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# NEWS Pelahatchie

Good News You Can Use

April  
2020

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Pelahatchie, MS

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

## Legislative Update: Coronavirus update from Miles



By Guest Columnist  
Mississippi  
Representative  
Tom Miles

The Mississippi Legislature recessed until at least April 1. Here's some information that

Special to  
Pelahatchie News

I learned from daily conference calls in March.

- Senior citizens are the highest risk and priority
- COVID 19 is 3 times more contagious than the flu
- 20-30 year olds are often active carriers without visible symptoms
- **Health Update:**
  - New front of the nose instead of nasopharyngeal test to arrive soon. This should allow more self-application of the test.
  - Curve of cases will continue to

- increase over the next 4 days as the volume of test results is amplified.
- Nursing home visitation should only be by workers, as it appears outbreak at the home in Washington state was from an outside source.
- All elective surgeries are being discouraged at this time.
- Disinformation is all over the place. National quarantine rumor is not true: Washington State quarantine is not true; Washington, D.C. lock down is not true; and please do not spread false information.
- **Agriculture Update:**
  - School closure has



Special to Pelahatchie News

- created a nutritional problem that local school leaders are addressing.
- USDA is collaborating to deliver 5 day meals to rural areas.
- USDA regulations now allow school lunch program funding to proceed with schools closed.
- We have the strongest food supply chain in the world.
- Process to speed delivery to our local grocery stores and to ensure food is safe has accelerated and getting supplies out fast.
- **Small Business Update:**
  - Procedures for disaster loan eligibility and application have been accelerated.
  - The Governor's office is working on how application can be made to get funds available for loan and they are actively on the case.
- **Dept of Education Update:**
  - continued on page 2

## Auditor findings on drug seizure money

Special to Pelahatchie News

State Auditor Shad White's office returned \$543,038.04 to the Pelahatchie Police Department in February after the Attorney General's office litigated the case to recover additional damages.

In May, 2018 Special Agents from the



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie's Board of Aldermen with the Mayor. Pictured (l to r) are, Michael Adams, Ward 1; Frank Boyd, Ward 2; Margie Warren, Ward 3; James Harrell, Ward 4; Eddie Jones, Alderman at Large; and Ryshonda Beechem, Mayor.

Auditor's office issued demand letters to 10 current and former Pelahatchie officials after they were accused of using restricted law enforcement bank accounts to operate the town.

See page 3 to read the letter from Aldermen in response to the return of funds.

## Clean Up Week set for April

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Town of Pelahatchie will hold Clean-Up week April 20-24. The Town will pick up anything residents need to get rid of if they leave it by the curb at the appointed time.

Ward One will be picked up on Monday, April 20; Ward Two on Tuesday, April 21; Ward Three on Wednesday, April 22; Ward Four on Thursday, April 23; and all wards on Friday, April 24.

City workers will pick up anything except household trash, dead animals and hazardous materials.

For additional information, call City Hall at 601-854-5224.

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<b>April 21</b>	<b>Ward 2</b>
<b>April 22</b>	<b>Ward 3</b>
<b>April 23</b>	<b>Ward 4</b>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>Last Day</b>

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## RCSD holds ribbon cutting for PES additions



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Rankin County School District (RCSD) welcomed guest to commemorate the completion of the Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) Bond Issue project with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in March. Pictured (l to r) are: Luigia Butler with Dale | Bailey Architects, Pelahatchie Mayor Ryshonda Beechem, Assistant Superintendent Karen Schmidt, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Undray Scott, Pelahatchie Elementary Principal Lisa Attkisson, Superintendent Dr. Sue Townsend, Assistant Superintendent Buddy Bailey, Rankin County Supervisor Steve Gaines, Rankin County Supervisor Jared Morrison, Rankin County Supervisor Brad Calhoun, and Assistant Superintendent Shane Sanders.

continued from page 1

## Legislative Coronavirus update from Miles

- Student loan interest has been paused.
- Testing waivers and provisional change information should come out by late this week or early next week.
- **Dept of Labor Update:**
  - Massive layoffs are expected.
  - Working with the MS Dept of Employment Security to address potential spikes in UI claims.
  - Federal Government is working on funds to families for the crisis this will create for many.
- Our Federal, State, and local agencies are working hard to help get us through this situation by implementing plans on all levels for relief. I will update you again the more that I learn.
- Please remember to check on the elderly, keep social distance, and most of all use common sense.



