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# NEWS Pelahatchie

Good News You Can Use

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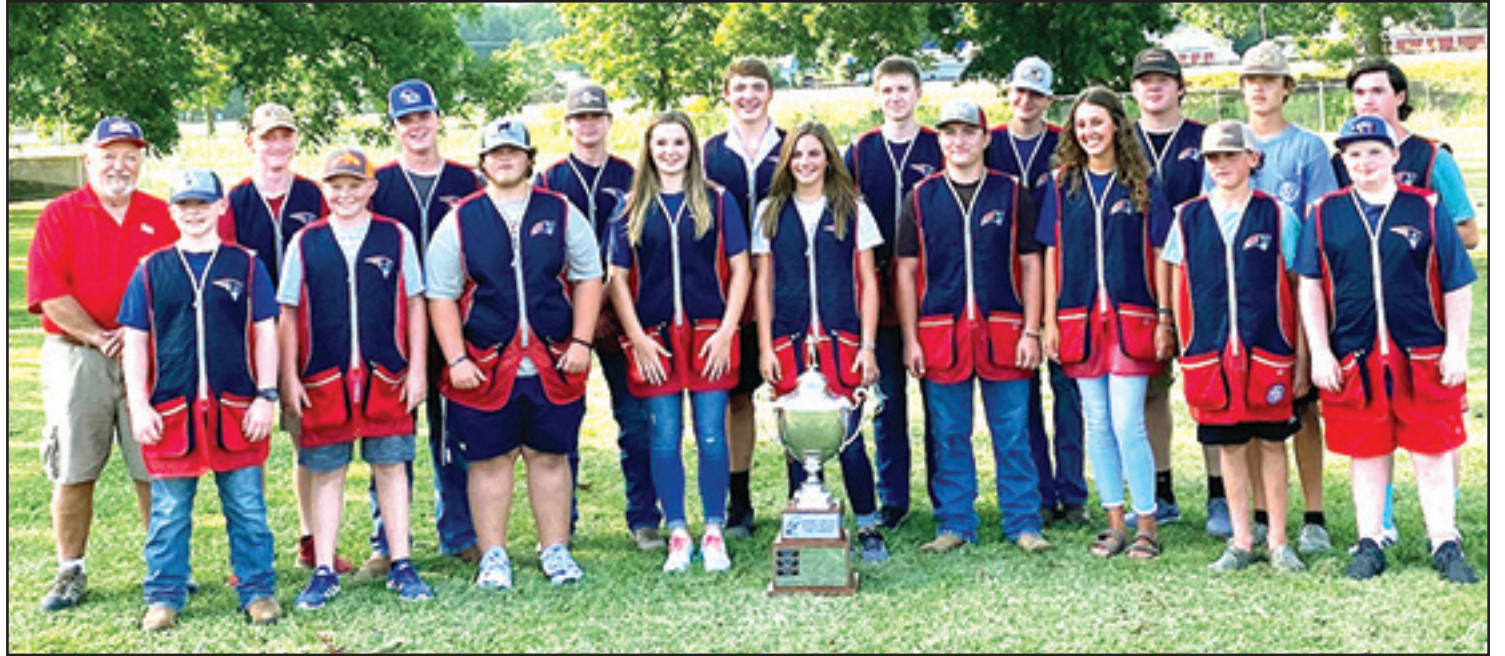
## ERA Shooting team named MSSP Shooting Champions

By Susie A. Wolfe

The East Rankin Academy (ERA) Shooting Squad were named State Champions, and ERA eighth grader Brayden Warner was the overall combined winner at the fifth annual Mississippi Scholastic Shooting Program (MSSP) State Championships, held June 25 and 26 at the McIvor Shooting Facility in Sardis, Mississippi.

The 24-member ERA squad, under the direction of coaches Doc Nettles and Vince Bynum, had a score of 560 out of 600 and won by a 30-point margin. They finished third overall in skeet, third overall in sporting clays and third overall combined champions and overall State Champions for 2020. This group were also State Champs in 2018 and lost by one clay in 2019. They will receive scholarships and rings as winners.

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP)-sponsored  
*continued on page 3*



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.

## Sanders comes home as PES principal

By Susie A. Wolfe

Robin Sanders is Pelahatchie born and bred. She is returning "home" to head Pelahatchie Elementary School's (PES) 480 students and 60 staff members during the 2020 Pandemic, when education, as well as many other things, is uncertain.

Sanders attended the Pelahatchie school kindergarten-twelfth grade. She was a member of the basketball team, cheerleading squad, FFA, FHA, yearbook staff, student council, and several other organizations.

"I have always been proud to be a Chief, and I am glad to be going 'home' to serve as principal of Pelahatchie Elementary School," said Sanders. "I never felt



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie native Robin Sanders worked at Pelahatchie Elementary for 17 years before joining the Rankin County School District office. She has now returned as principal.

'called' to lead a school until the position became available at Pelahatchie Elementary. I have no doubt that I am right where God wants me to be... where I started with my PES family!" She worked at Pelahatchie Elementary from 1998 to 2016 as a first-grade teacher, third-grade teacher, fourth-grade teacher, and sixth-grade teacher. During her last three years at PES, she served as the school interventionist.

Her husband, Shane, served in many different capacities, including principal at Pelahatchie High School over a 21-year period, and is now an assistant superintendent at the Rankin  
*continued on page 3*

## Huffman, Sports Medicine Person of the Year

Special to Pelahatchie news

Though Mississippi Athletic Trainer' Association (MATA) was not able to hold its 2020 Symposium, they did name the key awards winners, including Scot Huffman as Sports Medicine Person of the Year. The honorees will be celebrated in the 2021 Summer Meeting and Symposium June 8-10, 2021.

MATA stated that "the Sports Medicine Person the Year Award recognizes the person that contributes to our profession at the state level to the Mississippi Athletic Trainer' Association. They may also help to promote our profession at the district and/or national levels with community involvement also being considered. These individuals can be CEOs, coaches, athletic directors, physicians, news media, etc."


