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# The Pearl News

Good News  
You Can Use

Vol. 4, No. 6 | June 2019

The Pearl News is a subsidiary of **SW RANKIN NEWS**

## Pearl High boys track and field team named State Champs

By Brenda Wilder

The Pearl High School boys track and field team was recently named the MH-SAA 6A State Champs following the championship event, which was held at Pearl High School. Coach Chris Barnett celebrated with the team on winning their 16th state championship and the first back-to-back championship since 2012, when the boys won three in a row. Barnett received the honor of being named the 2019 National High School Athletic Coaches Association Boys Track and Field Coach of the Year for Mississippi.

During the 2018-19 season, the team won the Saltillo Cross Country Invitational, Clinton Cross Country Invitational, Jesse Owens Classic (fourth year consecutive), and the Rankin County



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The PHS boys were named state champions at the recent MHSAA 6A State Championship Track and Field event.

Championship.

Jason Collier recently broke the school record in the pole vault with a jump of 15 feet 7 inches, which ranks as the 17th best jump in the nation this year. At the state championship, Pearl

team members who placed included Patrick Spurgeon, first in 1600m dash and second in 800m; David Adams, first in 3200m dash; Jason Collier, first in pole vault; Niquez Wade, first in discus; Willie Hedrick, second in discus; Jay Ward, second in 300m; Jerry Johnson, second in long jump and sixth in triple jump; Willie Hedrick, second in discus; JiKori James, seventh in 3200m; Gabriel Harvey, seventh in pole vault; Conner White, seventh in discus;

and Leo McIntyre, eighth in shot put.

David Adams, Patrick Spurgeon and JiKori James, from the boys' team, and Shana Sellers, from the girls' team, were selected for the *Clarion Ledger* Cross Country All-State Teams.

The girls team finished as runners up at the state championships.

The Woody Barnett Track and Field Complex, home of the Pearl Track and Field Team, was built in 2003 and hosted its first meet in 2004. The Woody Barnett Complex has hosted college meets and many junior high and high school meets, including USA Track & Field, invitationals, Little 6 Championships, divisions, regionals, and the MH-SAA State Championship. The state championship win is the 54th overall for the Pearl High School Track and Field and Cross Country programs.

## City of Pearl seeking citizen input for comprehensive plan

By Brenda Wilder

The City of Pearl is working with the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD) on an update of the City's Comprehensive Plan. In order to assist CMPDD planners and City leaders in developing the plan, the City is asking citizens to complete a brief online survey. City leaders say the community's input and comments will be a valuable part of the process.

The CMPDD planning staff has extensive experience providing comprehensive planning assistance or strategic long-range planning guidance to communities. Comprehensive plans help communities define their course for the future. Long-range planning efforts examine issues of growth in a community and provide policy recommendations to address development pressures as a community changes from rural to more

urban land uses. The heart of a comprehensive plan includes a series of recommended growth management strategies in the areas of land use, transportation, economic development and community facilities.

As with any long-range planning document, a comprehensive plan is intended to be an evolving document that is revised as poli-

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The PHS boys were named state champions at the recent MHSAA 6A State Championship Track and Field event.

cies and economic conditions change. Comprehensive plans are also intended to serve as a stepping stone to the development of other policy documents, such as zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations and capital improvement plans, as well as supplemental regulations such as sign, landscaping and parking ordinances.

The CMPDD is the only planning and development district in Mississippi which has a staff of AICP certified planners. As a result, the District continues to provide comprehensive planning and other assistance to local communities throughout the region and state.

Pearl City officials include Mayor Jake Windham and Aldermen David Luckett, Michael Sartor, Johnny Steverson, Casey Foy, James Thompson, Gavin Gill and John McHenry.

To participate in the survey, visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/pearlplan](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/pearlplan).

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# THE NEWS RICHLAND

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The Richland News is a subsidiary of **SWRANKIN NEWS**

## Richland Library has events for all ages this summer

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The Richland Public Library has many offerings for the summer for its patrons.

Preschool Story Time is held every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and includes books, songs, and a craft designed for children birth to preschool age. The June 12 theme is Star Light, Star Bright; June 19 will be The Legend of Rocks; and June 26 will be Astronauts in Space.

Also, the Summer Library Program will be on Thursdays at 1 p.m. through July 11. June 13 will feature Dorian LaChance, the Magician; June 20 will include a puppet show; and June 27 will be a NASA virtual presentation.

The library offers groups and activities for adults, as well. The Richland



*Special to SW Rankin News*

Writer's Group, a group of local writers who meet and discuss the craft of writing, will meet on Monday, June 17, at 6 p.m. All skill levels are welcome.

Color and Conversation will be on Thursday, June 13, at 6 p.m. This gathering is set up to be a fun and informal coloring group. Participants may bring their own supplies or use some of the supplies provided by the library.

Adult Craft Night will be on Thursday, June 20, at 6 p.m. Attendees will be making 4th of July door hangers. Registration is required.

The Coffee and Books book club will be on Tuesday, June 25, at 10:30 a.m. This month, the group is discussing *The Quiet Game* by Greg Iles.

The Richland Public Library is located at 370 Scarbrough Street. For more information, call 601-932-1846.

## Local churches plan summer mission activities

*By Brenda Wilder*

Churches in Richland are actively involved in local and global mission events during the summer months.

Richland First Baptist Church, located at 1102 Hwy 49 South, will host a Sports and Arts Camp during Vacation Bible School June 24 through 28 from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. and welcomes the community to participate.

