



# PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



September 2023 ■ Volume 12, Issue 9 ■ Pelahatchie, MS

## The Belle of Pelahatchie: The Lateshia Pearson Story

By Kenneth McDade

Introducing the dynamic Lateshia Pearson - the shining star of OWN Network's Belle Collective! As a powerhouse businesswoman, entrepreneur, and certified life coach, her ultimate mission is to create a thriving sisterhood-driven empire. Hailing from the charming town of Pelahatchie, Mississippi, her vibrant charisma aims to gather and empower Black women not just in her home state, but on a nationwide scale. Lateshia's heartfelt dedication as a true hometown Belle propels her to extend a helping hand and unwavering support for fellow Black entrepreneurs. Through her captivating television appearances, Pearson has unlocked a world of incredible opportunities.



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As a star on the OWN channel's Belle Collective, she has been empowered to mentor women global-

ly, catapulting her business to new heights and delivering transformative one-on-one empowerment ses-

sions. Addressing both personal and professional challenges faced by women, her time on TV has gifted her with experiences she could only dream of during her upbringing in Pelahatchie.

Originally starting as a paralegal in 2004, Pearson always yearned to make a more significant impact in people's lives. In 2017, she hosted a dazzling Women's Brunch that enabled her to leverage her expertise and experience as a launchpad for success. As the first guest arrived, Pearson knew she had found her calling. That eventful morning attracted numerous women who eagerly showcased their products and services. Pearson imparted valuable networking tips, insights into building business credit, and resources on

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## Library reception for Mauney retirement

By Kenneth McDade

Good librarians are natural intelligence operatives. They possess all of the skills and characteristics required for that work: curiosity, wide-ranging knowledge, good memories, organization and analytical aptitude, and discretion. —Marilyn Johnson

As she prepares to step down, Tina Mauney reflects on her just over 2 decades of working in a Library system. Emotionally leaving isn't easy for this leader, but she says it is time for her to spend some time with her family and a new grandson in North



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# Library reception for Mauney retirement

Mississippi. She has spent 23 years working in the library system and the last 13 years in the Pelahatchie Library, starting when the system was first changing to digital. However, she was there to offer a wealth of knowledge on books for all ages. According to Amy Gatlin of Pelahatchie, “her warm smile and listening ear brought patrons back week after week. She shows kindnesses to all people, young and old, from all walks of life.”

Mrs. Mauney believes that the Library must continuously grow and change, it must always reinvent itself. Computers were brought in to help people in the community look up facts and to fill out job searches and other forms. The Library was a great equalizer for those who had and those who didn't. The books, the computers and the help that the community received was always a way for Mrs. Mauney to share with the patrons ways of getting things done. She has even noticed a resurgence in the movies that are checked

out daily. With the prices of streaming going up, people are reverting back to checking out the DVD's. Mrs. Mauney believes that when the country experiences tough times that the library becomes more popular for people to come in.

One of the toughest challenges has been striking a balance between maintaining continuity in library services and making sure that people have what they come in for or what they need. The Regional Library System is so incredibly dedicated, and Pelahatchie has been responsive to what the Library has needed to be a growing part of the community. You have to balance the need to continue our operations with being sensitive and empathetic, making sure that everyone's needs are being met.

Over the years Mrs. Mauney has organized book clubs, social gatherings, senior citizens events and helped people navigate the internet for important projects. There is a book club that meets in a meeting room and has over 100 books under their belt. She always has crafts set up for children and usually a puzzle or two set up for people to help add pieces to. “The closer the puzzle gets to completion, the more people are gathered around.” She has made the Library an inviting place and says, “It was never a job.”

Thursday August 10, 2023 was her last day at Pelahatchie Library. Her Library card will be kept close to her heart as she is leaving the town to be closer to family. Undoubtedly Tina Mauney has made Pelahatchie a better place.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



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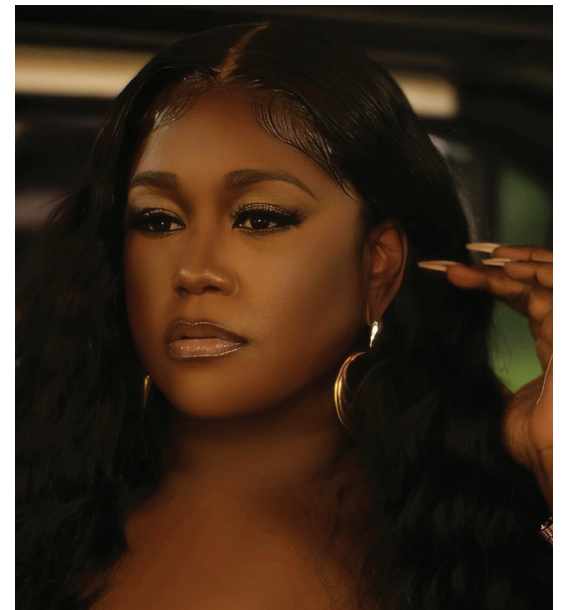
## The Belle of Pelahatchie: The Lateshia Pearson Story

finding loan originators, grant writers, business accountants, and more. Despite the global standstill caused by COVID-19, Pearson's brunches have continued to flourish, leaving attendees armed with the tools they need for triumph.