Huffman, a physical therapist (PT), is now co-owner, along with Dan Young, of the nine performance therapy clinics. He



Special to Pelahatchie News

Scot Huffman is now co-owner, along with Dan Young, of the nine Performance Therapy clinics. He is currently treating patients regularly in the Pelahatchie clinic.

is currently treating patients regularly in the Pelahatchie clinic. The East Rankin Academy graduate has been practicing  
*continued on page 3*




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# Legislative: 2020 Session in the final days



By Guest Columnist  
Mississippi  
Representative  
Tom Miles

Special to  
Pelahatchie News

This week, we were busy in the House of Representatives working to meet deadlines and finish any remaining legislation. Wednesday was the deadline for original floor action on Senate bills, so any general bills left on the calendar died.

Because it is late in the session, much of the week was spent deciding whether to concur with any changes made to House bills by the Senate or to invite conference on those bills.

In conference, next week we will work with senators together to finalize each bill before they are sent to the governor. Included in the bills being sent to conference are most of the revenue and appropriations bills from both the House and the Senate, which will decide the state's budget, and also the bills dealing with the CARES ACT this week.

We also sent these three bills this week to the Governor's office for his



Special to Pelahatchie News

Representative Tom Miles was honored to visit with the Baker family from Forest at the Capitol. This was Aaron's first trip to the Capitol. Pictured with Representative Miles are Chris, Aaron, and Emily Baker.

signature that I've been working on this year and was proud to be sponsor.

HOUSE BILL 94 is known as the Mississippi Center for Rural Health Innovation. This law will create a resource center to work with our rural hospitals to help improve health care in the rural parts of the state.

HOUSE BILL 1577 is a pro second amendment law that will allow our school districts to offer a course in Hunter Safety classes in grades 7-12 and will make it a class offered for our students to take.

HOUSE BILL 96 is a pro life bill that will allow someone the option of using a fire station, ambulance office or mobile ambulance as a drop off for a baby.

This will be a busy week as we finalize the budget, make changes to finalize bills that are left alive, and distribute the rest of the \$900 million dollars of the CARES money to our public schools, Hospitals, MDES for unemployment, Cities and Counties and local businesses.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve you. Please feel free to reach out to me at [tmiles@house.ms.gov](mailto:tmiles@house.ms.gov).



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## ERA Shooting team named MSSP Shooting Champions

sored MSSP State Championships welcomed the top 150 sporting clay, skeet, and trap shooters between the seventh and twelfth grade from around the state. Thirty different schools, both public and private, participated. Each participant competed for a piece of \$10,000 in college scholarships provided by the Foundation for Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. Once the shoot-offs for ties in the competition are determined, the winner's names will be released.

The Mississippi Scholastic Shooting Program (MSSP) is a team-based, youth development program that uses the shotgun sports of 5-Stand, Skeet, and Sporting Clays to instill life skills such as discipline, safety, teamwork, ethics, self-confidence, and other life values.

The program utilizes these disciplines to teach hunting skills through the safe use of hunting equipment, including firearms, and their relationship to hunting situations. Team members can participate in any or all three of the clay-target disciplines: 5-Stand, Skeet, and Sporting Clays.

For more information on the program, contact Director of Outreach Michelle Carter at [michelle.carter@wfp.ms.gov](mailto:michelle.carter@wfp.ms.gov). Scholarship winners will be in the August paper.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Brayden Warner, an ERA eighth grader, was the overall MSSP winner.

continued from page 1

## Sanders comes home as PES principal

County School District (RCSD).

"Shane and I never questioned where our daughters would attend school," said Sanders. "He and I both strongly believe in the value of public school, and we wanted our girls to attend school in the community where we live and attend church." And, now, both she and her husband are a big part of PES. Shane Sanders is overseeing the construction projects at many of the RCSD schools.

As far as when and if the school year starts on schedule, Sanders said, "While we are currently working tirelessly to create multiple scenarios and plans for the 20/21 school year, nothing has been finalized; however, I can assure you that Dr. Townsend and RCSD are working

diligently with all directors and school leaders to ensure every decision made moving forward is in the best interest of all staff and students, with safety being the first priority."

She said, "I am ALL IN! I am fully committed to making Pelahatchie the greatest elementary school in Rankin County and eventually the best in Mississippi. Shane and I are excited to be able to serve Pelahatchie Elementary as Rankin County School district employees, community members, but most importantly as parents. Our girls, Reagan and Payton, have flourished at Pelahatchie through the years, and we cannot wait to see our children and so many more finish strong. The Sanders family is ALL IN!"

continued from page 1

## Huffman, Sports Medicine Person of the Year



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie Performance Therapy staff (l to r) pictured, front is: Casie Hilton Peters, physical therapist and Pelahatchie director; and back row: Scot Huffman; and Courtney Rhodes, office administrator.

for 23 years in this area, where he also has a large cattle farm adjacent to his parents' farm.

"Huffman was nominated for this for his admiration for our profession, since he was an undergraduate student at Mississippi College as a student athletic trainer and now he works hard to bridge a relationship between instructional therapists (Its) and ATs (athletic train-

ers) in Mississippi. During the pandemic, it showed through keeping his ATs working during this pandemic and promoting our profession the whole month of March every year. He believes in athletic trainers and what we stand for. Thank you, Scot Huffman, for your love of our profession,

and working with us to get it done."

Pelahatchie native Huffman said that his career in physical therapy was founded on what he learned as a student athletic trainer at Mississippi College.

"Athletic trainers have taught me that hours are not as important than people, that your family is so much bigger than your immediate family, that you work when work is to be done, that you rest when you are not needed, that you are always needed, that a relationship is more important than money and that a team is better when it has someone that cares about every piece. That so many kids need someone to listen. And, that their parents do too."

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## Fusion Martial Arts reopened in June under new ownership

By Susie A. Wolfe

Fusion Martial Arts, which offers training in Taekwondo, reopened June 22 under the new ownership of Jerry Harvey of Pelahatchie. They have two classes a week on Monday and Thursday.

There are classes for those around 12 and under, and one for 12 and above.

There are two instructors, Bill Rials and Bryant Watkins. Rials is the head instructor, fifth-degree black belt in Taekwondo. The other instructor, Watkins, has been with Fusion for five years and is a first-degree senior black belt. Harvey, who has been friends with Rials since they were teenagers, will be working toward his black belt and instructor status over the next two years. He and Rials trained in Taekwondo in Florence under George and Mary Jackson.

The martial arts studio, which started in 2004, is located in the Davis Shopping Center. They will be minimizing contact and wiping things down after class to avoid COVID-19, according to Harvey.