Richland First Baptist also has several 2019 mission trips planned around the globe. Becky Brown, Minister of Missions, has organized several different groups and individuals from within the church family to participate in mission trips to Mexico, Costa Rica, France, West Africa, Thailand and the Czech Republic. Various activities for the trips will include a prayer walk, sharing the gospel with the help of local language translators, Backyard Bi-



*Special to SW Rankin News*

*Richland First United Methodist Church*



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*Florence Baptist Church*

ble Clubs for people of all ages, working with students, providing activities for the children of missionary families while the adults attend annual training meetings, and teaching English as a second language. Brown welcomes the community to pray for the mission teams and each country where the missions are located.

An additional local ministry for Richland FBC is "Love For Richland," and the church is exploring other opportunities for ongoing ministry partnerships within the

state of Mississippi, as well as overseas.

Richland First United Methodist Church offers a Grief Support activity that is open to the public and meets every second and fourth Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the church, located at 250 Richland Circle. Recently, the church collected items for a ministry to homeless people in Smith Park in Jackson. "Manna" and "Personal Care" bags were created and distributed in the park.

Pre-registration for the Richland FBC camp is available online at [www.fberichland.org](http://www.fberichland.org). For more information, contact Stacy Covey, Richland FBC Minister of Children at [stacy@fberichland.org](mailto:stacy@fberichland.org).

For more information about the grief support program and other missions of Richland FUMC, contact Jaya Buford at [richlandumc@comcast.net](mailto:richlandumc@comcast.net).



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# THE FLORENCE NEWS

## Good News You Can Use

Vol. 4, No. 6 | June 2019

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## FLO-TOWN USA splash pad open for summer

By Brenda Wilder

The City of Florence splash pad, FLO-TOWN USA, opened for the season on June 1.

Daily admission, required for all who enter the splash pad, ages one and up, is \$5 per person. A family day pass, for a family of up to four, is available for \$17.

Season passes are available for \$50 for an individual, \$125 for a family of up to four. Additional family members can be added to the family pass for \$20 per person.

Shady pavilions beside the playground and splash pad are ideal for birthday parties or picnics. Two hours of two picnic tables in the covered pavilion is \$85 and includes armbands for twenty guests during regular splash pad hours. Additional guests are \$4 each.

FLO-TOWN USA may be booked for a party or large group between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. During regular business hours, the use of two picnic tables in the pavilion is guaranteed, but there may be other customers on the splash pad.

After-hours private parties may be scheduled from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, or Sunday afternoons from 1 until 3 p.m. or 3 until 5 p.m. The rate of \$170 includes exclusive use of the pavilion, all tables and the splash pad, with armbands for forty guests.

No reservations may be made without



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full payment. Payments may be made by cash, check or money order made payable to the City of Florence. Debit and credit cards, with a small processing fee, are also accepted. All reservations must be made at City Hall.

The goal of the City of Richland Parks and Recreation Department is to offer the most programs for the most people while maintaining a top notch, wholesome environment with excellent facilities.

For more information, call the City of Florence Parks Department at 601-845-5858. FLO-TOWN USA is located at 203 College Street in Florence.

## B&P Family Farms aiming for long-term impact

By John David Harrison

Hunters, outdoorsmen and wildlife conservationists in Southwest Rankin County wanting to improve their hunting and the overall quality of their land can find the products and services they need right in Florence. B&P Family Farms is a family-owned and operated wildlife tree nursery and habitat improvement company, specializing in growing fruit and nut-bearing trees that are a beneficial food resource for wildlife. Started in 2011 by longtime friends and Florence residents Tyler Bishop and Jonathan Patterson, B&P Family Farms strives for conservation through education.

"Our customers are land owners and hunters that want their hunting to be better, but we know that ultimately what we're doing is conservation work and not just selling a product," says



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Patterson. "We really try to educate our customers on what we're doing and the long-term impact of our services."

And those services go well beyond growing and selling trees and other plants beneficial to wildlife. B&P provides complete consultation for the actual habitat their trees and plants will be placed in, starting with research on the predominant species historically found in the area. They use a mobile lab to run soil tests on site, and then it's a matter

of determining how many trees per acre will be planted. They also make recommendations on thinning and timber harvesting, perform controlled burns, trap predators, and remove invasive plant species such as kudzu, bradford pear, and Japanese climbing fern.

"On recreational property or hunting land, we pretty much do anything that anybody would need us to do, all the way down to grading out and building roads and replacing culverts," Patterson says.

Since the company's inception eight years ago, B&P's business and plant nursery have grown tremendously. To date, they have worked on 218 different pieces of private property all across the state of Mississippi, as well as two locations in Arkansas, ranging in size from twenty to 3,000 acres. Two current Mississippi State University students are on track to join Bishop and Patterson next

May, bringing a biologist and registered forester into the fold. With hunting being a major industry and pastime in Mississippi, the demand for wildlife benefiting trees and plants is ever increasing. Eventually, Patterson hopes their conservation efforts will move beyond the private sector.

"Our goal is to partner with state entities and large non-profit conservation groups to hopefully get into doing more large-scale work on public lands to have some long-term impact there. For me, personally, it's a legacy that I don't care either way if my name is attached to. If we're able to change any number of acres back to a natural healthy ecosystem that's there a hundred years after I'm gone, then I've succeeded."

B&P Family Farms is located at 1970 Cleary Road in Florence. Product and contact information can be found at [bpfamilyfarms.com](http://bpfamilyfarms.com).