For up-to-date information on COVID-19 in Mississippi and local updates on events and businesses, check the Pelahatchie News Facebook page.



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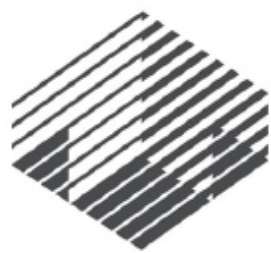
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continued from page 1

# Auditor findings on drug seizure money

**Board of Alderman:**

Michael Adams  
Frank Boyd  
Margie Warren  
James Ray Harrell  
Edward Jones

**Former Alderman at Large:**

Jerry Norwood

**Former Mayor:**

Knox Ross Jr.

**Former City Clerk:**

Bettye Massey



To whom this may concern,

According to recent articles in "Y'all Politics.com" and the Pelahatchie News, as well as a press release by Mayor Beechem, the State Auditor has received and placed the sum of \$543,038 "back in the drug fund account" of the Town of Pelahatchie, Mississippi. Respectfully, these articles and the press release erroneously assert that the sum of money now placed "back into the Town's drug account" was somehow improperly spent by the Town's elected officials to begin with, or was otherwise improperly removed from the financial coffers of the Town at some point. The truth is that the Town never lost a penny of the funds that are somehow now being "replaced," and all funds which the Auditor and the Mayor claim were in some way "misspent" were all spent by Town officials for the proper purposes intended. The Town of Pelahatchie never lost a penny of the funds that the Auditor says were misspent and none of the Town officials being sued ever received any public funds from any source except for their salaries.

As a result of this "repayment" to the Town of \$543,038, the citizens of Pelahatchie should be asking the following question: Why should the Auditor be "repaying" \$543,038 to the Town of Pelahatchie when the Town never lost the money to begin with? The answer to this logical question is simple in some ways and complicated in others. The State Auditor originally sued the Town officials and their Bondsmen, claiming that they "misallocated" certain drug funds received by the Town, and for not earmarking the funds for certain law enforcement purposes in a separate account. However, the record is clear that all such drug funds now in controversy went to pay for proper law enforcement activities and equipment and not one penny was lost or misappropriated. Regardless, the Auditor continues to pursue his claim and has taken the further unusual step of trying to deny the Town officials the right to have their attorneys' fees paid by Town funds, as they try to defend themselves in this very expensive litigation.

As the court filings in this litigation have continued, multiple delays have occurred, the expenses of the litigation have mounted, and no trial or Court rulings have occurred to date on whether the Town officials are guilty of any wrongdoing. Likewise, there have been no Court rulings as to whether the Town officials can receive the funds from the Town coffers necessary to pay their legal fees to defend themselves in this very expensive and misguided litigation. So even though there has been no ruling in the lawsuits brought by the Auditor against the Town officials, the Auditor and current Mayor of Pelahatchie can issue public statements that the Town has been repaid in full for the so-called "misappropriated funds" in the sum of \$543,038. How can this be?

The answer to this logical question is that in addition to bringing suit against the former Mayor and Aldermen, the Auditor also sued the "Bondsmen" (large insurance companies such as Travelers) of the Town officials. The Bondsmen have apparently now "settled the lawsuit" with the Auditor and made economic decisions to avoid lengthy litigation, by paying into the State Auditor's office the sum of \$543,038. Thus, the Auditor will now apparently leave it to the Bondsmen to sue the Town officials for reimbursement of the settlement money they paid to the Auditor.

In summary, the Town officials now being sued and the citizens of Pelahatchie are faced with a bizarre situation. In reality, the Town is being paid twice for drug funds it never lost to begin with and were spent, dollar for dollar, for the law enforcement activities of the Town for which they were intended. Meanwhile, the Town officials who did nothing wrong must continue to defend themselves for simply doing their jobs and must continue to find ways to pay for their lawyers to defend them in this misguided litigation.

