

## CMRLS launching fine free library card

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Central Mississippi Regional Library System (CMRLS) is launching a new, fine free library card starting October 1, 2018. This library card is called the Acorn Card, after Acorn Squirrel, the six-foot CMRLS mascot. Youth, aged 18 years or younger, and vulnerable adults throughout the system are eligible for the Acorn Card. This card will allow the owner to check out two items at a time; and when items are returned, others may be checked out. There are no late fees.

A contest was held for the artwork on the front of the Acorn Card. The contest was open to anyone with a CMRLS Library Card in the CMRLS service area; Rankin, Scott, Simpson, and Smith counties. More than 100 library card holders entered the contest. The winner of the contest is Ruby Kaura, age 10, the daughter of Rajiv and Asha Kaura. Ruby attends Pearl Public School.



Special to SW Rankin News

Pictured (l to r) are Morgan Lee, Pearl Public Library Branch Manager, Ruby Kaura, artist and winner of the artwork on the Acorn card, and Mara Villa Polk, Director of Central Mississippi Regional Library System.

## Florence Day is November 10

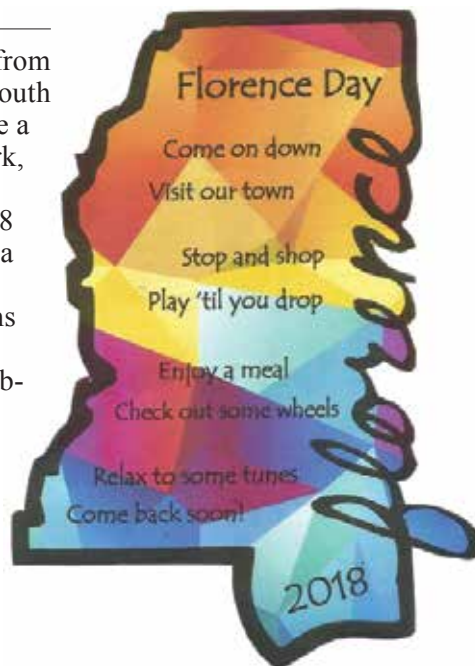
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Florence Day will be November 10 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Hemphill Park, 221 South Church Street in Florence. There will be a vendor market, kid's zone, art in the park, car show, corn hole and 5K Run.

A Veteran's Breakfast will be held at 8 a.m. at Quest Community Church and a Chili Cook-off from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The City is now accepting applications for vendors and events.

For more information, check the website, [www.cityofflorencems.com](http://www.cityofflorencems.com), or call 601-845-5858.



Special to SW Rankin News

## Thornton named Pearl Fire Chief

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Assistant Fire Chief Brad Thornton was named the City of Pearl Fire Chief at the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, August 7.

Thornton has lived in Pearl most of his life and is a 1992 Pearl High School graduate. He attended Hinds Community College where he received his EMT Certification while working as a reserve firefighter. He was hired as a full-time firefighter with Pearl in July 1993.

Thornton served more than 14 years while working his way to the rank of captain before leaving to be an instructor at the Mississippi State Fire Academy in 2007. He came back to the Pearl Fire Department in 2009 as deputy chief over training.

He is married to the former Angie Vernamonti, and they have two children, Nick, 14, and Katie 10.



Special to SW Rankin News

The Thornton family is shown at the August 7 Pearl Board meeting where Brad Thornton was sworn in as fire chief. Pictured (l to r) are: Angie, Katie, Nick, and Brad.

### Inside this issue:

Cadet Barnes completes training at West Point - pg. 6

Richland to host Bridal Expo in November - pg. 15

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# Darwell's Too serves up real food in Pearl

By Susie A. Wolfe

After 20+ years on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, where they operated the well-known Darwell's Café, Darwell Yeager III and his wife, Nettie, decided to move back home with their daughter, Elizebeth, and opened Darwell's Too in Pearl on Old Brandon Road across Highway 80 from City Park.

Darwell Yeager III lived in the Cross Roads area and attended Pelahatchie schools before moving to Long Beach, Mississippi, where he graduated and subsequently became a chef and a professional wrestler. His wife, Nettie, the partner/pastry chef, is from Harperville in Scott County, where she graduated from Scott Central.

In Long Beach, Darwell's is run by his father, DD Yeager, Papa D or Dale, who is a Pearl High School graduate, along with Darwell's mother, Betty Bell Dunlap. That restaurant was on the *Forbes Magazine* list of the 10 Best Restaurants of 2016, and along with Chef Darwell has been featured on the Food Network. Yeager serves the signature Long Beach café favorites in Pearl, including crawfish etouffee; shrimp and sausage creole; seafood gumbo; An-



gel Hair Yum Yum that includes shrimp, crabmeat and mushrooms; red beans and rice with grilled sausage; and spaghetti and meatballs.

"We serve 'real' food that doesn't have preservatives and is freshly prepared," said Chef Darwell. Their slogan is "real food for real people."

According to Nettie, who learned how to bake from her grandmother, Vera Wooten, from around Carthage, "We drive to the Coast once a week to



Photos by Pelahatchie News

pick up supplies, because only the freshest will do." Nettie's Brownie Happiness is her creative outlet. Her brownies change daily.

Besides the huge traditional brownies, she makes them with apples, blue berries, cheesecake and banana pudding.

Father and son opened the Long Beach Darwell's Café on August 1, 2005, before Hurricane Katrina hit the Coast on August 29. Nettie said that God spared them as the water got 27 feet high, but only came to the back

door of the restaurant. Because they were the first commercial account in Long Beach, they got their power back on first and spent their time helping victims of the hurricane and those helping with clean-up. They set up rigged showers, provided water, helped families get word when power was out, and cooked food for as many people as they could, and never charged them.

The family moved back to be around family and friends in the Metro Area. Darwell has a sister, Tina, and a brother, Sam, that live in the area. Another sister, Kristy, lives in Petal. Darwell is also planning to publish a cookbook in the future. Other locations are also a possibility.