Harvey, originally from Star, Missis-



Special to Pelahatchie News

The instructors and owner at Fusion Martial Arts (l to r) are: Bryant Watkins; new owner Jerry Harvey; and Bill Rials.

sippi, is a network operations manager for TEC in Jackson. He said, "I grew up in a small town, and we did not have much to do, so getting in trouble was one of our pastimes. In Pelahatchie, being a small community, I want to give the discipline and structure that comes in learning martial arts."

Harvey's two children, Jacob, 11, and Ella, 9, are students both here and at Pelahatchie Elementary School. His wife, Susan, who is also a student at Fusion, is a special education teacher at Gary Road Elementary in Byram.

For more information, call 601-941-3937 or check online [www.facebook.com/fusionma](http://www.facebook.com/fusionma).

## A poem about "Life"

By Savannah Massey

Yes, blossoms that don't  
bloom are such a thing  
As different from the others, you and I  
but still human beings  
Same but different  
Same but needing to listen  
Why must we judge one another  
Just based on ability and color  
Life can make us kind  
But in the same way make us blind

Anger is such a funny thing  
Almost anything it can bring  
And none of us want to admit it  
But it throws us into a deep pit  
We try and picture everything  
with our eyes  
But we don't see possibilities  
as big as the skies  
Once again life consumes each and  
every one of us  
Stealing our time, stealing our trust



Special to Pelahatchie News

Savannah Massey, 13, is a Pelahatchie native and Pisgah High School ninth grader.

What around us we see  
Is what our mind shapes us  
to want to be  
Many wish for mansions of gold  
But never to work for treasures untold  
If some play life as a game  
It is one of both beauty and shame

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  - (b) Are known to mental health or state housing agency to have been arrested or incarcerated in the last year due to conduct related to mental illness; or
  - (c) Are known to the mental health or state housing agency to have been homeless for one full year or have had four or more episodes of homelessness in the last three years
- Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes a subset for an individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for ninety days or less and who resides in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.



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## Get back-to-school immunizations now



Special to Pelahatchie News

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The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is urging parents to act now and schedule their child's age-appropriate immunizations before summer is over. Mississippi state law requires children to be immunized against childhood diseases to enter public or private school, Head Start or daycare.

Make an appointment at your county

health department clinic to bring your child in for their immunizations. A list of county health department locations along with times and days the clinics are open can be found at [www.HealthyMS.com/locations](http://www.HealthyMS.com/locations).

Parents should bring the child's social security card and insurance card if available. Parents and children over two must wear a mask when entering the county health department clinic.

## Watch out for snakes



By Doug Carter,  
Rankin County  
Extension Agent

Special to Pelahatchie News  
This spring, I have had several phone calls about snakes in yards and around homes. One of my daughters even had an encounter with a snake in our yard.

Once it gets warm in the spring, snakes start moving around. Snakes need their body temperature to rise, so they can be active searching for food, after not eating anything all winter, and searching for mates. Their diet consists of rats, mice, moles, and other pests.

Pay attention when walking in tall grass, around brush piles, next to fallen logs, in wooded areas and stepping over fallen logs. Be cautious when moving items outside, such as old boards, metal, and items left on the ground. Always wear long pants and boots when in areas where snakes could be.

There are over 50 species of snakes in Mississippi, with only six types being venomous. However, even non-venomous snakes can still bite and have the potential for leaving a nasty infection. It is not always easy to distinguish one type from another, so the best option is to leave all snakes alone.

Approximately 75% of snake bites



Special to Pelahatchie News

Venomous coral snake

happen when a person is trying to kill or otherwise harass the snake. Snakes are not aggressive. Snake bites only happen when they are being threatened. Most try to avoid people or lie motionless in an effort to blend into their surroundings, and escape notice.

No fumigants, toxicants, or repellants are registered for snake control. Diet, body temperature, and other biological aspects of snakes complicate the potential for developing such snake controls that would help control these populations.

If you are attempting to identify a snake, make sure you are not within its striking distance, which is usually 2/3 of the snake's body length.

Treat dead snakes as you would live snakes. They can still bite and inject venom, even from a cut off head.

The same antivenin is used for all bites, from venomous snakes in Mississippi, with the exception of the coral snake.

## Students named to MC honor roll

Special to Pelahatchie News

Laura Wingo of Pelahatchie was named to the Spring 2020 President's List at Mississippi College (MC).

The Mississippi College Office of Academic Affairs releases the president's list after the close of fall and spring semesters each academic year. To be eligible for the President's List, a student must maintain a 4.0 grade point average, based on a 4.0 system. The student must take a full course load of at least 12 semester hours of undergraduate credit with all academic courses impact-

ing their grade point average.

Chancellor Easterling, James Flickner, and Jessica Smith of Pelahatchie were on the Dean's List.

The Mississippi College Office of Academic Affairs releases the dean's list after the close of fall and spring semesters each academic year. To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must maintain a 3.5 grade point average, based on a 4.0 system. The student must take a full course load of at least 12 semester hours of undergraduate credit with all academic courses impacting their grade point average.

## Hinds CC Names spring 2020 Scholars

By Susie A. Wolfe

Hinds Community College (HCC) named its scholars for the spring semester recently. President's Scholars are those with a cumulative 4.0 grade point average, and Deans' Scholars are those students with a cumulative 3.5 to 3.9 grade point average.

Pelahatchie President's scholars include Aubree Beeman, Scarlett Castillo, Sydney Goldman, Jared Goodin, Makaylee Hester, Colburn Jones, Lona Perrett, Trey Rhodes, Reagan Sanders, Brandon Thompson, Jessi Thompson,

Dana Watkins, and Jason Wuestefeld.

Pelahatchie Dean's scholars include Claire Brunt, Brooke Cunningham, William Houston, Avery McDonald, Dwaun Patterson, and James Skiles.

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# Working at 5 R Farms Summer online fun for all ages through August 7



Special to Pelahatchie News

Featured in Farm Families of Mississippi posts, Brian Rhodes is shown spending time at 5 R Farms in Pelahatchie with his son, Casper. By his smiles, Casper loves it, too.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Central Mississippi Regional Library System will provide virtual programs for preschoolers, kids (K-4th grades), tweens (5th-8th grades), teens (9th-12th grades), adults, and an Adult Summer Book Club this summer.

