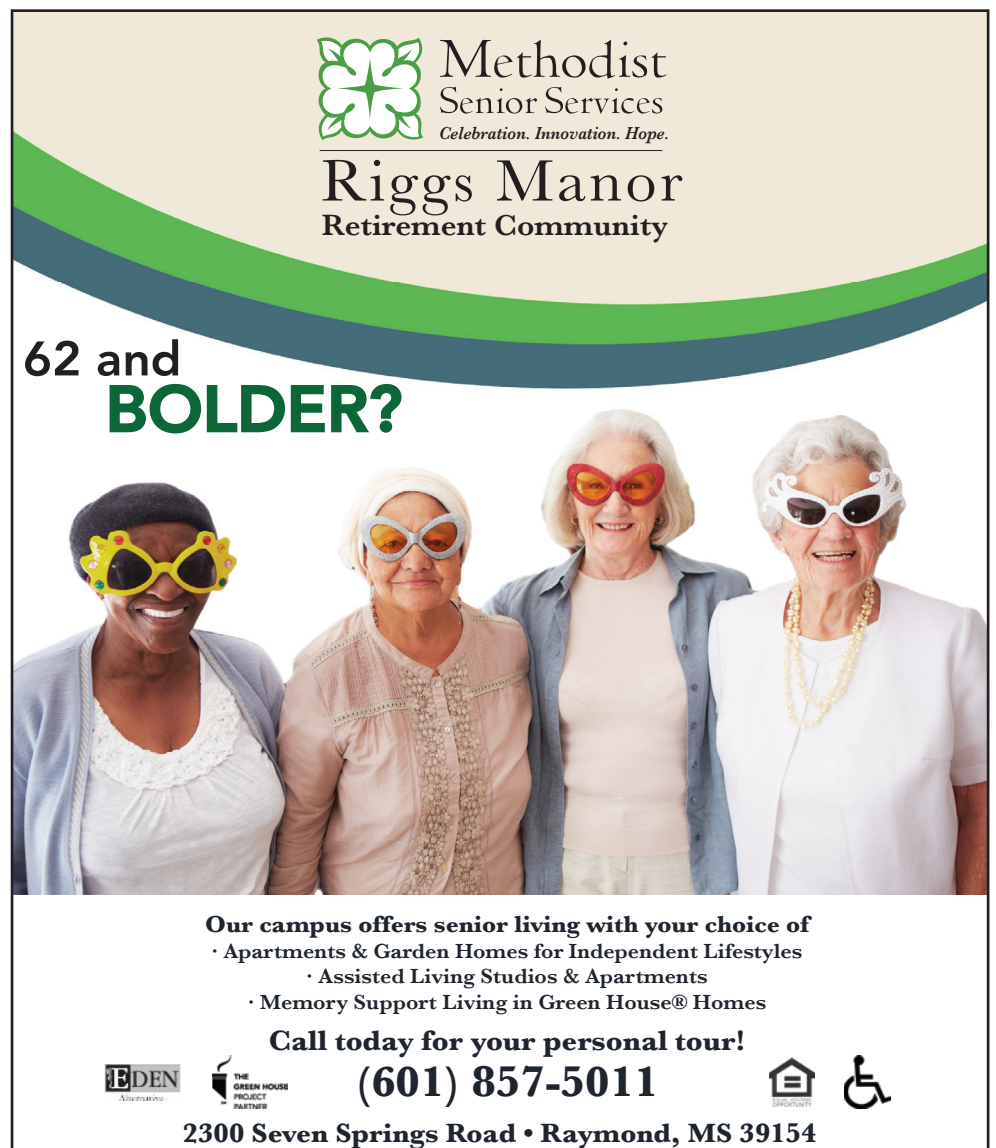
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