Vol. 3, No. 12

Florence, Pearl, Richland MS

December 2018

Knight and Johnson selected to receive Wendy's HS Heisman

Special to SW Rankin News

Two Florence High School students, Olivia Knight and Jaylon Johnson, were selected to receive the Wendy's High School Heisman. The Heisman is awarded annually to seniors who excel both in the classroom and on the playing field. Students must also be proven leaders in the school community and have documented community service.

Knight, daughter of Carey and Kathy Knight, has been selected as an All-American for the last two years in varsity dance and has won various awards with the team and as a soloist. She is also a member of the Big Red Band's All Superior Color Guard and plays the bass clarinet with the concert band. Knight has also maintained a 4.0 grade point average and is enrolled in honors, advanced placement, and dual credit courses.

Pearl Municipal

community - pg. 5

Broadcasting serving the

Johnson, son of Audroy Haynes, has been district champion with the FHS Track and Field Team. He has been selected first team All-District for the past two years with the FHS Basketball Team. He has also been selected as a Merit Health Scholar for the past two years. Johnson has maintained a 4.0 grade point average and is enrolled in dual credit, honors, and advanced placement courses. In addition to being selected as a local winner, Johnson was selected as a state finalist for the Wendy's Heisman.





Olivia Knight (left) and Jaylon Johnson (right), from Florence High School were selected to receive the Wendy's High



Coach Russell Marsalis of Richland High School was named "Jackson Metro Teacher of the Year" for the 2019-2020 school year. Marsalis is the head boys basketball coach and teaches the video broadcasting class. Pictured (I to r) are: Jacob Walters, Principal Dr. Scott Rimes, Russell Marsalis, Zach Showers, and Kamrvn Shields.

Coach Marsalis, Metro Teacher of the Year | Pearl Library wins Prism Award

Special to SW Rankin

The Pearl Public Library was recently honored with the Mississippi Art Education Association Prism Award. The Prism Award was given to the library for their continued partnership with the Pearl Public School District Art Program.

The Pearl Public Library was nominated by Felicia Lee, art teacher at Pearl High School, for a prestigious award that recognizes an organization that promotes art education in Mississippi. Lee wrote about how Pearl hosts the art show for Pearl students and all of the art programs for teens they provide.



The Prism Award was given to the Pearl Library for their partnership with the Pearl school art program. It is on the front table of the library for all to see.



Center for Violence Prevention offers shelter, counseling

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Center for Violence Prevention is located in Pearl, but covers Claiborne, Copiah, Hinds, Issaquena, Madison, Rankin, Sharkey, Simpson, Warren and Yazoo counties, and is the only human trafficking shelter in the state.

Executive Director Sandy Middleton has been with the full-service victim agency for 15 years and has seen it grow from four employees with a budget of \$250,000 to 40 employees operating a \$2.1 million budget that helps victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, survivors of homicide, and human trafficking. Federal grants help the shelter, but they require matching funds, which come from community donations from citizens, churches, service groups, among

The need is there, according to Middleton. One in four women will be a victim of domestic violence in her lifetime, while one in six with be the victim of sexual assault. She said they have seen 50 victims of human trafficking in the last year, fifteen of which were children.

According to Pearl Prosecutor Troy



Special to SW Rankin News

Second Chance store shopper Denice Jamison, a nurse at Mississippi State Hospital, said she shops there because there are great prices on good merchandise, and because the proceeds of the sales benefits abused or battered women

Odom, "Sandy and her team at the Center for Violence Prevention are instrumental in my role as in prosecuting crimes of domestic violence.

In-State Toll Free 1-800-266-4198

Human Trafficking 1-888-373-7888

How you can help.

The Center for Violence Prevention advocates that every person has the right to a life free from violence. Through partnerships with multiple community organizations and a committed staff focused on the needs of the abused, they provide services for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Rape, and Human Trafficking.