Elizebeth, their 15-year-old daughter, is a tenth grader at Pearl High School, where she plays flute in the band and is taking culinary nutrition dual enrollment classes at Hinds Community College. She helps out at the restaurant when she can.

Darwell's Too menu can be viewed online and on Facebook. Hours of operation include Tuesday-Thursday 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. For more information or to place an order, call 769-235-6722.

## SWRANKIN NEWS

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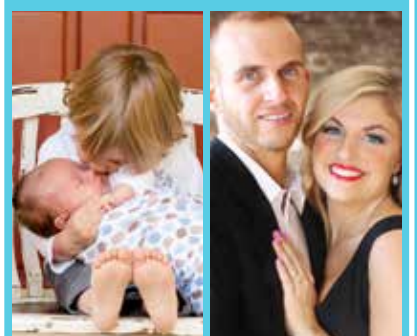
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# Pearl Chamber honors Jackie Thompson

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Pearl Chamber awarded Pelahatchie native Jackie Thompson the President's Distinguished Service Award at its 2018 Annual Awards Banquet. The award recognizes "an individual whose self-less efforts were vital to the development and growth of Pearl."

According to the Pearl Chamber's Past President Ron Morgan, who presented the award, "It wasn't his vivacious smile, business acumen or unbounded enthusiasm that set Jackie apart. It was his caring heart."

In 1965, when he opened Eastland Plaza Homes, he started a Pearl Christmas Parade on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, because he said the town didn't have one. He bought a pull-along sleigh and with loud "Here Comes Santa Claus" music, he threw candy to kids on every street and cul-de-sac in Pearl. He and Santa didn't want any child to be left out, so he would drive around for up to 18 hours. He continued this parade for more than 45 years.

Thompson, now 80, is known for his radio and television show, *The Hour of the 50s*, that he started in the early 70s. Also, for his love and appreciation of Elvis Presley, whom he met once after a concert in Jackson. He had an "Elvis Room" at his Eastland Plaza office, that is now in his home in Pearl. He is still known as "the man who brought the 50s back."

Many folks in Pelahatchie remember



Photo by SW Rankin News

Jackie Thompson always enjoyed entertaining with 50s music from the start when he had a record shop in the Western Auto store in Pelahatchie.

Thompson selling records at the Western Auto store. Owner Pat Summers hired him as a clerk and let him have space in the "enjoyment room" to sell records in 1954. His slogan was "All you cats that dig the bop, go to Jackie's Record Shop." He also played records on Pelahatchie's main street, where folks hung out and requested their favorites.

Thompson was the son of a Lodebar sharecropper Jack Thompson. He had one sister, Jean, and a step-brother, Willard, who are both deceased. Though he had humble beginnings, he "loves Pelahatchie" and the folks in town. He said, "I had a lot of fun there." He recalls delivering ice and opening a snowball and popcorn stand.

He also perfected his pantomime act at the Pelahatchie Theater. The Rocking Satellites, a trio made up of Thompson and two friends, pantomime performed famous artists like Little Richard, with Thompson in black face. They would do shows to raise money for children's needs, like to purchase a wheel chair.

He met his future business partner, Johnny Jolly, working at the Davis Chicken Plant in Pelahatchie. His next venture was partnering with Sim King, the builder, in Brandon in 1959. He and Jolly later worked together in real estate in Pearl.

He recently celebrated his eightieth birthday with a big party at The Vault with more than 400 friends. He said, "God has been so good to me."

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# Odom announces run for Rankin County Chancery Judge



Special to SW Rankin News  
Troy Odom

By Troy Odom

Friends, I ask for your vote on November 6 for Rankin County Chancery Judge. Chancellor John Grant retires this year after a distinguished career, and it is important to elect a judge who will uphold Rankin County's conservative values. The chancery court determines issues involving family law, property and probate matters. Aside from our relationship with the Lord, there is nothing more important than family -- that is why I am running.

My experience is broad and varied. In 2002, I graduated with honors from Ole Miss Law School, and for over six-

teen years, I've maintained a general chancery practice with Blair & Bondurant in Brandon. I've served as a Guardian ad Litem, where I safeguard the best interests of children involved in chancery proceedings. It is also my pleasure to serve as the Prosecutor for the City of Pearl. In 2017, the Board of Supervisors appointed me as the Hearing Officer for Waste Management. I am also legal counsel for the Rankin County Chancery Clerk in estate and guardianship matters.

I am an adjunct professor at Ole Miss Law and Mississippi College Law Schools, where I teach second and third year law students. Mississippi College Law School named me Adjunct Professor of the Year in 2018.

I am the past President, Vice-President, and Treasurer of the Rankin Coun-

ty Bar and Mississippi Oil and Gas Lawyers. I've served as a board member for the Capital Area Bar and Mississippi Association of Petroleum Landmen. While an officer of the Rankin County Bar, I chaired and organized the following Wills for Heroes events for local first responders: Rankin County Sheriff's Department (2011), Brandon Fire (2012), Pearl Police (2013), Reservoir Fire (2014), and Flowood Police (2016).

In our community, I serve on the Board of Directors for the Rankin County Chamber of Commerce, and as a past board member of the Flowood/Reservoir YMCA and Rankin County Animal Adoption Foundation. In 2016, I served as President of the Flowood Rotary Club. I am also the former chairman of the Rankin County Republican Party

Executive Committee where it was my pleasure to help elect conservative leaders for Rankin County.

I've been married to the former Brittany Gore for sixteen years. Together, we share the joy of raising our children, Caroline (13) and Hayes (12). Brittany previously taught ninth grade English at Brandon High School and served as the yearbook sponsor. We are members of First Presbyterian Church where Brittany, and I have taught Sunday School for several years. I previously chaired the diaconate at Lakeland Presbyterian Church.

