



PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



October 2023 ■ Volume 12, Issue 10 ■ Pelahatchie, MS

Hometown Barre fitness studio gets a lot of love

By Katie White

So, what is a Barre workout class and what's going on at the Hometown Barre that's new to Pelahatchie?

Katelyn DiGiorgio, VP of training and technique and master teacher trainer at Pure Barre, states in Women's Health magazine that, "Barre class is a workout technique inspired by elements of ballet, yoga, and Pilates," and that "It focuses on low-impact, high-intensity movements designed to strengthen your body in ways that few other workouts can."

This ballet-yoga-pilates style workout has made its way to Pelahatchie, and a lot of ladies seem to be excited about it. Kayleigh Pickett, an American Barre Tech-



Special to Pelahatchie News

Kayleigh Pickett instructs class members on Barre workout at Hometown Barre.

nique certified instructor, leads members in the class. The class is a nice blend of people in different stages of their lives coming together for one goal, to get the whole body toned and in shape. The workout can be advanced or modified - depending on your level of experience and agility. Class also includes stretching, music to get you pumped, and Pickett, who guides you on the moves and best practices.

Pickett said the following about opening Hometown Barre, "A lot of my friends are here, and this is a good opportunity for this small town. I grew up in Pelahatchie, and currently live in Morton. We don't have anything like this in Pelahatchie or Morton."

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Halloween comes to Jellystone Park, MS

By Kenneth McDade

Something spooky is brewing in Pelahatchie this Halloween. As you travel North on Highway 43, don't be scared, those are not the screams of a smarter-than-the-average bear. You may hear a giggling gaggle of ghouls at the destination you dare, The Trail of Terror will make you and your pick-a-nick baskets beware.

Your perfect family holiday vacation awaits in the historic town of Pelahatchie, located 30 miles east of Jackson. Jellystone Park Pelahatchie offers a friendly, well-equipped, and



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A CARING & FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

Halloween comes to Jellystone Park, MS, cont'd



active atmosphere for family fun that will make your visit with us your most memorable camping experience ever!

Jellystone Park is ready to unleash its Halloween fun.

Event Details:

Location: Jellystone Park in Pelahatchie, Mississippi.

Date and Time: Each weekend in October, all day.

Activities: There's a wide range of activities for visitors to enjoy, including site decorating contests, trick-or-treating every Saturday from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, costume contests, a Halloween parade, a Halloween movie under the stars, and various activities

throughout the day.

Special Events: Laser Tag is available on Friday and Saturday nights, along with karaoke and glow rides on Friday night.

Trail of Terror: The highlight of the event is the "Trail of Terror," which takes place every Saturday night. Tickets for the Trail of Terror are \$10.00 per person (plus tax), and it starts at 7:30 PM. Please note that you must be 18 years of age to purchase a ticket for the Trail of Terror. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a consenting adult who stays with them



throughout the trail.

Pricing:

Day Visitors: You can visit for the day for \$25.00 per person.

Accommodations: For those who want to stay overnight, Jellystone Park offers accommodations in cabins, RVs, and tents. Booking information can be found on their website, jellystonems.com.

If it sounds like a fantastic Halloween experience for families and thrill-seekers alike then be prepared for the spooks and scares on the

Trail of Terror if you decide to attend!

Not only are there Halloween activities, but take the time to fall in love with the beautiful location, endless amenities, and perfect campsites. Yogi on the Lake has a swimming pool, water park, playground, miniature golf, arcade room, cafe, the store filled with licensed Yogi Bear merchandise, and much more! Campers will never want to leave the lakeside RV sites and there are several types of cabins as well.

So grab your bags and your buckets for treats and begin your Halloween



Special to Pelahatchie News

adventure with Yogi, Boo-Boo, and their gang and yours.

Continued from Front Page

Hometown Barre fitness studio gets a lot of love

"I've been teaching at a couple of different places, and then this opportunity kind of fell into my lap, and it was good for my family also. Hopefully we'll get some more instructors. Right now, it's just me," said Pickett.

Pickett has been teaching Barre for approximately two years. After receiving her Barre certificate, she has taken numerous Barre classes from many great instructors. This is where, she said, "I really fell in love and learned how to teach."

"I'm overwhelmed by the love and support from the community! It's been a great first week. I can't wait to see what the future holds! I've en-

joyed meeting new people and seeing old faces," said Pickett.

The Hometown Barre studio has been set up with mats, light weights, dumbbells, resistance rings and bands. All that is needed from each individual who takes the classes is to wear workout clothes for easy movement.

Pickett is married to Jake Pickett who is an assistant football coach at East Rankin Academy. Together they are parents to 8-year old Mary Latham.