- · Financial Donation
- Second Chance retail store: Donate items and Shop. Located in Bright Shopping Center
- Volunteer
- Offer Professional Service (dentist, cosmotologist, etc.)

www.mscvp.org

601.932.4198

They are a fixture in the Pearl Municipal Court. Their guidance and advice are key to not only bringing abusers to justice, but also counseling those in

In addition to financial support, the Center for Violence Prevention needs volunteers to work with victims. She said they have twenty now but could use more. They also invite individuals or businesses to donate their professional services, such as dentists, cosmetologists, accountants, etc. One example of a recent professional service donation was Cummins, which that donated oil changes.

The Center also needs gently-used donations to their Second Chance Resale Store located in Bright Shopping Center near First Baptist Church in Pearl. According to weekly Second Chance store shopper Denice Jamison, a nurse at Mississippi State Hospital, said she shops there because there are great prices on good merchandise, but because the proceeds of the sales also benefits abused or battered women and children.

SWRANKIN NEWS

P.O. Box 5963 Pearl, MS 39208 601-706-9237

Volume 3 Issue 12 Circulation - 15,000

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Southwest Rankin News is published on the second Tuesday of every month.

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Odom elected Chancery judge

By Susie A. Wolfe

Troy Odom was elected Rankin County Chancery Judge, Place Two, on November 27. He has served as the Pearl prosecutor one and a half years but will

start his new duties on the bench January 2.

for-"I look ward to getting to work hearing cases and helping move the docket efficiently," said Odom, who has practiced Chancery family law with Blair & Bondurant, P.A for the last sixteen and a half years. He was one of three partners in the firm located at the Reservoir.

"Working with Pearl was the most fun I have ever had practic-

ing law," said Odom, who said he will miss working with the people in Pearl but will still be involved with Pearl residents and others around the county.

Odom, a graduate of the University of Mississippi and Mississippi College, is also an adjunct professor at the Mississippi College School of Law, where he teaches oil and gas to second-and thirdyear law students. With his dad being in the military, he was raised all over the country, but he met his wife at Ole Miss, and they settled in Brandon.

He said he is glad the campaign is



Special to SW Rankin New

The Odom family is shown on the campaign trail. Pictured (I to r) are: Brittany, Troy, Caroline and Hayes.

over. He praised his wife, Brittany, who was his campaign manager, and his children, Caroline, 13, and Hayes, 12, for working with him constantly. Now that the campaign is over, he said he looks forward to spending more time with his family, with which he will be taking a Caribbean cruise during Christmas.

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Pearl seniors sign with Delta State



Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl High School seniors, Clare Pinter and Hannah Pinter, signed a cross country scholarship with Delta State University. Pictured (I to r) front row, are: Stephanie Cantrell, mother; Clare Pinter; Hannah Pinter; and Rusty Pinter, father; and back row: Richard Smithhart, Pearl athletic director; Caitlin Pinter, sister; Mitchell Cantrell, step-father; George Kersh, Pearl High School head coach; Dorman Pinter, grandfather; Chris Chism, Pearl High School principal; and John Craven, Pearl High School assistant principal.

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Funeral Home
John "Bo" King	62	Flowood MS	11/3/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Shirley Ann Davis	76	Brandon, MS	11/5/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Alecia Anderson Shields	37	Richland, MS	11/6/18	Chanellow Funeral Home
Ruthie Lee Shipp	91	Florence, MS	11/9/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Dianne Sykes Slay	61	Florence, MS	11/10/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Buck Turner Kennedy	81	Florence, MS	11/12/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
John C. Roberson	76	Richland, MS	11/14/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Faye D. Shivers	78	Florence, MS	11/16/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Merrick Wilson Corley	11 Days	Florence, MS	11/14/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Jacob Shawn Pittman	77	Florence, MS	11/17/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Hollis Langston, Sr.	86	Florence, MS	11/17/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Connie R. Wolf	71	Florence, MS	11/17/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Emma DuBose	94	Florence, MS	11/20/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Eric Griffin	53	Ridgeland, MS	11/23/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Dorothy "Dot" Gray	85	Hilton Head, SC	11/22/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Charles Ray Hooks, Sr.	84	Florence, MS	11/26/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Louise Townsend	92	Florence, MS	11/29/18	Chancellor Funeral Home