Thank you for your prayers and support. As Chancery Judge, I promise to always follow the example of Grace shown to me daily by our Lord and Savior.

## Greater Rankin County Altrusa Club meeting

By Susie A. Wolfe

Altrusa is an international organization seeking to better their communities by addressing local needs. Founded in 1917, Altrusans give over a million volunteer hours a year around the world, including clubs in the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, England, Bermuda, Ireland, India, New Zealand and Russia, according to Pearl resident Marsha Padgett, who was a member of the Tupelo, Mississippi, club before moving to Central Mississippi.

She has a handful of interested men and women who are wanting to develop

and apply their leadership abilities, capitalize on Altrusa's worldwide member network, and find partners to help improve the communities in Rankin County. The group is interested in improving literacy and in supporting the Center for Prevention, of Violence located in Pearl.

Beth McCord, a medical advocate at the Center for Violence Prevention, is the speaker for the Thursday, September 20, meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m. at Panera Bread in Flowood.

For more information, contact Padgett at 662-871-6640 or email to [marshapadgett@comcast.net](mailto:marshapadgett@comcast.net).

## Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Funeral Home
Becky Boggs	58	Star, MS	7/31/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Sara Sebrén	19	Pearl, MS	8/1/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Theresa Honeycutt	64	Florence, MS	8/2/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Danny Benton	57	Florence, MS	8/4/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Lisa Oswalt	54	Brandon, MS	8/6/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Chuck Cooper	58	Brandon, MS	8/7/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Denise Hubbard	49	Florence, MS	8/7/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Michael Losset	39	Van Cleave, MS	8/7/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Maxine Vaughn	81	Florence, MS	8/8/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Hatcher Mitchell	-0-	Kosciusko, MS	8/8/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Jim Caulkins	88	Florence, MS	8/11/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Leland May	86	Richland, MS	8/12/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Willard "Dub" Blakeney, Jr.	60	Richland, MS	8/14/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Vickie Harmon Summerlin	51	Florence, MS	8/15/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Donna Nichols	58	Florence, MS	8/17/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Howard Doty	66	Florence, MS	8/17/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Martha Wilkinson	78	Florence, MS	8/17/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Dannice Boyles	84	Richland, MS	8/19/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Jo Ann Blackwell	80	Florence, MS	8/20/18	Chancellor Funeral Home

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# McKinley announces run for Circuit Court Judge



Special to SW Rankin News  
Bruce McKinley

By Bruce McKinley

Madison County Justice Court Judge, Bruce McKinley, announces his candidacy for Circuit Court Judge for Madison and Rankin Counties. Judge McKinley has served as Justice Court Judge since 2011, being unopposed in 2015.

Judge McKinley has presided over

thousands of civil and criminal cases, including pre-indictment felony cases. As a practicing attorney for thirty-seven years, McKinley has represented clients across the state in Federal, Circuit, Chancery, Justice and Appellate Courts. McKinley is former General Counsel and Hearing Examiner for the Mississippi Public Service Commission and is a Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Arbitrator. For thirteen years, Judge McKinley has served on the National Association of Regulatory Commission-

ers' staff sub-committee on law and is a past president of The National Regulatory Attorneys Conference.

Judge McKinley is a graduate of Millsaps College and the University of Mississippi School of Law. He is married to the former Melanie E. May, and is the father of five children and has one grandchild. The family is active in St. Columb's Episcopal Church, where MrKinley serves on the vestry.

Judge McKinley has served on the Board of Directors of the Central Mis-

issippi Planning and Development District and on the Board of Directors of the Magnolia Speech School. He is a former Chairman of the Mississippi Dual Party Relay System Advisory Committee and is former Legal Advisor for the Jackson Jaycees.

Judge McKinley feels that his seven years service as a Judge, plus his thirty-seven years of diversified practice as an attorney, have uniquely prepared him to serve as Circuit Judge of Madison and Rankin Counties.



## Lawyers' Committee For 9/11 Inquiry LCfor911.org

On April 10, 2018 The Lawyers' Committee for 9/11 Inquiry filed a Petition with U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman, Southern District of New York requesting that U.S. Attorney Berman submit to a Special Federal Grand Jury the extensive evidence presented in the Lawyers' Committee's Petition so that the Special Grand Jury can scientifically and criminally investigate the use of explosives in relation to the total destruction of World Trade Center Buildings One, Two and Seven on September 11, 2001. The U.S. Attorney's duty to relay this evidence to a Special Grand Jury is a mandatory one under federal law.

The official explanation of the events on and surrounding 9/11 has not been established in a court of law or by an objective and thorough investigation by either Congress or the 9/11 Commission. Many observers, including notably the families of the victims, criticized both inquiries for failing to address key questions and especially the obvious use of explosives.

The Lawyers' Committee for 9/11 Inquiry is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization of lawyers, investigators, scientists and concerned citizens created to promote transparency and accountability regarding the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

The Lawyers have been working for free and donations are needed to continue. It is now up to the citizenry to make sure that the Lawyers Committee's efforts are not in vain. Please go to the Lawyers' Committee website at [www.LCfor911.org](http://www.LCfor911.org) and sign on as a supporter of the Petition, and if you can make a donation and/or volunteer your time to help.

Please read the Petition and sign the Support Page at the Lawyers' Committee for 9/11 Inquiry website: LCfor911.org Use the contact page for any questions or comments.

Thank you for your consideration of this vital matter.

Sincerely,

Mick Harrison, Esq., Executive Director; Jane A. Clark, Esq. Chairman  
Lawyers' Committee for 9/11 Inquiry Board Members: Julio Gomez, Esq.; Bill Jacoby, Esq.; David Meiswinkle, Esq.; Michael Springmann, Esq.; Ed Asner, David Cole, Barbara Honegger

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## Boston attends MC Choctaw Fanfare



Special to SW Rankin News

Mississippi College SGA President Anthony P. Jackson (left) of Mound Bayou joins MC basketball standout Brandon Boston (right) of Pearl at the 2018 Choctaw Fanfare. The event in August saluted the school's student-athletes on the Clinton campus. Boston is a Pearl High graduate.