In her meetings you will discover a world of empowerment with Pearson's trailblazing National Women's Brunch Association, Inc. that offers riveting workshops to elevate your self-worth and unleash your true potential! Witness personal growth as you master efficient financial management strategies and equip yourself with the essential tools for success. Get ready to be mesmerized by Pearson's magnetic presence – her wit and charm captivate your mind while guiding you towards achieving empowerment or kick starting your motivation. Experience life-changing one-on-one sessions with Pearson that help women globally embrace sisterhood and ignite hope for aspiring entrepreneurs embarking on their unique journeys.

Born and raised in Pelahatchie, Mississippi, she discovered her passion for entrepreneurship early on. Witnessing her family and friends head to monotonous jobs at a nearby factory stirred within her an unyielding ambition to escape the generational cycle. Although her hunger for success was profound, she never abandoned the invaluable teachings of her humble Pelahatchie roots - lessons of compassion, unwavering morals, ethics, and integrity that would come to shape her life.

In 2017 and 2018, a game-changing event called "Boss Bank" was set in motion by Pearson, gathering loan originators for empowering brunches. Women from all walks of life flocked to learn about funding opportunities, connecting with grant writers, loan officers, and more. Enthu-




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siastic inquiries poured in via phone calls, emails, and even snail mail, all seeking business credit, loans, and grants for their ventures.

Black entrepreneurs faced formidable challenges, making support invaluable. To address this need, Pearson pioneered a program dubbed "Mingling over Mimosas," providing essential encouragement for these determined women. Launching a business is no small feat; it demands financial backing, marketing prowess, publicity, and expertise to flourish".

Regrettably, many women were hesitant to approach banks because of the prevalent belief that Black individuals were unlikely to secure loans or grants. Pearson's ultimate mission was to help these women overcome fear and personally connect with financial advisors. Establishing self-confidence is often the crucial first step towards achieving success on one's own terms.

What message does Lateshia Pearson have for the young women of today? "You are destined for greatness! Always dream big and have faith in yourself – you are unique, exceptional, and possess the ability to shape the future you envision. You are created for something more."



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# Pelahatchie ES Strive for 95



By Robin Sanders, Principal,  
Pelahatchie Elementary School

Did you know that September is Attendance Awareness month? This year, the Mississippi Department of Education is seeking to reduce absenteeism through highlighting the importance of regular school attendance. At Pelahatchie Elementary School we have a daily attendance goal to “Strive for 95!” Walking through the halls of the school, you will notice this catchy phrase posted all around. So what exactly does it mean? Our daily goal is to have 95% or more of our students in attendance and ready to learn! Mrs. Sanders often takes the opportunity to remind students and staff of our attendance goal, and all teachers have a sign to hang outside their door when their class has a “full house.” According to MDE’s campaign, it only takes 2 days a month to be chronically absent. That adds up to 18 days a year! The online website Attendance Works shares tips for helping your child to achieve better attendance.

We’ve included a few of those tips below and look forward to partnering with our Pelahatchie community to “Strive for 95!”

### Tips for Better Attendance:

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes, backpacks, and lunches the night before.
- Keep your child healthy by encouraging clean hygiene tips.
- Schedule appointments or trips when school isn’t in session.
- If your child is anxious about school, talk to teachers and counselors for advice to help your child feel more comfortable.



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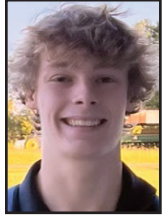
We just want to say thank you to everyone in Pelahatchie and the surrounding communities.

**THANK YOU FROM THE RHODES FAMILY**



# Meet the Coach: East Rankin Academy's Brian Jones

By Cooper Lytton



Special to  
Pelahatchie News

Cooper Lytton is a senior and member of the varsity soccer and baseball teams at East Rankin Academy. He plans to major in mechanical engineering and obtain his master's in business administration at the University of Mississippi.

At East Rankin Academy (ERA), there is a new sheriff in town. This past off-season, ERA hired Brian Jones as the new baseball coach. Jones is a seasoned head coach with over 20 years of experience. He has coached at South Leake, Neshoba Central, Starkville, and most recently, Pearl. While at Pearl, Jones led the Pirates to nine winning seasons with multiple playoff appearances. In 2020, he was named All-Metro Jackson Coach of the Year as he led the Pirates to an undefeated record during the shortened season. As Jones looks to begin the season

next spring, he expects to win by placing maximum effort into the development of his players.