To learn about location, class schedules, sign-up for classes and contact information, visit Hometown Barre's facebook page by searching for Hometown Barre or visit vagarocom/hometownbarre.



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Publisher
Clay Mansell
claymansell@pelahatchienews.com

Sales
Judy Duke, (601) 706-9237 x2
sales@pelatchienews.com

Social Media Manager
Susie A. Wolfe, (601) 566-1932 x2
susieawolfe@gmail.com

Writers
Kenneth McDade, Katie White

City Beat Writer
Ashley Longmire

Graphic Designer
Holly Embry
designer@swrankinnews.com

Office Manager
Doris Bynum, (601) 566-1932 x0

For submission information, email
news@pelahatchienews.com.

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Pelahatchie High School Band Receives All Superior Rating



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie High School Marching Band had their first competition of the season and received high marks. The competition was held Saturday, September 23 at the CD Hagan Invitational at Brandon High School. The band received Excellent Ratings in the categories of Drum Major and Drumline, and received an Excellent and two Superior Ratings in the band category for an overall Superior Performance! This was the first marching superior rating the band has received since 2021.

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Walters fire dept. fall fish fry



Special to Pelahatchie News

Walters Fire Dept. will be having their fall fish fry on October 14 from 4-7 p.m. at Station 1 located at 125 Walters Road, Pelahatchie. They will be serving Mississippi farm raised catfish, hushpuppies, fries, and cole slaw. Eat in or carry out. Plates are \$13 each.

Pelahatchie High School JROTC cadets present color guard



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School JROTC Cadets Shelby Surkin, Sammy Gibney, Remington Hopson, Savannah Carlino, and Anthony Pasqua executed a color guard ceremony to open up the Friday, September 22 football game.

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ERA 2023-24 Student Council Officers and Representatives



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Students elected as East Rankin Academy Student Council Officers for the 2023-2024 school year are: (L to R) Jace Denson, President; Abigail Stevens, Vice-President; Jensen Baker, Secretary; and Ava Vancor, Treasurer.



Students elected as East Rankin Academy Student Council Representatives for the 2023-2024 school year are: (L to R) Curtis Burkes and Kyla Huffman, 12th Grade Representatives; Audrey Mayatte, 11th Grade Representative; Addison Derrick, 10th Grade Representative; and Lily Kanengiser, 9th Grade Representative.



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PHS Exceptional Education class has presentation from officer Poole

Our Exceptional Education class had a special presentation from Officer Kevin Poole last week. They had an obstacle course and won badges when the course was complete. The students, guests, and teachers all had a blast learning and celebrating together. #LevelUpChiefs



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Cross Roads Baptist Church



Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. - Worship Service
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

Wednesday Schedule:

5:30 p.m. - Family Dinner (Call to make reservations)
6:30 p.m. - Prayer Meeting; Youth Worship; Children's Activities;
Couples Support Group; College Age Bible Study; Ladies Bible Study

Online Worship Opportunity:

(Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook Page)
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2023 All MAIS Preseason Cross Country Team Features Four Lady Patriots

Special to Pelahatchie News

Coaches and administrators of the Midsouth Association of Independent Schools (MAIS) selected fifteen top ranked athletes to feature as the 2023 Preseason All-MAIS Cross Country Team. The East Rankin Academy Lady Patriots were honored with four of the fifteen athletes selected to include: Leah Collipp, Audrey Mayatte, Emma Raines, and Emily Williams. Collipp, Mayatte, and Williams were also a part of the 2022 All MAIS team, this year joined by eighth grade honoree, Emma Raines.

Leah Collipp is a freshman at East Rankin Academy (Class of 2027). She is the daughter of Dr. David and Susan Collipp of Brandon, MS. Leah's current cross country personal records include a 19:30.90 5K and a 12:50.00 two mile.

Audrey Mayatte is a junior at East Rankin Academy (Class of 2025).



Photo by Bruckners Photography

East Rankin Academy cross country girls left to right: Leah Collipp, Audrey Mayatte, Emily Williams, and Emma Raines.

She is the daughter of Drs. Shaun and Claire Mayatte of Brandon, MS. Audrey's current cross country personal records include a 20:06.10 5K and a 12:13.30 two mile.

Emma Raines is an eighth grader at East Rankin Academy (Class of 2028). She is the daughter of Kelli and Michael Raines of Pelahatchie, MS. Emma's current cross country personal records include a 20:08.20 5K and a 12:49.80 two mile.

Emily Williams is a sophomore at East Rankin Academy (Class of 2026). She is the daughter of Johnathon and April Williams of Brandon, MS. Emily's current cross country personal records include a 20:07.70 5K and a 12:36.00 two mile.