## Austin wins Pearl Library tablet



Special to SW Rankin News

Pictured (l to r) are: Morgan Lee, Branch Manager of the Pearl Public Library, Temeka Griffin, Christopher Austin, winner, and Mara Polk, CMRLS Director.

### Special to SW Rankin News

Christopher Austin, 8, son of Temeka Griffin and Warren Austin, who attends Stonebridge Elementary School, was the winner of a Fitbit® for reading from the Central Mississippi Regional Library System (CMRLS) contest in this year's Summer Library Program.

The 2018 reading goal for all aged participants was 400 minutes of read-

ing time to be completed during the six-week program. All ages that completed the 400-minute goal of reading or being read to were entered into a random drawing for one of eight Kindle Fire tablets. The goal of the contest was to encourage reading, at any age...and to have fun reading, at any age. The Beanstack Tracker may be used all year for personal reading goals, and future contests are planned.

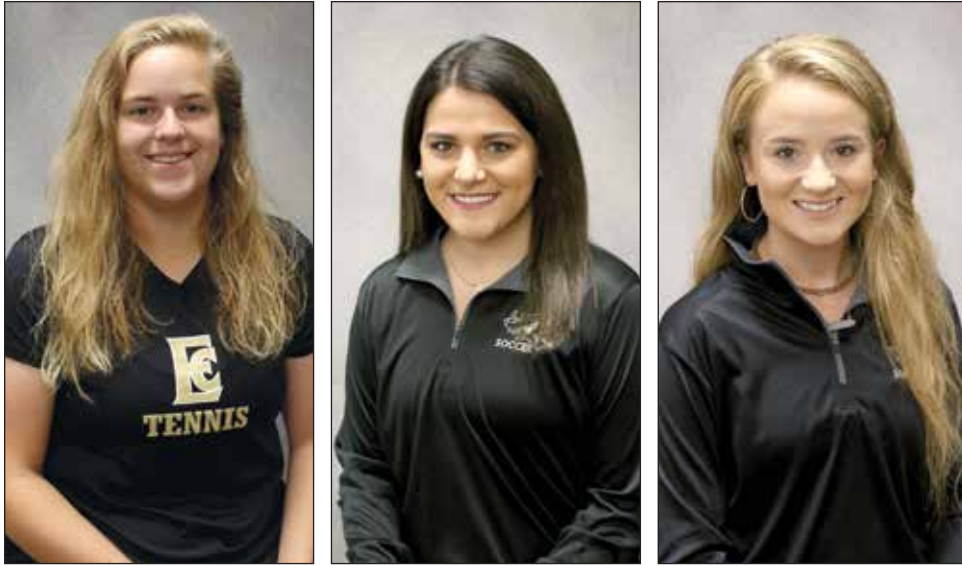
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## Three student-athletes recognized for ECCC academic performance



Photos special to SW Rankin News

Receiving Third Team NJCAA All-Academic was Julia Johnston (left) (women's tennis), Florence. Receiving MACJC Academic All-State was Julia Johnston (center). Receiving Second Team NJCAA All-Academic was Carrington Payne (right) (women's soccer), Richland.

### Special to SW Rankin News

Seventy-five East Central Community College (ECCC) student-athletes were honored by either the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) or the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC), or both organizations, for their academic performance during the 2017-18 academic year.

In all, 45 ECCC student-athletes were recognized by the NJCAA and

75 were honored by the MACJC. East Central was third among all 15 community and junior colleges in Mississippi in the number of student-athletes honored by the NJCAA.

The NJCAA presents awards in three categories: First Team NJCAA All-Academic (for those achieving a perfect 4.0 grade-point average), Second Team NJCAA All-Academic (3.80 to 3.99 GPA), and Third Team NJCAA All-Academic (3.60 to 3.79 GPA).

## Cadet Barnes completes training at West Point

Special to SW Rankin News

Joshua Aaron Barnes, son of Johnathan and Kristina Barnes of Florence, completed Cadet Basic Training (CBT) at the U.S. Military Academy.

Barnes entered West Point on July 2 and has successfully completed six weeks of CBT. CBT is one of the most challenging events cadets will encounter over the course of their four years at the academy.

The initial military training program provides cadets with basic skills to instill discipline, pride, cohesion, confidence and a high sense of duty to prepare them for entry into the Corps of Cadets. Areas of summer instruction included first aid, mountaineering, hand grenades, rifle marksmanship and nuclear, biological, and chemical training.

Barnes began classes August 20. The West Point curriculum offers 35 majors, balancing physical sciences and engineering with humanities and social sciences leading to a Bachelor of Science degree.

Barnes graduated from Florence High School. He plans to graduate from West Point in 2022 and be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.



Special to SW Rankin News

Barnes is a Florence High graduate who plans to graduate from West Point in 2022.

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# Balance the bench with Bennett



Special to SW Rankin News  
Tameika Bennett

By Tameika Bennett

While it is hard to discuss families without mentioning the impact of women, women have long been left out of the conversation in the Rankin County Judiciary. Rankin

County has an opportunity to change its Chancery judiciary landscape by electing a woman Chancellor to the bench in Rankin County on November 6, 2018.

Meet Tameika Bennett. Tameika Bennett is a local attorney vying for Chancery Court Judge. The Chancery Court is charged with the unique responsibility of deciding matters related to divorces, adoptions, child custody, child support, wills and estate matters, guardianships, conservatorships, lunacy and commitment matters, and other related issues.

