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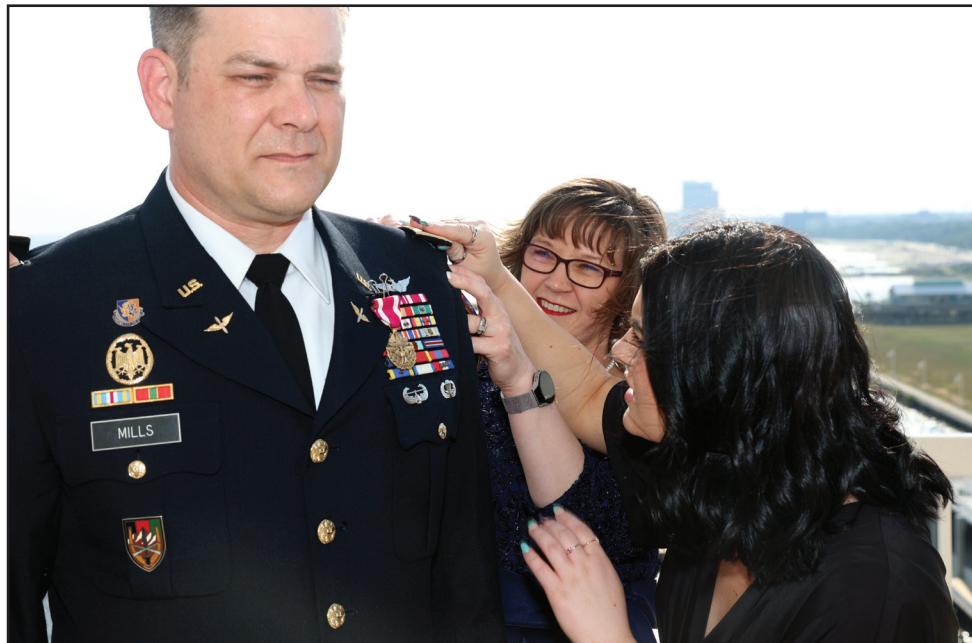
Pelahatchie News  
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# Lt. Col. James "Ashley" Mills promoted to Colonel

Special to Pelahatchie News

Col. James "Ashley" Mills was born in Richton, Mississippi, in 1979. He enlisted on his seventeenth birthday in Det. 1/Co B/890th Engineer Battalion in 1996 and attended Basic Training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, during the summer that year.

As a Private, he returned from Basic Training and graduated from Richton High School in 1997 before returning to Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, in order to complete Advanced Individual Training (AIT) as an Interior Electrician (51R). After AIT, he attended Mississippi State University (MSU), where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business Management and a Commission as a Second Lieutenant through the MSU ROTC Department in December of 2000. 2LT Mills then completed Military Intelligence Officer's Basic Course at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona.



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Col. James "Ashley" Mills (left) stands as Col. Mills' wife, Tammy Mills (center), and their daughter, Haley Mills (right), attach shoulder boards bearing his new rank of colonel during a promotion ceremony on May 14, 2022.

After MIOBC, 2LT Mills began his commissioned military career in the Mississippi Army National Guard (MSARNG) with the 31st ROC in Jackson. He also began his full-time technician career as the Program Analyst for the State Army Aviation Officer. 1LT Mills was deployed to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom II in 2004 with the 185 Aviation Group. After the deployment, he attended Initial Entry Rotary Wing training at Ft. Rucker, Alabama, where he was awarded his Aviator Wings in January of 2006.

After flight school, Cpt. Mills assumed command of HHC/1-185 Avn. Regt. and later A/1-185 Avn. Regt. Cpt. Mills deployed A/1-185 Avn. Regt. to Kosovo in 2007-08. Upon return, he was transferred to the 184 Expeditionary Sustainment Command in Hattiesburg, where he picked up the rank of Major and deployed to Afghanistan in

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# New Pelahatchie High School principal a familiar face

Special to Pelahatchie News

As one principal exits Pelahatchie High School, a new principal must take their place. For many students, faculty and staff, the new principal is one that has a familiar face.

Voncille Anderson is a 27-year educator who has 21 collective years at Pelahatchie High School alone. She will be joining Pelahatchie once again as the incoming high school principal beginning this fall.

As an educational leader, Anderson has been a consultant for the Mississippi Writing/Thinking Institute at Mississippi State University, and she has been involved in training teachers across the state in best practice for instruction in English and other content areas. She has also served as an adjunct professor

for Hinds Community College at the Rankin Campus.

Throughout her career, Anderson has received several honors and awards.

**"I believe strongly in serving and mentoring children and helping develop teachers,"**

**—Voncille Anderson**

In 2002 she achieved National Board Teacher Certification. She has also been named Pelahatchie High School's Teacher of the Year, Star Teacher, Metro Jackson Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Teacher, Hinds Community College Star Teacher and Rankin County School District's (RCSD) Secondary Administrator



Special to Pelahatchie News

Voncille Anderson, Pelahatchie High School Principal

of the Month. And this year, Anderson was selected as RCSD's Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year.

"I believe strongly in serving and mentoring children and helping develop teachers," said Anderson.

When Anderson left Pelahatchie High School, the upcoming seniors were transitioning from the seventh grade to the eighth grade. Anderson said the following regarding the seniors, "Being able to lead them into their senior year brings a true feeling of excitement and pride to the start of my journey as head principal of PHS. I feel a strong connection not only to the graduating class of 2023, but also Pelahatchie as a whole."

Anderson is married to Lt. Col. (retired) John Anderson. They currently reside in Brandon. They have two children, Mikaela and Wesley.



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# Walters named to statewide Student Ambassador Program

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Maddie Walters, a Pelahatchie High School student, has been named to the 2022-2023 inaugural class for the Mississippi Secretary of State's (SOS) Student Ambassador Program.

Walters was selected for the program after a competitive application process to identify upcoming seniors who have a passion for leadership and state government. To be considered for the program, students had to have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, prove satisfactory behavioral conduct and exhibit a strong interest in state government and service.

The SOS program is designed to equip high school seniors with the knowledge and resources to engage as leaders within their schools and communities. This year's group of Ambassadors consists of 56 students from 44 schools in 28 counties across all four congressional districts.