The quad of girls are an integral parts of the No. 1 ranked varsity girls' team in the state of Mississippi among both public and private schools. The defending MAIS 5A state champions, the team is coached by Coach David Hopper.

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Career Coach invests in Students **Ryshonda Beechem running for district 75 representative**



Special to Pelahatchie News

Eric Brooks, Career Coach at Pelahatchie High School, along with Keirston Martin, a current senior at Pelahatchie High School had an opportunity to visit the Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries. Mr. Andre Hollis, Director of State Parks, graciously guided Keirston and her friend Anna around the office and introduced them to some of the department heads, including the Chief. Kierston is interested in one day becoming a Game Warden, and thanks to Mr. Hollis she established some wonderful contacts. Career Coaches are provided as a partnership with CMPDD and Accelerate MS.

By Ryshonda Harper Beechem

My name is Ryshonda Harper Beechem and I am Independently running for House of Representatives, District 75. I am a proud resident of this area. My husband Rod and I have two daughters. We reside in Pelahatchie, MS and are members of Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church that is also located in Pelahatchie, MS. I am a graduate of Pelahatchie High School and Jackson State University where I earned my bachelor's degree in accounting. I am currently in the process of receiving my master's degree and I am a CPA candidate for the state. I am the former Mayor of Pelahatchie, MS. I am always proud to serve the people of Mississippi.

I have always been happy to serve and want to do what is best for the people of our State and our District. I am the Youth Choir Director; Youth Choir praise team Director, and I also assist in different

departments.

Serving is something that you don't just wake up and decide to do, it's something that is instilled in you. I have received the Rev. Jesse Jackson Pioneer of the Year Award, Charles Tisdale Award, Mississippi Business Journal Top 50 under 40 Award, Women for Progress Award, and many more.



I would like an opportunity to serve in District 75 because I am FOR THE PEOPLE. I hear your needs and your concerns, and I am concerned as well. I hear the cry for Affordable Health Care, I hear the cry for aid with Education/

Teachers, I hear the cry for more Job Opportunities in Mississippi, I hear the cry for more Affordable Housing in our state.

Elect me Ryshonda Harper Beechem on November 7, 2023, and I will fight for the people of Mississippi, I will fight for the people of district 75. "Moving Mississippi Forward, Together"

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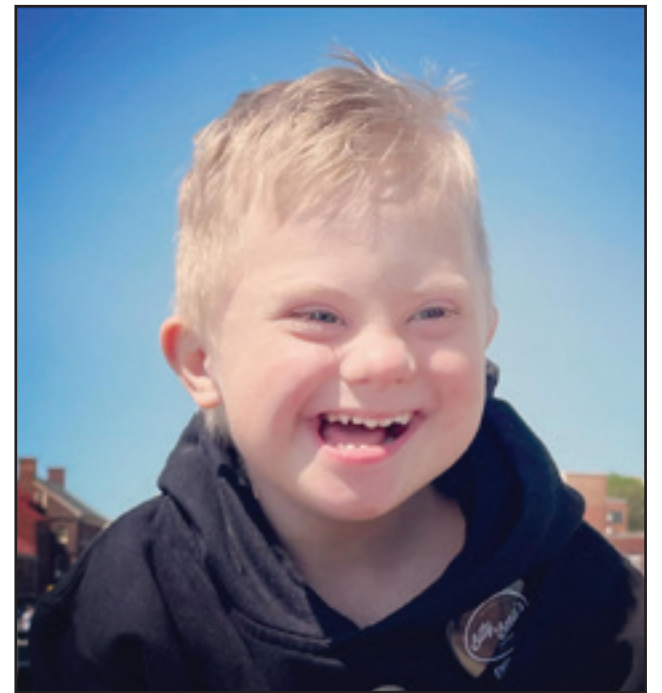
October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

By Mika Hartman

As we commemorate National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), I find myself reflecting on a pivotal moment in my life that set me on my advocacy journey. It was a moment that occurred just after my son, who was born with Down syndrome, had made his grand entrance into the world. As I made my way to the NICU with my husband by my side, a stranger struck up

a conversation in the elevator. Brimming with joy, I shared the news of our son and his extra 21st chromosome. Little did I know this stranger would leave me with a profound message: "Treat him like everyone else, and keep your expectations high."

Her words, though seemingly obvious, carry a significant weight when considering how society often perceives and treats individuals with disabilities. Sadly, much of society still treats people with disabilities like babies with very low expect-



Photos special to Pelahatchie News



tations. When people with disabilities accomplish big things, it's met with shock instead of celebration. From education to employment opportunities, often these basic rights, if being met at all, are more of "boxes checked" than "preparedness" or "inclusion."