Jones maintains a philosophy that is laser-focused on winning and an attitude that is willing to strive to get there. Jones stated, "My expectations are to win. If we're not there to win, then why are we there? We want to do all the little things right so we can ultimately win. Every single day, we're going to practice and play like we're trying to beat the best team out there."

This upcoming season will be a very new experience for Jones as it will be the first season he has coached at a private school. Also, Jones will not have as many players to work with as he once did in the past.

"Baseball is baseball wherever you coach. The depth is not quite as strong, but the philosophy and intent will not change. That's who I am. We're going to roll with it."

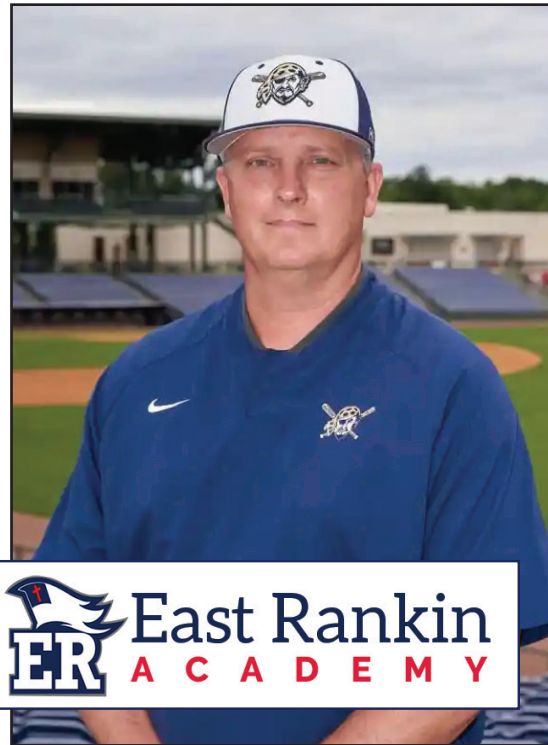


Photo by Robert Smith

Coach Brian Jones shown here for the 2020 All-Metro Jackson Coach of the Year.

Additionally, most of Jones' players are currently taking part in other sports, leaving only a few guys

to work with this fall. However, Jones is looking to take as much of an advantage as possible to prepare his players for the season. Jones stated: "The biggest thing for us is that we have a lot of guys that play football. For the ones I do have, our biggest issue will be strength training. We'll also develop the fine skills of baseball. We'll do drill work that I showed players this summer and implement things I can do with individuals. As everyone else gets here, we can do more team-oriented stuff. Mainly, we'll work on individual development from a skill standpoint and of course, physical training to get stronger and faster."

Coach Jones also stated: "My players know I want energy and effort. Attitudes are one of those things you bring every day, and you can control them. Good things will happen, and bad things will happen, but you control the effort and attitude."



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A special thank you to Lisa Davis (Woodmen Life) for her ongoing support of all things PHS. Last year, Lisa Davis sponsored our PES and PHS Teacher and Faculty end of the year coffee and cinnamon rolls. This school year, Lisa Davis and her team from Woodmen Life presented our Tribe with

a \$10,000 check to upgrade our campus to become more safe and secure for our students. A portion of this funding will also go to ensure none of our students go without an opportunity to eat lunch. The Admin., Faculty, and Staff of PHS strive to keep our students feeling safe, supported, and successful. Community partners, like Lisa Davis of Woodmen Life, help make this possible.



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Pictured: Philip Nelson (Asst. Principal - PHS), Voncille Anderson (Principal - PHS), Jenny Ozien (Woodmen Life), Lisa Davis (Woodmen Life), and Charley Henry (Woodmen Life)

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### Online Worship Opportunity:

(Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook Page)  
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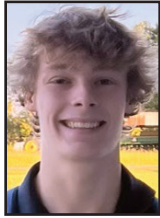
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# East Rankin battles, falls short against Winston Academy Patriots

By Cooper Lytton



Special to Pelahatchie News

On August 25th, East Rankin Academy (ERA) kicked-off their home opener against Winston Academy at Moody Davis Field. In the week prior, the East Rankin Patriots squared off against the 2022 MAIS Class 5A State Champions, Oak Forest Academy, in a tough loss. Conversely, Winston started off strong in a 35-6 win against Heritage Academy, a team that finished 10-2 during the 2022 season. Despite the loss to Oak Forest, East Rankin was confident that they would move to 1-1 on the season.