"We are thrilled to work with such a diverse group of young leaders," said Mississippi Secretary of State Michael Watson. "High school students, especially those in Mississippi, are often catalysts for groundbreaking ideas and

positive change. I have no doubt this class of SOS Ambassadors will set an admirable tone for the future of the program."

Primary components of the SOS Ambassador Program include a fall summit focused on voting and elections and a spring summit geared toward the study of Mississippi's legislative process. Representatives from the Secretary of State's office and other government entities will also provide in-depth training to help Ambassadors successfully organize and facilitate voter registration drives on their school campuses during the spring semester.

The program was designed as part of a mission the Secretary of State's Office has to make government more transparent, a commitment Watson says includes even the youngest generation of Mississippians. In addition, the program aims to increase voter education and registration among youth and will encourage students to engage in Mississippi civics. Ambassadors will be able to ask questions and share ideas about the future of Mississippi with state and local leaders



Special to Pelahatchie News

Maddie Walters

through monthly educational sessions.

In addition to Walters, the 2022-2023 inaugural class for the Secretary of State (SOS) Student Ambassador Program includes Adrian Marshall, Alea Hudson, Alexandria Wall, Alexs Chen, Andrew Lott, Andrew Nguyen, Anne PrestonMcRae, Armoni Redmon, Avery McDaniel, Bailey Holly, Barrett Breazeale, Beau Hinton, Bella Maner, Brayla, Rupert, Cameron Davis, Caroline Odom, Connor Gibson, Emerson Harkins, Emma Scruggs, Garrett Robison, Haley Harris, Hannah Cochran, Jakeyvi Williams, Jane Strawderman, Jeremy Tyler, Kayle Amos, Keerthin Karthikeyan, Kennedy Kuntz, Kennedy Williams, Kyla Rudd, Lauryl Joyner, Madi Lee, Mitzi Bass, Molly-Kate Carley, Reagan Anthony, Regan Ammons, Reid Overstreet, Ria Contractor, Rileigh Griffin, Robert Rector, Sadie Stevenson, Sakshi Kaura, Samuel Overstreet, Sara Smith, Shayne Carson, Stephanie Bolanos, Steven Berry, Sumner Tackett, Sydney Sudduth, Teddi Duckworth, Tucker Smith, Tyren Boyd, Vanndel Chinchin, Vishnu Gadepalli and Walker White.

For more information about the SOS Ambassador Program, call 601-359-4454.



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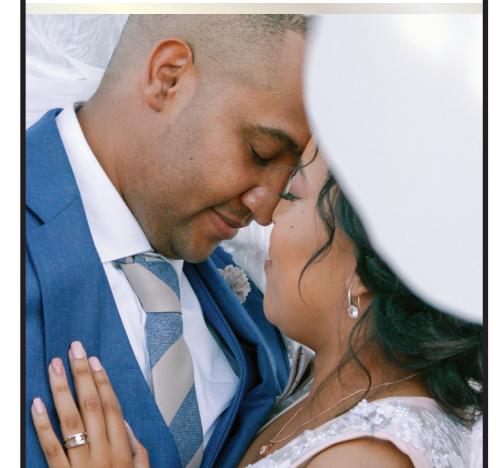
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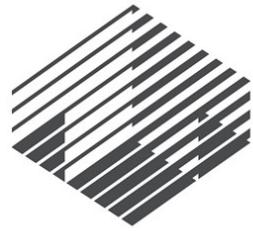
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## Free wills offered for first responders, spouses



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Wills for Magnolia State First Responders is hosting an event for first responders and their spouses on Saturday, July 16, at Mississippi Law Enforcement Officer Training Academy (MLE-OTA) located at 3791 Highway 468 West in Pearl. Appointments are necessary, and space is limited. The deadline to schedule an appointment is June 30, 2022.

Wills for Magnolia State First Responders is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that brings together volunteer attorneys and paralegals to provide wills and advanced healthcare directives for first responders and their spouses free of charge.

First responders and their spouses will

check in at their allotted time, where they will meet with a paralegal to go over their initial questionnaire. Documents will then be drafted onsite by a paralegal and reviewed by an attorney. The attorney will then meet with each first responder and spouse privately to go over their documents.

All documents are signed and notarized onsite. Each first responder and spouse will receive their original documents – no copies are retained by WFFRMS. These documents include a basic will and advanced healthcare directive.

All first responders and their spouses must sign up for a time slot to participate and fill out an initial questionnaire. To sign up, visit [WFFRMSJuly2022.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com). For more information, contact Kristy Hogan at 601-519-0334.

## RCSD Reading challenge focuses on fun and new authors



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The Rankin County School District (RCSD) challenges its students to read this summer in a fun way.

The challenge is made up of 33 unique prompts. The goal is to try new authors or genres, push oneself to read more, read differently and have fun.

### How does it work?

- Use the list, match one book to a

prompt. Be creative.

- When: May 2022-August 2022
- When finished, complete the book recommendation form and look for entries on RCSD social media.
- Repeat!

The challenge prompts and QR code for filling out the book recommendation form can be found online at [zcu.io/HAVA](https://zcu.io/HAVA).

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# Lt. Col. James "Ashley" Mills promoted to Colonel

2011-12. After returning from Afghanistan, MAJ Mills went back to assume the roles of Executive Officer and Operations Officer in HQ/1-185 Avn. Reg. in Tupelo. He then transferred to the 1108 TASM-G in Gulfport, where he served as a maintenance platoon leader before being promoted to Lt. Col. and serving two years as the S2/S3 for the Group. Lt. Col. Mills commanded A/1108 TASM-G from June 2016 to June 2018 before commanding the 1-185th Assault Helicopter Battalion from June 2018 to July 2020. After battalion command, he was assigned Chief of Staff for the 66th Troop Command in Jackson until January 2022. Col. Mills assumed command of the 185th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, Jackson, in June 2022.

Col. Mills has attended various schools in his career to include: Airborne, Air Assault, Captain's Career Course, UH-60 Instructor Pilot, Com-



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Col. "James Ashley" Mills

bined Arms Exercise, Intermediate Level Education Common Core and Advanced Operations, Aviation Maintenance Officer Course, and Aviation Pre-Command Course.

