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August  
2020

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Pelahatchie, MS

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

# Town battling over budget continues

Special to Pelahatchie News

After the monthly Board meeting on July 6, the Board called special sessions on July 9, July 16 and July 23 to discuss finances. As of July 1, the Town had \$128,125.34 worth of bills, but only \$91,289.54 in the general fund to pay them. In the July 23 meeting, the Board transferred \$158,000 from the Enterprise Fund to General Fund to cover salaries and expenses.

"The Board voted at the last special session to transfer funds from the enterprise (which is sewer and water utility) to general to cover the bills," said Mayor Beechem. "The money that was used was the money we need to help get our lagoon updated, etc. to help out the town meet the new MDEQ mandates or at least get close to it. We are working on a grant so we won't have to increase residents' water bills again. We should hear about that grant in December. We are already behind on

the date for updates, but our timeline is what we submitted in to MDEQ, so they can see where we are."

"I asked Eddie (Jones) what about next month and the lagoon, and he said we will worry about it when we get there."

Jones, alderman-at-large, also said that



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie's tagline is "The Place to Prosper," but right now the Town is having financial woes.

the Board is not going to hire a clerk or part-time clerk at this time.

At the July 9 Board special session, the Board did not take action on the unpaid claims docket, which meant that the bills did not get paid. The only way the bills get paid is with the Board's

approval of the claims docket.

At the July 16 Board special session, the Board tabled the agenda item concerning budget and decided to discuss employee salaries at another time. The monthly payroll is approximately \$20,000. So, in order to pay the employees in July,

include re-evaluating staff and expenses. She said Pelahatchie only needs three to four full-time officers and four part-time, instead of seven, and that the Town pays health insurance of 6,000 each.

"We are a small town. We simply can't afford a chief for \$52,000 or maintenance for \$53,000," said Beechem. "We have to re-evaluate this thing. A town our size has one full time officer and four part time, and they don't overspend in expenses and they don't have excessive loans."

"They have been doing this for years, and this is why we have to always borrow," said the Mayor. "Until these loans that the previous administration accumulated are paid down or off. We pay out \$20,000 a month to MDA, and \$54,000 a year with \$16,000 more interest for a bond that was obtained in 2010 in the amount of \$950,000."

The budget has to be approved by September 15 for the new fiscal year beginning October 1.

the Board transferred the funds from the Enterprise account, which the Mayor told them they could not do.

The Mayor's recommendations

## Rankin County School District 2020-2021 calendar

Special to Pelahatchie News

2020			Development/Student Holiday
July 29-30	New Teacher Orientation	Jan. 5	Students Return/Begin Third Term
Aug. 3-7	Professional Development	Jan. 7	Report Cards Go Home
Aug. 10	First Day of School	Jan. 18	School Holiday
Sept. 7	School Holiday	Feb. 4	Progress Reports
Sept. 10	Progress Reports	Feb 15	School Holiday
Oct. 9	End of First Term (44 Days)	March 12	End of Third Term (47 Days)
Oct. 12	School Holiday	March 15-19	Spring Break
Oct. 15	Report Cards Go Home	March 22	Begin Fourth Term
Nov. 12	Progress Reports	March 25	Reports Cards Go Home
Nov. 23-27	Thanksgiving Holiday	April 2, 5	School Holiday
Dec. 15-18	Exams	April 15	Progress Reports
*Dec. 18	Reduced Day/End of Second Term (44 Days) (End of Sem. 88 Days)	May 20-21	Exams
		May 24-25	Exams
		*May 25	Reduced Day/Student Last Day/End of Fourth Term (45 Days) (End of Sem. 92 Days)
Dec. 21-31	Christmas Holiday	May 26	Last Teacher Day
<b>2021</b>			
Jan. 1	Christmas Holiday		
Jan. 4	Professional		

See Dr. Townsend's letter to parents on page 5.

## Jean Ross turns 95



Photo by Pelahatchie News

A drive-by was held on Saturday, July 18, to celebrate long-term Pelahatchie resident Jean Ross's birthday. Pictured with family and friends, (l to r) first row, are: Alderwoman Margie Warren and Jean Ross; and back row: Jamie Ross, Rebecca Ross, Knox Ross, Jr., son, and Deborah Stone of Tupelo, daughter.

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# From the Mayor's Desk: Resilience and togetherness



By Guest Columnist  
Ryshonda Beechem,  
Mayor of Pelahatchie

Special to  
Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie, I believe we have what it takes to continue to move through this pandemic with grace, resilience, and togetherness. Pelahatchie has a small hometown feel. Let's mask up and take care of one another. I hope you and your family are well and are staying safe. This is a challenging time for all of us. As the climate changes, it is important to have the most accurate source of information, which can be obtained from Mississippi State Department of Health at [www.MSDH.ms.gov](http://www.MSDH.ms.gov)

Many families in Pelahatchie have lost a loved one due to COVID-19. This is something that we cannot ignore. When one of our families loses a loved one, it affects this entire community. The safety and welfare of our citizens and our employees are important while maintaining the continuity of essential public services. The Town continues to strive to follow all guidelines put in place by CDC.

The CDC Guidelines continue to recommend against large group gather-



Special to Pelahatchie News

ings and urge older people, and anyone with existing health problems, to stay home. The Town will document in the event the expenses incurred during our response are reimbursable by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. As the impacts of COVID-19 continue in our Town, we encourage all residents to continue to do your part to help minimize the spread of the disease.