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## MDOT work continues in Rankin County

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Mississippi Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall has announced updates to Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) projects in central Mississippi.

"The focus of the majority of the projects in central Mississippi is safety or system preservation," Hall said. "Because of shortfalls in current transportation funding, the majority of MDOT's projects reflect the agency's continued shift from capacity upgrades to system preservation and maintenance."

The U.S. Highway 49 Safety Improvement Project in Rankin County is currently on schedule for a summer 2021 completion.

W.G. Yates & Sons Construction Company, of Philadelphia, was awarded the approximately \$147 million construction contract in November 2017.

Traffic has been moved to the inside completed Phase I work in the median. The traffic shift was necessary for crews to safely begin work on Phase II, which includes bridge work, new drainage structure installation and outside lane widening. Median crossovers throughout the project limits have been closed to the traveling public for safety

reasons.

Once Phase II is complete, traffic will be shifted back to the outside for Phase III to begin. In Phase III, the existing concrete pavement and median will be removed. Some Phase III work has started north of Lyle Machinery.



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Phase IV will include final paving and striping on the project.

Also in Rankin County, Dickerson & Bowen, Inc. will soon begin an approximately two-mile mill and overlay project on State Route 475 from State Route 468 to I-20. The approximately \$837,000 project will also upgrade the traffic signal at Allen Stuart Drive.

Work zones present new traffic patterns and configurations that may be unfamiliar to motorists. For information about how to navigate highway work zones safely, visit GoMDOT.com/drivesmartms.

For more information about these or other MDOT maintenance and construction projects, visit MDOTtraffic.com, or download the free MDOT Traffic app.

## Registration open for cheer and football



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The Pearl Parks and Recreation Department has opened registration for its Youth Football and Cheer program. Cheerleading is available for ages four and up. Flag football will be offered for ages four through six, and tackle football will be available for ages seven through twelve. Age is determined as of August 1, 2019.

Both programs will begin practice in August, with games starting in September and continuing through October and the beginning of November.

The registration cost for the cheerleading program is \$25. Flag football registration is \$50, and tackle football registration is \$85.

Football players will be responsible for purchasing their helmets,

shoulder pads and pants. Jerseys will be provided. Parks and Rec staff are working with Dick's Sporting Goods for an equipment package price.

Cheerleaders are responsible for purchasing their cheer uniform. The basic package, which includes a uniform top, skirt, bow, poms, and bloomers, will be \$90. Optional items will be available for purchase.

Fittings for uniforms and jerseys will be scheduled at a later date.

Online registration is available at [www.PearlParksAndRec.com](http://www.PearlParksAndRec.com), and the deadline to register is July 27. On-site registration is also offered at the Parks and Rec office at 320 City Center Drive from Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., and on Saturday, July 27, from 10 a.m. until noon.

### SWRANKIN NEWS

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### Dear Loyal Readers,

Based on the feedback we are receiving from each of the three towns we cover - Florence, Pearl, and Richland - we know you want more local coverage. Each town has so much to highlight!

To accomplish this goal, we are launching the *Florence News*, *Pearl News* and *Richland News*, all under the *SW Rankin News* flag.

At first, the front page will be devoted to each town and the rest of the pages devoted to our entire coverage area. As we grow and our advertising base grows, we will be able to add more pages specific to your hometown.

Thanks for your support of your hometown paper. Please reach out to us with story ideas and suggestions, and also to let us help you advertise your business to your neighbors and the SW Rankin area!

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FHS, Steen’s Creek complete mural challenge



Special to SW Rankin News  
Pictured (l to r) are Robyn Rigsby, FHS teacher Carla Nations, Caylee Steele (MC student teacher), Haley Board and Rachel Cooley.



Special to SW Rankin News  
Mrs. Martin’s kindergarten class and Mrs. Bishop’s second grade class

Special to SW Rankin News

As part of Read for the Record 2028, Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education created a grant opportunity for the Make Something Beautiful in Mississippi Mural Challenge. Members of Florence High School’s National Art Honor Society, along with Carla Nations, partnered with Steen’s Creek El-

ementary School to complete the project. Amy Martin’s kindergarten class and Sherri Bishop’s second grade class painted the parts of the mural. The National Art Honor Society students put the mural back together and framed it for presentation at the SCES Art Gala. The grant opportunity was funded in part by the Mississippi Legislature.

Richland HS Faculty of the Month named



Special to SW Rankin News  
Richland High School Principal Dr. Scott Rimes (far left) and Assistant Principal Dr. Thomas Dudley (far right) congratulated Amy Britt, Emily Brandon and Lydia Williams on being chosen as the Richland High School Faculty of the Month for April.


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## Summer meal program offers free breakfasts, lunches for school children

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Pearl High School will be the site of the 2019 Summer Meals Program, which is available to all students and children in the Pearl community.

Good nutrition is essential for learning in school, and continuing healthy eating habits is also important during the long hot summer months. Eating nutritious foods helps ensure students retain their hard learned knowledge and helps them to keep right on learning throughout the summer.

For many children, summer vacation can bring the temptation of eating empty calorie snacks and foods that are high in sugar, fats and sodium. And, for many others, summer exposes students to an increased risk of hunger and developmental decline. Families are encouraged to make seasonal fruits and vegetables a high priority for snacks,



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meals and any time.

The meal program will offer a free breakfast and lunch to all children ages 18 and under. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 until 8 a.m. each weekday, and lunch will be served from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

The program continues through June 28. For more information, call 601-932-7956.