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Pearl Municipal Broadcasting serving the community events, Pearl High School sports, as

By Susie A. Wolfe

Pearl Municipal Broadcasting (PMB) is its tenth season of producing and distributing educational, governmental, and local programming serving the City of Pearl and the surrounding areas. Pearl is the first Mississippi city to own a radio station and one of only a few to operate a television station that keeps citizens informed, broadcasts City events, and offers Pearl High and Hinds Community College students hands-on experience in its state-of-the-art studio at 2422 Old Brandon Road or in its Mobile Production Unit.

"We strive to provide positive entertainment programming, respond to community needs, address local government issues, and help bring education into the home," said Frank Hutton, City of Pearl IT and Communications Director. "Our goal is to foster a sense of community in the City of Pearl and its neighboring communities through the use of our cable channel along with our low power FM radio station, WPBP 104.5 FM."

In addition to keeping the City's 300 employees' computers up and running, Hutton along with his two-person crew, Greg Cupstid and Josh Hamby,

a student at Hinds, cover regular board meetings, every ribbon cutting, parades, plays and high school athletics. Also, they manage 24/7 online streaming at cityofpearl.com.



Photo by SW Rankin News

Frank Hutton serves the City of Pearl as IT and communications director. He manages PMB, which is now in its tenth season

PMBtv20 is carried locally on Comcast Cable channel 20 and on channel 99 on AT&T Uverse. Founded in 1998. PMBtv started as an information only channel running multiple VCRs and PowerPoints listing current events inside the City of Pearl. Since, PMBtv has evolved into a fully functioning television station broadcasting live

Pearl is the first Mississippi city to own a radio station. WPAP radio station is broadcast on channel 104.5 on the FM dial. "The Pirate" celebrated its first year in operation in May of 2012, and it reaches from Jackson, Ridgeland, Castlewoods, and Brandon to Florence. Broadcasting high atop its tower locat-

well as professionally-produced programs. Similar to Mississippi Edu-

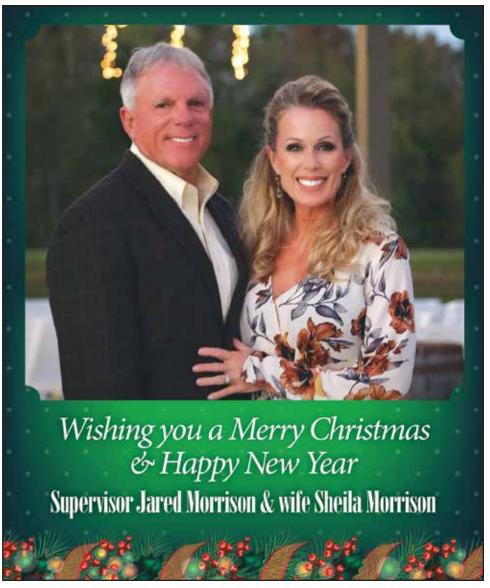
cational Television, the Pearl station

ed at Center City, the station broadcasts a variety of music from vesterday's favorites to today's biggest hits. It is the home for all Pearl High School Athletic events to include football, baseball, basketball, and more.

"The Pirate," which has the slogan "we play everything, well almost," plays every genre of music including Top 40, classic rock, contemporary country, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, and alternative rock. Weekly shows include the Frank Hutton Radio Show broadcast Wednesday at 4 p.m. for two hours; Defining Moments with Larry Nix, Thursday 11-12; Retro in the Metro Rob Vanzant plays 80s hairband music Thursday at 4 p.m.; Dirty House of Rock with Crash featuring local rock musicians; The Underground contemporary Christian rock and roll Saturday 9 p.m. to midnight; and After Dark, overnight every night.