Locate CMRLS Libraries on Facebook. Programs will be announced on the group pages found on the CMRLS Groups pages. Click to join (one or as

many as desired) and have a fun summer together...from a distance. The age-appropriate programs include stories, crafts, trivia, and more.

Programs for July are:

- July 4: Freedom Ranch
- July 11: Snakeman Terry Vandeventer
- July 18: Princess Story Time with Hanna
- July 25: Magician Dorian LaChance



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## School will return in safest possible way



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

The upcoming school year is fast approaching! With one of the oddest finishes to a school year on record behind us, I feel confident that ALL are prepared as ever for things to get back to normal. With the COVID-19 pandemic still very much a concern across the country, Pelahatchie High School (PHS), with the support of the Rankin County School District, has begun planning for the safest return possible for our students and their families, the PHS faculty and staff, as well as the Pelahatchie community.

With safety being a priority, three options for attending school are being drafted to ensure that our students will receive the best education possible in this climate of uncertainty. An "enhanced traditional" option will afford our school and community a quite normal school setting with obvious safeguards on campus to adhere to the social distancing expectations that are in place. If concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic are increased, a "hybrid" option will call for increased social distancing and will utilize the school and

home to meet those very expectations. If concerns become too great to consider the school setting as a safe and viable option for learning, a "distance learning (virtual)" platform will be utilized to deliver instruction to the students of Pelahatchie. Regardless of the desired option, know that we are prepared to educate our students to the fullest through any of these platforms.

As the summer moves on, bond issue construction continues to move forward. The Multipurpose Room and Band Hall have been completed and are ready for our students to benefit from. The new classroom wing on the east side of campus is near to completion. We are anticipating the completion of the bond issue project in the near future as it will add a very nice touch to our already beautiful campus and will afford us all a newfound sense of pride.

To close, be on the lookout on our social media platforms for key "Back to School" events. On behalf of Pelahatchie High School, please allow me to wish you all a wonderful Fourth of July holiday weekend with your family and friends. The past four months have brought about many challenges for our country, state, and community. As we celebrate the birth of this great nation, let's ALL be thankful for our freedom, our health, as well as each other!

## Carter wins scholarship



Special to Pelahatchie News

AnnaGrace Carter was the Pelahatchie High School recipient of the 2019/2020 Foundation for Rankin County Public Schools Scholarship.

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The Pelahatchie Clinic would like to recognize Scot Huffman, our owner/manager, as the Mississippi Athletic Trainer' Association Sports Medicine Person of the Year.

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# Hamiltons donate chicken to ERCO ERA preps for new school year



Special to Pelahatchie News

Chris and Chasity Hamilton, shown, donated 280 pounds of fresh chicken to Ever Reaching Community Outreach (ERCO) in June. The local charity said that this will go a long way in helping families needing assistance.



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy (ERA) is already busy preparing for the new school year. The school has just completed placing a new roof on the gymnasium and dining hall. They are also getting a new playground that is currently under construction. The elementary students will be able to enjoy it this fall.

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# Mississippi furls state flag with Confederate emblem after 126 years

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Lawmakers voted on Sunday to remove the Mississippi state flag, the last in the nation featuring the Confederate battle emblem, more than 126 years after it was adopted.

The House and Senate passed a bill on Sunday that will immediately remove the state flag, and Gov. Tate Reeves said he would sign the bill into law. A nine-person commission will be appointed to develop a single new design by September, and Mississippi voters will approve or reject that design on the November 2020 ballot. In the meantime, Mississippi will have no official state flag.

The historic vote brought tears to the eyes of many lawmakers. Cheers echoed in the halls of the Mississippi State Capitol shortly after the final votes were cast, and many Mississippians who visited the building to witness the moment openly wept.

"We are better today than we were yesterday," said Speaker of the House Philip Gunn, who authored the bill that passed on Sunday. "Today, the future has taken root in the present. Today, we and the rest of the nation can look on our state with new eyes, with pride and hope."

"We are not betraying our heritage," Gunn continued. "We are fulfilling it."

The flag, long a point of political contention in Mississippi, was seen by many as a symbol of hate. In 2001, Mississippi voters decided nearly 2-to-1 to keep the divisive emblem on the state flag, solidifying its place on the official state banner for nearly two decades. For years, supporters of changing the flag have not been able to garner the simple majority needed to change the controversial banner through the normal legislative process.

But the violent death of George Floyd, a Black man, in Minneapolis sparked nationwide protests that reached Mississippi and shined new light on the state flag. And in recent weeks, immense pressure mounted from religious, business, civic, university, sports and other leaders to remove the Confederate emblem from the flag.

A growing list of businesses, cit-

ies, counties and other groups either stopped flying the flag or asked leaders to change it. Religious leaders spoken out, saying changing the flag was a "moral issue." The NCAA, SEC, and Conference USA this month took action to ban postseason play in Mississippi until the flag was changed.

"As an African American man born in 1958, I grew up as a child of the Civil Rights Movement," said Rep. Robert Johnson, D-Natchez and House Democratic leader. "All the things I heard from those men at the podium – that none of us went up to speak about because we've been saying it for years – but all those things they talked about, we've been feeling for years."

Johnson began crying and paused for a moment before continuing: "What it means to me is it isn't just words. They began to understand and feel the same thing I've been feeling for 61 years of

my life."

Johnson said Mississippi needs help with many problems, such as poverty and poor health care, but the nation and world "have been reluctant" to work with Mississippi and that removing the flag with a Confederate emblem will help.

"Now that this is gone, they will begin to look and see who the real Mississippi is, and see that we are more than what that flag represents," Johnson said.

The Senate debate on Sunday lasted about two hours, with several senators arguing that the issue should go to voters instead of being made by lawmakers. Several senators rebutted that argument before passing the bill.

"I think the Mississippi Senate and me personally, we want Mississippi to have a heart and a soul," said Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann after the vote. "Today she had one."

The House approved the bill by a vote of 92-23 on Sunday, with eight more House members voting to approve the final bill than they did on a procedural vote on Saturday. The Senate approved the bill by a vote of 37-14, with one more Senate member voting to approve than on Saturday.

"For 100 plus years, we have been  
*continued on page 10*



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## Pelahatchie town group holds community memorial procession



Special to Pelahatchie News

Members of L.T. Macklin's family are shown at the Memorial Procession held in Pelahatchie on June 7.