The Town of Pelahatchie would like to thank all the essential businesses and workers for continuing to provide our community with the necessities we need

to survive in a time as such. We would also like to thank the Police and Fire departments, the Maintenance Department, Town Hall, the Water Department and the Building Inspector.

There is no industry that has not been affected by the spread of COVID-19 including our locally-owned businesses. Here are some ways to support local business at this time:

- A.) Shop online
- B.) Order take out
- C.) Interact with local business on social media. Share their content to your

page or like and comment on their posts.

With schools opening up, I would like to encourage each of you to make the best decision for you and your family, all while practicing safe measures to ensure your family safety. Remember, we are all in this together. Here are some tips in staying safe:

1. **Practice social distancing whenever possible.** Keep at least six feet apart from others when you are outside your home.
2. **Avoid large gatherings and community events.**
3. **If you are sick**, especially with shortness of breathe, severe cough, fever or severe chest pain, stay home, call a doctor or healthcare provider for instructions on how to visit them safely.
4. **If you have been tested for COVID-19**, stay home and away from others until you get your test results.
5. **If you are 65 or older**, or in poor health, stay home as much as possible.
6. **Clean and disinfect surfaces** and objects that are touched often.
7. **Wash your hands frequently.**
8. **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.**
9. **Wear your mask out in public.**

We will get through this together.



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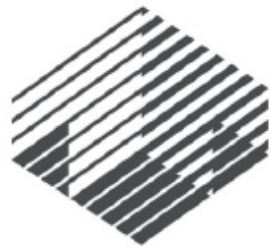


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# Ways to take care of your fire ant problem



By Doug Carter,  
Rankin County  
Extension Agent

Special to  
Pelahatchie News

There are a number of ways to treat fire ants, including:

**1. Granular Baits:**

When properly applied, granular fire ant baits are low cost; quick and easy to apply; safe to pets, children, and are very effective, giving up to 80% control. Baits are "fire ant-edible" granules containing low doses of slow-acting insecticides or insect growth-disruptors that are applied by spreading them over the lawn. Foraging fire ant workers collect these granules and carry them back to the mound, to feed to the young fire ants. Depending on the product, it can take two to six weeks to see the full benefit of a bait treatment, but patience

and persistence will pay off. Broadcast a granular fire ant bait over your lawn three to four times a year: around Easter, around Independence Day, and around Labor Day, and you won't have very many fire ants in your yard.

**2. Dry Mound Treatments.** This is the most convenient way to kill individual fire ant mounds. Keep a can of dry mound treatment on hand to spot-treat mounds you see while you work in the yard. As you find fire ant mounds, just sprinkle the labeled amount of the product over the mound and walk away. Treatments that contain acephate smell terrible but work great, killing most mounds in just a few days. Treatments containing deltamethrin or beta-cyfluthrin don't smell as bad, but tend to be less effective. The use of a combination of granular baits and dry mound treatments are very effective for fire ant control.

**3. Liquid Mound Drenches:** This is the fastest way to kill individual fire ant mounds. Drench a mound with an appropriate rate of permethrin, bifenthrin or other labeled product, and all ants contacted by the drench will quickly die. Remember to thoroughly soak the mound, one gallon for small mounds, two gallons for large mounds.

**4. Broadcast Insecticide Sprays:** Primarily used on golf courses and other commercial turf, broadcast sprays contain ingredients such as bifenthrin, permethrin, or cyfluthrin. Sprays kill exposed ants on contact and them go into the soil, to provide residual control of foraging workers and newly settled queens.

**5. Broadcast insecticide Granules:** These include granular insecticides containing active ingredients, such as bifenthrin, gamma-cyhalothrin or cyflu-

thrin, that are applied by simply spreading granules over the yard. Fire ants will not eat these granules. Instead, these insecticides leach into the soil, where they provide residual contact kill of workers and the newly settled queen. Some products give up to 4 months control.

**6. Broadcast Fipronil Granule:** Fipronil is another broadcast herbicide that is in a class by itself. A single application can give season-long control (the label indicates up to one year). Fipronil can only be applied by licensed commercial applicators and is quite expensive. If you want season long fire ant control with a single treatment and don't mind the expense, this is the way to go. Expect it to take a few weeks to begin working: mounds won't die and disappear overnight.

This information was taken from "Bugs Eye View," MSU-ES.

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# Legislative Update: 2020 was an unusual legislative session



By Guest Columnist  
Mississippi  
Representative  
Tom Miles

Special to  
Pelahatchie News

This has been a very unusual Legislative session, for sure, but I am glad to report we were able to take care of budgetary matters along with other important items before the end of the fiscal year on June 30. We passed HCR 69, which extends the session and will allow us to come back to the Capitol to attend to COVID-19 related legislation as it becomes necessary. We anticipate returning in October.

Much of the regular business had been finalized prior to the most recent meeting, so we were reviewing a lot of conference reports. These are measures that have been passed by both the House and the Senate in different versions, with those differences ironed out in conference committees. Our budget took around a 3-5% cut across the board on all agencies due to the impact of the coronavirus to our state economy.

We have been very concerned about how public schools will re-open in the midst of a pandemic which seems to be getting worse rather than better. We dedicated a good portion of the CARES fund-

ing to public schools, in addition to providing other monies to expand broadband services to rural areas (HB 1797). This is necessary because school children will likely be required to take at least some of their classes online during the pandemic, and we all need better Internet access.