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At 8:00, East Rankin captains Bryson Loe, Nick Wesson, and Curt Smith made their way to the 50-yard line for the coin toss. Upon winning the toss, Winston elected to start the game on defense. The starting quarterback for the East Rankin Patriots

was senior Reece Cordell, a veteran at the position. The passer for the Winston Patriots was junior Holder Tidwell.

With time running out in the first quarter, the Patriots were forced to punt the ball back. Then with just

0:25 left in the quarter, East Rankin quarterback Reece Cordell threw a screen pass to senior wide receiver Jace Denson but was intercepted for a touchdown by the Winston Patriots to lead 7-3.

At the beginning of the second quar-

ter, East Rankin quarterback Reece Cordell was sacked and as a result, lost possession of the football to Winston. Shaken up from being tackled in the backfield, Cordell left the game and was replaced by sophomore quarterback Rivers Belk. Towards the end of the first half, East Rankin struggled offensively but made up for it with their defense. By the end of the first half, one thing was very evident for East Rankin and Winston: both teams ran the ball consistently with success. The East Rankin Patriots' stacked offensive line was the large contributor for their rushing success. The score at halftime was Winston 10, East Rankin 3.

Despite the rough first half, the East Rankin Patriots came back into the game with an unmatched confidence. Furthermore, the Patriots first string quarterback, Reece Cordell, re-entered the game. The Patriots looked to continue their defensive production from the end of the first half to hopefully put them on top. To

Continued on Page 15

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# First week photos for Pelahatchie High School



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The Lady Chiefs and Chiefs Basketball teams experienced hands on training by the Mississippi Army National Guard.



Mrs. Foster celebrates a successful first week of school.



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Coach Nutt and his students spent the morning exploring how to think like a historian in his Problems in American Democracy course.

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# City of Pelahatchie Board of Alderman Meeting Notes

By Ashley Longmire

The town meeting for the month of August was largely focused on three issues: insurance for town employees, upcoming economic developments, and personnel issues within the police department.

Former alderman Frank Boyd was asked by the mayor to lead the invocation, and alderman Eddie Jones followed by leading the room in the Pledge of Allegiance. Alderman Jones then made a motion to add Waggoner Engineering to the agenda, under visitors' business. The motion carried, and Mayor VanHorn opened the floor to the first visitor.

Sadie Hammersley, a representative of Global Life Insurance Co., spoke to the board regarding life and accident insurance options for city employees. After some discussion, in which it was determined that there would be no costs to the city, alderman Jones made a motion to allow the mayor to sign the employee engagement documents. The motion carried.

The next visitor to speak was a representative from Waggoner Engineering. He provided the board with a task order to proceed with a water pipe relocation project in the future home of the Family Dollar store. This will be located at the NW corner of Highway 80 and Highway 43. The task order was to be billed hourly, up to \$30,000 in the "worst case scenario", according to the representative. Their job would entail rerouting the current line off of Highway 43, and "back around". It would also include putting in a fire hydrant.

As the board was reviewing the task order, alderman Eddie Jones made a motion to adopt it. Alderman Harrell seconded the motion. Alderman Diane Hill spoke up to say that she had just received this order, and had questions. Her question was whether or not the \$30,000 was a cost to the city, which was answered in the affirmative. There was some discus-

sion about who owned the water line, and Mayor VanHorn said that there was 6 feet of city water line under where the new building was going to be built. Attorney Banks asked if there was a Developer's Agreement in place, and there was not, although the representative said it would be good to get one.

Mayor VanHorn said, "There are other options that we are looking at also," regarding the water line project, but that this task order would

5. Approval and ratification of payment of payroll for May 2023 - General (\$66,745.97) and Enterprise (\$36,057.39). All voted aye, except aldermen Harvey and Hill. Motion carried, 3-2.

At this point, the board voted to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters with the police chief. This executive session went on to last approximately 40 minutes. Afterward, the mayor moved on to aldermen's business.

stating, "I want everybody to stop, and look, in this town. I've gotten concerned about how things are going downhill, and we are not taking care of it like we should. I was sitting in the gazebo the other day, and all around the gazebo, people were eating. It's ok to eat, but we have garbage cans. Put your garbage in them, instead of just throwing your garbage under the roses." She went on to further discuss rosebeds that were looking better, thanks to maintenance, and asked whether or not a tree had been cut yet. It was determined that it would be taken care of that week. She went on to say that in her opinion, maintenance needed somebody else to help them, and referred to upcoming events where the town should look nice in preparation.