By Susie A. Wolfe

Patsy Watson had a vision that God told her to find a way to honor those who passed away during the Pandemic. On Saturday, June 7, at 3 p.m., a group of around 50 family, friends, and media joined Police Chief Joseph Daughtry and Rev. Ricky Georgetown from Little Zion UMC in a ceremony to honor the 40 people that died between February and June 2020, including George Floyd, whose death caused nationwide sympathy and riots; Rep. Tom Miles' mother, Sheena; and others of all races with ties to Pelahatchie who passed away in this time period.

These names include Roy M. Allen, Sr., Lawrence George Ashley, Hanse C. Bennett, Jessie Ray Bilbro, Lorene Bilbro, George Floyd, Verlee Freeman, Randell Gilmore, Wesley Hicks, Annie Ruth (Red) Hoard-Johnson, Bobbie Jean Hoard, Patsy Holifield, Freddy Bobby Jolley, Harold Jonier, John Marvin King, Jr., Lorraine Lantrip, Harvie Lee Lofton, Leroy Macklin, Louis Cleveland Macklin, James (Pete) McAllister, Sheena Miles, David Moore, Roger Glen Moore, Daron (Sly) Morris, George Henry Newell, Baby Casey Ousley, Justin Perkins, Dewayne Archie Richey, Edan Ruth Spann, Jackie Thompson, Minnie L. Walker, Morzell Walker, Jane Williams, and Juanita Williams.

Following an opening of songs "Jesus is Love" by Lionel Richie and "You Know My Name" by Tasha Cobb Leonard, a group of 15 cars formed a processional through the streets of Pelahatchie.

Neighbors were on their porches or on the street to wave to family members. They laid wreaths at the corner of College and Kirby streets, where there are also 40 solar lights in remembrance of



Special to Pelahatchie News

This is the list of Pelahatchie-related people who passed away between February and June 2020. The Town honored these people and their families at a Memorial Procession that drove on every street in town on June 7. There is an ongoing memorial at the corner of College and Kirby streets that features this sign, a wreath and solar lights.

those who have passed that have their names on the poster displayed there.

Not only did WLBT 3 in Jackson respond, but businesses in town donated funds to purchase the wreath, sign and lights. The financial sponsors included Rhodes & Robby Drugs, Jeffrey Watson, Ivon Prewitt, Jearleen Holly, Patricia Givens, and Jimmy Holifield, II. Jackie Watson Loggins designed the sign.

Additional donations are being accepted, as the sign and other materials will have to be updated as more pass away. Contact Patsy Watson at 769-274-2857.

continued from page 9

## Miss. furls state flag with Confederate emblem

living under this flag," said Sen. David Jordan, D-Greenwood. "We watered this land with our tears and made it rich with our bones, so it's only fair that we have a symbol that represents us and (does) not remind us of what has happened to us."

The debate over the state flag captured the close attention of Mississippians for weeks. By the final vote in the Senate on Sunday, the news reverberated across the state. Many prominent Mississippians expressed their appreciation.

"Removal of the Confederate battle flag from our state flag is long overdue," former Gov. William Winter said in a statement. "I congratulate the Mississippi Legislature on their decisive action today removing this divisive symbol. Along with many committed Mississippians, I have fought for decades to change the flag, most notably during the flag referendum 20 years ago."

"I'm delighted by this positive move," Winter continued. "I'm especially grateful at age 97 to witness this step forward by the state I love."


Now attention will turn to the next steps in the process of developing a new state flag. The new design "will not include the Confederate battle flag but shall include the words 'In God We

Trust,'" the bill passed on Sunday reads. Should voters reject that design in November, the commission would present a new option during the 2021 legislative session, according to the resolution.

Gov. Tate Reeves, Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann and Speaker Philip Gunn will appoint three people each to the commission. The governor's three appointees must be representatives from the Mississippi Economic Council, the Mississippi Arts Commission, and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Hosemann and Gunn face no specific commission appointment requirements.

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History will have up to 15 days after Reeves signs the bill into law to officially retire the current state flag.

"All eyes are on Mississippi, and today, we have made an historic decision," said Sen. Angela Turner Ford, chairwoman of the Legislative Black Caucus. "...Today we mark a transition for Mississippi, a day where we can be proud to move forward to adopt a symbol that is inclusive, a symbol that all of us can rally behind ... We've made a decision to move forward, and I hope Mississippians are proud of that decision."



# Griffin Family Medical Clinic

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## Pelahatchie VFD works to keep us safe