Tameika Bennett is a devoted wife and mother. Tameika is happily married to Rico Bennett and is the proud mother of three children, Jaida (9), Bree (4), and Deuce (1). Tameika has

devoted her entire tenure exclusively to chancery practice and has focused on matters impacting families in Rankin County. Tameika Bennett has the education, knowledge and experience to serve on day one, as she received her JD from the University of Mississippi School of Law and her bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University. Tameika will focus on providing fairness, equity and justice to all citizens of Rankin County. Tameika's experience includes serving as a prosecutor for the State of Mississippi, associate attorney with

YoungWilliams, Mike Espy, PLLC, and Moore Law Office, PLLC.

Bennett is currently a solo-practitioner and serves as the owner and managing partner of Bennett Law Office, PLLC. In addition to practicing Law, Bennett is active in the Rankin County community, where she serves a Girl Scout troop leader, an active youth leader and choir member at Truevine Baptist Church, and dedicated member of Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc.

To learn more about Tameika Bennett, visit [votetameikabennett.com](http://votetameikabennett.com).

## Florence has good turnout during National Night Out



Photo by SW Rankin News

New Florence Police Officer Joey Lenard is showing kids (l to r) Karsyn Bankhead and Chloe McDougal his police car and letting them turn on the lights at the August 30 National Night Out activities at Hemphill Park. The attendees were given free hot dogs and pizza and invited to play at the splash pad and bounce houses.

## Florentine Club of Florence attends the Serendipity Art Auction at MSH



Special to SW Rankin News

Members of the Florentine Club of Florence recently attended the Serendipity Art Auction at Mississippi State Hospital (MSH). Pictured (l to r) are: Dee Payne, treasurer; Betty Harpe, president; Evelyn Bates/Carpenter, art department of MSH; Becky Wright, MFWC state president; and Jeannie Pittman. Funds raised go to the patients/artists.

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Florence cheer squad ready for fall



Special to SW Rankin News

The Florence Cheer Squad includes seniors Savanna Ainsworth, captain; Riley Cohen, captain; Mason Freeman; Madi Gray; and Bryson Tucker; juniors include Riley Aguilar; Anna Edwards; Shauna Gallagher; and Hunter King; sophomores include KayeLei Buckhalter; Akilah Cox; Sara Grace Jackson; Farah Johnson; McKenzie Pyles; Maecy Kate Reed; Katie Tucker; and Grayson Weathersby; and freshmen Katie Board; Sydney Leavitt; Gracie McGowan; and Kylee Smith. The mascot is Clayton White.

FHS Varsity Dance Team receives superior



Special to SW Rankin News

This summer, the Florence High School Varsity Dance Team received all superior marks at camp and earned a superior ranking with Universal Dance Association (UDA). Six Dancers were named as All-Americans by UDA staff and invited to participate in the Varsity Spirit Tour in Rome, Italy. Five dancers were given UDA Awards for perseverance, determination, and positivity. The team earned a bid to Nationals as well as an invitation to participate in the Halftime Performance at the Citrus Bowl. This year, the dancers are participating in the Disney Performing Arts Program and have been invited to perform at Walt Disney World. Seniors on the team include Kaley Grace Goodin, captain, UDA All-American; Emily Morris, co-captain, UDA All-American; Olivia Knight, UDA All-American; Anna Katherine Lindsey, UDA award winner; Colby Taylor, UDA All-American; Elizabeth Smith; and Anna Wilson, UDA award winner; juniors include Shelby Bounds; Cannon Craft; Sarah Lindsey Goodin; Layla Green, UDA All-American; and Tori Price, UDA award winner; sophomores include Kayla Allen, co-captain, UDA All-American; Peyton Muse, UDA award winner; Cadence Wigley; and Judy Slay, UDA award winner; and freshman Trinity Wortham. Coaches are Amy McAllister and Whitney Sasser.

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Our mission is to bless others



By Freddie Brown, Pastor of Restoration Church

Special to SW Rankin News

Most people see church as for them, this is my church and I go to my church to get blessed. That is only half true. It's ok to want God to bless us, I certainly do. But there's a reason for the blessing. We don't just exist for the people who are coming to our churches, we exist for the people who are not coming yet. The ultimate mission of the church is not for us to have a bless me club where we only come to worship and hear a message that encourages and blesses us but also to become equipped to help reach other people. The Bible is crystal clear about this, once we know God, it is our mission to help others do the same.

If you have ever lost something really valuable, then you know that when that happened that's all you could think about. My wife lost our first born one time. It was in the heat of the summer, and we lived in trailer, and we often left the door open to get some air flowing. One day, our daughter crawled out the

door and under the trailer. When my wife couldn't find her, she went screaming her name through the trailer park. In a panic, she ran to the bottom of the hill; and when she ran back up the hill, she saw her sitting under the trailer. When she was lost, all my wife could think about was finding her, and she was still upset hours later when I came home. She was distracted by that which was lost.

When God looks at the earth, He sees everyone as His children, and He loves them all. God sees His found kids, and He sees His lost kids. They're lost, but they're still His kids. In one chapter, Luke 15, Jesus tells three stories of lost things: a lost coin, a lost sheep and a lost son. In all three stories, the moral was, "I will leave the found things to go find the lost things." When God looks down at churches and sees people worshipping, He likes that, but that is not what He is most concerned about. Because God is distracted by that which is lost.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Freddie Brown has been the senior pastor of Restoration Church in Florence since its founding in 1998. He was an engineer with Eaton Aerospace for 34 years until 2006.*

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# Don't take your backyard dirt for granted



By Doug Carter,  
Rankin County  
Extension Agent

Special to SW  
Rankin News

No one should take the dirt in their backyard for granted. Among other benefits, soil supplies nutrients for plant growth and impacts water flow. Site and soil evaluation include topography, drainage, soil texture, soil profile, bulk density, chemistry, soil depth, height of the water table and organic matter.