Consider this: how frequently do you encounter individuals with intellectual disabilities when shopping, dining, or engaging with various businesses? The rarity of such encounters often prompts gratitude and appreciation for the company's inclusive hiring practices. However, considering that the unemployment rate is twice as high for people with disabilities, we still have a long way to go. This begs the question: why does society, despite the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, still struggle to fully embrace and normalize disabilities in the workplace, instead of perceiving them as "less than"?

Putting it simply, there are two very real prob-

lems that my friends with disabilities face in the workplace. One is misperceptions, stereotyping, discrimination, and stigma toward people with disabilities. The second is the fear of losing their social security disability. If you've read this far, I want you to know that you can easily change the first one. Disability exclusion has stemmed from the belief that having a disability makes you "less than". My son is not "less than" and the solution is simple – challenge our perceptions and raise your expectations of people with disabilities can accomplish.

As a mother it is my role to equip my son with every tool that he needs to achieve his desired level of success. Whether he aspires to assemble pizza boxes or dreams of becoming the President of the United States, it is my responsibility is to support his journey, but it is ultimately his determination that will pave the way to his success. You may never get the chance to meet my son, but you are a part of helping to make the world and workplace more welcoming to other individuals with disabilities.

In celebrating NDEAM, let us commit to being better humans who recognize and champion the vast possibilities that individuals with disabilities offer for a more inclusive and brighter future.

My son is EXTRA, not less.

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Price Breaking Modern Records!



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy eighth grader, Zack Price, took down a twenty-four-year-old 5K record set in 1999. Zack Price's 18:30.90 at the Clinton Arrow Invitational improved his own personal record by several seconds.

ERA honors 2023 Homecoming Court



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy will celebrate Homecoming on Friday, October 6. The 2023 Homecoming presentation will be during half time of the game that begins at 7:00 p.m. against Leake Academy. The members of East Rankin's 2023 Homecoming Court are: (front L to R) Addison Brown, Lana Jones, Mary Kellan Sartin, and Abigail Stevens (back L to R) Neali Holbrooks, Savannah Smithers, Regan Rushing, and Rachel Smith.

PELAHATCHIE NEWS NETWORK



PAST HEADLINES

2013 - 10 years ago

- "Cyber security tips to help fight cybercrime"

2018 - 5 years ago

- "Community journalism matters because communities matter"

2022 - Last Year

- "EIDLs available for businesses impacted by Jackson water crisis"

City of Pelahatchie Board of Alderman Meeting Notes

By Ashley Longmire

The town meeting for Pelahatchie, held on September 6, opened with alderman Eddie Jones giving the invocation and leading attendants in the Pledge of Allegiance. After Mayor VanHorn took roll call, visitor Kenneth Martin with Davis Estates took the podium. Mr. Martin requested that the board consider rezoning 65 acres along Highway 80 that currently belong to him. The area is zoned for light industrial, and he requested that it be changed to residential as he is trying to sell the property and the current zoning has been an issue. He also noted an inability to access some of his property along Highway 43. The mayor and aldermen reviewed the parcels, asked Mr. Martin a few

portable voting on a budget without knowing anything about payroll, or being provided with enough information to make a decision. The mayor said that the attorney should be able to redact private information from the reports, and provide them to alderman Hill. He also pointed out that alderman Hill has been consistently voting against payroll each month, which is also voting against her own paycheck. She disagreed on that point, and repeated that she has not been given enough information to decide or vote on the budget, or payroll amounts. The mayor again said that the town attorney, Kimberly Banks, should be able to provide those reports with redacted information.

Alderman Harvey agreed with Hill



questions, and then Mayor VanHorn advised that they would take it under consideration and be in touch with him soon.

During the police department discussion, police chief Mahaffey referred to two properties that were being handled: 300 College St, and the property next to the Dollar General. There was no business to discuss from the maintenance department, and the clerk also had no business to discuss. The rest of the items on the agenda were then passed, including paying the unpaid claims docket and payroll, and then the mayor and board entered into executive session to discuss the personnel matter within the police department. At the conclusion of the executive session, Mayor VanHorn stated that they had made the decision to add personnel to the police department.

During alderman discussions, alderman Hill stated that she had been requesting to see payroll reports for the last 2 years, and has been denied by the town attorney (who was not in attendance at the meeting). This has caused her concern during budget discussions, as she is not com-

that this was a concern, and she also had not been provided with enough information to make an informed decision on the budget. She also noted that maintenance appeared to be doing a good job in the town, and had no further business to discuss. Alderman Warren and Jones had no business to discuss. Alderman Harrell spoke up about a home in the town that was turning into a large "junk pile", and requested that somebody look into what could be done to address that property.