According to Hutton, PMB has the same equipment and studio as tier one network television stations like CBS, ESPN or Fox, just on a smaller scale. Despite their size, they have set the bar for school broadcasts, being the first station in the State of Mississippi to broadcast live on television, the Internet and Facebook. Tune in to find out what's coming next.





Love our community this Christmas season



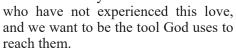
Special to

By Brian Rester, Discipleship Pastor, The Exchange

The Christmas season is a time where we can show the people of our community that Jesus loves them. One of the

key phrases around The Exchange is

"Get Life, Give Life." We have received a great gift of new life through what Jesus has done for us, and, because of that great gift received, our goal is to love others just as Jesus has loved us. There are so many people in our community

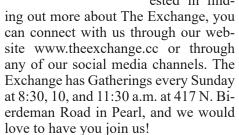


One of the ways The Exchange is going to love our community this Christmas season is through an event happening at Pearl City Park on December 14 at 6:30 p.m. called Christmas in the Park. This is an event that will feature hot chocolate, cookies, inflatables, Christmas movies, Christmas games, a petting zoo, Disney characters, and pictures with Santa! It is a totally free

event for families to come and hang out in a safe environment and enjoy some Christmas fun!

Another thing The Exchange is doing to love our community this Christmas is called Operation Give. This is an opportunity for our family just to say "We care about you" to our community. During the Christmas season, The Exchange will be purchasing and deliver-

ing Christmas gifts for over 1,000 children in Pearl. We want to be a spiritual house that reaches out into our community to love those around us like Jesus has loved us. If you are interested in find-



Special to SW Rankin News

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rester is married to his wife, Brittany, and they have two children, Ashlyn and Grayson. Brian is the Discipleship Pastor for The Exchange in Pearl.

Blackmon named MSH Employee of the Month

Special to SW Rankin News

Courtney Blackmon has been named Mississippi State Hospital (MSH)'s November Employee of the Month for Support Services.

Blackmon, who was born and still lives in Florence, works in Medical Records on Male Receiving. The Hinds Community College graduate has worked at MSH for two years.

The MSH Employee of the Month award recognizes employees who have made outstanding contributions to the hospital through their work. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc.



Special to SW Rankin News

Courtney Blackmon was named MSH's November's Employee of the Month.

Good turnout at Florence Day







Special to SW Rankin New

Though the temperature was cold, many came out to participate in Florence Day activities on Saturday, November 10 at Hemphill Park. There were booths, entertainment, a kid's zone and a Chili Cookoff. A breakfast began the day filled with activities.

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Cadet Cook wins essay contest | Coleman named RHS's Character



Special to SW Rankin News

Cadet Second Lieutenant Amber Cook from Richland High School (RHS) was recognized at the RCSD School Board for winning First Place in the annual Jim Morrow Essay Contest. The Jim Morrow Essay Contest is hosted by the American Legion Post 20, and each year focuses on a topic related to service to one's community, state, and nation. Pictured (I to r) are: RHS Principal Dr. Scott Rimes, Teresa Cook, Amber's mother: Amber Cook, and JROTC Instructors Colonel Robbins and Master Sergeant Jackson.

Coleman named RHS's Character Trait Student of the Month



Special to SW Rankin News

Eighth grader Janiyah Coleman was selected as RHS's October Character Trait Student of the Month. Her consistent demonstration of contentment in both her actions and deeds throughout the month earned her this award. Pictured with Coleman is Assistant Principal Dr. Terrance McEwen.

SWRANKIN NEWS

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Stoney Creek Mobile Home Park

StowAway Self Storage

Stribling Equipment T-Rays BBQ Tiny Treasures The Donut Shop Café Willow Blu

Schools

Discovery Christian School Florence Elementary Florence Middle Florence High McLaurin Elementary McLaurin High Northside Elementary Pearl Lower Elementary Pearl Upper Elementary Pearl Junior High Pearl High Richland Elementary Richland Upper Elementary Richland High Steen's Creek Elementary







Mississippi Counseling Association names Jan Lemon to key post

Special to SW Rankin News

Starting in June 2019, Jan Lemon will serve as president-elect of the Mississippi Counseling Association.