For any kind of yard planting, including trees, you should determine the nutritional status of the soil. A soil test tells you about the soil's pH, how well it holds its nutrients and cationic exchange. MSU Extension provides a soil testing service for \$8 per sample.

There are three primary plant nutrients: nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Nitrogen promotes top growth, phosphorus contributes to root, fruit, and flower development and potassium builds disease resistance. After the second and third growing season, a slow-release organic fertilizer can be applied to the soil. Trees live year after



Special to SW Rankin News

year and don't need a lot of fertilizer at any one time. They need it throughout their growing season. A drought stressed plant does not need fertilizer, it needs water. By adding fertilizer, all you are doing is making the plant need

more water and causing it even more stress.

Another important soil topic is irrigation. Watering is important for young trees to get them off to a good start. As with grass, you want to water when

there is dew formation (just before daylight) to avoid evaporation. Watering before daylight does not alter the natural cycle of soil wetting and drying. Trees prefer deep water irrigation with the soil moist to a depth of twelve inches. Slow, deep watering using a soaker hose once a week is preferred over fast, shallow watering. Deep watering forces young roots to grow deeper and help them become better adapted to the site. Avoid watering to the point where you see puddles forming on the soil. This means you've exceeded the soil infiltration rate, and you're wasting water.

Mulching should be combined with irrigation for trees. Mulch will reduce watering needs throughout the growing season. You should apply two to four inches of mulch to the edge of the tree canopy (the dripline), and it should not touch the tree trunk. Mulch piled against the trunk encourages fungus. Each type of mulch has tradeoffs. Pine straw is effective, it's nice, and it does not attract wood boring insects, as does bark or wood chips. Wood chips float away in heavy rains. Leaves can be used as mulch, as long as air hits the trunk and the layer is not over four inches thick.



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## Area Spotlight: Richland Community Center

Special to SW Rankin News

The Richland Community Center has been an asset to the city for 17 years. The community center is a great venue for weddings, receptions, birthday parties, seminars and so much more. The Richland Room is the grand ballroom that is just over 6,000 square feet and is an ideal place to host an event. The community center also has three other room options to meet your needs, depending on the size of your event. And with several wedding packages available, brides-to-be can look here for a venue for their special day.

The Richland Community Center also hosts our senior adult programs. Programs include exercise, game day, line dancing, arts and crafts, tap dancing, crochet class, men's coffee and more. The Senior Adult Program is designed for ages 55 and up to provide opportunities for social interaction and physical activity.

The City of Richland also offers activities for children and the younger adult population to promote family togetherness. Activities are held in a safe environment. Some of the annual events include: Easter Egg Hunt, Movies under the stars, Christmas in the



Photo by SW Rankin News

Park, Halloween events, Highway 49 Festival, Business Expo, and Father/Son Campout. Many of these events utilize the community center or the surrounding park and recreation facilities.

The Highway 49 Fest is on Saturday, September 29. The event is held on our soccer fields next to the community center. The community festival is designed to be family friendly and enjoyed by all ages. There will be something for everyone to enjoy. This year, headlining our nighttime concert will be country music artist Craig Morgan and Runaway June. For more information about this event, visit [www.highway49fest.com](http://www.highway49fest.com).

If you are looking for a venue to host your next event or looking for ways to get connected to the center's programs or activities, stop by the office located at 410 East Harper Street, and let the staff assist you. You can also call 601-420-3400.

## Police officers meet Florence residents at National Night Out



Special to SW Rankin News

Law Enforcement personnel met Florence residents at the National Night Out at Hemphill Park on August 30. Pictured (l to r) are: Billy Luke, Rankin, Rankin County Sheriff's Office (RCSO); Barry McCue, (RCSO); Richard Thomas, Florence PD Police Chief; Anthony Shack, (RCSO); and Justin Evans, (RCSO).



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## Garden Club installs new officers



Special to SW Rankin News

The Richland-Florence Garden Club recently installed new officers. Pictured (l to r) are: Susan Harrison, treasurer; Joan Benton, vice president; Debbie Knight, president; Pat Hawthorne, recording secretary; and Marie Phillips, corresponding secretary.

## Rangers Benson, Norwood named Players of Week



Photo by SW Rankin News

Christian Benson was named Richland Ranger Player of the Week. Pictured (l to r) are Coach Trey Bailey; Adam Richardson, Farm Bureau Agent; Christian Benson; and Philip Dunn, Farm Bureau Agent.



Photo by SW Rankin News

Travian Norwood was named Richland Ranger Player of the Week. Pictured (l to r) are Coach Trey Bailey; Adam Richardson, Farm Bureau Agent; Travian Norwood; and Philip Dunn, Farm Bureau Agent.

### Special to SW Rankin News

Richland High School football player Christian Benson was named the Farm Bureau Player of the Week for his performance in Week One vs. Puckett. Benson threw for 182 yards and one touch-

down (TD) and also ran for 168 yards and four TDs. Travian Norwood, who is also a Richland High School football player, was named the Farm Bureau Player of the Week for his performance against Pisgah High School. Travian recorded 14 total tackles in the contest.

## Protect latchkey kids by planning for safety



Special to SW Rankin News

By Guest Columnist  
Jim Pollard

Youngsters who take care of themselves for a few hours each day while parents are away are called "latchkey kids." In some communities, half of all children age five to thirteen spend part of their day at home alone. When school resumes each year, numerous parents return to work outside the home, and more children become latchkey kids.

To help protect children at home alone, AMR urges parents to eliminate household hazards and teach their children how to stay safe.

Stan Alford, operations manager with AMR in central Mississippi, said "Latchkey children are at greater risk than those supervised by adults to suffer a serious injury, become victimized or engage in delinquent behavior. A solid plan emphasizing safety will help protect boys and girls on their own at home. Many states have laws against leaving children under a certain age at home alone, and it's a crime in every state to leave a child in a dangerous situation."