Mayor VanHorn stated that MDOT was finishing up the roads and putting white slag at the 4-way stop, and also said that they would be setting it up so that the slag would not come out into the road when it rains. He also asked for approval from the board to enter into a contract with Gallagher, as far as insurance was concerned, due to the fact that none of the current town physicians or nurse practitioners accepted the other insurance that was being considered. After some brief discussion, the board voted to approve the contract, and the motion passed.

The benefit of forage legumes and plant inoculation



By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

Special to Pelahatchie News

I attended a recent Forage Field Day, in which the high cost of agriculture fertilizer was discussed. We were able to visit a demonstration field in which annual ryegrass was planted along with clover. Clover is a legume, and legumes are able to convert atmospheric nitrogen, into ammonia, which is a form of nitrogen plants can use.

The air that we breath is around 21% oxygen and 78% nitrogen. These are each diatomic molecules, meaning each oxygen atom is joined to another oxygen atom, with a strong double bond. Each nitrogen atom is joined to another nitrogen atom with an even stronger triple bond. The hemoglobin in our blood uses some of those O₂ molecules to carry oxygen into our bodies.

The N₂ molecules were just along for the ride as you breathed in and out. At normal temperatures, the



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bond that holds the two Ns together is hard to break. Even commercial fertilizer factories must use high temperatures and a lot of energy to convert atmospheric nitrogen to ammonia.

Some plants can convert atmospheric nitrogen into ammonia at normal temperatures. Legume plants have this ability. Legume plants such

as peas, beans, and clovers have little bumps on their roots called nodules, which form a symbiotic relationship with bacteria, Rhizobia. The bacteria inside these nodules “fix nitrogen” using an enzyme called nitrogenase to break the triple bond of N₂ and convert it into ammonia, a form of nitrogen plants can use.

Legume inoculation is introducing

legume bacteria into a root system to let legumes fix or change nitrogen into a useable form. It is the process of mixing legume seed with the correct strain of bacteria before planting. After the seed is planted, the bacteria will multiply if soil conditions are favorable.

After the plant begins to grow, bacteria invade the root hairs. These growths on the roots are nodules. The bacteria live in the nodules. A red or pink color inside the nodules indicates that bacteria have nitrogen-fixing activity. Nodules that are white, green, or brown inside fix little or no nitrogen.

Forage legumes including white, red, crimson, sweet, subterranean, and arrowleaf clovers, and improved vetches should be inoculated.

Source: “Soybean Nodule Fly”, Bug Wise No 14, Mississippi State University Extension, Dr. Blake Layton “Inoculating Forage Legumes”, Mississippi State University Extension, Information Sheet 1083

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Sixth grade students learn about “Leaving Their Mark”

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie Elementary sixth grade class recently completed their painted rocks to add to the outdoor classroom gravel walkway. The lesson is a collaborative activity between Mrs. Skaggs, the 6th grade science teacher, and Mrs. Nelson, the STEM teacher. During the lesson, students reflect upon and discuss areas that they have the power to be a positive influence in their lives. They focus on the influence they have in the classroom, school, community, and online. In the classroom, they influence each other in what they do and say to each other. In school, they are looked up to because they are the oldest students in our part of the campus. In the community, they represent our school and the image others have of our school. Finally, they discuss the importance of what they do online. Their actions in each of these areas make lasting “marks” on others and they have to make choices that will leave a positive mark.

After the discussion and reflection, students design and paint a river rock that reflects how they want to be seen and remembered. Some students choose to leave



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

a positive affirmation, while others paint the rock to reflect things that they cherish and display who they are. The rocks which represent a concrete example of what they do and say will leave a lasting impression that is permanent and cannot be taken away.



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Pelahatchie High School honors August award winners



Student Athlete: Addison Archie

Photos special to Pelahatchie News



PHS students and teacher for the month of August pictured L to R: 8th - Parker Jones, 12th - Kaleb Evans, 7th - Cada Magee, 11th - Abigail Brown, 9th - Talia White, Teacher - Tip Nutt, 10th - Ricazmine Lee (not pictured)



Counselor's Award for Creativity - Madi Little



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Pastor's Perspective: Is Salvation Earned or Given?



By Guest Columnist
Spencer Sullivan, Pastor,
Pelahatchie Baptist

In smalltown Mississippi, part of the fabric of our culture is a blue-collar, no-nonsense, work ethic. My youngest son, Asa, takes taekwondo and his academy's slogan is "Earned, never Given." This could be the Slogan of the Deep South. When I was a young boy, whether it had to do with my schoolwork, my household chores, or playing baseball, I was raised to work hard and give my best effort. As a former baseball player, I believe the greatest complement a player can receive is to be called a 'dirtbag'. In baseball lingo, a dirtbag is a player who competes in such a way that he holds nothing back and leaves everything on the field. He takes the extra base at every opportunity. He dives for every ball. No one outhustles or outworks or outcompetes a dirtbag. As a result, the dirtbag's uniform is characteristically filthy from top to bottom following every game, thus the moniker. The values of working hard and giving my best effort have served me well throughout my life. Melanie and I have tried our best to instill these same values to our four children. This is how most in smalltown Mississippi are raised. We take pride in our work and give our best effort in whatever we do.