His awards and decorations include: Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, NATO non-article 5 for Kosovo and Afghanistan, MS Magnolia Cross, MS War Medal, MS Emergency Service Medal, MS Service School Medal, MS Longevity Medal with

three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Senior Aviator Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Gold German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, and Silver German Armed Forces Marksmanship Badge.

Col. Mills earned a Master's of Commercial Aviation from Delta State University in May 2015. He will graduate from the U.S. Army War College in July 2022 at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He is currently employed as a full-time technician at the Army Aviation Support Facility #3 in Meridian as the Facility Commander. He is an active life member of the National Guard Association of Mississippi, National Guard Association U.S., and Quad-A.

Col. Mills resides in Pelahatchie with his wife, Tammy Mills, and they are active members of Crossgates Baptist Church in Brandon. He has one daughter, Haley Mills, a student at Hinds Community College in Raymond.

## Mississippians urged to be aware of contractor schemes during hurricane season

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Atlantic hurricane season began on June 1 and continues through November 30. The Office of Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch and the Mississippi State Board of Contractors (MSBOC) shared tips with Mississippians who might need assistance from contractors for home and business damage due to the storms.

“The best defense against scammers is a well-educated consumer,” said Fitch. “When your home or place of business is damaged, it can be tempting to act quickly and miss red flags. We urge you to keep these tips in mind and use caution when you are looking for a contractor and talking to possible candidates for the job. But if you do fall victim to a scam, our office is here to help.”

“Unfortunately, natural disasters lead to an increase in individuals posing as legitimately licensed contractors in an effort to prey upon vulnerable citizens,” said Stephanie Lee, Executive Director, MSBOC. “Individuals who hire unlicensed contractors are putting themselves at great financial risk.”

Some tips recommended by both the Attorney General’s Office and MSBOC to protect yourself from crooked con-

tractors: Residential repair or improvement projects \$10,000 or more and commercial projects \$50,000 or more require a valid contractor’s license. Be

work to be done, materials to be used, a payment schedule that is based on completion of work and a timeline for work to be completed. Do not make payments



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wary of door-to-door repair solicitations or people who demand deposits or payments in cash. Do not make a large deposit or upfront payment in full. Require a written contract that details the

before work specified on the payment schedule is completed. Do not make payments for any work not specified in the contract unless it has been submitted and approved in writing by you before

the additional work begins. Contact the local permitting office or inspections department to determine if permits are required to assure building code compliance. If permits are required, the contractor should pull them. Confirm with the permit office that the contractor has acquired them before construction begins.

Before making final payment, evaluate the completed work and require the contractor to confirm that all subcontractors and suppliers have been paid to eliminate potential liens on your property. Request a Certificate of Insurance from the contractor and verify it is valid by contacting the party who issued it. Ask for proof that the contractor is licensed.

Consumers can verify if the contractor is properly licensed by using the Contractor Search feature at [www.msbooc.us](http://www.msbooc.us) or by calling MSBOC at 800-880-6161.

Contractors who have accepted payment without ever making the repair or who have provided false documentation or other misrepresentations may be reported to the MSBOC by visiting [msbooc.us/general-info/file-a-complaint/](http://msbooc.us/general-info/file-a-complaint/) or by calling at 800-880-6161, or to the MSAGO by visiting [www.ago.state.ms.us/divisions/consumer-protection/](http://www.ago.state.ms.us/divisions/consumer-protection/) or by calling 601-359-3680.

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# Southern Pine Electric encourages members to conserve and save money

By Guest Columnist Steve Bryant,  
Communications Coordinator,  
Southern Pine Electric

We all remember our parents saying, “Shut the door, you weren’t raised in a barn” or “unless you pay the electric bill, don’t touch the thermostat” or “turn that light off.” Now, more than ever, we need to follow the lessons of our parents during the summer heat of Mississippi.

With more family members staying home during the summer, costs can rise because of increased energy use. Southern Pine wants to help members keep the costs as low as possible by encouraging everyone to follow these simple tips:

- Plug small appliances, computers, and electronics into power strips and turn off when not in use.
- Always turn the lights off when you leave a room.
- Use ceiling fans to cool rooms and help circulate air.
- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home and turn it up when you’ll be away for the day.
- Change air conditioner filters regularly and perform annual cleaning and maintenance on the air conditioner unit to keep it running efficiently.



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- Make sure all windows and doors are closed and properly sealed.
- Block sunlight with windows and drapes to help keep your home cool.
- Make sure you have adequate insulation and check for any drafts

- or leaks.
- Cook outside. Grilling is an excellent way to save electricity costs and enjoy the summer evenings.
- Curb daytime use of some appliances. Dishwashers and

dryers can put out a lot of heat, so wait until after dark when temperatures are cooler to run them, so the air conditioner won’t have to compete.

- Upgrade light bulbs to LED bulbs which use less electricity. This can cut energy use for lighting by 75 percent. Lighting costs can account for up to 12 percent of your monthly energy usage.
- Do full loads of laundry on cold. Using warm water rather than hot can cut a load’s energy use in half, using cold can save even more.
- Air dry dishes to save energy costs during dishwashing cycles.

These are just a few ways that Southern Pine Electric encourages you to conserve and save energy and money. If you would like to find out more about your usage, please visit southernpine.coop and sign up for a free My Power account to view your usage, find a usage analysis, pay your bill, or manage your account.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [info@southernpine.coop](mailto:info@southernpine.coop) or call 800-231-5240 or contact your local Southern Pine office. We are here to help.

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# Stroke prevention starts with smart lifestyle choices

Special to Pelahatchie News

Every year in the United States, more than 600,000 people have a new stroke and 130,000 of those strokes are fatal. The American Heart Association states more than 795,000 people in the US have a stroke in a year. Stroke accounts for approximately 1 of every 19 deaths in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, up to 80% of strokes could be prevented through controlling the health conditions that raise your risk for stroke.

“Anyone - including children - can have a stroke,” said Dr. Nathan McIntosh, medical director of Merit Health River Oaks Emergency Department. “And, while it’s true certain factors like age, sex, race and family history are beyond our control, there are a number of lifestyle choices we can make to vastly reduce the number of tragic stroke-related fatalities.”

The good news is most of the health and lifestyle choices needed to reduce risk of stroke will also significantly reduce the risk of heart disease and cancer, while enhancing overall health and quality of life.