Alderman Jones said that the town was fortunate to not have any bad weather lately, but that everybody should stay hydrated in these extreme hot temperatures, and remain vigilant. Alderman Harrell had an issue regarding a ditch in the town, and maintenance said that they would look it over. Upon conclusion of alderman's business, the mayor spoke to the room to let everybody know about the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on August 19th, as well as Muscadine Jubilee on September 2nd, from 10-5. He also thanked the Public Works department for working on getting everything together. Alderman Hill asked who decides who the entertainment is for Muscadine Jubilee, and Mayor VanHorn said it was decided based on the dates and "who we can afford". Alderman Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting after these discussions ended, and it was seconded by Alderman Harrell. All voted aye, and the motion carried to adjourn the meeting.



cover a certain amount of work to address the issue. With no further questions, he resumed the voting and the motion carried.

The next item of business was from the police department. Police Chief Mahaffey stated that he had issues to discuss in executive session, regarding a personnel matter. The only other item he had to discuss was in regards to zoning. He stated that a repair was completed on N Brooks St.

The new business passed as follows:

1. Vote to approve minutes from the previous board meeting on July 3, 2023. All voted aye, motion carried.
2. Vote to approve the payment of the unpaid claims docket. All voted aye except for alderman Hill, motion carried 4-1.
3. Vote to approve the disbursement of bank draft payment to Morgan and White Insurance (\$1,540.10). All voted aye, motion carried.
4. Approve bank draft payment to Blue Cross Insurance (\$6,918.92). All voted aye, motion carried.

When the board returned from executive session, Mayor VanHorn moved on to alderman discussions. Alderman Hill was concerned about large wires laying in or around a ditch in the town. This was noted by maintenance. Alderman Harvey was concerned about leaning stop signs and street signs in the community, and this was also noted by maintenance to be rectified. She also brought up a complaint from a neighbor regarding a water leak, to which maintenance replied that they had also been to the property twice and determined the leak was not the city's responsibility. There was some discussion regarding the meter at the property, and it was determined that a new meter might be necessary.

Alderman Warren was very adamant about the need for conscientious employees and residents in the town,

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# Pelahatchie Lodge welcomes Rhodes as new member



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Recently, the Pelahatchie Lodge initiated Brian Rhodes into their fraternity. Rhodes is front-row center in a blue shirt. Rhodes will be representing Rankin County next year in the Senate. He will be serving Senate District 36.



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## PAST HEADLINES

### 2013 - 10 years ago

- “Scam artists continue to target Entergy Mississippi customers”
- “Praise in the Muscadine Park”

### 2018 - 5 years ago

- “Darwell’s Too serves up real food in Pearl”
- “Pastor’s perspective: Good communication makes a difference”

### 2022 - Last Year

- “Everitt directs, shoots movie adapted from the book Points of Origin”
- “First ever PHS Engineering Pathway”

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# The conducive conditions of termite infestation



By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

For most homeowners, our house represents our largest single investment, and we want to do what we can to protect it from things that can damage it. We have home insurance

that protects it against hazards such as fire, wind, hail, and flood, but it does not protect it against termite damage.

This is something we must do ourselves, by making sure the building has been properly treated for termites and by avoiding situations that make it more likely to be infested by termites. In a professional pest control industry, these are known as “conductive conditions”. The following are some examples of some of the most common termite conducive conditions:

- \*Failing to have the home professionally treated for termites
- \*Failing to treat any new addition to your home.
- \*Failing to have the home retreated after an activity that disturbs the band of treated soil around the house. This includes any activity that moves soil away from treated area or any activity that moves soil mulch, leaf litter, or pine straw over the treated band of soil.

\*Destroying or disturbing bait stations and not having them replaced.

\*Failing to maintain a minimum 6-inch clearance from soil to lower edge of siding. Any activity that results in soil, mulch, leaves, or pine straw being in contact with any wood part of the house or with siding or insulation. This will provide an entry point for termites.

\*Moisture problems due to plumbing leaks, or condensation. Excessive water accumulation against the foundation or over the treated soil can leach, break down, or wash away the termiticide or interfere with the bait stations. This water can be from poor drainage, gutter downspouts, air conditioner condensation, leaky faucets, or excessive irrigation.

\*Not having the building properly treated for termites and not having the building properly inspected for termites.

\*Adding onto the building or adding a patio or deck and not having the building or area retreated.

\*Allowing soil to contact siding or any wood portion of the house

\*Having inadequate ventilation under the houses with crawl spaces.

\*Digging or tilling in the treated soil band.

\*Adding raised flowerbeds against the outer wall of the house.

\*Stacking firewood or lumber against the house.



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\*Planting shrubs or flowerbeds too near the foundation. This makes inspection difficult.

\*Allowing trees to grow too close to the house, where roots can grow under the foundation.

\*Removing or replacing treated soil when installing plumbing or utilities.

\*Letting water from the air conditioner or leaky faucets drip onto treated soil band.