When we think of spiritual things, specifically how



Special to Pelahatchie News

we relate to God, our natural tendency is to try to earn favor with Him by our good works or holy living. While our work ethic is a trademark of our local culture, this tendency to try to earn favor with God by our works is not limited to Americans in the Deep South. In fact, this is a worldwide tendency and is part of most every religion or set of spiritual beliefs in the world. The specifics may look different from religion to religion, belief to belief, but the common thread is that a person must do A, B, & C in order to earn favor with God and have an opportunity to achieve whatever post-life reward is desired. In some cases, it is believed that there is a figurative scale and therefore, our good works or holy living must outweigh our sin

in order to be made right with God.

While most belief systems include some practice of a works-based salvation, the Bible actually communicates a much different message. The Gospel (or Good News) is that Jesus did all of the work necessary for sinful people like you and me to have the opportunity to be saved and live eternally with God in Heaven when this life is over. That ultimate work of Jesus was living a perfect and sinless life, willingly submitting to the cross, shedding His blood, taking on the wrath of God, dying a sinner's death, all so that you and I can escape the just punishment we deserve for our embedded rebellion against God. Paul writes in Ephesians 2 that we are dead in our sin. In other words, before we can even have the conscious thought that would lead us in some attempt to earn favor with God, we're already dead in our sin. This means that no matter how much good we do, no matter if our 'good' far outweighs our 'bad' on that figurative scale, we are still guilty and dead in our sin. So, if the Bible is true (and I fully believe that it is), how can we be saved if our works can't earn it? How can we receive a salvation that depends on Jesus' work and not ours? Paul goes on to write in Ephesians 2:8-9 – "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Salvation is literally a gift received by faith. Instead of "Earned, never Given", the Gospel flips it on its head. By God's grace, it is: "Given, never Earned." Only by believing in faith can a person be saved. Therefore, would you dare to believe on the work of Jesus and receive this priceless gift of love today?



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East Rankin Patriots prevail on Senior Night

By Cooper Lytton



Special to Pelahatchie News

On September 29, East Rankin took on Amite School Center for the team's Senior Night. The Patriots' record was 1-4 as they challenged the winless Rebels. Weeks prior, the Patriots' most important players were running backs senior Liam Wilkerson and sophomore Brandon Loper. The Patriots also faced injury problems with quarterbacks Reece Cordell and Rivers Belk being hurt. That being said, the Patriots were confident in their new starting quarterback, Luke Wesson, to lead them into victory.

In Amite's first drive, they progressed downfield to jump to 8-0. The Patriots jumped back on their first drive with a 45 yard touchdown run up the middle from Liam Wilkerson.

East Rankin continued their momentum in the start of the second quarter with a defensive stop that led

to an Amite punt. Additionally, Nick Wesson scored on a 51 yard reverse when he broke to the outside to put them up 14-8.

East Rankin's defense was impeccable after sophomore defensive back Aidan Carlisle had a 75 yard pick-six that widened the Patriots lead. On Amite's next drive, sophomore



Taylor Woods also collected an interception on a bad pass. A 30 yard reception from senior Jace Denson and a 20 yard run from Wilkerson once again put East Rankin ahead 28-8.

Amite did however strike back on their next drive when wide receiver Dreher Van Norman collected a touchdown reception to close the Patriots lead to 28-14. Additionally, the Rebels capitalized on defense and

collected an interception. On the last play of the half, the Rebels quarterback broke to the left side and ran for a 50 yard touchdown to bring the score to 28-20.

To begin the second half, Wilkerson gathered multiple 10 yard runs to put the Patriots into scoring position. The Patriots struggled in the

red zone and settled for a 30 yard field goal from senior Brax Rials to extend the lead to 31-20. Wilkerson added to his performance on the next drive with a 61 yard run for another touchdown.