A Florence resident and Mississippi College counseling professor, Dr. Lemon was elected to the leadership posts at the Mississippi Counseling Association's Fall conference.

Founded in 1950, the MCA encourages personal and professional development among counselors. The group partners with the American Counseling Association. Counselors work at mental health agencies, schools, private practices, the military, rehabilitation centers, and elsewhere across the USA. Mississippi College colleagues salute Lemon, a former Florence High senior counselor for 18 years before joining the Christian university faculty in August 2011.

"Jan Lemon is a true professional counselor and educator," said Ron Howard, vice president for academic affairs. "Her work has touched the lives of literally thousands, and in the most positive ways. She has contributed so very much to the MC counseling program."

Peers have long recognized her career accomplishments. 2015, In Lemon was named the School of Education's Distinguished Professor of the Year at Mississip-Lemon is



Mississippi College.
Lemon is Special to SW Rankin News
Mississippi College counseling
professor Jan Lemon

a former president of the Mississippi School Counseling Association.

Moving up the ranks at the Mississippi Counseling Association is an honor and humbling experience, Lemon said. She seeks to improve counseling services and client outcomes among all Mississippi populations. "My hope is that our association will advance and unite counseling more broadly to insure growth and success for each clinician."



When Amy Marler found out a family member was having breathing issues and nausea, she first thought it was food poisoning. But with symptoms worsening, she immediately decided to rush her loved one to the Merit Health Rankin emergency room. Upon arrival they were quickly triaged and within a few minutes a physician was in their room assessing the situation. After careful observation and a thorough treatment plan, the ER physician discharged them home and the patient made a complete recovery. Amy said, "My first instinct was to go to the Merit Health Rankin ER and I'm so glad we did. We were treated with compassion and a sense of urgency that let us know we were important to them. I'm so thankful to have Merit Health Rankin in our community."

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RHS names November Top Rangers RHS names October Students of the Month



The Top Ranger Award is given to students who have shown exemplary behavior in and out of the classroom. Students receiving this award have been standout students and have continually worked hard at their coursework. Students awarded this accolade receive free lunch at Mazzio's in Richland. Pictured (I to r) front row, are: Brooklyn Goss, Elizabeth Jackson, Morokot Suon, and Jordan McKey; second row: Breanna Cook, Ema Roland, Kamryn Shields, Corinna Yates, Rheagan Case, and Faith Dillon; and third row: Samantha Bazemore, left, and Miracle Cooper, and Tania Castillo, far right; and back row: Kiara Love, Landon McLendon, Taniya Fletcher, Taylor Rusk, Gabriel Ross, Jacob Arnold, Wayne Poole, Gannon Burney, and Anthony Floyd.

Monday-Friday, 10:30 till 2 Merry Christmas to Ya'll! 1 ogan Rive Monday - Saturday 3091 Hwy 49 S 10:30am - 9:00 pm Florence, MS DINE IN OR CARRY OUT



Special to SW Rankin News

Richland High School (RHS) recently named the October 2018 Students of the Month. These students are nominated and selected by their teachers for such qualities as dependability, attitude, leadership, attendance, and class work. Students are awarded a certificate from the Exchange Club, a book donated to the library in honor of the senior from the Exchange Club, a gift card from BancorpSouth, and Mazzio's. The students are as follows: Pictured (seated, I to r) Jessie Perkins, Garrett Myers, and Chloe' Knippers; (standing, I to r) Assistant Principal Dr. Terrance McEwen, Emily Adams, Christina Wansley and Lisbeth Campusano





Florence holds Veteran's service



Special to SW Rankin News

A Veteran's Memorial Service was held November 9 in Florence. Pictured (I to r) front row, are: Grace Peeples and Mary Alice Hydrick; and second row: Florentine members Dee Payne, Jeannie Pittman, Betty Harpe, Rankin County Supervisor Jared Morrison, Veteran Roy Callahan, Mayor Bob Morris, Lance Varner, Representative Tom Weathersby, and Rev. BB Watson.