The beleaguered Town officials, who face the prospect of financial ruin and permanent damage to their reputations because of misguided lawsuits by the Auditor and their insurance company Bondsmen, now ask questions of their own:

1. Is not this whole situation a classic example of how the boot of government is often improperly placed upon the necks of innocent citizens, who received no financial gain whatsoever in this whole sordid affair, other than the normal salaries they received for doing their jobs?
2. How can the State Auditor object to allowing public funds to be used to pay the lawyer fees of Town officials who were just doing their jobs?

This case cries out for justice. Remember, the same thing can happen to you if you decide to enter public service for the benefit of your community; and are called upon to make good faith decisions that you feel are in the best interest of the citizens you represent.

Thank you.

**Coach Jones named Teacher of Innovation**



Special to Pelahatchie News

February's Teacher of Innovation at Pelahatchie High School is Coach Alexia Jones. Pictured (l to r) are: Principal Dr. Teague Burchfield, Jones, Tanner Wilson, Farm Bureau, and Leslie Hebert, Instructional Coach.

**Sweeney and Skinner Teachers of Innovation**



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie High School Teachers of Innovation for the months of December and January are Abby Sweeney and Angela Skinner. Pictured (l to r) are: Principal Dr. Teague Birchfield, Sweeney, Skinner, Leslie Herbert, Instructional Coach, and Tanner Wilson with Farm Bureau sponsor.

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**Obituaries**

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Arrangements
Mertie Jones	80	Forest, MS	3/9/20	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Mark De Vries	56	Pelahatchie, MS	3/10/20	Wolf Funeral Serv.

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# Miles recognized for supporting MSH and Hudspeth Center

Special to Pelahatchie News

Supporters of Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) and Hudspeth Regional Center hosted an appreciation luncheon for the state's legislators at Galloway United Methodist Church in Jackson in March. Rep. Tom Miles, District 75, Rankin and Scott Counties, was one of the attendees.

The legislative appreciation event is an annual program hosted by Friends of MSH and Friends of Hudspeth Center. The volunteer organizations are dedicated to raising funds and awareness for their respective programs and those Mississippians served through them. Employees, volunteers, advocates and other members of the Friends groups hosted the March event in order to thank lawmakers for their work in the legislature and for their continued support of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.

MSH, a program of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and helps the individuals it serves achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promoting safety, and supporting recovery. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Supporters of Mississippi State Hospital and Hudspeth Regional Center hosted an appreciation luncheon for the state's legislators at Galloway United Methodist Church in Jackson. Pictured are (l to r) Hudspeth Assistant Director Tim Drane, Rep. Tom Miles, and MSH Clinical Director Robert Maddux.

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# The effects of weather on plant growth



By Doug Carter,  
Rankin County  
Extension Agent

Weather affects plants in many ways that we may not fully realize. Weather is what is happening now and over a

growing season, things such as precipitation, humidity, temperature, wind, and sunlight. On the other hand, climate is historical weather or average weather conditions, over a long period of time.

This winter, like last winter, the weather conditions in Mississippi were cloudy and wet for the last few months. Conditions can change from day to day. These cloudy days can have an impact on photosynthetic activity, and, therefore, winter annual pastures do not accumulate the amount of sugars necessary for growth and development.

Cloud cover and prolonged rainy conditions will impact plant growth. The frequent occurrence of clouds over extensive periods of time may have a significant influence on photosynthesis and transpiration of cool season annual forages, due to effects of variation in sunlight quality and quality on photosynthetic activity and leaf temperature.

Under cloudy conditions, winter annual crops might try to produce bigger leaves in response to low radiation, while wet conditions can limit root development and nutrient uptake, as roots might not seek nutrients deep in the soil profile.