"Ask yourself if your child has the judgment to stay at home alone safely," Alford said. "Some younger kids are more mature and responsible than older children. Parents must assess each child individually and see how well he or she retains the parent's safety instructions. It's wise to build up gradually the time the child is at home alone."

Parents who adopt the latchkey lifestyle must tend to these safety issues:

- **Check your home thoroughly for hazards.** Eliminate the risks, or teach the child to avoid them. For example, you might teach the child never to use the stove, but, instead, to use the microwave. If there is a gun the house, be sure it is in a locked cabinet, and make certain only grown-ups can open it.
- **Teach the child when and how to call 911.** Also enter a list of your emergency numbers in each cell telephone. Post the list near each of your ground line phones.
- **Be sure children know names and contact numbers.** Each child should know his or her full name, complete home address and home phone number, your full name, the exact name of the place where you work and your work phone number. Write that information down; and, with your child, decide how you will keep it handy in items the child takes to and from school each day. With

your child, post a copy of the information in at least two easy-to-see places in your home.

- **Develop and practice fire escape plans.** Involve the whole family in designing and practicing your escape plan. Child-friendly how-to advice is free at [www.sparky.org](http://www.sparky.org).

- **Require your children to take the same route to and from school each day.** Walk that route with the children more than once, to be sure they know the way. Counsel them to come directly home. If possible, have them walk with friends.

- **To know your child's whereabouts at all times, use a cell phone app such as GPS Phone Tracker.** Developed by Family Safety Productions, it's free at Google Play.

- **Establish a check-in routine, so a responsible adult knows of the child's arrival home.** If your child checks in with you at work, develop a back-up system in case you are unavailable. If you can't take calls at work, consider contracting with a call center specifically set up to receive check-in calls from latchkey children. Database Systems Corporation runs a call center of that nature (visit [www.latchkey-kids.com](http://www.latchkey-kids.com)).

- **Discuss with your children how to respond to strangers.** Practice with your child to shout "No!" if approached by a stranger, then to get away from him or her and immediately tell a trusted adult.

Don't let children carry bags or other items with their names on them. Don't let them wear keys in a visible place. Be sure keys don't have a name and address on them.

- **Assemble an age-appropriate first-aid kit, with your child's help.** Teach your child how to use its contents, such as band-aids.

Technology can also help keep latchkey kids safe.

"Parents should consider installing door locks operated from cell phones, which ends the worry of lost keys," said Alford. "Such locks will alert the parent the moment the child gets home. Camera systems connected to cell phones enable the parent to keep close tabs on latchkey children. Video doorbells are also a smart investment. Parents should also set controls on laptops and other computers which protect children from inappropriate or dangerous online content."

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Jim Pollard, a paramedic since 1990, is the media relations lead in central Mississippi for American Medical Response (AMR).*



# RHS receives donation



Richland High School received a donation from BancorpSouth to support their Student of the Month program. The donation will be used to purchase gift cards for the students. Pictured (l to r) are: Assistant Principal Corey Yates, Richland BancorpSouth Vice President Sandra Ray, and Principal Dr. Scott Rimes.

# Oswalt sworn in as firefighter



New Firefighter Chad Oswalt was sworn in at level four, step five during August.

# Richland High School adds faculty



New faculty members at Richland High School (RHS) for the 2018-2019 school year pictured (l to r) front row, are: Katherine Sherlock, Sarah Routh, Kristen Nutt, Emily Brandon, Leanna Butler, Lana Mize, and Jordan Scidmore; and second row: Principal Dr. Scott Rimes, Walker Isbell, Trey Banks, Sgt. Gregory Jackson, and William Hedgpeth.

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Pearl Public Library	Florence Public Library	Richland Public Library
<p><b>Birth to 12 years</b>  <b>Pearl Pee Wees</b> - Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. Birth to 24 months. Register at <a href="http://cmrls.evanced.info/signup/Calendar">cmrls.evanced.info/signup/Calendar</a>.  <b>Toddler Time</b> - Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.  <b>Preschool Story Time</b> - Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.  <b>Peanuts After School</b> - Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m. This group is for K-6th grade.</p> <p><b>Teens</b>  <b>CD Mandalas</b> - Monday, September 10, 5:30 p.m.                      Chocolate Olympics - Monday, September 17, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Movie Night</b>  <i>Ready Player One</i>, Monday, September 24, 5:30 p.m.                      Come join us for Teen Night at Pearl Library. Popcorn, candy, and drinks will be provided.</p> <p><b>Adult &amp; Senior Adult</b>                      Come Craft with Us! - Tuesday, September 4, 5:30 p.m. This crafting group for adults meets every first Tuesday from 5:30-7:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Chapter 1 Book Club</b> - Tuesday, September 11, 6:00 p.m.  <b>Morning Book Club</b> - September 12 and 26, 10:00 a.m.  <b>BINGO for Books</b> - Thursday, September 13, 6:00 p.m.  <b>Third Thursday Flicks</b> - Thursday, September 20, 5:30 p.m. We will be showing Jurassic Park, rated PG-13.  <b>Technology After You Die</b>, Tuesday, September 25, 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Birth to 12 years</b>  <b>Preschool Story Time</b> - Every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. Swing on in and join the fun. Enjoy stories, crafts, music and more with your little ones</p> <p><b>Teens</b>  <b>YA Open Mic Night</b> - Thursday, September 13 at 5:00 p.m. Come join the fun. Bring your friends along and sing your favorite song. Recite a poem or perform standup comedy if you would like.</p> <p><b>Adult &amp; Senior Adult</b>  <b>The Coffee Addicts Book Club</b> - Thursday, September 6 and 20 at 1 p.m. Every two weeks we discuss the book and vote on the next one. Newcomers are always welcome. Call the library for additional information.</p> <p><b>Family</b>  <b>Bingo</b> - Monday, September 17 at 5:30 p.m. Join us every third Monday of the month for BINGO. Win prizes, socialize and make new friends.</p> <p><b>Family Movie Night</b> - Monday, September 24 at 4:00 p.m. Join us for <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>. Bring a blanket and a pillow. Drinks and popcorn provided - All ages welcome</p> <p>Central Mississippi Regional Library System (CMRLS) which serves 20 public libraries and the 216,000 citizens of Rankin, Scott, Simpson, and Smith Counties.  <a href="http://cmrls.lib.ms.us/about-us">http://cmrls.lib.ms.us/about-us</a></p>	<p><b>Preschool Story Time</b>  <b>Preschool Story Time</b> - for children ages birth to pre-school age, every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. The following is a schedule of programs for this month.                      September 12 Let's Explore the Letter "B"                      September 19 Fall is near, so let's play here!                      September 26 Pictures, WHAT Pictures!</p> <p><b>Teen Movie Night</b>                      Thursday, October 4 at 6 p.m. - We will be watching CBS Films movie about a young man who decides to break all the rules after his sketchbook is destroyed by a classmate. The movie is rated PG and is expected to last 92 minutes.</p> <p><b>Richland Writers</b>                      Monday, October 15 at 6 p.m. Richland Writers is for anyone who is interested in meeting with other people to discuss the craft of writing. All skill levels are welcomed.</p> <p><b>Color and Conversation</b>                      Thursday, September 13 at 6 p.m. Join us for fun informal coloring. You may bring your own coloring sheet or chose from one of our own patterns.                      Thursday, October 11 at 6 p.m. Join us for fun informal coloring. You may bring your own coloring sheet or chose from one of our own patterns. Tuesday, October 23 at 10:30 a.m. The book for October will be picked at the September meeting.</p> <p>For more information on the above meetings/programs, please call the Richland Library at 601-932-1846.</p>