We also passed SB 2511, which provides an easier route for teachers to be certified. This should help address the intense shortage of teachers in Mississippi at the current time. From and after July 1, a teacher candidate can apply for their license with an ACT score of twenty-one, or the SAT equivalent. They must also receive a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators exam. The applicant must also have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on coursework prior to admission.

CARES ACT funds were hot topics of discussion as we all worked to try to make the best use of this help from the federal government. We made sure that all bidding/awarding processes will be conducted openly and accountably. We've all seen what happens when public contracts are awarded with little oversight or transparency.

Here are some of the appropriations from the CARES ACT to help with reimbursement from cost related to the coronavirus:

- Small business grant program: \$300

million

- Governor's discretionary fund: \$50 million
- Broadband access: \$75 million
- Health care: \$129.7 million. This includes \$80 million for hospitals, and nearly \$50 million for other health providers and nonprofits, including food pantries.
- Mississippi Emergency Management Agency: \$40 million
- Cities and counties: \$70 million
- Corrections: \$20 million
- Tourism: \$15 million
- K-12 Distance learning: \$150 million
- K-12 Internet connectivity: \$50 million
- Universities: \$50 million
- Community colleges: \$50 million
- Workforce development: \$55 million
- Elections: \$1 million
- Courts and judiciary: \$2.5 million
- Unemployment trust fund: \$181.8 million

I am proud to say we strengthened the law against animal cruelty on domesticated animals to include felony offenses.

There will be several different constitutional amendments on the ballot this November when we go to the polls for the presidential election.

We passed a constitutional amendment proposal to do away with the archaic

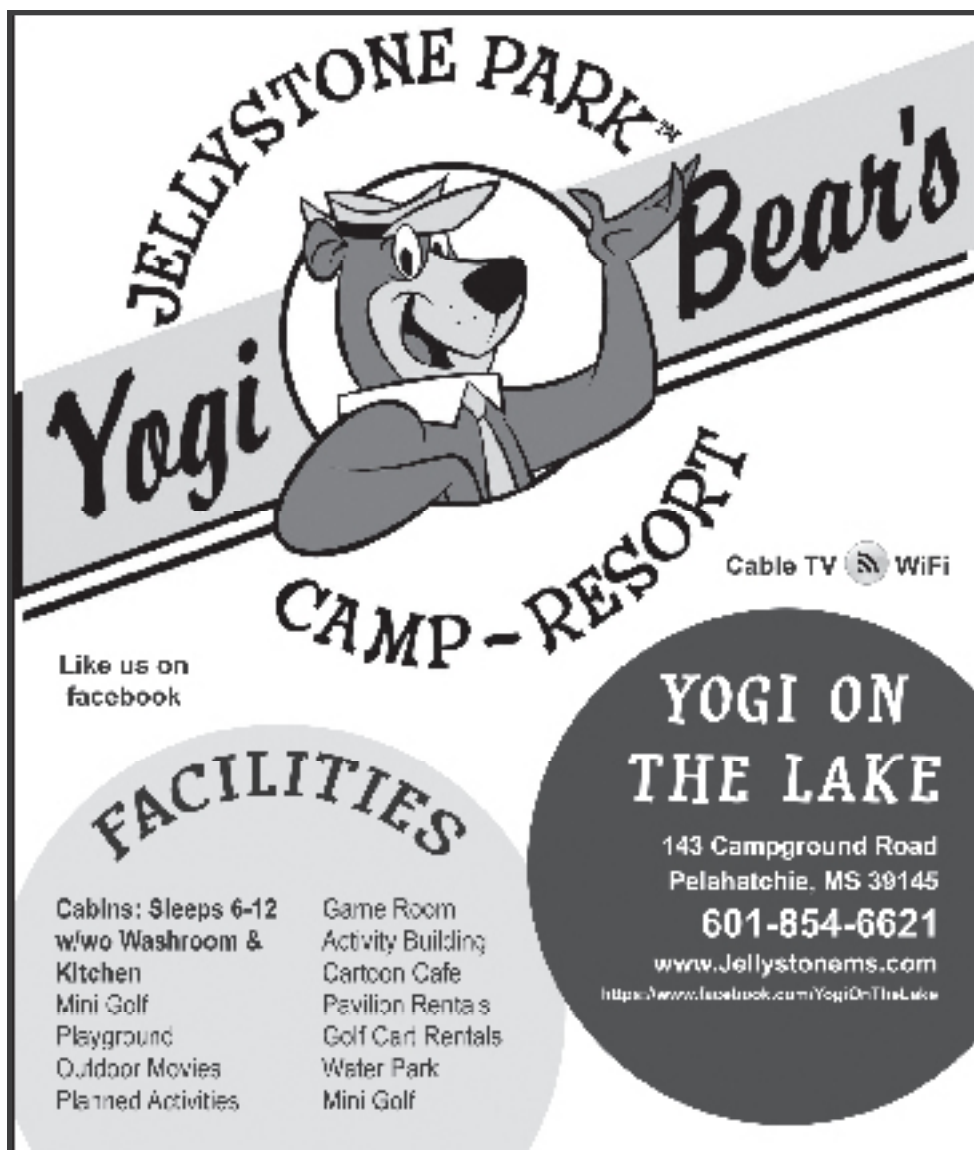
"Electoral College," which allows the House to determine the winner of state-wide offices if no one received a majority popular vote.