Garden Club decorates gazebo



The Richland-Florence Garden Club decorated the Florence Gazebo for the fall season. Pictured (I to r) are members Susie Gulledge and Sandy Ashley.

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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Pearl High School (PHS) Football Coach John Perry became the winningest coach in Pearl history after winning the Pirate's first round playoff game. It was his one hundred first Pearl win.

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Perry PHS' winningest coach | MSH honors Buchanan for 30 years of service

Special to SW Rankin News

Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) recently honored employees with November anniversary dates for their years of service. Ora Buchanan of Florence was recognized for providing 30 years of service to the hospital.

Buchanan, a University of Southern Mississippi graduate in Therapeutic Recreation, is a Director V at Jaquith Nursing Home. She is a Waynesboro native.

Service Awards are given to employees in the month of their date of hire, beginning with one year and followed by every fifth anniversary year. Employees receive a Certificate of Appreciation and a Service Award Pin. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital Inc. Inc.

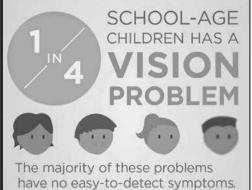


Ora Buchanon

Our Neck of the Woods 4-H names officers



The 2018-2019 Our Neck of the Woods Club Officers are: Abbye Buchanan, president; Madison Anderson, vice president; Patin Nash, secretary; Dalton Buchanan, treasurer; and Ava Oswalt, reporter.



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RFC Kick or Treat Soccer Tournament winners

Special to SW Rankin News

Richland Futbol Club (RFC) hosted their Second Annual Kick or Treat Soccer Tournament on October 28. From the many team costumes to the end-of-the-night Trunk or Treat, everyone had a great time. Congratulations

to the U12 boys' team, RFC United; the U12 girls' team, RFC Vipers; and the U14 boys' team, RFC Rampage who all finished first.

For more information, see richland-futbolclub.com, Twitter at richland_fc, Facebook at richlandfutbolclub, and on Instagram @richlandfutbolclub.



U12 Boys RFC United, dressed in navy, placed first in RFC Second Annual Kick or Treat Soccer Tournament on October 28. Pictured (I to r) front row, are: Logan Hart, Juvey Loredo, Steve Fernandez, Collin Maples, Mason Moha, Kyle Webb, and Christopher Maples; second row: Landon Vaughn, Christopher Hernandez, Austin Longo, Noah Fiallos, and Gavin Myers; and third row: Coaches Chris Maples and Matthew Hart.



U12 Girls RFC Vipers, dressed as M&M's, placed first in RFC Second Annual Kick or Treat Soccer Tournament on October 28. Pictured (I to r) front row, are: Makayla Sanford, Bren Baucom, and Kendal Patterson; and back row: Coach Millie Cook, Kylee Putnam, Emma Qintero, Danielle Dunn, Vanessa Vaca, Macie Tagert, Rylee Black, Lauryn Greene, Jaycee Black, and Tania Mariano.



Special to SW Rankin News

U14 Boys RFC Rampage, dressed in red, placed first in RFC Second Annual Kick or Treat Soccer Tournament on October 28. Pictured (I to r) front row, are: Hayes Cloer, Trent Walker, Colby Cook, Braden Clark, and Kevin Ragoyta; and second row: Cole Logan, Erik Zarazua, Coach Virginia Miller, Albert Burgos, Noah Aldridge, Ayden Broome, Orlando Zarazua, Brian Loredo, William Guevara, and Abram Yates.



Florence City Hall. MLS #311066