So why wait to get started? Here is a priority checklist:

- **Control your blood pressure.** High blood pressure is the leading cause of stroke, and its most controllable risk factor. If blood pressure can’t be managed through diet and stress-reduction, talk with doctor for the right medicine.

- **Stop smoking.** Nicotine and carbon monoxide in cigarette smoke damage the cardiovascular system and pave the way for a stroke to occur. Use of birth control pills combined with cigarette smoking can increase the risk of stroke even further.

- **Prevent or control diabetes.** Diabetes (both I and II) is an independent risk factor for stroke. If a person is diabetic, the blood sugar and A1C levels should be checked regularly and keep those numbers in a healthy range.

- **Use food as preventive medicine.** A diet can make or break the risk of a stroke over time. Eating five or more servings of fruits and vegetables per day can reduce the risk of stroke. Minimize sodium, saturated fat and trans-fat and keep calories in a healthy range.

- **Manage cholesterol levels.** Large amounts of cholesterol in the blood can build up and cause blood clots, leading to a stroke. If the numbers are not



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in range with diet changes, talk with a doctor about whether medication is the right choice.

- **Atrial fibrillation (AFib) treatment.** AFib increases stroke risks five-fold because it causes the heart’s upper chambers to beat incorrectly, which can allow the blood to pool and clot, then travel to the brain and cause a stroke. With AFib, know the stroke risks and get treatment to keep them as low as possible.

- **Physical inactivity and weight control.** Both physical inactivity and excess body weight can increase the risk of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, heart disease and stroke. So go on a brisk walk, take the stairs, and do everything possible to be active. If BMI is over 25, make losing at least 5-10 pounds a priority this year.

- **Other medical conditions.** If it’s sleep apnea, sickle cell disease, alco-

hol or drug abuse, peripheral or carotid artery disease, or any other disease of the heart or blood vessels, talk with a physician regularly about the impact of these conditions on the risk of stroke, and how to best manage it.

Transient ischemic attacks (TIAs) are also strong predictors of stroke. TIAs are smaller, temporary blockages in the brain that can produce milder stroke-like symptoms but may not leave lasting damage.

“Someone who has had one or more TIAs is almost TEN TIMES more likely to have a stroke than someone of similar age who hasn’t,” said Dr. McIntosh. “Recognizing and treating TIAs is critical to avoiding a major stroke. TIAs should be considered a medical emergency, and the patient should follow up immediately with a neurologist.”

Perhaps most importantly, the key to avoiding stroke-related death is to get the patient treatment F.A.S.T. The FAST acronym is a helpful reminder to look for Face drooping, Arm weakness, Slurred speech - Time to call 9-1-1. Other symptoms can include sudden and severe headache pain, confusion, numbness of arms or legs, and loss of vision. Treatment must be administered quickly to avoid irreversible damage, so if in any doubt at all - call 9-1-1.



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## Meet the Teacher at Pelahatchie Elementary



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The faculty, staff and administration at Pelahatchie Elementary invite the families of incoming students to tour their classroom, meet their teacher and bring their school supplies.

The Meet the Teacher Event is scheduled for Thursday, August 4, 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Pelahatchie Elementary asks that registration must be complete for its students to be placed on a class roll in order to meet their teacher.

## Skip the long wait with MyIR

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Need immunization records for a child before they go to school? The Mississippi Department of Health (MSDH), in coordination with MyIR, has provided a way to make it easier to access these records.

MyIR offers a free way for families and guardians to access a child's Form 121 for school registration. The form can be printed from a home computer or downloaded and

e-mailed to the child's school. With this system, there is no longer a need to visit a county health department or a doctor. Also, view full immunization records for the entire family.

The mobile app also allows a parent or guardian to re-view a child's immunization history and get reminders for future immunizations. Register with the MyIR system at myirmobile.com to get started. For more information about MyIR visit msdh.ms.gov/MyIR or call 1-877-978-6453.



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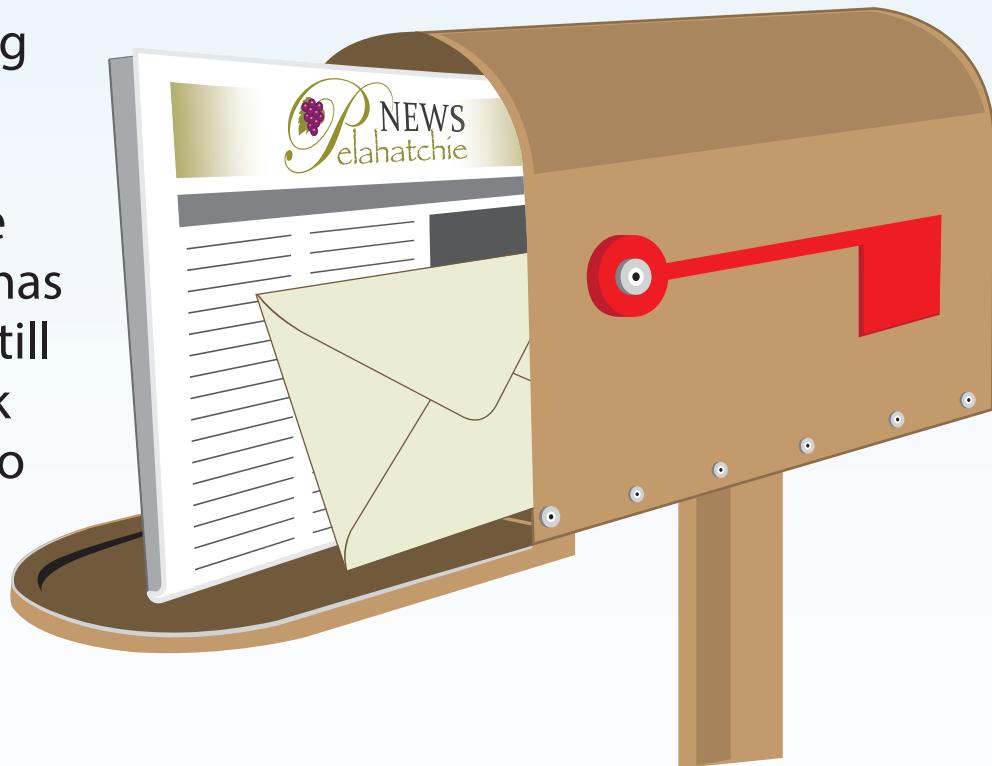
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## A maggot hay growers should know about



By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

Special to Pelahatchie News

Bermudagrass hay producers need to become familiar with a new pest, the Bermudagrass Stem Maggot. The Bermudagrass Stem Maggot is

a new, non-native pest of bermudagrass hayfields that was first found in Georgia in 2010. They were first detected in Mississippi in mid-summer of 2012, and by the end of the growing season had spread to hayfields throughout the state.