\*Excessive irrigation water leaching through treated soil band, and drainage issues, which allow water to pool against the foundation. Moist wood due to plumbing leaks, structural leaks, or condensation. Leaks and moisture problems are major termite risk factors.

There are a lot of things one can do, neglect or fail to do that can make a building more susceptible to termites. Again,

these are called conducive conditions, and some conducive conditions can even allow termites to infest buildings that have been properly and recently treated. Treating for termites is not a do-it-yourself job, but recognizing conducive conditions and getting them corrected is.

To protect your home against termites, make sure you know when it was last treated for termites by a professional pest control company and that the treatment is still effective. Some termiticide treatments applied to the soil can last ten years or longer if the treated soil is not disturbed, but these termiticides will break down over time requiring that the building be retreated. Termite bait stations can also provide long-lasting protection, as long as they are checked and serviced regularly. It is critical to make sure your house is properly treated for termites, but conducive conditions can result in termite attacks, even in buildings that have been properly treated. Termite damage can be costly, so we need to be aware of conducive conditions and take steps to avoid these.

Source: *What Homebuilders Need to Know about Termites, Mississippi State University Extension, Publication 2765 Termite Conducive Conditions, Mississippi State University Extension, Dr. Blake Layton, Bug's Eye View No 22*

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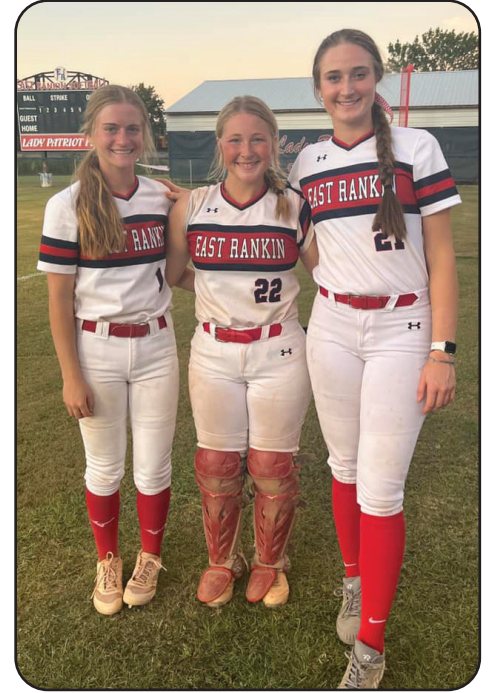


# East Rankin Academy Sports Teams 2023: Softball



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Lady Patriots Softball team defeated Simpson on August 17, 2023 with a score of 3-0. The Lady Patriots also picked up a win on August 15, 2023 over Parkplace. The game ended after only 4 innings with a score of 12-0. Holly Jackson gets the win and the shutout with seven strikeouts while going 3-3 at the plate. Krissi Joe Simmons was 2-3 with a homerun, triple & five RBI. Abigail Stevens and AG Weaver had 2 RBI each.



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# ERA Sports Teams 2023: Soccer and Cross Country



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Lady Patriots Soccer team tied Madison St. Joe with a score of 1-1 on August 17, 2023. Presley Thompson scored her 4th goal of the Week. Madeline Logan assisted with the goal for the tie. On August 15th, the Lady Patriots also won over Lamar 3-1 with Presley Thompson scoring all three goals with assists by Ansley Miller, MK Sartin and Savannah Smithers.

# Yard of The Month



The Pelahatchie News would like to start a Yard of The Month program. We will supply the ad space in each issue of The Pelahatchie News and provide the sign for the yard. All we need is a group, individual or organization to take on the project of selecting the yard of the month. Each month, you would let us know the winner, take a picture of the yard and send the picture and the address to us and place the sign. The address would be listed in the next issue of the paper. If you are interested, please email Clay.

ClayMansell@PelahatchieNews.com



The Patriots Cross Country teams opened the season on August 12, 2023 at the Simpson Early Bird Opener. The Varsity Boys, Varsity Girls, and Junior Varsity Girls all won their division. The Lady Patriots opened the meeting with a start time of 8:00 a.m.





# Pastor's Perspective: Life is a vapor, making time count



By Guest Columnist  
Spencer Sullivan, Pastor,  
Pelahatchie Baptist

Special to  
Pelahatchie News

Every August, I find myself in conversations reflecting on how short the summer was and how surprised everyone is that school has started again. For the record, summer is definitely not over! I'm not sure summer has any intention of ever being over! But, here we are again. It's September. Summer has flown by and our kids have been in school for weeks. Where did the time go? Seasons come and go. Years come and go. We find ourselves so busy with life, and when we stop to breathe for a minute, we find it hard to reconcile how much time has passed in what seems like just a moment. But isn't that the life experience? The old adage, 'The days are long but the years are short,' certainly rings true for me. When my oldest reached the age of 16, I told him he had to stop having birthdays. I said the same thing to my daughter when she reached the same age. I then compromised and told them we could still celebrate their birthdays each year, but they had to agree not



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to get any older. Silly I know, but that's how I felt (and still do).