## Rankin residents honored at MS State Hospital



Special to SW Rankin News

Mississippi State Hospital recently honored employees with April anniversaries for their years of service to the hospital. Employees receive a Certificate of Appreciation and a Service Award Pin. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc. Two of the recipients are from Rankin County. April service award recipients include (l to r), front row: Danylle Turner, Levonta Phillips, Carolyn McLaurin, Linda Evans and Misty Morgan of Florence (ten years); middle row: Fontreia Hilliard-Magee, Mariah Rogers and Mary Simmons of Brandon (fifteen years); and back row: Thomas Taylor, Jerry Maberry, Erica Gholar and Carley Quinn.

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## Old Truths for Today

By J.T. Morgan



### Bargain Hunting in Religion

Everyone loves to shop and find bargains. Outlet malls have sprung up across the nation and people flock to them for the best bargains. Sometimes one does not get the value of the item because it is not the name brand they thought it to be or it is inferior in some way.

Buying merchandise that is misrepresented is a terrible experience. However bad that may be, what is more terrible is those that allow "bargain" hunting in religion. There are religious sales people that will tell you what you want to hear – for a price. *"In covetousness, shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you"*. (2 Pet. 2:3).

A religious group makes a great plea for unity of believers, even using "Unity" in their church name. When they define the term "believer" is could whatever you want it to mean. The preacher does not believe in the virgin birth of Jesus (Matt.1:23), nor does he believe in the resurrection of Christ (1Pet.1:3). This religious group doesn't believe in the miracles of Jesus as recorded in the Bible. They deny that Jesus was "the Son of God" as in the same sense that "all believers are God's children." If Jesus is not the Son of God, then He is not the Savior. That means our faith and hope are worthless. (1 Cor. 15:12-19). This is nothing more than a "cut-rate" religion as it seems that one can believe whatever they want to. "Universalism" is a bargain for many, because it offers salvation to everyone – saint and sinner alike. They claim that God will save everyone, even without faith or obedience.

There are many "bargains" offered on which church to be a member of. The claim, "all churches are pleasing to God, for they are all trying to do His will." Or, "one church is good as another." "You don't have to be a member of any church to be saved." Again, this is "discount" religion! People like these offers a "bargain" because they don't want to be bothered by searching what the Bible has to say about the church Jesus built and serving God in it! (Matt.16:18; Acts 2:47; Col.1:18; Eph.5:23; Acts 20:28). How can any church built by men compare with the church built and purchased by Christ? The claim today is, "Our church is just as good, and it offers advantages the original one doesn't. Besides, times have changed and we need the more modern approach to religion." I urge you not to buy into this bargain concept of "joining the church of your choice". Why not choose the one that Christ chose to build?

Friend, don't let any religious "discount" house sell you merchandise that they cannot guarantee! Those who offer cut-rate religion cannot certify it, and they know it! The Bible is true. Believe it, obey it for this is the only safe way. It may cost you more today, but rest assured that it will be worth it throughout eternity.

**Florence Church of Christ, P.O. Box 277, Florence, Ms 39073**



# Pearl Jr. High receives grant to expand STEM program

Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Junior High School was one of only fifteen schools in Mississippi selected to share more than \$896,000 in grants to establish or enhance programs in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in kindergarten through eighth grade. Earlier this year, the Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) awarded funding for the K-8 STEM Initiative Enhancement Project Grant to support implementation of STEM activities in classrooms and coursework, while providing technology upgrades and educator training to implement STEM applications. Priority was given to schools implementing engineering, computer science, ro-

botics, and other project-based STEM activities to expand the current Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards for math and/or science K-8. "These grants will help schools increase opportunities for students to explore STEM education in elementary and middle school so they will be better prepared for STEM courses in high school," said Dr. Nathan Oakley, chief academic officer. "STEM-related professions are growing, and there is an increasing demand for high school and college graduates with expertise in science, technology, engineering and mathematics." Districts and schools were selected to receive the grant through a competitive request for application process.

# Pearl Upper Elementary names top sellers for winter fundraiser



Special to SW Rankin News  
Pearl Upper Elementary recently announced the top sellers for the winter fundraiser with World's Finest Chocolate. Pictured (l to r) are Anaya Patel, Katie Loomis and PUE Assistant Principal Kim Scutch.

# Rankin County Extension to host floral workshop

Special to SW Rankin News

A hands-on Floral Design Workshop using Mississippi grown flowers will be held on Tuesday, June 18, from 1-3 p.m. at the Rankin County Extension office, located at 601 Marquette Road, in Brandon. Participants will learn the proper methods of keeping flowers fresh and proportionate to the container. Local flower farm contact information will be given, as well as an understanding of the importance of clean water and re-cutting stems, and highlighting the elements of floral design. Participants

will be provided a glass ivy bowl and bouquet of flowers in order to use what they have learned to make a take-home arrangement. The workshop fee is \$30 per person, and seats are limited. Participants are expected to bring their own pair of scissors to class. Registration is only available online and will close on June 11, one week before the class, due to perishability of flowers. No refunds after deadline. For more information, call Donna Beliech, extension horticulturist, at 601-825-1462.