Under water logging conditions, grasses might have yellowing symp-

tom and stunted growth. Excessive soil water saturation blocks the transfer of oxygen between the soil and the root zone. Low oxygen levels cause a decrease in root growth, nutrient ab-

sorption, and impact the overall forage growth. Under water logging conditions, the availability of several nutrients is reduced. The uptake of nitrogen (N) and potassium (K) is impaired in the roots, because of the lack of oxygen. The leaching of the soil mineral N can result

in less N being available to cool season annual grasses. Under water logged conditions, the uptake of Phosphorus (P) and K may be reduced and lead to early maturing of the plant.

The gains of stocker cattle are largely related to quality and quality of the pasture as well as total grazing

days. However, due to prolonged periods of rainfall, many pastures can be damaged due to bogging, especially in heavy clay and clay loam soils. Bogging is nothing more than livestock walking

on the wet soil and tearing apart the pasture's soil structure. It depends on factors such as soil type, amount and frequency of rainfall, forage species, and pasture management. As the soil becomes wet, it loses strength, reducing its ability to withstand soil compaction and bogging. This prevents water from dispersing through the soil and impacting plant growth. On a normal winter, bogging in winter grazing might range from 10% to 20% of the pasture's area, but with the amount of precipitation received over the last three months, that percentage can be considerably higher.

This can have a huge implication in spring forage growth, summer pasture recovery, and soil biological activity that is vital to a healthy soil environment.

We just need to remember that, no matter how well we plan, Mother Nature is always in charge. All we can do is try to stay ahead of the weather to meet the forage needs of livestock. We need to keep in mind that out of ordinary weather conditions can impact pasture growth, pasture utilization, nutrient uptake, increase weed competition, reduce forage nutritive value, impact soil structure, and pose animal health issues.



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toms and stunted growth. Excessive soil water saturation blocks the transfer of oxygen between the soil and the root zone. Low oxygen levels cause a decrease in root growth, nutrient ab-

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# Beemon named Athlete of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Greg Beemon received Pelahatchie High School's February Star Athlete of the Month. Pictured (l to r) are: Principal Dr. Teague Burchfield, Athletic Director Sam Williams, Beemon, and Tanner Wilson with Farm Bureau, who provided the gifts.

# Maroney signs with Belhaven



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin senior Will Maroney signed to play football with Belhaven University on March 6. Pictured (l to r) front row, are: Emily Maroney, Christine Maroney, Will Maroney, and Russ Maroney; and second row: Head Football Coach Jonathan Worrell and Athletic Director Dan Davis.

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**NEWS Pelahatchie**

# Banker's Notes: Banking and COVID-19

Special article by Priority One Bank

**Depend on reliable sources for information:** There is a great deal of misinformation regarding COVID-19 out there – below are some helpful resources that are being updated every day with the most up to date information. Please also be aware that there has been an increase in scams via email, phone and social media regarding COVID-19. The Federal Trade Commission is providing updates regarding possible scams.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- World Health Organization
- Johns Hopkins Center for Systems Science and Engineering – Tracking COVID-19 map
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- Federal Trade Commission Updates on COVID-19 Scams

**Convenient Ways to Conduct Banking & Financial Transactions from Your Home or Office:** PriorityOne Bank offers many alternate banking solutions for those that wish to avoid public places or cannot visit us in person during this time. Also, in accor-

dance with CDC guidance, we are asking that anyone who is experiencing a fever or respiratory illness or those that have recently travelled to CDC Level 2 or 3 countries postpone their visit to any PriorityOne Bank location for the appropriate amount of time.

**There are many alternatives to in-person banking, including:** Go Online! Our Online and Mobile Banking services that are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, allow both consumers and businesses to perform many banking transactions from your home or office location, which includes the ability to deposit checks, transfer funds between accounts at PriorityOne Bank and/or another financial institutions, check your balance, review account activity, pay your bills, send money to others using PeoplePay and more. To enroll in our Online Banking and Mobile Banking services, visit our website.

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Where to find updates from PriorityOne Bank: We will continue to monitor developments around COVID-19 and provide updates as they relate to the Bank on our website at <https://www.priorityonebank.com/> and on our Facebook page. We may also send our periodic updates using our Texting Service, to sign up for this service, simply text the code "POBText" to 95577 from your mobile phone.