The reality is, when life is busy, and we're moving in so many different directions every single day, the days may feel and seem long, but the weeks, months, and years seemingly pass very quickly. The Bible actually affirms that our lives on this earth are indeed quite short in comparison to eternity. Multiple verses speak to this Biblical truth. 1 Peter 1:24 says: "for all flesh is like grass

and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." Also James 4:14 says: "What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes." In these verses, our lifetimes are compared to flowers that are here one day and gone the next and even to a mist or vapor that may be visible for mere seconds before fading away into the atmosphere never to be seen again.

This truth raises two significant takeaways for me. First of all, if our lives are indeed this short in comparison to eternity, we need to ensure that our eternal destination is secure. Is yours? The ultimate hero of the Bible, the Lord Jesus, did everything necessary to provide the Way to eternal life in Heaven. If you are unsure about your eternal destination, I encourage you to "consider Jesus" as Hebrews 3:1 says. He is far more than just the Way to eternal life in Heaven. He is a worthy King that is the supreme source of joy and pleasure for all that follow Him! The second takeaway to our lives being but a vapor is that we must make the most of the short time we have. Whatever time we have on this earth, by God's grace, let's make it count. Let us fight the natural urge to live only for ourselves. Rather, let us store up treasures in Heaven, living lives centered on our holy and merciful God. May our vapor-like lives be characterized by authentic worship and joyful obedience to Him in preparation for an everlasting eternity with the only One that is both worthy of worship and able to satisfy the longings of our hearts. As much as possible, let us fill our lives on this earth with what we will enjoy forever...God.



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[ClayMansell@PelahatchieNews.net](mailto:ClayMansell@PelahatchieNews.net)



Continued from Page 7

## East Rankin battles, falls short against Winston Academy Patriots

kick off the half, Winston received the kickoff from East Rankin. Consistent with the first half, the East Rankin Patriots shut down the running game. Winston matched the East Rankin Patriot defense as well.

Winston, looking to put points on the board, started to pass the ball to their receivers. With 0:36 left in the third quarter, Winston running back Omar Scott received a handoff and broke to the outside in open field for a 58 yard touchdown run. Scott's touchdown gave Winston a 17-3 lead. On the next drive, East Rankin running back Brandon Loper struck back with a 53 yard run where he broke five tackles before being tackled at the Winston 11 yard line.

To begin the fourth quarter, Winston had their most dominant drive of the game. In an 89 yard drive, the Patriots had many successful runs and receptions from senior running back Will Chancellor and junior wide receiver Savarion Miller. Despite many flags that pushed Winston back, the Patriots capped off the drive with a 55 yard touchdown reception by senior Bryson Wright.

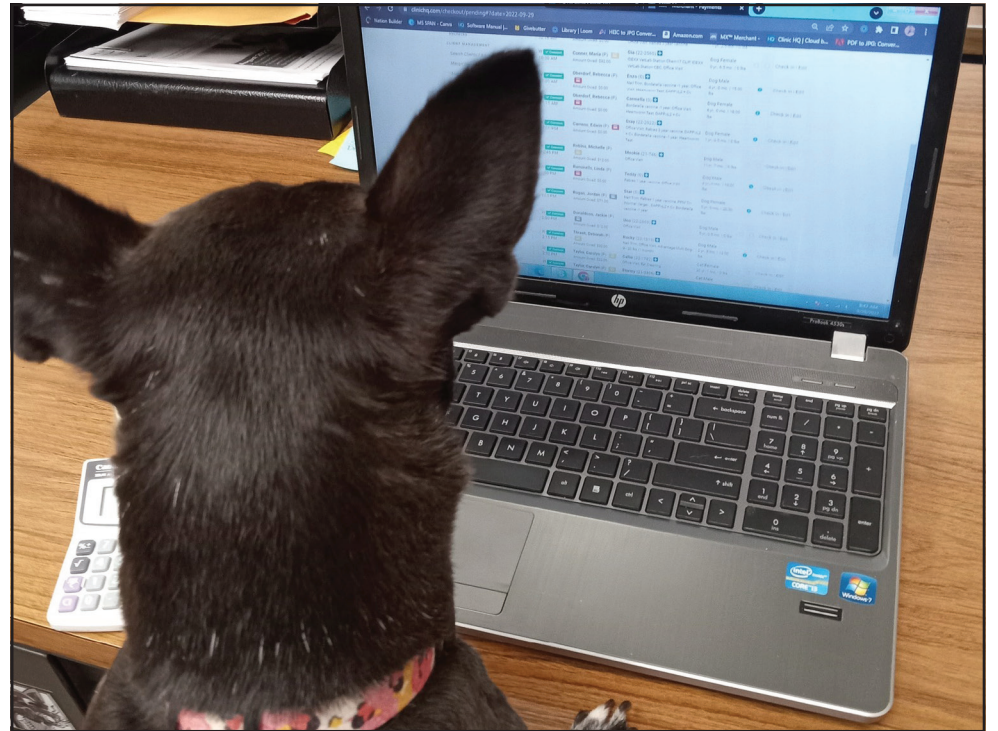
On East Rankin's final drive, Brandon Loper continued his dominance on a 47 yard kickoff return. On the last