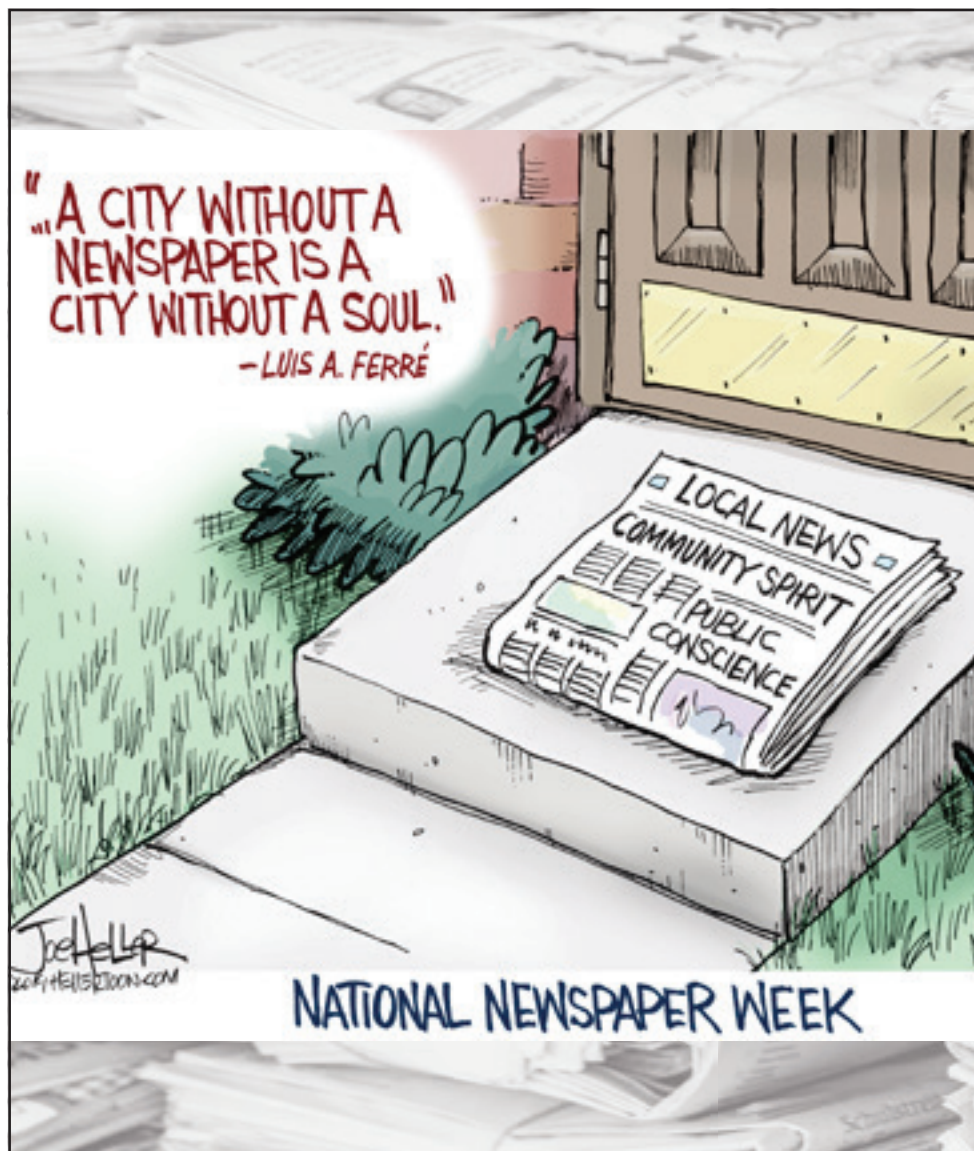
Amite jumped back with a 10 yard rushing touchdown to bring the score to 38-26. The Patriots got the Rebels back on a 85 yard kickoff return by Aidan Carlisle for a touchdown.

The Rebels' force carried on with a 30 yard touchdown reception from junior wide receiver J.T. Bass that closed the Patriot lead within two scores.

At the beginning of the fourth quarter, Wilkerson remained unstoppable when he racked up another touchdown with a 42 yard rush. Brandon Loper closed out the game with a touchdown run of his own to bring the score to 59-32. The game ended with a fumble recovery by Patriot Grayson Williams on a Rebels bad snap.

Throughout the game, one thing was obvious: Almost every time East Rankin had the ball, they ended up scoring. The East Rankin offense had so much success that they accumulated over 300 rushing yards, scored 59 for the first time since 1979, and were 7 points shy of scoring the most in school history.

The rest of the Patriots' season will depend on their ability to be consistent. If the run game succeeds and the defense forces turnovers, the Patriots could see themselves in the playoffs for the first time since 2017.