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## American Cancer Society issues new colon cancer screening guidelines

Special to SW Rankin News

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the fourth most commonly diagnosed cancer among adults in the United States. Over 140,000 Americans are expected to be diagnosed with CRC in 2018.

Earlier this year, the American Cancer Society (ACS) issued new screening guidelines, making a qualified recommendation that routine colon cancer screening begin at age 45 years. The ACS estimates that more than 16,000 new cases of colon or rectal cancers will be diagnosed this year in Americans under 50. Some people are at higher risk and should be screened earlier, including personal or family history of inflammatory bowel disease, colorectal cancer or polyps, or ovarian, endometrial or breast cancer.

"Most people don't realize that colon cancer is a totally preventable cancer," family medicine provider Dr. Lepercival Griffin said. "It develops from a benign polyp that, over the course of a number of years, becomes the carcinoma, which is the cancer," Dr. Griffin added. "So, there is time to detect the polyps and remove them before



Special to SW Rankin News

they become cancer. In essence, you can prevent colon cancer if people get the colonoscopy on time and follow through with continued screening."

ACS recommends those tests that actually examine the interior of the colon because they cannot only detect cancer, but also prevent it by finding – and removing – polyps or growths that can potentially cause cancer. These tests include a flexible sigmoidoscopy (every five years); a colonoscopy (every 10 years); or a CT colonography or virtual colonoscopy (every five years). Polyps found during these tests can be removed on the spot, simply and painlessly.

If you need to be connected with a gastroenterologist or general surgeon, visit [mymeritdoctor.com](http://mymeritdoctor.com) to be connected with one of Merit Health's experienced providers.

Dr. Griffin is a member of the medical staff at Merit Health Central.

## Richland to host November Bridal Expo

By Susie A. Wolfe

Richland Economic Development Association (REDA) is sponsoring the First Annual Bridal Expo on Sunday, November 4, from 2 through 5 p.m. at the Richland Community Center.

According to City of Richland Event Planner Kristina Jordan, there will be a fashion show and vendors who know how to create fabulous events. Three Richland businesses have already committed as sponsors of the event, Willow Blu, The Bridal Path and Red Wagon Boutique.

Jordan said that they are still talking with businesses about exhibiting. For more information, call her at 601-601-420-3400.



Special to SW Rankin News

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## FOOTBALL SCHEDULES



### 2018 Richland Rangers Varsity Football Schedule

Sept. 14th	Wesson	Oct. 12th	Raymond (HC)
Sept. 21nd	Lake	Oct. 19th	Lanier
Sept. 28th	Florence	Oct. 26th	McComb (Senior Night)
Oct. 5th	South Pike	Nov. 2nd	Playoffs Begin



### 2018 Pearl Pirates Varsity Football Schedule

Sept. 14th	Open	Oct. 12th	George County
Sept. 21nd	Petal	Oct. 19th	Jim Hill
Sept. 28th	Meridian	Oct. 26th	Oak Grove
Oct. 5th	Terry (HC)	Nov. 2nd	Brandon



### 2018 Florence Eagles Varsity Football Schedule

Sept. 14th	Forest	Oct. 12th	McComb
Sept. 21nd	Kosciusko (HC)	Oct. 19th	South Pike
Sept. 28th	Richland	Oct. 26th	Lanier
Oct. 5th	Raymond	Nov. 2nd	Playoffs

## Hands UP Outreach starts fall semester



Special to SW Rankin News

Grace Center, located at 155 Brandon Drive in Richland, offers classes this Fall.

Special to Pelahatchie News

Hands UP Outreach (Christian Women's Job Corp and Christian Men's Job Corp) offers free classes for the fall semester, September 4 through December 3, in computer training, job skills, life skills, GED Prep and ESL in the Richland area.

Each person is scheduled to meet their individual needs. Registration is

now through September 4 for those 18 and above. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday day classes meet from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Grace Center, 155 Brandon Drive in Richland. Monday night class for men and women, ESL and ARW Meal at 6 p.m. is at First Baptist Church on Highway 49 in Richland.

Call Mary (ladies) at 601-826-0442 or Roy (men) at 601-826-0449 to register.

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