Special to Pelahatchie News

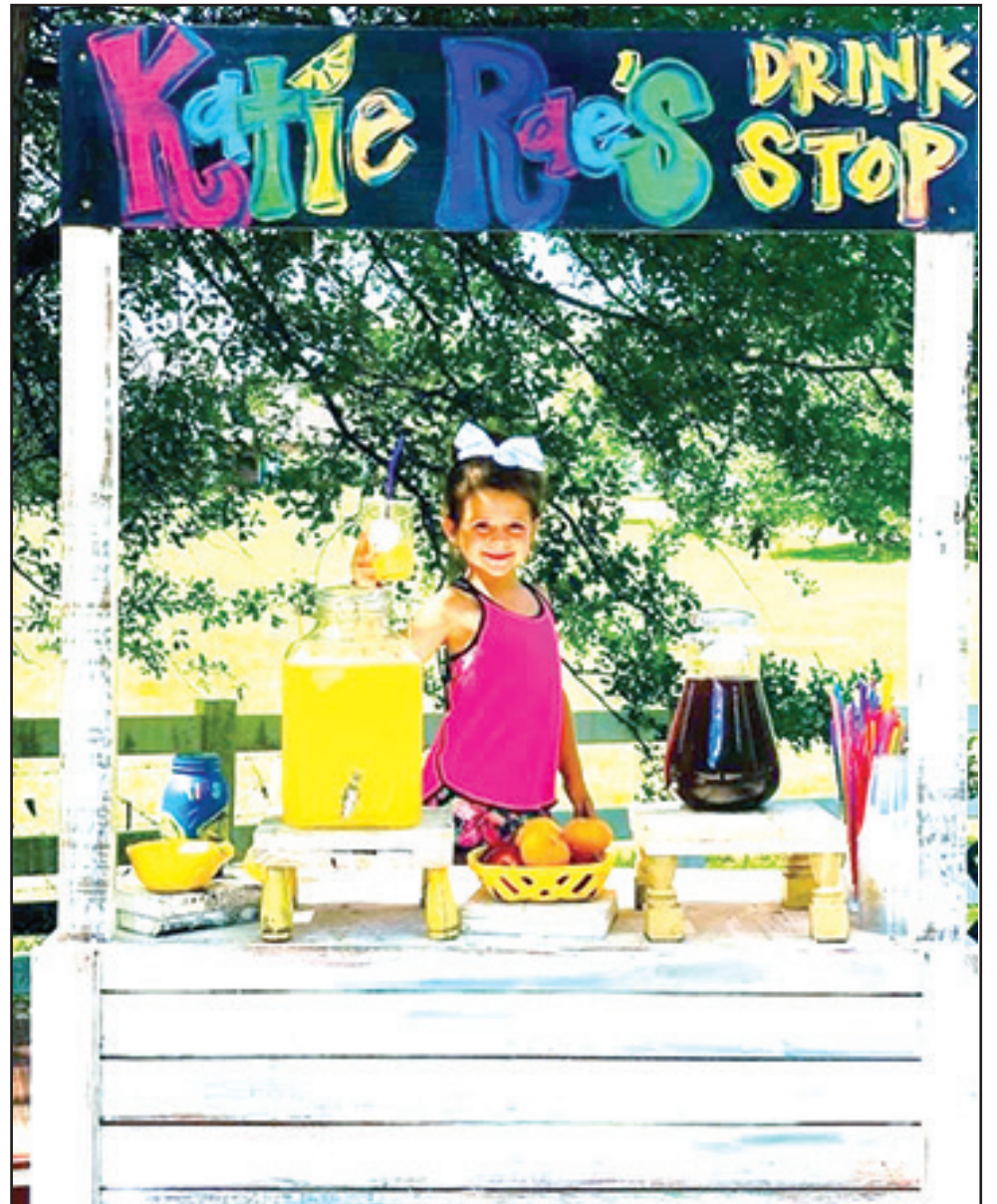
Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie Volunteer Fire Department (VFD), responded to a reported motor vehicle crash with injuries on July 1. By the time they arrived, there were several agencies on the scene rendering care. While Pafford EMS had patient care, the Pelahatchie VFD was notified of another crash with injuries.

Pelahatchie FD-1 and Rankin E.O.C.-2 responded to find a three-vehicle crash with several injuries. All agencies involved worked side by side for the citizens and travelers of Rankin County and Mississippi.

Under the leadership of Chief Karl VanHorn and Assistant Chief Kevin Hall, the VFD has 17 firemen protecting the Pelahatchie community.

## Katie Rae's Drink Stop raises money for rescue horses



Special to Pelahatchie News

Katie Rae Parker runs Katie Rae's Drink Stop on Highway 80 between Pelahatchie and Brandon by the entrance to Bank's Peach Farm. She sells lemonade, tea, and bottled water from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

By Guest Columnist Kayla Barry

On a farm just a few miles outside of Pelahatchie is a six-year-old East Rankin student, Katie Rae Parker, who is ready to save the world. With the knowledge of the quarantine on her heart, she set out to help her family's local business, Kenwood Stables.

The family farm is a hobby farm that offers a handicap accessible petting zoo, birthday parties and horse camps, but most people aren't aware that Kenwood Stables is also home to many rescue horses, as well.

Most all of the horses have been given a second chance with the assistance of Rockin R Ranch & Rescue. Rockin R Rescue is a 501(c)(3) based Kosciusko, Mississippi. With more funding for the horses in mind, Parker put her ideas to focus.

"Mama, I know what we can do. We can raise up money to give to the people who helped save all of the horses." Then and there, Katie Rae's Drink Stop was

constituted. Parker offers lemonade, tea, and bottled water. Her hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Parker also wants all responders to know drinks are on the house all day every Friday. Within 24 hours of this heart filled idea, Parker had numerous donations pouring in. So far, she has raised \$1,500 with almost \$350 going to the horse non-profit.

At the entrance of Bank's Peach Farm is where Katie Rae's Drink Stop sits, at 3680 Highway 80 East. For more information, or to donate to Parker's cause, email [taylorhegwood41792@icloud.com](mailto:taylorhegwood41792@icloud.com).

Katie Rae's Drink Stop also accepts donations through PayPal, cash app, and Venmo. Her cash app is [istaytayy](https://www.istaytayy.com), and her Venmo is [@taylor-hegwood](https://www.venmo.com/@taylor-hegwood).

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Kayla Barry, a journalism graduate, is the head teller at Trustmark in Pelahatchie. She has worked at the Rankin County News and Prentiss Headlight, but considers writing just a hobby.*

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# The perfect flower photo



Photo by Larry White

A tub full of petunias at Betty Warren's house in the Shiloh Community of Rankin County.

# Summer 4-H programs and activities

By Heather Jennings, Rankin County 4-H Agent

Along with the rest of the world, Rankin County 4-H has had to adjust to the new normal and is offering many more "virtual" and social distancing activities. In place of our regular summer workshops, we have created "Grab N Go" bags that have an activity with all instructions and materials in the bag for youth to do at home. These activities are geared for ages 5-12 years old, but anyone can do them. Every Monday morning, a new Grab N Go activity bag is available in the lobby of our Extension Building located at 601 Marquette Road in Brandon. Our lobby is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. These Grab N Go bags are offered to any youth in our community, not just 4-H members. Stop by and pick yours up today.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Additionally, Rankin 4-H is hosting our first "Garden and Canning Contest" mid-July. This is a great way for youth to show off what they have been growing and processing in their gardens. Our LEGO Camp in a Box Workshop is a great way for youth to sharpen their STEM skills, while our Virtual Pet Show and Photography Exhibits showcase how talented and creative our youth are. These activities are open to our 4-H members, but if you are not a member, you can still join and participate. 4-H is open to youth, 5-18 years old, and is free to join, without obligations. How do you join? Contact Heather Jennings, Rankin County 4-H Agent – Mississippi State University Extension at 601-824-2451 or heather.jennings@msstate.edu to get enrolled today. To check out what our 4-H youth have been doing, follow us on Facebook at Rankin County 4-H.