The people will vote on that amendment as well as a Medical Marijuana measure that will be on the ballot on November 3.

On Wednesday, July 1, a ceremony was held to retire the 1894 state flag, after legislators earlier voted to remove it and created a commission to consider replacement designs. The commission will pick a design that must have "In God We Trust" on it. If the people do not approve the design by a majority vote on November 3, the Commission will go "back to the drawing board" for another design, and the State will not have a flag until a majority has approved one.

As you may know, a number of my fellow Representatives have tested positive for COVID-19, including the Speaker. All House and Senate members were being tested for COVID-19 this week. Please join me in praying for their healing and the safety of their families and all who work at our State Capitol.

Please remember to wear a mask and social distance when out in public. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Representative at the State Capitol. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime or email at [tmiles@house.ms.gov](mailto:tmiles@house.ms.gov).



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# Dr. Townsend's RCSD letter to parents

Special to Pelahatchie News

Dear Parents,  
The Rankin County School District (RCSD) team has been working diligently on a Smart Restart plan for opening school for the 2020-2021 school year. With approximately 19,000 students, 40,000 parents, and 2,600 employees, many difficult decisions have been made while knowing we will not be able to please all due to the uniqueness of everyone's personal situation related to COVID-19. However, we want you to know the health and safety of our students and employees has always been our top priority.

The first goal of the RCSD Strategic Plan reads, "We will all experience a safe, healthy, and inclusive learning environment." Of course, COVID-19 has shed a whole new light on this year's health and safety planning process. We have intentionally and conscientiously dissected the possibilities, processes and procedures of a school day in order to develop a plan that would meet the needs of the majority of our families. Many stakeholders have been involved in the planning process. The RCSD Board of Trustees, district leadership, principals, teachers, custodians, bus

drivers, and many other employees have played a huge role in the development of the Smart Restart Plan.

We have also created a Smart Restart Task Force, whose mission is to problem solve and to provide insight and advice related to reopening. The task force consists of representatives from each of our eight communities such as parents, teachers, special education teachers and parents, principals, medical professionals, daycare directors, law enforcement officers, local and national public officials, and business leaders. Within this task force, a Medical Team was formed consisting of two pediatricians (one is also an internal medicine physician), a family practice physician who is also the chair for the Mississippi Medical Association, a nurse practitioner, a school nurse, a pediatric occupational therapist, a Rankin

County Health Department nurse, a Region 8 Mental Health director, and our district counselor. They have committed to assisting us throughout the year to support a safe reopening of our schools. Parent and employee surveys were also collected and analyzed, which provided us with the highest number of responses in the history of this administration. This valuable information was used to guide us as we made decisions. The district also continues to stay updated on the guidance provided by local, state, and national public health officials.

As you can see, we are taking the reopening of our schools during the COVID-19 pandemic very seriously. We are committed to doing what's right for our students and educators. Know that all RCSD employees and the Board of Trustees are passionate about their

professional purpose, which is to protect and educate our most valuable assets—YOUR CHILDREN.

In closing, as you know, people move to Rankin County because of its amazing communities and excellent schools. While we may have different opinions and you also have some difficult decisions to make, we can all agree our children are watching and learning from us during this incredibly challenging, historical time. It is imperative that we all join together during these difficult times to support our children. We may be social distancing, but we can do this while modeling patience, flexibility, grace and love as we move forward TOGETHER.

Frequent changes could be made throughout the school year based on COVID-19 concerns, or hopefully, its mitigation in our schools and communities guided by the directions from the Governor's Office, the Mississippi State Department of Health, and the Mississippi Department of Education. Individual schools will provide policies, procedures, and processes for their specific and varied environment.