# Obituaries

| NAME                     | AGE | CITY            | DOD     | Funeral Home            |
|--------------------------|-----|-----------------|---------|-------------------------|
| Sharon Lowe Nelson       | 66  | Brandon, MS     | 5/1/19  | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Maxine Box Ramsey        | 81  | Florence, MS    | 5/2/19  | Chanellow Funeral Home  |
| Mickey Carl Nelson       | 61  | Brandon, MS     | 5/4/19  | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Andrea Burcky            | 80  | Richland, MS    | 5/4/19  | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Matthew Ross Hamilton    | 18  | Florence, MS    | 5/5/19  | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Kevin Richard McFall     | 38  | Madison, MS     | 5/7/19  | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Betty Rust Wilson        | 78  | Florence, MS    | 5/8/19  | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Dorothy Mae Moore        | 82  | Florence, MS    | 5/8/19  | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Henry "Lou" Husbands     | 77  | Brandon, MS     | 5/8/19  | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Randy Allen Mills        | 62  | Richland, MS    | 5/8/19  | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Martha "Laderal" Eshee   | 76  | Florence, MS    | 5/9/19  | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Virginia "Annette" Cagle | 74  | Florence, MS    | 5/11/19 | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Evelyn Shaw McGee        | 83  | Florence, MS    | 5/12/19 | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Claudine Griffing        | 85  | Brandon, MS     | 5/15/19 | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Ruth Byrd Davis          | 89  | Harrisville, MS | 5/16/19 | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Earl Newton Hudson, Jr.  | 90  | Florence, MS    | 5/19/19 | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Howard "Ellis" Adams     | 77  | Florence, MS    | 5/21/19 | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Margie S. Stewart        | 85  | Pearl, MS       | 5/23/19 | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Austin Cole Peets Hoover | 25  | Florence, MS    | 5/25/19 | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Jean Cody                | 82  | Jackson, MS     | 5/26/19 | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Dorothy "Dot" Nicholson  | 79  | Florence, MS    | 5/27/19 | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Barry "Carl" Cranford    | 61  | Harrisville, MS | 5/27/19 | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Imogene Muse             | 93  | Florence, MS    | 5/28/19 | Chancellor Funeral Home |
| Patricia Williamson      | 77  | Brandon, MS     | 5/31/19 | Chancellor Funeral Home |

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Boyd named Pearl PSD  
Certified Staff of the Month



Special to SW Rankin News

The April 2019 Pearl Public School District Certified Staff of the Month is Susan Boyd (right). Boyd serves as the district's math instructional coach/curriculum specialist. She was presented a certificate by Kim LaFontaine (left), assistant superintendent of Academic Services. The 2018-2019 PPSD Employees of the Month Program is sponsored by the Pearl Educational Foundation for Excellence.

Pearl Upper Elementary School  
hosts teacher dodgeball game



Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Upper Elementary had a teacher versus teacher dodgeball game as an incentive for students who sold World's Finest Chocolate. Pictured (l to r) is the winning team, the Dodgers, front row: Wendy Wright, Melissa Lewis, Heather Haycraft, Mandy Shelton, Paula Watts and Anna Worsham; and back row: Loren Tillman, Jennifer Bennett, Dawn Hayden, Jalessia Scott, Laura May and Candace Batson.

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# Pearl student selected as member of Middle School All-State Band



Special to SW Rankin News

Emma Alley, Pearl Junior High School eighth-grade band student, was recently selected to be a member of the Mississippi American School Band Association's Middle School All-State Band. The all-state band camp was held on the campus of Pearl River Community College in Poplarville and was directed by Dr. Scott Watson from Pennsylvania. Alley is a member of the woodwind section in the Pearl Junior High School eighth-grade band. Pictured (l to r) are Pearl Public School District Assistant Band Director Aimee Sudduth and Alley.

# Rankin County students named to Hinds PTK



Special to SW Rankin News

The Gamma Lambda Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Hinds Community College recently held a ceremony on the Raymond Campus to induct members. Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society for community and junior college students. Membership in Phi Theta Kappa is extended to students who have a 3.5 cumulative grade point average or above on twelve or more transferable credit hours. There are more than 1,285 Phi Theta Kappa chapters throughout the United States and abroad. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Sydney Smith of Florence, Katelyn Foster of Florence, Katherine Burns of Brandon and Chanci Robin of Pearl; and back row: Levin Michel of Florence, Jamaya Rand of Pearl, Lillie Jones of Morton and Martin Moody of Brandon.

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## Richland-Florence Garden Club holds meeting, installs officers



Special to SW Rankin News

Hostess Joan Benton opened her home and garden to the members of the Richland-Florence Garden Club for their closing 2018-2019 meeting. They reviewed the group's projects for the past year and discussed plans for a Blue Star Memorial Dedication at Florence in the fall.



Special to SW Rankin News

New officers for the Richland-Florence Garden Club were installed at the May meeting. Serving during the upcoming year will be (l to r): Debbie Knight, vice-president; Carol Azzone, president; Gaynell Ainsworth, corresponding secretary; and Susan Harrison, treasurer.

## RHS names April students of the month



Special to SW Rankin News

Richland High School recently named the April 2019 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 Mazzi's. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Brenna Sanford and Kimberly Mariano; and back row: Joey Rodriguez, Tamora Hayman, Brady Windham and Assistant Principal Mr. Corey Yates. Not pictured is Naomi Gardner.