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Enrolling new students

### Scenes from Self-Quarantine

<p>I keep seeing the same two pairs of pants.</p>	<p>The candy I bought yesterday is almost gone! We need to demonstrate more self-control, people!</p>	<p>I miss sports.</p>
<p>When is toilet paper coming back?</p>	<p>I rearranged my entire room, then put it back the way it was.</p>	<p>What day is it?</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">© Calisto Redger</p>
<p>When I woke up, I thought this was all a dream. But it's not.</p>	<p>On a lighter note, did you see that funny dog video?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">No, send it to me!</p>	<p>Happy birthday to grandma...</p>

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- Stay 6 feet away from others
- Move any item you touch to the designated area



### RETURNING ITEMS.

Book drops are open. All due dates were extended to September 30 and no overdue fines will accrue. Items will remain on your account in quarantine for one week. No overdue fines will accrue.



### LIMITED CAPACITY.

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**Libraries will continue Curbside Service!**



### LIMITED COMPUTER USE.

Computers have been spaced 6 feet apart and will be sanitized between each use. Patrons are asked to reserve 30 minute sessions. One person per computer.



### CONTINUED VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING.

Programs will continue online through CMRLS.Libraries on Facebook. Check the Events Calendar on our website for the schedule of events. <http://cmrls.lib.ms.us>

Thank you for your patience and understanding - we can't wait to see you again!

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# Pastor's Perspective: It's time for a little kindness in our world



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

Special to Pelahatchie News

In December 1983, I graduated from New Orleans Baptist Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. Just before graduation, a ring salesman was on campus, so I paid a small down payment on a ring to commemorate my studies at New Orleans Seminary. The ring would be sent to me COD with the balance of \$140.00 due.

Around the face of the ring it says, "New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary," and in the middle there is a depiction of the Ten Commandments. The ring has been an interesting conversation starter. When we served as missionaries in Brazil, people would see it and ask what it meant. Or they would recognize the Ten Commandment tablets and ask about it. So I was able to talk with those folks about my ring and God's Word and how it applies to our lives. One day, I even had someone ask me if I was the pastor at the Baptist church. I said, "Yes, I was one of them. But how did you know about that?" He said he had heard about my ring! So the

ring led to a number of conversations about God's Word and the Gospel.

But, I almost didn't have the ring to wear. I was the Pastor of a Church in Lauderdale County when I graduated, and the mail carrier at the time was a member of the Church where I was Pastor. One day, she stopped and came to the door to tell me that I had a COD package and would have to pay \$140.00 to get it from the post office. We had just moved to that church and were getting settled in there. We had two small children, and we had to buy some furniture and things for the house. We just didn't have \$140.00 to pay at that time.

The next day, I asked her if I could just let the ring go back. She said that if I didn't pay the COD, they would have to return it. So I told her to let it go back, because we just didn't have the money right then to pay for it. She said that would be fine and she'd send it back.

That night, she and her husband came to the parsonage, and they handed me the package with my ring in it. I told them I couldn't accept it. But they insisted that I take it. So I promised to pay them back when I could, and they said they wouldn't take any payment, because they wanted to do that for me. So I've been wearing the ring for almost 38 years due to their

kindness toward me.

You know, there are a lot of bad things happening in the world and in our nation right now. There just doesn't seem to be much kindness being demonstrated. On the contrary, there is a lot of meanness being displayed by a lot of people.

But as God's children, we are to be different. The Lord gives us some specific instructions through the writings of the Apostle Paul. In Ephesians 4:31-32 he says, "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

And I Thessalonians 5:15 tells us, "Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to be kind and do what is good for each other (in the faith) and for everyone else."

It's time for a little kindness in our world. You may not be able to buy a ring for someone, but if you are alert, you'll recognize opportunities that God will give you to show kindness. It can start with us. It must start with each one of us. Be sure to take your family to church on Sunday (or watch a service together at home!)



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pastor John Vaughn got this ring in honor of his graduation from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1983.



## JULY 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
Earnest Ferguson	20	Morton, MS	6/1/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Melissa Williamson	55	Lawrence, MS	6/1/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Jacob Park	23	Forest, MS	6/3/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Devarious Ragsdale	25	Jackson, MS	6/7/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Buddy Taylor	85	Morton, MS	6/13/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Mark Moore	56	Pulaski, MS	6/15/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Lola Jean Evan	65	Port Gibson, MS	6/12/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
James Arney Jr.	64	Conehatta, MS	6/15/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Jerry Davis Sr.	44	Morton, MS	6/21/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Dorothea Strugis	74	Morton, MS	6/24/2020	Wolf Funeral Serv.



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# Suspects in custody after standoff in Pelahatchie

Special to Pelahatchie News

On Wednesday, June 10, Rankin County Criminal Interdiction deputies were working Interstate 20 eastbound in Rankin County. At approximately 2:30 p.m., deputies stopped a Chevy Tahoe for speeding and careless driving. During the stop, deputies suspected the two occupants of possible criminal activity and obtained consent to search the vehicle. During the search, approximately one pound of cocaine was located in a box on the back seat. When deputies located the cocaine, the driver of the vehicle, later identified as Jeffery Sellers, fled on foot.

Sellers ran across the eastbound lanes then across the westbound lanes of Interstate 20 and into a heavily wooded area north of the interstate. A deputy, along with his K-9 partner, pursued the suspect on foot. When the deputy and canine neared Sellers, he displayed a weapon and told the deputy he would shoot the deputy and his dog. The deputy took cover and radioed for backup.

Numerous Rankin County deputies, along with MHP Troopers and Pelahatchie Officers, responded to the deputy's call for assistance. The area was soon saturated with law enforcement of-

ficers. Contact was made with the suspect again approximately 50 yards off the interstate in heavy woods. Sellers



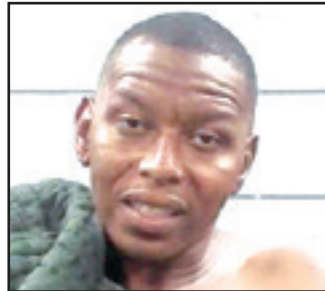
Approximately one pound of suspected cocaine was found on the suspects.

threatened to shoot the officers and then repeatedly threatened to shoot himself. Officers trained in negotiations were soon on the scene and began to communicate with the suspect.