**EDITOR'S NOTES:** PriorityOne Bank, based in Magee, Mississippi, operates fifteen offices in twelve Mississippi communities: Collins, Seminary, Hattiesburg, Magee, Mendenhall, Richland, Brandon, Ridgeland, Pearl, Pelahatchie, Flowood, and Morton. The bank has assets of approximately \$650 million.

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  - (b) Are known to mental health or state housing agency to have been arrested or incarcerated in the last year due to conduct related to mental illness; or
  - (c) Are known to the mental health or state housing agency to have been homeless for one full year or have had four or more episodes of homelessness in the last three years
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Tracie Bass, LPN**

**Kim Risher  
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# PHS holds Senior Soccer Night FFA Chapter meet with legislators



Special to Pelahatchie News

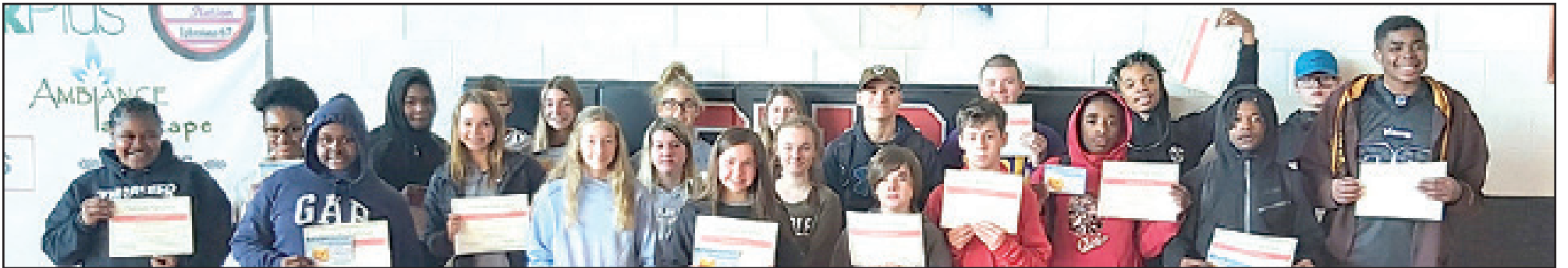
Pelahatchie High School (PHS) held Soccer Senior Night on January 24. These players have been a part of getting Pelahatchie's soccer programs started over the last six years. Pictured (l to r) are: Coach Cedrick Wilder, Kimberly Flores, Brianna Galbraith, Jacey Cooper, Aliza Myers, Jenterius Denson, CJ Earby, and Head Coach Patrick Creel.



Special to Pelahatchie News

The annual FFA Breakfast was held February 19. Pictured (l to r) front row, are: Isabella Atkinson, Maddie Grace Walters, Katie Belle Boyer, Adlyn Till, and Kenner Doster; and second row: Justin Beemon, Olivia Simon, McKinley Goodin, Rep. Tom Miles, Chloe Walters, and Camden Patton.

# Pelahatchie High School recognizes academics and attitude



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) students recognized for academic and attitude achievement for December and January pictured (l to r) front row, are: Ava Till, Maggi Gilliam, and Benjamin Burnham; middle row: Adriyana Collier, Camden Patton, Heather Smith, Haylee Atkinson, Braden Laughlin, Dashaun Gipson, Javian McKinnis, and Prentiss Wilson; and back row: Teleiah Lewis, Kayla Hobson, Aaron Hill, Kaleb Evans, Mckinley Goodin, Makaylee Hester, Riley Bowman, Phillip Rainer, Shaun McInnish, Devan Sinclair, and Hart Adams. Not pictured are Benjamin Harper, Gaven Boydston, and Ricky Beard.

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# Pastor's Perspective: While in the pit, you must look up



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

Special to Pelahatchie News

He looked up, and all he could see was a circle of blue. He looked down, and all he could see was mud. His name was Jeremiah, and he was a prophet of God. His job was to proclaim the word of God for people to hear. But they didn't like what they heard. So Jeremiah ended up in the bottom of a pit.