Bermudagrass hay producers need to become familiar with this new pest because it has the potential to cause significant reductions in hay yields. Adult flies are about the size of horn flies and have yellow abdomens. The legless white larvae bore inside the tips of bermudagrass shoots, feeding down to the first internode and killing the shoot tip and emerging leaves. Damage is restricted to the two or three blades at the tip of the growing shoot, because the larvae do not feed past the first internode. This may seem like relatively minor damage, but heavy infestations can essentially stop a hayfield from growing.

When viewed from a distance, heavily infested fields look like they have suffered light herbicide injury or experienced a frost. Heavily infested fields have an unusual, bronzed appearance due to the large number of dead infested shoot tips. Such infestations have occurred across the Southeast, and yield reductions have been estimated to range from 20 to 50%. Fine-stemmed bermudagrass varieties, like most of those we currently grow, are most susceptible to attack, as are highly managed, well fertilized fields.

Populations tend to increase through the growing season, so if the previous cutting sustained significant injury, growers should assume damage will be higher during the next cutting, unless the field is treated. Pastures are not seriously affected, because grazing continually removes susceptible shoots. The same will be true for turf-type bermudagrass grown in lawns, sports fields and golf courses. The flies will attack these fields, but frequent mowing prevents serious damage. The Bermudagrass Stem Maggot is specific



Special to Pelahatchie News

Adult fly (*Atherigona reversura*) that produces bermudagrass stem maggots.

to Bermudagrass and does not attack other types of grasses.

We are still in the learning process about the best way to deal with the Bermudagrass Stem Maggot. With the insecticides that we currently have available, the larvae cannot be controlled once it has bored into the stem. Management depends on controlling adult flies before they lay eggs. Once a field has sustained heavy damage with a high percent of shoots infested, the best course of action is to harvest the field and prepare to control the flies in the next cutting. Stem Maggot populations are usually low in the spring and increase as the summer progresses. Infestations in the earlier cuttings of hay may not be high enough to cause significant damage, but the risk of damage increases for each successive cutting.

We need to base decisions on controlling Stem Maggots on the damaged sustained during the previous cutting. If a field had 15-20% more damaged shoot tips in the previous cutting, plan on treating for the Bermudagrass Stem Maggot in the next cutting by:

1. **Harvesting the field** and removing the bales.
2. **Spray 5 to 7 days after harvest** (as soon as the field begins to green up again).
3. **Use a low rate of one of the pyrethroid insecticides that is labeled for fall armyworms.** (Mustang Max, Baythroid, or Karate Z).
4. **Spray again 5 to 7 days later.**
5. **Cut as soon as maturity** and weather will allow.

Source: *Bug's Eye View*, No. 13 2021, Bermudagrass Stem Maggot

## Cross Roads Baptist Church



### Sunday Schedule:

- 8:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship Service led by Praise Team
- 10:00 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
- 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

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(Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook Page)

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# TriStar's 2022 Miss JR Teen Mississippi | Lindsey selected as FFA state officer

Special to Pelahatchie News

Miss Camden Patton is TriStar's 2022 Miss JR Teen Mississippi. She is a recent graduate of Pelahatchie High School and, at only sixteen years old, is already a freshman at Hinds Community College, where she plans to major in biochemistry and become an anesthesiologist.

In her spare time, she likes raising and showing cattle in Pelahatchie. She enjoys spending time with her cattle, especially the babies. Camden also loves to shop and spend time with family and friends.

During her reign as Miss JR Teen Mississippi, she hopes to spread kindness and inspire girls not only to be kind to others but to be kind to themselves, as well. She firmly believes girls, as well as teens and women in general, spend too much time comparing themselves to others that they too often forget they are perfect the way God created them.



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Camden Patton, TriStar's 2022 Miss JR Teen Mississippi



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Students from Rankin County School District were selected to serve as Mississippi FFA state officers for the 2022-2023 school year. Christopher Bradshaw (right) was selected as sentinel. He graduated from Brandon High School in May 2022. Addison Lindsey (left) was selected as reporter. She is an upcoming senior at Pelahatchie High School.

## Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	ARRANGEMENTS
Wayne Morrow	80	6/2/2022	Brandon, MS	Wolf Funeral Home
Vernell Thomas	53	6/4/2022	Morton, MS	Wolf Funeral Home
Louise Gilmer	97	6/10/2022	Forest, MS	Wolf Funeral Home
John Moore	81	6/10/2022	Morton, MS	Wolf Funeral Home
Cynthia Fendley	56	6/10/2022	Vicksburg, MS	Wolf Funeral Home
Kendall Haralson	62	6/15/2022	Forest, MS	Wolf Funeral Home
Jean Farris	81	6/16/2022	Ridgeland, MS	Wolf Funeral Home
Wanda Howell	72	6/20/2022	Natchez, MS	Wolf Funeral Home
Nolan Stroud	53	6/22/2022	Lake, MS	Wolf Funeral Home
Aaron Lewis	87	6/25/2022	Hernando, MS	Wolf Funeral Home

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## Kaitlyn White selected as Ole Miss Women's Council scholar



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Kaitlyn White

Special to Pelahatchie News

Kaitlyn White of Pelahatchie has been awarded the Sarah and James Powell OMWC Scholarship - among the largest and most innovative awards on the University of Mississippi campus.

The \$40,000 Ole Miss Women's Council (OMWC) for Philanthropy Scholarships have a far greater impact on students' lives than just providing them with financial assistance, said Liz Randall, chair of the OMWC.

"We give our scholarship recipients access to caring guidance from mentors, significant training in leadership skills, exceptional life and career development, and meaningful personal development through travel and cultural opportunities," Randall said. "OMWC's goal is to prepare our scholars for extraordinary lives and careers, while encouraging them to develop a lifelong commitment to creating a caring, more ethical world. "The OMWC is thrilled to welcome Kaitlyn White as one of our incoming first-year scholars."