play of the drive, Reece Cordell threw a bullet pass through a tight window to Jace Denson for a 23 yard touchdown to bring the score to 24-10. In a last-ditch effort, East Rankin performed an onside kick, but Winston recovered to finish off the game.

All in all, both teams gave it everything they had until the very last minute. Although the Patriots lost, this game proves that East Rankin is dominant on both sides of the ball. Offensively, East Rankin was able to move the ball downfield thanks to a solid running back core and a phenomenal offensive line. Defensively, the Patriots kept big plays for Winston to a minimum and allowed very few successful pass attempts. Don't be surprised if East Rankin begins to build momentum as the season progresses. This game was only a stepping stone for what is to come in this hopeful season.



## MS SPAN offers key guidelines to locals on caring for strays



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Coming across a stray that needs help can pose challenges, especially if there is some hesitation about trying to find the animal's owner. That said, it is important to keep in mind that just because an animal is injured, scared, or without identification does not mean that he/she has a "bad" home. The stray may have simply lost his/her identification or he/she might have been lost for a long time.

The first step in these circumstances is to check for a tag. If there is a tag, and the owner's name is on it, call and arrange for a pickup. If the tag gives the name of a veterinarian's clinic, call with the code number on the tag. If the animal has no tag, there may still be a way to identify the stray if he/she has been microchipped. A veterinarian or Mississippi Animal Rescue League, 601-969-1631, should be able to scan the pet for a microchip. Also, contact the local animal control officer for they may be able to scan the lost pet too.

Secondly, if the owners of the animal are looking for their pet, they will most likely start by calling or visiting animal shelters, so it is very important to notify local shelters. Also, the owner may contact their veterinarian or local animal control to let them know their pet is lost. Most veterinary clinics have bulletin boards where they will allow a flyer to be posted.

The following is a list of contact information for local shelters: Mississippi Animal Rescue League (MARL) – 601-969-1631, Rankin County Animal Shelter – 601-824-2024, Community Animal Rescue and Adoptions (CARA) – 601-922-7575 and Animal Rescue Fund (ARF) – 769-216-3492.

Third, it is recommended to search through the lost-and-found ads in the lo-

cal newspapers, Craigslist and NextDoor. Try placing an ad in the lost-and-found section (ask about a free ad). Another good strategy is to post flyers in the vicinity where the animal was found. A typical ad describes the type of animal, the location where he/she was found, their coloring and any other distinct characteristics of the animal. Also, find the mail carrier for that area; they tend to know where pets may live in the surrounding neighborhoods.

At this point, if the owner cannot be found and it is time to search for a new home, it is recommended to advertise as widely as possible, in as many places as possible. Creating a flyer is a great way to start. The information that should be posted on the flyer should include: a description of the animal's appearance, as well as their name, their size and approximate age, a photograph, spay or neuter status, a description of any limitations/special needs the pet may have, e.g., not good with small children or cats and a contact phone number and optimal times to call.

Post the pet on adoption websites. There are general adoption websites, as well as specific sites for certain types of animals, e.g., FIV positive cats, disabled pets or senior pets. Also, sites such as Petfinder, petfinder.org, and Pet Bond, petbond.com, are good examples too.

Use any and all community contacts. Post a notice and photo on social media sites. Local the city or county's lost and found pet Facebook groups and post there as well.

For more information visit [www.msspan.org](http://www.msspan.org) or call 601-420-2438.

Mississippi Spay and Neuter (MS SPAN) – The Big Fix Clinic is located at 657 Hwy 49 South, Richland, MS, United States, 39218.



# Miss Tiny Pelahatchie



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Journey Bowman of Pelahatchie, MS, 5 years old, named Miss Tiny Pelahatchie. She is the daughter of Jerry and Jennifer Bowman. Bowman lists her accomplishments as singing the National Anthem at the MS Braves game on Easter, earning three judges awards for solos at dance competition last season, and making dance team and hip-hop crew. Her hobbies are dancing, gymnastics, theater, singing, and T-ball.

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SEPT	Lake	Home	5:30 PM
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