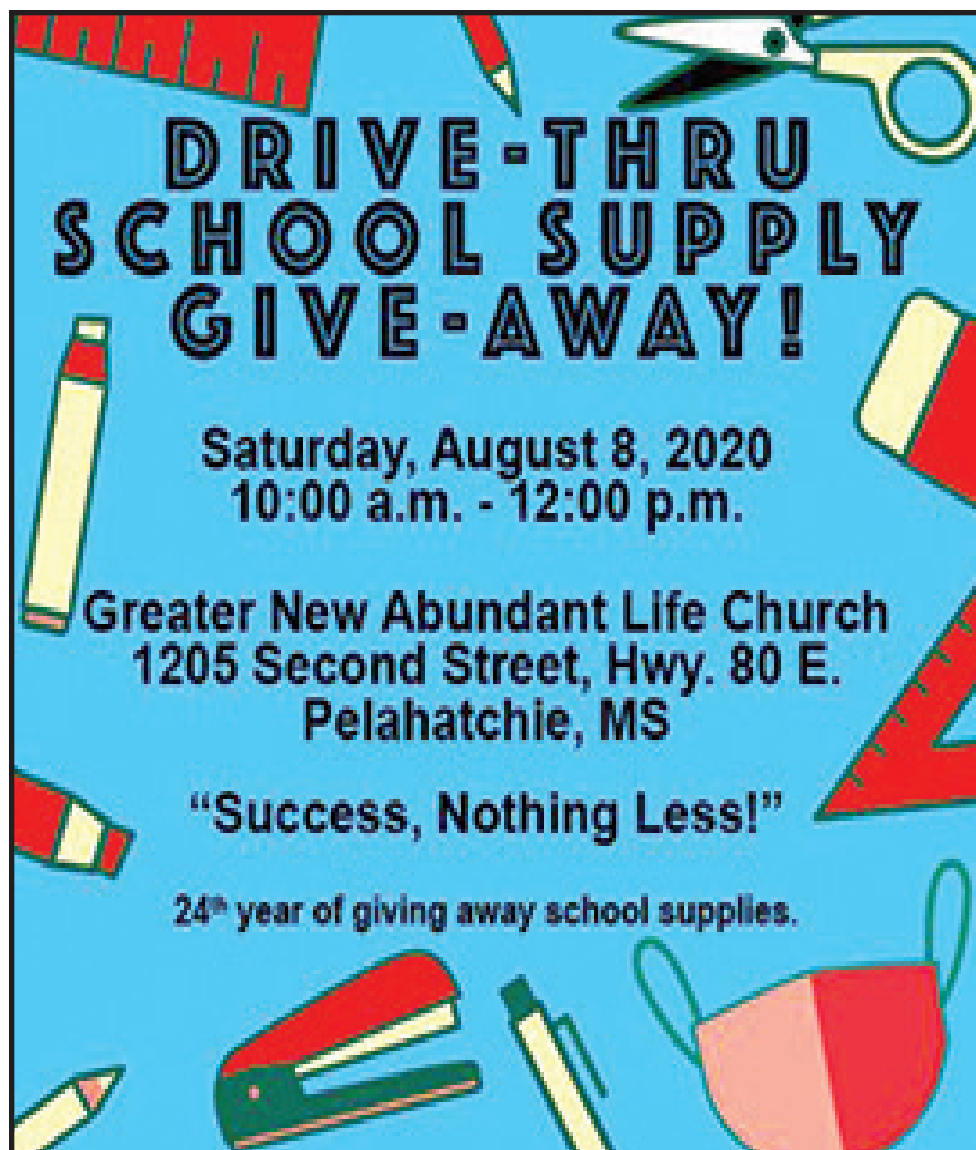
Serving you,  
Sue Townsend, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Education Rankin County School District.



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stay updated on the guidance provided by local, state, and national public health officials.

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## ERA wins scholarships as 2020 MSSP Overall State Champions



Special to Pelahatchie News

The ERA shooting team pictured (l to r) front row, are: Abram Rowell, Gabe Nutt, Garrett Gregory, Addison Brown, Lana Jones, Josh Phillips, Anslee Boyd, Ben Wilson Buffington, and Will Burrow; and back row: Coach Philip "Doc" Nettles, Parker Davis, Riley Huff, William Woods, Brayden Warner, Elijah Vining, Aiden Boyd, Knox Ross, Ben Carter, and Brock Tullos. Not pictured are: Coach Vince Bynum, Hudson Bynum, Ashton Buffington, Braiden Warren, Christian Leeper, and Jon Isaac Irby.

Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Academy (ERA) Shooting Team won the 2020 MSSP (Mississippi Scholastic Shooting Program) Overall State Shooting Tournament held June 25-26 at the McIvor Shooting Facility in Sardis, Mississippi. Eighth-grader Brayden Warner was the overall combined winner of the fifth annual Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks (MDWFP)-sponsored event in which ERA won a trophy for their first place finish.

They competed against the top 150 sporting clay, skeet, and trap shooters from 30 public and private schools from around the state.

ERA students won over \$7,000 of the \$10,000 in scholarships presented at the June event. All winners are listed by categories on [www.pelahatchienews.com](http://www.pelahatchienews.com).

According to Michelle Carter, MDWFP director of outreach, due to COVID-19, the awards video is posted online. For more information on MSSP, contact Carter at [carter@wfp.ms.gov](mailto:carter@wfp.ms.gov) or call 601-432-2276.

## Zinnias are blooming in Shiloh



Photos by Pelahatchie News

Bob and Jan Robinson planted zinnias along their fence on the roadway in the Shiloh community. The flowers attracted butterflies and bees as well as birds. Friends and neighbors are enjoying the abundant blooms.

## Mt. Carmel Baptist to provide community support August 8



Special to Pelahatchie News

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church (MBC) Outreach Ministry will provide community meals beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, August 8, at the church on Highway 80 in Pelahatchie.

Deacon Charles Johnson said they will provide more than 100 hot meals to everyone in the community that wants to eat. He said that the Outreach Ministry typically has some event on the second Saturday of each month where everyone is welcome.

The church will also be giving cloth-

ing and will have limited food boxes that will include meat. Deacon Johnson said they work with the Society of St. Andrews and the Mississippi Food Network to bring milk, vegetables and food boxes to distribute in town. They have made a number of distributions in the Dollar General parking lot in the last few months.

"This is a hard time," said Deacon Johnson. "We just want to help people in our community."

If you would like to donate to the Mt. Carmel Outreach Ministry, call Deacon Johnson at 601-953-5892.

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We want to recognize these students and their hard work battling the heat this summer doing curbside service and want to wish good luck to all students at both our Pelahatchie schools.

Featured (l to r) are Bailey Johnson, a Pelahatchie High senior; Jackson Farpet, a sophomore at the University of Alabama; and Lexey Stuart, a freshman at USM who just graduated from East Rankin.