OMWC scholars participate in a series of leadership symposiums using the philosophy of servant leadership as the core curriculum. Recipients are expected to participate as leaders in campus-wide

organizations and as OMWC speakers at special events.

Scholars also gather monthly for a dinner hosted by council members, where guest speakers provide advice and guidance on life and careers in a comfortable, informal setting, in addition to weekly nonacademic classes on various topics in leadership, philanthropy, communication and service opportunities.

As a scholarship recipient, White can also apply for Global Leadership Circle support from the OMWC, which provides assistance to those who want to study abroad or pursue internships on the national and international level.

The OMWC was established 22 years ago at the university. An accomplished council of female leaders and philanthropists has secured \$20 million to endow scholarships awarded to both males and females. The carefully designed program is producing a strong circle of leadership, mentorship and philanthropy.

For more information about supporting OMWC scholarships, contact Suzanne Helveston, associate director of development, at shelveston@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2956; or visit online at omwc.olemiss.edu.

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## Jackson Harper named to UA Deans List

Special to Pelahatchie News

Jackson Harper was named to The University of Alabama Deans List for Spring Semester 2022.

A total of 11,224 students enrolled during Spring Semester 2022 at The University of Alabama were named



Special to Pelahatchie News

to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's).

The UA dean's and president's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

## PHS JROTC participate in leadership activities at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg



Pelahatchie High School (PHS) JROTC cadets participated in leadership activities at Camp Shelby in June. Events included: rappelling, medical litter obstacle course, leadership reaction course, land navigation training and canoe training. PHS students who attended the event at Camp Shelby, along with faculty LTC Brandon Herd and SFC John Gough, include: Cadet LTC Sammy Gibney; Cadet CSM Gracy Grogan; Cadet MAJ Shelby Surkin; Cadet 2LT Christopher Smith II; Cadet 2LT Alya Ward; Cadet CPT Jacob Rogers; Cadet MAJ Sarah Westbrook; Cadet 2LT Addison Crosby; and Cadet 2LT Jerry Merrit.



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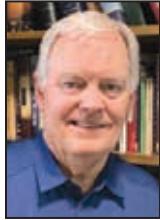


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# Pastor's Perspective: Mountain top experiences



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

Congratulations to the Ole Miss Rebels, who recently won the College World Series in Omaha. That comes after the Mississippi State Bulldogs brought the Championship trophy home to Mississippi in 2021.

I am a graduate of Mississippi State and a Bulldog fan, but after Ole Miss made it to Omaha, I hoped that they would win the National Championship. Some Bulldog fans just could not bring themselves to wish well for Ole Miss. But while I am a fan of Mississippi State, I am a greater fan of the State of Mississippi! And I am proud that for two years in a row, the National Champions of College Baseball are Mississippi schools.

Southern Mississippi also has a great baseball program and played in the tournament this year. Wouldn't it be something if the Golden Eagles do well next year and give Mississippi a National Championship three years in a row!

This year, Ole Miss had a veteran team with good pitching and heavy hitters.

Before the season, the team set some lofty goals. They wanted to win the SEC, be a Regional Host in the NCAA Tournament, make it to Omaha, and come home with the National Championship. They started the season strong, and by week 4, on March 14, they were ranked number one in the nation. Ole Miss Folks were really excited about the prospects for the season. But they only held the number one spot for one week. They lost several series of games, and by week 8, on April 11, they dropped out of the top 25 in the nation. So, in just four weeks, they went from number one in the nation, to not even making the rankings.

Ole Miss made it into the SEC Baseball Tournament, but just barely. The talking heads on the radio said they needed to win several games at the SEC Tournament to even stand a chance of being invited to the NCAA Tournament. But they lost their first game and were out of the SEC Tournament.

Things weren't looking good for Ole Miss!

But when the NCAA Tournament selections were announced, to the surprise of many, Ole Miss was invited!

It is said that they were the "last team in." In other words, they just barely made it! And a lot of baseball commentators didn't think they should have even been invited.

But they won their Regional Tournament in Miami without losing a game, then beat Southern Mississippi in two games in Hattiesburg, sending them to the College World Series in Omaha. And they won the College World Series and are the National Champions in College Baseball. So, congratulations to Ole Miss!

I think the experience of Ole Miss this year teaches us some valuable lessons for life.

Remember that, early in the season, Ole Miss was ranked number one in the nation. They were on the "mountain top." Then things went sideways for them and they barely made it into the NCAA baseball tournament. But when things got bad, they kept playing and working and believing that they could make it to Omaha and win, and they did!

In life, we all have those "Mountain Top" experiences. But we have all been in the "Valley" also, where it seems that nothing is going right. It is in the Valley that we demonstrate our faith.



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James 1:12 reminds us, "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him."

And in Isaiah 41:10 God reminds Israel, and us, "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Listen, when you hit those difficult times in life, and you will, don't give up, and don't give in! Keep trusting the Lord and keep serving Him faithfully and keep believing that He will get you through whatever it is that you are going through! He will keep His promise to bless you and you will be the one who claims the ultimate victory!

Be sure to take you family to church on Sunday!

## Pelahatchie Library to briefly close while new flooring is installed

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The Pelahatchie Public Library will be closed for approximately two weeks, starting on July 18, while new flooring is installed in the main part of the building.

Tina Mauney, branch manager, stated, "While we are sorry that the library will be unavailable to our patrons during this time, we are very excited about the new flooring. The carpet in the library is worn out in several areas, and the new flooring will update the interior of our building."



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All branches of the Central Mississippi Regional Library System (CMRLS), except for Pelahatchie and Richland, will be open during this time. There are CMRLS branches in every direction out of Pelahatchie: Brandon to the west, Morton to the east, Puckett to the south, and Sandhill to the north.

Other branches of the system will welcome patrons during this time, as well. Follow the CMRLS library system on Facebook and visit CMRLS. Libraries for directions and updates.

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# Take precautions when temps are too hot to handle

By Guest Columnist Ruth Cummins, University of Mississippi Medical Center

It's hot in Mississippi, and with scorching temperatures in the forecast for weeks to come, it's imperative to protect yourself from illness that could potentially be deadly.