Have you ever been there? At the bottom of the pit? Looking up? Wondering how your world had fallen out from beneath you? Maybe your "pit" is a health problem. You noticed a lump or had a pain, and all of a sudden your world is changed. Or maybe your "pit" is an economic problem. You lost your job, or the bills keep piling up. Maybe it has to do with relationships; a marriage gone sour, problems with a coworker or the boss, children or other family members who are alienated. Or maybe your "pit" is a spiritual struggle. For whatever reason, you just don't seem to be as close to God as you once were. Or maybe it's our current situation. A virus that nobody can see has attacked us. And, in

a matter of days, our whole world has been upended. Nobody knows where it is or where it will strike next or when it will end. Fear has gripped our nation, and a feeling of helplessness prods people into panic mode. It's a pit, and we're all in it!

When you find yourself at the bottom of a "pit," the best view is always up!

You can look at the mud at the bottom of the pit, but that's just plain depressing. You can focus on the walls of the pit, but that's

discouraging too! So when you find yourself in the bottom of a pit, the best place to look...is up! And when you do look up, that's when you can see God! But the sad truth is, when things are going well, many people "put God on a shelf." Oh, you may go to church. And you may even put something in the offering plate from time to time. But

when things take a turn for the worse; you lose your job, your kids get sick, or your marriage starts to fail, it's then that you put God on speed dial. "Hello God, help, my little boy is sick; or help, I just got fired; or help, we're having problems in our marriage; or help, this virus thing is everywhere and I'm afraid it's going to get me." Or "Hello God, help,

I'm in the bottom of this pit, and I can't get out!" Listen to me! Sometimes you have to get to the bottom of the pit before you

realize that you need to look up!

When you're in the bottom of the pit, it's easy to look around at the dark walls and the murky bottom and think: this is it, it will never get any better. I might as well get used to it. This is the way my life is going to be from now on. But, if you look up, you see the blue of the sky above. Looking up also causes you to

see beyond the present reality to a preferred future. You can look beyond the bottom of the pit and beyond the walls and see where you could be and where you should be. So look up!

There are actually worse places to be than at the bottom of the pit. When you look down and you can see the ground, let it remind you that you are still on the right side of the grass! And the truth is, you don't have to look far before you find someone who is having greater problems than you are. So look up!

When you're in a pit, you learn to look around and discover who your friends are. While Jeremiah was in the pit, wondering if anyone cared, there was someone who was coming to get him out. When you are at the bottom of the pit, you find out who your friends really are. During this difficult time, be sure to BE a friend to others. And rest assured that Christ will be there for you. I don't know how this Coronavirus thing is going to play out, or whatever other "pit" you are in, but remember what God's Word says in Deuteronomy 31:6, "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread...for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

Keep looking UP!



Special to Pelahatchie News




Due to the COVID-19 virus, all services and activities at Cross Roads have been suspended until further notice. Please join us for our "On-line Services."


**Sunday Worship Service**  
10:00 a.m. at [CrossRoadsPel.org](http://CrossRoadsPel.org)

**Wednesday Prayer Meeting**  
6:00 p.m. on the Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook page

**Morning Devotions**  
7:30 a.m. on the Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook Page

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## During "Times Like These"

### RCSD Suggested Daily Schedule Middle School and High School



TIME	ACTIVITY
Before 9:00	Wake Up
9:00 - 10:00	Activity Based Instruction (PE, Fine Arts, etc.)
10:00 - 12:00	Academic Time (*Follow A/B Schedule For Assignments)
12:00 - 1:00	LUNCH
1:00 - 2:00	Quiet Time - Independent Reading
2:00 - 4:00	Academic Time (*Follow A/B Schedule For Assignments)
4:00 - 5:00	Fresh Air Time - Get OUTSIDE if Possible
5:00 - 6:00	DINNER
6:00 - 8:00	Free TV Time

This is a SUGGESTED schedule. This does NOT mean your assignments are due at the end of the Academic Time. Deadlines will be established for when assignments are due.