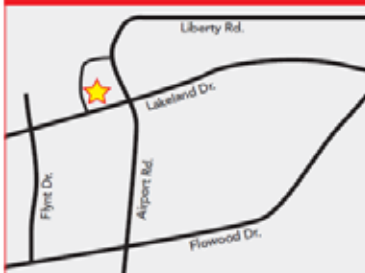
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# Hinds Phi Theta Kappa chapters win honors

Special to SW Rankin News

Students and advisors in two chapters of Phi Theta Kappa honor society at Hinds Community College took home awards at the organization's recent international convention in Orlando, Florida.

Emily Hudgens of Madison, president of the Gamma Lambda Chapter on the Raymond Campus, was named Distinguished Chapter Officer. Addison Bridges of Clinton won Distinguished Chapter Member. The advisor team of Tim Krason, Jack Hite, Debbie McCollum, Cheryl Bozeman and Leslie Moak won the Distinguished Advisor Team Award. The honor marks the fourth straight year the chapter has won the award.

The Alpha Omicron Omega chapter at the Rankin Campus won a Distinguished College Project Award for collaborating with the college's Student Recreation Department in planning and installing a disc golf course on the campus. Also, Rankin Campus Vice President Dr. Norman Session was named a Distinguished College Administrator for his support of Phi Theta Kappa members and programs on his campus.



Special to SW Rankin News

*Pictured are (l to r) Honors Institute Dean Debbie McCollum of Clinton, Sydney Smith of Florence, faculty advisor Tim Krason of Clinton, Emily Hudgens of Madison, Matt Hupperich of Terry, Maria Serratos of Clinton, Alex Walker of Crystal Springs, Kevin Michel of Florence, Addison Bridges of Clinton, Oscar Castro of Crystal Springs, Caila Hankins of Raymond, and Doran Coles of Jackson. Not pictured is faculty advisor Jeff Hughes of Richland.*

Phi Theta Kappa membership is extended to students with a 3.5 cumulative GPA on at least twelve hours of college-transfer credit coursework earned at Hinds. Students who reach

this benchmark by the end of this semester may still join PTK. Members can take advantage of leadership, scholarship, service and fellowship opportunities within their chapters. At transfer,

all of Mississippi's public and private colleges and universities award generous, non-competitive scholarships to members. For more information, call 601-857-3531.

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# Northside students win fun run, silly-string principals



Special to SW Rankin News

Jessica Ferguson's second-grade class at Northside Elementary raised the most money for their school's Fun Run. As a reward for raising the money, the students got to silly-string the principals. Pictured (l to r) with principals Stacey Farrar, Laurin Bailey, and Nikki Graham are Layla Robinson, Jackson Lewis, Fancy Garner, Amyah Holden, Selena Hernandez, Ace Ellis, Isaiah Fletcher, Emmalyn Humphrey, Kayden Moore, Aniyah Brown, Kiley Brooks, Daylin Scott, Colby Van Buren, Elwin Pittman, Mary Hill and Marley Parker.

## Kids Summer Camp set for July 22-26

Special to SW Rankin News

The Pearl Parks and Recreation Department will hold its seventh annual Kids Summer Camp from July 22 through 26.

The camp will be held from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. and will include activities such as the Jackson Mobile Zoo; the Pearl Fire Department and Aircare; the Pearl Police Department; Spring Lake Garden Club; Smokey the Bear;

the Pearl Public Library; Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks; MEMA4KIDS; and a water fun day.

Cost for the camp is \$75 per child, and pre-registration is required. Online registration is available at [www.PearlParksAndRec.com](http://www.PearlParksAndRec.com), and the deadline to register is July 12. The camp is designed for children ages five through ten. For more information, call



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# Pearl Library Summer Library Program in full swing

Special to SW Rankin News

The Pearl Public Library's Summer Library Program began on June 3 and continues through July 6. Children, teens and adults are all invited to read and log their books against their goal in order to earn the chance to win a prize basket or gift card. All reading logs must be entered by July 6.

For toddlers and preschoolers, a prize basket entry can be obtained by reading five easy/picture books. Those entering kindergarten through fourth grade can read five chapter books for a chance at a prize basket. Fifth-graders through eighth-graders must read five books to earn an entry for a \$25 gift card, and teens and adults must read three books for a \$25 gift card entry.

When a goal is met, the reader will automatically be entered into a drawing for the branch's final prizes given by age group. To gain extra entries, patrons can continue to log books read, write reviews and attend library programs.

The reading logs and attendance are maintained via the Beanstack® link on

the Central Mississippi Regional Library System (CMRLS) website. All participants are responsible for maintaining their log and entering their accomplishments. Children may read to themselves, to someone else, or may be



Special to SW Rankin News

read to.

Family nights will include door prize drawings, and each child will receive a small token or prize when attending daily programs.

For help with Beanstack®, visit the Pearl Public Library.

Upcoming children's events include a puppet show on June 11 at 6 p.m., Animal Tales on June 18 at 6 p.m. and Dorian LaChance, the Magician, on

June 27 at 6 p.m.

Pearl Pee-Wees Baby Story Time is held on Mondays at 10 a.m. Designed for infants up to one year in age, the time includes reading a story, singing

silly songs, and sensory activities.

Toddler Time is held on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. The time includes lot of movement as children enjoy stories, rhymes, activities, and songs.

Preschool Story Time is held on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. and includes a craft.

Upcoming teen events include Trash into Treasure Craft Night at 5:30 p.m. on June 17; and a Cosplay Contest at 5:30 p.m. on June 24, when teens are encouraged to wear a favorite costume or come dressed as a favorite book or movie character.