"The biggest safeguards to succumbing to heat illnesses are maintaining hydration and taking adequate breaks - a safe 'work and rest' cycle if you have to be outside, or a safe 'play and rest' cycle if you are playing sports," said Dr. Kendall McKenzie, chair of the University of Mississippi Medical Center Department of Emergency Medicine.

Although most Southerners are used to the heat, as opposed to Chicago residents whose homes may not have air conditioning because summer temps are usually not dangerous, temperatures into the 90s or above are concerning, McKenzie said.

"What we've learned is that in cities not used to dealing with the heat, during a heat wave, people should go to an air-conditioned environment once a day to reduce their body temperature and take a break," he said. "Get out of the heat in a meaningful and regular way."

The National Weather Service had issued heat advisories for most of the nation in June, with life-threatening and excessive heat across the Midwest, not just in southern states. Temperatures for the first of July are predicted to be around 90 degrees, but the heat will pick up again by the middle of the month.

For people whose jobs require they work outdoors, "right now is a dangerous time," McKenzie said. Even in Mississippi, "it takes at least two weeks for someone to acclimate themselves to heat exposure. We're at the very beginning of this for the summer."

The most common heat illnesses are heat exhaustion and heat stroke. "Heat exhaustion is the lesser of the two, and for the majority of Americans, can be

managed by removing someone from heat exposure and hydrating them orally," McKenzie said.

More severe cases of heat exhaustion should be treated in an emergency department. "If you are vomiting and can't replace your fluid loss orally, you need to come to an emergency room and get IV fluids to replace what you lost," he said. "You can have a landscaper or street construction worker outside all day long, and come to the Emergency Department with intense pain, doubled



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over because they are cramping so badly. They need to be treated in an emergency department.

"Heat stroke definitely needs to be treated in the Emergency Department," McKenzie said. "These patients by definition will have elevated temperatures and neurological symptoms secondary to heat exposure. This is a true medical emergency that must be quickly addressed."

Heat-related illnesses can be exacerbated by alcohol consumption, "or by people who start their day dehydrated

and continue to get more dehydrated," McKenzie said. Taking certain medications also can worsen a heat illness, the American Academy of Family Physicians says.

When rehydrating, people generally choose either water or sports drinks. "You should use a combination of both," McKenzie said.

"Just replacing sweat with water is not ideal. At some point, you have to replace electrolytes that you are losing as well," he said. "Sweat is a salty sub-

stant work early in the morning, before the heat rises."

McKenzie suggests staying ahead of the curve and making sure you're not dehydrated as you weather the hot weather.

"Seasoned athletes who are used to being out on the football field in the summer, preparing for the fall season, only replace about 50 percent of the fluid volume they lost by sweating," McKenzie said. "These are some of the most in tune to their body people on earth."

"The majority of us aren't as in tune to our body as a professional athlete is. We're not even coming close to replacing 50 percent of the fluids we lose. If you know you will be outside, cutting the grass or being exposed to intense heat for a while, starting to hydrate before you're outside and then continuing to hydrate is important."

It's crucial this time of the year, McKenzie said, to be aware of situations where heat can be troublesome or deadly. "If you see a child left in a car, even if the parent is just running into the store, it's a dangerous situation and a preventable death. It's not a good time for animals to be left in cars as well."

Summer is also a time for tragedies such as a parent forgetting that a small child or infant is in the back seat or a car seat, then driving to work instead of day care, only realizing hours later that their child was left in a sweltering vehicle. "These are horrendous deaths, and they are preventable," McKenzie said.

McKenzie anticipates a steady stream of patients - but not a surge - at UMMC's Adult Emergency Department who are suffering from a heat illness.

"This won't be just for the first two weeks of someone's exposure, but throughout the summer," he said. "It will be ongoing. People are not used to this heat when they go from a relatively cool and protected environment to one where they are consistently exposed to heat."

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# Dalsin and Robinson win at bocce at 2022 Special Olympics

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The 2022 Special Olympics USA Games was held in Orlando, Florida, June 5-12. Over 4,300 athletes, over 1,300 coaches, over 10,000 volunteers, over 125,000 families, friends and spectators and 67 Delegations from the United States and Caribbean participated.

The Exploria Stadium was the location of the Opening Ceremony for the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games.

There were 19 Olympic-style team and individual sports. The sports included were: Athletics (track & field), basketball, bocce, bowling, cheerleading, equestrian, flag football, golf, gymnastics, open water swimming, powerlifting, soccer, softball, stand up paddleboard, surfing, swimming, tennis, triathlon and volleyball.

Luke Robinson, who plays football and bocce, and Lisa Dalsin, who plays bocce, both from Pelahatchie, participated in the event. Competing in Football and Bocce, the two represented the State of Mississippi.

Dalsin stated, "It was a long bus ride but an amazing week. We had some wonderful team leaders and unified partners. We had a week of wonderful experiences, and I would do it all over again in a heartbeat if I could. Wonderful team mates! A week I will cherish!"



Lisa Dalsin



Luke Robinson



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Dalsin and Robinson, along with their unified partners, won the gold in bocce doubles. Pictured (l to r) are: Joe Robinson, Luke Robinson, Connie Robinson and Lisa Dalsin. Dalsin and Luke Robinson also won in teams and singles.

# Experience farm life at any age at Strong River Equine in Rankin County

Special to Pelahatchie News

Strong River Equine is locally owned and operated by Bryan and Dana Jones. Located just 9 miles from Brandon on Highway 18, Strong River Equine offers the fun farm life experience for all ages.

Owner Bryan Jones is very familiar with the care of horses. When the opportunity arose to purchase the property, he and wife, Dana, imagined many future possibilities. Having now owned Strong River Equine for three years Dana says, "we never imagined how fast this would grow."

Bryan's day begins before dawn. Doing a walk through to make sure all his horse guests had a good night, then he is off to his next job. Bryan also works as a bus driver for Puckett Schools in the Rankin County School District. Between morning and afternoon bus runs, Bryan can be found walking horses, mucking stalls, working in the barn, and more. In the afternoons after the last child is home safely and the bus is parked, the day of farm life continues, and Bryan is back to the barn feeding animals, exercising horses, and a variety of other usual chores.