Special to Pelahatchie News



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

Special to Pelahatchie News

As readers of this column well know, I have a real appreciation for music. Moreover, I really enjoy finding the parallels songs can have with life, its seasons, and events within it. Regarding the COVID-19 concerns and the changes that have occurred in our daily lives because of it, I am reminded of the Foo Fighters song, *Times Like These*. As a huge fan of the band, I have often wondered why and in what context Dave Grohl and his band mates wrote a song such as that. Needless to say, the lyrics of this song absolutely apply to our current situation. The chorus below states:

"It's times like these you learn to live again; It's times like these you give and give again; It's times like these you learn to love again; It's times like these time and time again."

We are in the process of overcoming the obstacles the COVID-19 virus has pushed upon us. We have learned to live again; we have once again appreciated family time, outdoor recreation, as well as reflection through reading and writing. We give as well. There are countless examples of community members, churches, and organizations that have put everything down to serve someone less fortunate. We've learned to love again. We have ALL seen first-hand that absence absolutely makes the heart grow fonder. This event has separated us all from family members, colleagues, and for us as educators, our students. And yet time and time again, this too shall pass.

Thank you all for being so patient over

the past few weeks. As it relates to education, this event has revealed many heroes along the way. The Rankin County School District Administration, its curriculum team along with countless administrators, counselors, teachers, and staff, have made the necessary adjustments to continue to provide the phenomenal academic experience this district has to offer. Know that your faculty and staff here at Pelahatchie are included in that group. Through versatility, flexibility, and ingenuity, they have done a tremendous job (in a short amount of time) of fundamentally altering the status quo of education until the COVID-19 dilemma is neutralized.

What a response! With that being said, we are asking for you to respond as well. Below are a few easy steps to ensure your students do not lose any academic ground during this time:

1. Check any online text, email, or phone call that is directed to you.
2. Complete and submit ALL daily assignments as they are sent to you.
3. Contact teachers when questions arise regarding class work.
4. Contact your administration for other issues that are of concern.

Our staff is currently on the clock Monday-Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to answer questions and assist in any way. Do not forget about our "Grab & Go" lunch opportunity at Pelahatchie High School. Lunch is free for ALL kids 18 and under and \$3.50 for adults. Remember, kids must be present to receive the meal.

We will overcome these tough times. It is "Times Like These" that we learn a lot about ourselves and reflect on what really matters. It is "Times Like These" that make me proud to be a Pelahatchie Chief!



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## Two ERA students accepted to MSU veterinary program



Special to Pelahatchie News

Kariana Simmons, left, and Trey Rhodes, right, were accepted into the Mississippi State College of Veterinary Medicine Early Entry Program. Only 30 students out of more than 120 applicants are accepted each year for this high-competitive and selective program. Both are currently students at East Rankin Academy.

## Hinds CC Physical Therapist students participate in State Capitol event



Special to Pelahatchie News

Kirby King of Pelahatchie, front row, left, participated in the State Capitol event along with students from area colleges. Pictured (l to r), front row, are: King; Kendal Walsh, of Brandon; Ashley Carillo, of Raymond; Chloe Tapley, of Houston; Billy Ray Reginal, of Cleveland; second row: Memrie Johnson, of Carrollton; Molly Graef, of Brandon; Shaniqua Love, of Byram; Carson Branton, of Starkville; Dee Simmons, of Ackerman; Keteria Jones, of Greenwood; Ja'kyra Cannon, of Leland; third row, Anna Smith, of Brandon; Abby Bouslay, of Brandon; Samantha Vogel, of Columbus; Hope Jenkins, of Brandon; and top row, Stephen Turner, of Clinton; Matt Hester, of Natchez; and Dallas Murphy, of Raleigh.

### Special to Pelahatchie News

First-year Physical Therapist Assistant students at Hinds Community College participated in the American Physical Therapy Association Mississippi Legislative Day event at the State Capitol on Thursday, February 6.

They joined other Physical Therapist Assistant students from Holmes Community College, William Carey University and University of Mississippi Medical Center, as well as practitioners statewide, to introduce legislators to the physical therapy profession.

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