Upcoming adult events are scheduled for June 11, Chapter 1 Book Club, at 6 p.m.; June 14, Moon Landing Memories, 6 p.m.; June 19, Morning Book Club, 10 a.m.; June 20, Moon Movie Night, 6 p.m.; and June 25, DIY Galaxy Jars, 6 p.m.

In addition, Computer Tutorials are held on Mondays from 9 am. until 1 p.m.

The Pearl Public Library is located at 2416 Old Brandon Road. For more information, call 601-932-2562.

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# Northside Elementary students pie teacher



Special to SW Rankin News

Brittany Gatlin's students at Northside Elementary pied her in the face as a reward for achieving goals on their most recent benchmark assessment. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Caleb Cathey, Haleigh Schilling, Aiden Everitte, Madison Walters, Savannah Sumrall, Aidan Renfro, JaNiya Hudson, Kynslie Taylor and Tony Miller; middle row: Cayden Henry, Brody Bullock, Joel Garcia, Andres Pocasangre, William Gomez, Jayson Hopton, Brittany Gatlin and Ana Kathryn Woods; and back row: Tristan Crump, Carmelo Austin, Joshua Brister, Kinslee Rogers, Melayshia Patrick, Caroline Wallace, Joselyn Padron, Desmand Jenkins, Braden Pickett, Addison Stringer, Kaylee Williams, Tabitha Wood and Nevaeh Turner.

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# Richland Elementary celebrates perfect attendance



Special to SW Rankin News

The staff at Richland Elementary School celebrated perfect attendance for the month of March. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Emily Nelson, Briana Fails, Whitney Rickman, Allison Dunaway, Denise Bond, Jamie Adams, Kathryn Abernathy and Kylee Laird; and back row: Lindi Fallin, Carnesha Jackson, Ann Wisner, Holly Yoakum, Renee Williams, Tracy Brannan, Brenda Wolfe, Kim Beard and Sheryl Patterson.

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## Richland students selected as winners for poster contest



Special to SW Rankin News

Braylynn Dauzat and Arissa Li are two second-grade students from Mrs. Jackson's Class at Richland Elementary School who have been selected as contest prize winners for the Be a Part of Farm to School Poster Contest. The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi will utilize their artwork to make a poster as well as place it into a calendar that will be distributed statewide in the fall.



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## Florence Middle School announces honor roll

*Special to SW Rankin News*

Florence Middle School recently announced their honor roll recipients for the third nine weeks.

### All A's

**Sixth grade:** Keegan Cooper, Sawyer Easterling, Alexis Gonzales, Konnor Griffin, Savannah Lee, Rachel Parr, Reed Rogers, Layton Varner and Abby West.

**Seventh grade:** Elijah Ainsworth, Ariana Lewis and Jazlynn Williams.

**Eighth grade:** Garrett Backstrom, Alex Craig, Katelyn Davis, Joseph Dunlap, Cole Mangum, Peyton McDaniel and Gracie Walker.

### A's and B's

**Sixth grade:** Harmony Billiot, Makayla Bishop, Ryleigh Bishop, Bennett Brantley, Ethan Dear, Camryn Dickerson, Jack Fontan, Savannah French, Reagan Hearn, Sydney Higdon, Tatum Holcomb, Will Horne, Beckett Johnese, Bailey Jones, Eric Jones, Ethan Kessler, Christian Kirby, Brielle Kunjappy, Devin Logan, Jackson Malone, William McGuire, Brody McKinley, Nyla Myers, Brooke Paal, Jade Patrick, Ainsley Patterson, D. J. Peters, Karter Phillips, Noah Reynolds, Audrey Roberts, Arianna Robinson, Kaden Rockingham, Caroline Sanford, Riley Sills, Brileigh

Sistrunk, Carley Jo Smith, Xavier Smith, Keagan Taylor, Madison Taylor, Sawyer Thornton, Kennedy Watkins, Brooklyn Whitaker, Shawn Whitten and Jaylyn Williams.

**Seventh grade:** Alexis Atkinson, Leyton Boykin, Cole Bridges, Gracie Broomfield, Savannah Bryant, Lacy Burns, Leslie Carroll, Joshua Craft, Kameron Davis, Karley Dear, Tytan Edmonson, Caleb Garrett, Alana Guillot, Turner Hays, Jeremy Heflin, Makaylee Herrington, Ashton Hood, Taylor Hovel Johnson, Lincoln Jones, Madison Knighten, Will Lambert, Brooklynne Lee, Chloe Martin, Makaylee McMahon, Brelyn Muse, Kaydence Newsome, Cullen Partie, Braelon Permenter, Devin Quick, Luke Reed, Caden Sexton, Donovan Sistrunk, John Taylor, Annelise Weathersby, Ava Grace Weathersby and Case Wicker.

**Eighth grade:** Rebecca Aycox, Abigail Brock, Peyton Campbell, Evan Cooley, Debria Davis, Sydney Dodd, Christina Guzman, Lillion Hamil, Fisher Hester, Olivia Lovorn, Grayson Luker, Dylan McClain, Craig Millette, Jack Parker, Kara Porter, Hannah Grace Reed, Valerie Ryan, Brady Smith, Laylah Smith, Maelee Starbuck, Joseph Stingley, Avery Taylor, Makenzie Whitaker, D. J. Wickens and Karley Woods.

## MDE partnership to award 125 teacher scholarships



*Special to SW Rankin News*

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The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) is partnering with Mississippi Professional Educators (MPE) to award scholarships to up to 125 diverse candidates who wish to pursue their National Board Certification. Awardees will each receive a \$475 scholarship. Diversity may be based on an educator's race, gender, ethnicity, subject(s) taught or pathway to licensure.