The Jackson Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigations was contacted, and additional Hostage Negotiators and



Erick Dwayne Sellers is 43 years old from Temple, Georgia.



Jeffery Lamar Sellers is 38 years old from Decatur, Georgia.

FBI Agents were requested to respond in support of the standoff. Several FBI Agents responded and assisted with the negotiations and security of the scene.

After approximately 5 hours of nego-

tiation, with little progress and darkness approaching, the decision was made to attempt to take Sellers into custody using "less than lethal" force. At approximately 7:40 p.m., diversionary devices were deployed in coordination with rubber pellets and sponge rounds. A specially trained sheriff's office K-9 was deployed and within seconds had the suspect detained. Officers moved in and were able to restrain Sellers and safely take him into custody.

Sellers was immediately examined by Pafford Ambulance Service was then transported to the Rankin County Jail. Jeffery Lamar Sellers and Erick Dwayne Sellers have both been booked in the Rankin County Jail on the charge of "Trafficking of a Controlled Substance."

District Attorney Bubba Bramlett will bring both before Rankin County Court Judge Kent McDaniel for an initial appearance.

Sheriff Bryan Bailey thanks the brave men and women of the Rankin County Sheriff's Department, the Pelahatchie Police Department, the MS Highway Patrol and the FBI, who put themselves in harm's way to keep the citizens of Rankin County safe and bring a peaceful end to the incident.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town of Pelahatchie, Mississippi, will host a public hearing to be held electronically via conference call at 5:00 PM on Monday, August 3, 2020. Members of the public may attend by calling 601-487-4999 and using the conference ID 846894#. The Town has prepared a Facilities Plan and Preliminary Engineering Report for proposed wastewater improvements, including enhancements to the Wastewater Treatment Facility at 221 Lake Road, Pelahatchie, MS. The Facilities Plan and Preliminary Engineering Report will be presented at the public hearing to explain the current facilities planning effort, the proposed improvements to be constructed, why the improvements are needed, environmental assessment of the proposed improvements, and the proposed project. The purpose of the public hearing is to present the Facilities Plan and Preliminary Engineering Report, receive further suggestions and comments, and answer questions.

The Town of Pelahatchie will begin a public comment period on July 1, 2020. The comment period will allow citizens to review the 2020 Wastewater Improvements Facilities Plan and Preliminary Engineering Report and offer additional comments.

A copy of the 2020 Wastewater Improvements Facilities Plan and Preliminary Engineering Report is available for review at the Town Hall during regular business hours. Written comments, suggestions, and questions may be submitted to Hayden Overby at [hayden.overby@waggonereng.com](mailto:hayden.overby@waggonereng.com) until August 3, 2020.

Publishing Dates: July 1, 2020



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# Try planning a staycation this year

Special to Pelahatchie News

Due to record-setting COVID infection rates over the last few weeks, many American companies strongly advise their employees against any travel outside of the United States, which may be unsafe and will require the person to quarantine when they return. The travel situation between states could change at any point with the hotspots developing across the country.

The new normal is that no one has an idea what next week or next month will look like. Everyone is advised to practice social distancing, avoid crowds, wear masks, and wash your hands/use hand sanitizer to minimize your risk. This can be done while discovering adventures in your own backyard or hosting gatherings of friends at a local venue following CDC and State Guidelines.

Keep in mind that while it may seem open here in the South for travel between states, there are other areas of the country that still have travel restrictions in place. Citizens have zero control over these restrictions that may potentially subject a person to quarantine on return based on any travel restrictions put in place while they are traveling.

Here are some the restrictions that are currently mandated around the Country:

- Alaska requires anyone entering the state to provide a negative test, be tested upon arrival or to self-quarantine for 14 days.

- Hawaii requires anyone entering the state to self-quarantine for 14 days.

- Maine requires anyone staying in lodging facilities or a hotel to provide a negative test or to self-quarantine for 14 days.

- Colorado still has some counties under stay-at-home orders which will restrict travel to those areas and may trigger a quarantine upon return.

- Many counties in California that encompass the large cities are still under Stay-at-Home orders. Travel to California is not advised for any reason due to this, and companies would have to enforce quarantine measures per CDC guidelines upon return due to their Stay-at-Home orders still being in place through August.

- Massachusetts requires travelers entering the state to self-quarantine for 14 days.

- New Hampshire requires out-of-state visitors to self-quarantine for 14 days.

Although New York City entered Phase One last week, it is still being advised

that non-essential travelers should not travel to the NYC Tri-county area. Com-



Photo special to Pelahatchie News

Mississippi has many museums, restaurants, history and nature to explore. Many Rankin Countians enjoy fishing, hiking and picnicking at the Ross Barnett Reservoir.

panies would have to implement quarantine measures for anyone that travels to this area.

- New Mexico advises all out-of-state travelers to self-quarantine for 14 days.

- North Dakota requires visitors from states with widespread transmission to self-quarantine for 14 days upon arrival. (not sure which states are included.)

- Rhode Island requires visitors from other states to self-quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.

- Utah requires anyone from high-risk areas to self-quarantine for 14 days. (not sure what states are high-risk areas.)

- Vermont has extensive requirements for out-of-state visitors including combinations of quarantine and negative test confirmations. Prospective visitors need to review these in detail if planning to travel to Vermont.

- Wisconsin has in-state travel restrictions as well as layers of restrictions for those traveling from out-of-state.

- New York, New Jersey and Connecticut issued a recent notification requiring travelers from states with high COVID rates to quarantine for 14 days effective at midnight June 24. Heavy fines beginning at \$2000 for the first instance of not quarantining will be imposed.

- Due to record-setting COVID rates within their state over the past two weeks, Florida is considering putting some restrictions back in place per June 24 news. If that were to happen, there could possibly be travel restrictions and quarantine measures to be in place there too.

Explore your own back yard at [www.mstourism.com](http://www.mstourism.com), [visitjackson.com](http://visitjackson.com) and [visitridgeland.com](http://visitridgeland.com) to find local adventures. There's lots of museums, restaurants, history and nature to enjoy.



**401 Hwy 43 S, Pelahatchie, 39145**  
**Hours: Mon-Fri, 7-5, Sat 7-12**

**Happy 4th of July!**  
**GOD BLESS OUR COUNTRY!**





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