# East Rankin Academy 2020 honor graduates



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy held their graduation ceremonies on July 27 at Hinds Community College. Honor students pictured (l to r) front row, are: Trey Nichols, Dana Watkins, Maile Tubbs, Riley Scoles, Rachel Sikora, and Jessica Ries; second row: Trent Wuestefeld, Shelby Sellers, Lexey Stuart, Patrick Martin, and Josh Phillips; third row: Joel Keyes, Neely Brunt, Kealey Bradford, Heidi Gray, Madalyn Edwards, and Kariana Simmons; and back row: Ethan Crain, Tyler Betts, Cole Jones, Lane Burgess, Trey Rhodes, and Jacob Gardner.



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# Pelahatchie Elementary gears up for the 2020-2021 school year



By Guest Columnist  
Robin Sanders, Principal,  
Pelahatchie Elementary

Pelahatchie Elementary has been working this summer to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year. Students

will return Monday, August 10, 2020. Although this school year will look different, we are working hard to put plans in place to make it the best year yet! Teachers, students, parents and community members working together will be the key to making this transition a successful one.

As always, safety is our top priority. Teachers have been diligently working in their classrooms to ensure that physical distancing guidelines will be followed as much as possible. They have faced this task with a determination to make their classrooms a safe place for learning and have looked at this as an opportunity to



Special to Pelahatchie News

create a fresh start for returning students. I can not brag on the staff members enough for their positive attitude and can-do spirit.

The leadership team continues working to put plans in place to ensure that all students, regardless of how parents choose for their students to begin the year, will be given high-quality instruction. We certainly don't have all the kinks worked

out yet, but know that we will continue to fine tune policies and procedures to ensure a safe educational environment for all staff and students.

As we all know, things will have to be done a little differently. We are currently working on virtual "Meet the Teacher" messages/meetings in order for you and your child(ren) to have the opportunity to meet their new teacher(s). We have

made the decision for virtual messages/meetings to reduce the amount of visitors entering the building. We will also be restricting visitor access to the front lobby. We ask for your patience and cooperation as we implement these new processes.

If at any time you have questions or concerns, please give us a call, and we will be more than happy to talk with you.

Stay tuned to social media for updates and important information. We want to keep parents and community members informed about the upcoming school year. Our new Facebook page is Pelahatchie\_ES, and Instagram is pelahatchie\_es. We will also continue to send messages through SwiftK12 in an effort to keep you updated. As always, you can call the school for information.

I just can't stress enough how excited I am to be home. As challenging as this school year has been and will continue to be, it is our goal to make it a great year for all staff and students!

Go Chiefs!

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# Megan Hall knows the Pelahatchie real estate market

By Susie A. Wolfe

Megan Hall has been selling real estate for fifteen years, fourteen of those as a resident of Pelahatchie where she sells more homes than any other agent.

According to Hall, who served as a Pelahatchie alderman for five years, it's a seller's market in Town, where the average sales price in the 39145-area code over the past twelve months is \$230,000.

"The market in Pelahatchie has remained strong over the years," said Hall. "There are many people who recognize Pelahatchie as one of the few true small Towns left in the Central Mississippi area. They want to be a part of that. Families who moved away want to come back. That has created a seller's market in Pelahatchie. Homes that go up for sale here typically sell within days, if not hours, and usually with multiple offers at or above list price. Many times, I am able to sell them here before they even hit the open market. I have a long list of buyers who are just waiting on properties to come up. Not a day goes by that someone doesn't reach out to me wanting a property here."

Hall sees Pelahatchie, which is 3.2 square miles, continuing to be a strong seller's market. She said there is an in-

ventory shortage here that is not likely to change anytime soon. Realtors see that being true in many areas of the state and the country.

"Pelahatchie is strong and will continue to be," said Hall. "There are many of us who love this Town and want to be here. We see its current and future potential. We love the history. We want to pass something great on to our children and grandchildren. We want them to grow up in a small town like a lot of us did. A place to have not just a house, but a home. That's what Pelahatchie has been, is and will continue to be."

"Interest rates are lower than they have been in many years," said Hall. "That has pushed a lot of buyers off the fence. We are also seeing a shift toward more people working from home and homeschooling due to COVID-19. People are beginning to need a dedicated space, a space other than their kitchen table such as a bonus room or extra bedroom, for work and/or school. I anticipate there will be many buyers within the next year that fall into that category."

Hall was the youngest ever recipient of the Central Mississippi Realtor's Realtor of the Year and the youngest to ever serve as president of that association. She was also the youngest-ev-



Special to Pelahatchie News

Megan Hall has been selling real estate for 15 years. As a realtor, she has been active with real estate associations and has often traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with legislators on real estate issues.

er president of the local chapter of the Women's Council of Realtors Jackson Chapter. She has also served in various capacities with the National Association of Realtors, MS Association of Realtors and the Central Mississippi Realtors. Other recognitions include being named to Mississippi Business Journal's Top 50 Under 40 Business Leaders in 2017.

As far as how real estate has changed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Hall said that sellers seem to be more conscious of who comes in and out of their

home, and realtors are more conscious of the clients they take on. Both realtors and sellers want strict appointments with only preapproved buyers.

"Many sellers will leave lights on and cabinets open for showings, so that a potential buyer does not have to touch any surfaces," said Hall. "COVID-19 will also likely be the final straw for the traditional open house. We have seen them dwindle in popularity over the past few years, but now, they are almost non-existent. I require the use of shoe covers, hand sanitizer and a mask for all of my showings. I provide these at all of my listings. COVID-19 has also caused some lending institutions to raise their credit score and work history requirements. We have seen FHA release some guidance on relaxing appraisal rules during this time as well."