The scholarship opportunity is made possible through a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which also supports the Mississippi Teacher Residency program.

The scholarship will provide seed money for recipients to begin their National Board journey. Scholarship recipients will use the state's reimbursement of their initial component to pay for subsequent components.

Scholarship recipients will also be reimbursed for the \$75 registration fee to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and will receive up to \$100 for mentoring support at a World Class Teaching Program.

Ninety-five scholarships will be awarded to the highest-ranked applicants teaching in Sunflower County, Jackson Public Schools, Moss Point

and Ocean Springs school districts. The remaining thirty scholarships will be awarded to the highest-ranked applicants from the state at large.

To be eligible to apply, applicants must:

- Be under contract as a full-time educator in Mississippi during the 2019-20 school year,
- Hold a bachelor's degree and a valid Mississippi teaching license,
- Have three years of classroom experience,
- Submit the \$75 nonrefundable and nontransferable registration fee to the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards and have a valid candidate identification number,
- Register with a Mississippi World Class Teaching Program by October 30, 2019 and adhere to all program guidelines, and
- Be a first-time National Board candidate who is pursuing the initial component.

The application is available at the MPE website. Completed applications are due to the MPE office by 4:30 pm on Friday, August 23.

For more information, contact Kelly Riley at 601-355-5517.

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# Fire Academy project breaks ground



Special to SW Rankin News

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 15 at the Mississippi State Fire Academy for its new Fire Station/Dormitory/State Disaster Staging Area Construction Project. The \$12 million-dollar, 35,000 sq. ft. project will address three current and future areas of need, including a fire station, dorm and disaster staging. Pictured (l to r) are Representative Tom Weathersby; Senator Dean Kirby; Representative Bill Kinkade; Brandon Grissom, president of Mississippi Association of Supervisors; Joe Shumaker, State Rating Bureau; Commissioner Mike Chaney, Mississippi Insurance Department; Reggie Bell, executive director, Mississippi State Fire Academy; Lt. Governor Tate Reeves; Mayor Glen Barlow, president of Mississippi Municipal League; Representative Michael T. Evans; Chief John Pope, president of the Mississippi Fire Fighters Association; Representative Tom Miles; and Chief Terry Wages, president of the Mississippi Fire Chiefs Association. The Academy is dedicated to providing cutting edge technology training to emergency responders from municipal, volunteer and industrial fire departments within the state, the nation and the world. Located in Pearl, the Mississippi State Fire Academy is a division of the Mississippi Insurance Department.

## Woodmen of The World donate to RHS



Special to SW Rankin News

Richland High School recently received a donation for their Project Graduation from Woodmen of the World. Pictured (l to r) are Woodmen of the World representatives Barbara May, Charlene Morris and Morgan Sauls, RHS Principal Dr. Scott Rimes and RHS Assistant Principal Corey Yates.

## PECEC students tour Pearl Lower Elementary



Special to SW Rankin News

Students from Pearl Early Childhood Education Center had the opportunity to tour Pearl Lower Elementary, which they will attend next year for kindergarten. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Hannah Jones, Carson McInnis, Campbell Burnham and Zola Gray; and back row: Jon Davis McGairty, Violet Cathey, Antonio Stamps, Max Wilkerson, Jocelyn Odom and Marlie Stafford.

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# Discovery Christian School class of 2019 celebrates graduation



Special to SW Rankin News

Discovery Christian School's class of 2019 recently celebrated their graduation. Graduating seniors (l to r) were Aaron Matthew Effinger, Sydney Evelyn Helms, Mackenzie Brooke McCrory, Garrett Wade McWilliams and Kevin Michael Poe.



Special to SW Rankin News

Aaron Matthew Effinger, valedictorian



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Mackenzie Brooke McCrory, salutatorian

# Florence women's club attends state convention in Starkville



Special to SW Rankin News

Pictured (l to r) are GFWC-MFWC Florentine Club members attending the meeting with Brag Board: Judy Webb, Jeannie Pittman, Betty Harpe, Club President, Florentine Central District Clubwoman of the Year Carolyn Mason, Dianne Roberts and Jessie Buckley.

## Special to SW Rankin News

The GFWC-MFWC Florentine Club of Florence joined other club women from the GFWC Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs (MFWC) to participate in the 121st annual MFWC State Convention held in Starkville.

Speakers for the convention included Mississippi author Laurie Parker, Leilani Salter and GFWC International President Mary Ellen Brock.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs aims to bring together local

women's clubs, with members dedicated to strengthening their communities and enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. With nearly 80,000 members in affiliated clubs in every state and more than a dozen countries, GFWC members are community leaders who work locally to create global change by supporting the arts, preserving natural resources, advancing education, promoting healthy lifestyles, encouraging civic involvement, and working toward world peace and understanding.



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## Covington named Character Trait Student of the Month at RHS



Special to SW Rankin News

Christian Covington, a recently graduated senior at Richland High School, was named the April Character Trait Student of the Month. The character trait for the month was hope.

## RHS names STAR student, teacher



Special to SW Rankin News

Richland High School's STAR Student is Mason Peavy. Peavy selected Stephen Westerfield to be his STAR Teacher. STAR Students are selected from each school based on having an outstanding ACT score as well as a high grade point average. STAR Students then select the teacher that has made the greater impact on the student's academic career to be a STAR Teacher.

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