Pelahatchie Chiefs come out on top in Homecoming Game

By Cooper Lytton

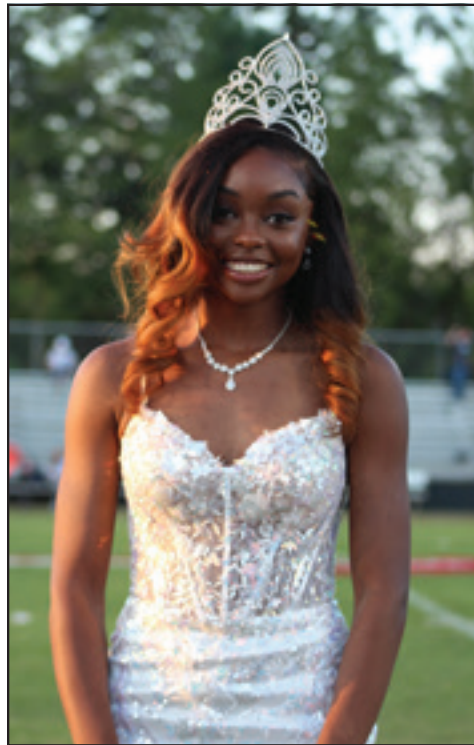


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For their annual Homecoming game, the Pelahatchie Chiefs faced off against the St. Andrew's Episcopal Saints. The 0-5 Chiefs were looking for their first win against a 3-2 St. Andrews.

Thus far, the Chiefs had only kept one game within one score and thus offensive production was going to be the key to winning the game. Like the Chiefs, offensive production would be crucial as both of the Saint's losses were by more than 20 points.

The Saints started off strong with quarterback Friend Walker throwing an 80 yard touchdown to wide receiver Sargeant Moriarity. The very next play, the Chiefs bounced back



Pelahatchie High School 2023 Homecoming Queen, Miss Addison Archie

with a 99 yard kickoff return from sophomore running back Tate Hopson to tie the game 7-7.

St. Andrews once again marched down field in scoring territory from receptions by Sargeant Moriarity. Despite multiple pass break-ups from sophomore cornerback Ethan Hagood, Walker connected to Moriarity on a slant route to put the Saints up 14-7 with little to go in the first quarter.

On the Chiefs next drive, freshman running back and linebacker Damarion Snow made several 20+ yard runs to drive them into the red zone at the end of the first quarter. At the beginning of the second quarter,



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School 2023 Homecoming Football Maid, Miss Macey Bowman.

Snow continued his dominance on a 10 yard touchdown to once again tie the game 14-14.

St. Andrews did not stop with their offensive attack, driving downfield quickly with receptions from John William Walker. Towards the end of the half, Friend Walker collected his third passing touchdown with a 40 yard touchdown pass to Andrew Gordon to move their lead to 21-14.

In the third quarter, the Chiefs defense caught momentum with a 3rd down quarterback hurry from senior defensive end Tucker Rowell to force a St. Andrews punt. With the ball, the Chiefs struggled to make something happen, but on fourth down, junior quarterback Javion Magee collected 30 yards on a read option to put the Chiefs within the Saints' five yard line. Magee followed with another read option to equalize the score 21-21.

On the Saints' next drive, the

Chiefs' secondary capitalized on throws from Friend Walker by a broken up pass from cornerback Ethan Hagood and a pass deflection from junior Myles Stringer.

Pelahatchie had received the ball once more as a result of a St. Andrews 3 and out. On the first play, Damarion Snow scored on a 75 yard rushing touchdown up the middle to put the Chiefs back on top 28-21.

On a deep pass by St. Andrews, Myles Stringer beat a defender to the ball for an interception. Unfortunately, a Chiefs punt found St. Andrews with the ball again. An incredible 30 yard catch from John William Walker and a 40 yard end zone reception from Rolen Fanning tied the

match once again at 28-28.

With good field position from an unsuccessful Saints' punt, the Chiefs were in line to take the lead. Damarion Snow struck once again with a 50 yard touchdown run to advance the score to 34-28.

On the second play of the Saints' next drive, the ball was intercepted by junior cornerback Devin Lott on the Saints' 25 yard line to put the Chiefs in scoring position once more. After successive runs from Snow and a two-point conversion from Hopson, the Chiefs jumped their lead to 42-28.

On the Saints' last drive, Friend Walker connected to Rolen Fanning on a vertical route to shorten the Chiefs' lead to one score. The Saints came up short however, as a failed onside kick gave the Chiefs possession and their first win of the season.

With a final score of 42-35, there



is no doubt that the Chiefs offense was the essential factor to the Chiefs' win. Running backs Tate Hopson and Damarion Snow showed that they can move the ball downfield and into scoring position with no problem. As long as the strong running game continues, Pelahatchie will have no trouble in terms of scoring moving into district play. On the other side of the ball, the Chiefs' secondary showed proficiency in stopping St. Andrews' passing game. Despite a rough start in the first half, the secondary produced multiple defensive stops thanks to Ethan Hagood and Myles Stringer.

Ultimately, the Chiefs were able to capture their first win as a result of the collective team effort. The offense and defense came together to put the Chiefs on top. As the Chiefs move into their district games, their team chemistry is what will put them on top.