Hall and her husband, Kevin, are both involved with the Pelahatchie Volunteer Fire Department, where she is president of the auxiliary and he is assistant fire chief. They have one daughter, Courtney.

For more information on buying or selling houses, contact Hall at 601-540-4084, [Megan@MeganHall.Realtor](mailto:Megan@MeganHall.Realtor), her facebook page or website [MeganHall.Realtor](http://MeganHall.Realtor).



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## Pastor's Perspective: How should the Christian respond to COVID-19



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

Special to Pelahatchie News

"Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials." James 1:2 CSB

The COVID-19 virus has caused a massive stir both in the United States and around the globe. Both mass worry and total apathy are responses that are sailing across social media and popping up in our everyday conversations. People respond to trials and pressure-filled circumstances in various ways. Some panic, some ignore, some even reject the problem's existence.

We do not get to choose our trials, but we do get to choose how we respond to pressure filled circumstances. This, of course, raises the question, "how should the Christian respond to COVID-19?" In James 1:2-8, James, the brother of our Lord, provides all believers a manual in how to respond to trial.

First, in verses 2-3, James says to count or consider trials as joy knowing that when faith is tested, endurance or patience is produced. What James is saying here is that the follower of

Christ has reason to rejoice in any problem that they may face. This, of course, is not joy in the trial itself, but the potential strengthening of faith brought about by trial. You too can rejoice in any trial that comes your way, because God can use it for your growth and His glory.

Notice specifically here that James does not say "if" you fall into a trial, but "when." Pressure-filled circumstances and difficult situations are inevitable in a fallen world. You cannot control a world-wide pandemic; you cannot even control whether or not you will end up contracting the virus that is spreading across the nation as we speak. But you can control your response. Will you rejoice, or will you crumble?

Second, James says in verse 4 to let patience, or endurance, have its work in you that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. James began in verses 2-3 by commanding believers to consider trials a joy, because of the potential growth or endurance that may be produced by them. Here he turns to point to the goal of trials: maturity. In a trial, you grow. In a trial, you prepare to face the next trial. In a trial, you learn to lack in nothing. In a trial, you are matured. And in trial, you

can draw nearer to Christ.

This is what James says you can rejoice in. However, the road to maturity through trials is endurance. You must endure the trial to experience the maturity and joy produced by it. There is no growth in a trial that you go through in fear, in unbelief, in apathy, or any other sinful posture or attitude. Endure with confidence and joy, knowing how God can use this trial to grow you. Not in fear, not in apathy, nor desperation.

Lastly, James tells the believers to whom he is writing and, by extension, us, to ask God for wisdom when facing trial and struggle. Now, notice that James does not say to ask God to protect you from contracting COVID-19. He says to pray for wisdom, not safety, not health, not provisions, but wisdom. Why? Because you need God's wisdom more than any of those and more than the wisdom of any man.

Politicians and medical professionals will not provide you with the wisdom needed to endure this national emergency. Only God can. You can take the advice of the wisest of men only to waste your trial because you never asked God for His wisdom. It would be better for you to contract the virus, depend on God's wisdom, and come out on the other side mature and lack-

ing nothing than to make it out of this struggle unscathed but still immature and unwise. Do not waste your trial, ask God for His wisdom in confidence.

James ends by saying that the one who asks with doubt is chaotic, unstable, and double-minded, which literally means double-souled. Many will, in creed and word, say that in this trial they are relying on God, but functionally, and by their action will prove that their dependence in this trial is on the world and themselves. They will pray for wisdom and help, but will do so in doubt because their reliance is divided between God and the world. That person is unstable spiritually and divided between God and His wisdom and the world, and its wisdom and James say they will not receive wisdom from God. Friend, in this trial, will you ask God in faith and confidence for wisdom, or will you, in doubt, be divided between Him and the world's wisdom?

The trial has arrived on our doorstep; will you waste it, or will you rejoice in it, grow through it, and rely on God above all else? (I saw this devotion a while back and saved it for future use. Now seems like a good time to share it. The author is unknown. Be sure to take your family to church or watch a service on-line.)



### AUGUST SCHEDULE

#### Sunday Worship Service

9:00 a.m. - In Person Worship Service with Limited Seating in the Sanctuary. Overflow seating in the Fellowship Hall and Student Center. No Childcare or Sunday School. Service broadcast live on the Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook page.

#### 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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## Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Arrangements
TB Earrey	84	Morton, MS	6/28/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Loren Darhlene Sones-Jones	56	Forest, MS	6/29/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Dale Hollingsworth	76	Lake, MS	6/28/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Bessie Rose Walker	71	Morton, MS	6/30/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Hatie Robinson	69	Morton, MS	7/6/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Jamie Huff	55	Morton, MS	7/10/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Mike Butler	69	Morton, MS	7/12/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Jerry Purvis	66	Brandon, MS	7/19/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
WT Smith	73	Pelahatchie, MS	7/20/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Nadine Stroud	75	Lake, MS	7/21/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.