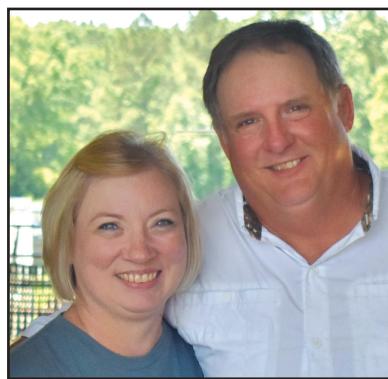
Dana serves as bookkeeper for several agencies, as well as the farm. Along with horse boarding, Strong River Equine (SRE) is open for riding lessons, birth-

day parties and fundraisers. While working for others in their bookkeeping, Dana has much to do for SRE, too. The couple says life is busy most days, but this is a life that brings their family together.

The Jones have two children still at home. Lyndi works outside the home but is found most afternoons and evenings at the barn helping with the animals. Jacob is a student at Puckett High School. He is active in sports but helps on the farm when time allows. Bryan and Dana also have their parents, grown children, and grandchildren who all love to come out and enjoy time together at the farm.

Strong River Equine offers horse riding lessons for individuals of all ages. The trained instructors are knowledgeable on how to ease the most anxious of riders to feel the comfort of riding and the enjoyment it brings. Riding lessons can be booked by calling Strong River Equine, 601-813-4128.

This past year Strong River Equine "opened the barn doors" to various ac-



Special to Pelahatchie News

Bryan and Dana Jones

tivities. During the Spring and Easter seasons, SRE offered special picture days. Spring backgrounds were accompanied by live animals. Not only does Strong River Equine have horses, but they have bunnies, goats, lambs, chickens, the occasional pig, and the usual barn cats and dog.

Strong River Equine offers a unique birthday experience. Birthday parties include horse rides, bounce houses, petting zoo, corn hole and other outdoor games. The covered party area has picnic tables for eating, outdoor chairs for relaxing, and other party accommodations. Parties also include the newest attraction to Strong River Equine, the train. This fun little train ride will take the kiddos on a tour around the farm while remaining in view for the parents to see. Overall, it is a guaranteed experience to remember.

The Jones are active members of Puckett Baptist Church. The Puckett BC Youth group have been making plans to travel to New Mexico this summer

for a mission trip. With a trip this size, expenses are evident. Bryan and Dana were happy to help. Strong River Equine "opened the barn doors" for something new. A fundraiser was held in early May to help these young people. Over 300 people enjoyed face painting, train rides, petting animals, feeding goats, corn hole, bounce houses, and more. The Puckett youth offered a dunking booth, snow cones, and popcorn for a small donation. The Puckett Volunteer Fire Department was on hand with the fire truck for pictures. And it would not be a complete church fundraiser without the baked goods. Church and community ladies provided cakes, cookies, brownies, and more to sell. The parking lot, aka pasture, was full of cars from Rankin, Scott, Hinds, Madison and more.

Dana says, "we had no idea this many people would come." Puckett Baptist Church and the Jones family would like to thank God for the beautiful day and thank everyone who came, supported, and worked to raise needed funds.

Events book fast for this up-and-coming venue. To reserve a party, inquire about riding lessons, or ask questions, give Strong River Equine a call.

Contact Strong River Equine at 601-813-4128 or follow them on Facebook at Strong River Equine, LLC.

## District Attorney urges parents and caregivers: Look before you lock

Special to Pelahatchie News

Madison and Rankin County District Attorney Bubba Bramlett wants to remind parents and caregivers about the dangers of pediatric vehicular heatstroke. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), pediatric vehicular heatstroke is the leading cause of non-crash, vehicle-related deaths for children in the United States. Since 1998, 913 children aged 14 or younger have died from pediatric vehicular heatstroke.

A child's body temperature can rise five times faster than an adult's, and vehicular heatstroke can occur when outside temperatures are as low as 57 degrees. Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle, whether running or not, even for a few minutes. Before walking away from a car, always Look Before You Lock.

"It could happen to anyone, so please ensure it doesn't happen to your family," stated Bramlett. "Mississippi summer months mean dangerous temperatures. In just 10 minutes, the temperature inside a car can rise by 20 degrees. On a typical 90° day, the temperatures inside a car can exceed 110°, which is deadly for a child." On average last year, two children died each month from pediatric vehicular heatstroke.

Half of child heatstroke fatalities occurred when the adult driver forgot the child was in the back seat. Usually, the child was being taken to childcare or preschool, and the adult forgot they were in the car. In most cases, the child was under the age of one and asleep or just quiet in the back seat. A change in route is a common factor in many of these preventable tragedies. For this reason, make it a habit to Look Before You Lock every time. It only takes a second to check the back seat - a simple step that could save a life.

Toddlers and young mobile children are also at risk of heatstroke if they gain access to a parked vehicle. Some children get into an unlocked vehicle without the knowledge of an adult and may be unable to get out of the car, especially if the vehicle's child locks are activated. Talk to children about not playing in or around a car. Then make sure the vehicle is always locked, and keep the keys out of reach of children.

The District Attorney's office urges all parents and caregivers to do these three things to help prevent child heatstroke:

- **Make it a habit of looking in the back seat every time you exit the car.**
- **Never** leave a child in a vehicle unattended, even for a short time or

with the windows cracked.

- **Always** lock the car and put the keys out of reach.

If you are a bystander and see a child in a hot vehicle:

- **Make sure the child is okay and responsive.** If not, call 911 immediately.
- **If the child appears okay, attempt to locate the parents,** or have the facility's security or management page the car owner over the PA system. If someone is with you, one person should actively search for the parent while the other waits at the car.
- **If the child is not responsive or appears distressed,** attempt to get into the car to assist - even if that means breaking a window.

Know the warning signs of heatstroke, including red, hot, and moist or dry skin; no sweating; a strong rapid, or slow and weak pulse; nausea; con-



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fusion; or acting strangely. If a child exhibits any of these signs after being in a hot vehicle, quickly spray the child with cool water - NEVER put a child in an ice bath. It is always advisable to call 911 or your local emergency number to have the child assessed by professionals.

Bramlett said, "There is a simple way to end these avoidable deaths: please Look Before You Lock."

For more information on vehicular heatstroke, visit [nhtsa.gov/campaign/heatstroke](https://www.nhtsa.gov/campaign/heatstroke).

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