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# 2020 PELAHATCHIE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

<b>AUG 28</b> VS PUCKETT (SCRIMMAGE)	<b>SEPT 4</b> @ SCOTT CENTRAL	<b>SEPT 11</b> VS FOREST	<b>SEPT 18</b> @ BAY SPRINGS	<b>SEPT 25</b> @ JACKSON ACADEMY
<b>OCT 2</b> VS RIVERSIDE (HOMECOMING)	<b>OCT 9</b> @ SOUTH DELTA	<b>OCT 16</b> VS PISGAH	<b>OCT 23</b> @ ST. JOE-MADISON	<b>OCT 30</b> @ MORTON

# JR. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

<b>SEPT 1</b> VS PUCKETT	<b>SEPT 8</b> @ PISGAH	<b>SEPT 15</b> VS SEBASTOPOL
<b>SEPT 22</b> @ MCLAURIN	<b>SEPT 29</b> @ LAKE	<b>OCT 6</b> VS MADISON ST. JOE

## Assurances for a safe return to school



Special to Pelahatchie News

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

As we advance towards the opening of the 2020-21 school year, we are excited about the multiple options that we have for all of our students and their families. We know that you have become well versed in RCSD's "Smart Restart" plan for a safe and orderly start. Whether it be the "Enhanced Traditional" start (with options to go to a hybrid or total distance learning scenario) or the CHOICE option, we feel confident that all of you at this point have made the best decisions for your children during this time of uncertainty. Regardless of the decision that you have made for your child, we are grateful that you have chosen Pelahatchie High School for your child's education.

With that being said, we know that there are still many details regarding the start of the school year that remain unknown. Rest assured knowing that we have spent the summer troubleshooting all aspects of the school day to ensure our students, faculty, and staff can not only be safe in a traditional setting, but successful as well.

We are asking all parents to observe their student's health prior to coming to school on a daily basis. All students' temperatures will be checked upon arrival to school. "Movement=Mask Up, Desk=Mask Down, Protect our Tribe" has been created as a daily expectation for the upcoming school year. Clutter has been cleared from classrooms, and desks have been spaced out to adhere to CDC guidelines. All opportunities to gather socially before and during the school day have been suspended until further notice. Transitions to and from class will be staggered within the classroom to minimize "bottlenecking" in the hallway and intersections. Breakfast and Lunch processes are "Grab and Go," and lunch schedules have been amended to minimize traffic through the hallways and the cafeteria. Disinfecting all areas of campus will be a priority not only before and after school, but during transitions, as well.

In the event of heightened concerns regarding the COVID pandemic, our campus will pivot into a "hybrid" school setting. This option divides our school into teams, Team "Chiefs" (Student's Last Name A-J) and Team "Tribe" (Student's Last Name K-Z). In this setting, the Team "Chiefs" will physically attend school only Monday and Thursday

each week, while Team "Tribe" attends only Tuesday and Friday of each week. Wednesday will be a distanced learning day for all and will also be utilized as a campus deep cleansing day.

The same goes for our digital options. First and foremost, we are more than blessed to be a part of a school district that places a computer in the hands of every student. While faculty and students alike have enjoyed these resources for the past several years, we are now in the position of further expanding our knowledge of these instruments. The district has scheduled professional development in this area to enhance our faculty's abilities in distance learning. Resources like Canvas and Zoom will be utilized early and often to ensure a successful transition to a distance learning environment. Communication through these computers will be the norm, not the exception. Whether at school or at home, your children will receive an optimal education during the 2020-2021 school year.

As we move into the school year, keep an eye on our various media outlets such as Facebook and our school's



Photo by Pelahatchie News

website. These platforms, along with our "SwiftK12" communication tool, will allow us to communicate to you in the event that we need to pivot due to any environmental conditions that come our way. Know that

we will do our best to communicate as efficiently and effectively as possible when changes occur. Also, make sure to download the Powerschool app to view your child's progress, as well as the MyPaymentsPlus app, so you can make online lunch payments throughout the year. We appreciate all of you in advance for your patience in navigating these uncertain times.

To close, allow me to communicate a few event dates to you. On Tuesday, August 4, all seventh grade parents (and their students) are invited to a ZOOM "Orientation" at 6 p.m. A virtual "Open House" for all students can be viewed through a Canvas module that will be published Friday, Aug. 7, at 3 p.m. Students report to school on Monday, Aug. 10, with school pictures taking place the following day (Aug. 11). Last but not least, our first volleyball match vs Pisgah is Thursday, Aug. 13, and our first football game of the season will be at Scott Central on Friday, Sept. 4.

It is my hope that you are as excited as we are for the start of the school year. The greatest rewards always seem to come from the most trying times. Let's all do our part to ensure a safe and successful start to the upcoming school year.

Go Chiefs!



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# Mayor hands out face masks    Herrington attends space camp



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Mayor Ryshonda Beechem handed out cloth masks on Saturday, July 25, in Downtown Pelahatchie. Pictured (l to r) are: Police Officer Brandi Hankins, Mayor Beechem, and Officer Darlean King. Summer Scruggs, shown in background, also volunteered.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Jack Herrington, an upcoming sixth grade student at Pelahatchie Elementary, was accepted and attended Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, July 5-9. Jack stated, "It was a great experience. I hope to return next summer."

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Hamburgers, pulled pork, spicy chicken, grilled chicken, turkey, ham, and ribeye sandwiches, just to name a few, available from our grill daily.

Smoked meats such as ribs, pulled pork, turkey, ham, and chicken sold separately in our fruit stand most weeks. Catering is available upon request.

Please visit our Facebook page the old home place to view our menu items available each day or night. Call for more details at (601) 825-8500.

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