

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Five ways to spruce up your summer salads - pg. 4

PCC announces May's firefighter of the month - pg. 10

The Pearl News

Good News
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Vol. 5, No. 6 | June 2020

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Coming soon: BrickUniverse LEGO Fan Convention

Special to The Pearl News

Pearl residents can join thousands of LEGO fans as they converge at the Clyde Muse Center for the BrickUniverse LEGO Fan Convention, a.k.a. "the ultimate LEGO fan experience." There will be LEGO displays, art, building zones, special guests, merchants, experiences, and more.

Attendees may choose Saturday, August 29, or Sunday, August 30, admission, and experience hands-on LEGO attractions and activities built to inspire, educate, and entertain. This fun, family-friendly event will have tons of amazing LEGO creations to gawk at, building zones to unleash creative energy, and vendors selling the latest LEGO sets, mini-figures, and accessories.

Attractions include: Tetley Train Station, Notre-Dame de Paris, Lego Cas-

tle, Fabuland Fun Fair, Mount Rushmore Landscape, Lego Trains, meetings with professional lego artists, massive displays, a building zone, mini-figure

Jonathan Lopes Art Gallery, a Duplo Pile, Joker's Funhouse, Lifesize Sculptures, Manhattan Bridge, Bionicle, Golden Gate Bridge, Brick Merchants,

Model Gallery, Grand Central Terminal, Blue Brick Building Zone, London Layout, Challenge Zone, Chicago City Layout and a Architecture Building Zone.

Show hours begin each day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Tickets may be purchased for \$3 in advance at www.brickuniverse.com/jackson and are non-refundable. Bring a pre-printed e-Admissions or mobile ticket to the event to gain admittance. Children two years old and under get in free when accompanied by a paid adult, and children three years old and older and all adults each require a ticket for entry. One ticket per person. Credit card will be charged at time of purchase.

The Clyde Muse Center is located at 515 Country Pl. Parkway in Pearl. For more information, visit www.brickuniverse.com/jackson.



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merchants, Star Wars figures, a Santa's Workshop, Air and Space by Lia Chan,

Atlantis, NASA Kennedy Space Complex, a Fan Zone, Paul Hetherington

Funding allows Pearl clinic to provide coronavirus testing

Special to The Pearl News

U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), a member of the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, recently reported that an additional \$6.72 million will be awarded to twenty community health care centers in Mississippi to expand their ability to test for COVID-19. Among the twenty is Pearl's Family Health Care Clinic, located at 4635 Highway 80 East. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) funding can be used to support testing-related activities, including: purchasing personal protective equipment; training for staff; outreach; procurement and administration of tests; laboratory services; notifying identified contacts exposed to infected health center pa-



Special to The Pearl News

tients; and expanding walk-up or drive-up testing capabilities.

The funding was appropriated in the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, which included an additional \$825 million specifically for community health centers and rural health clinics.

PHS's Mayers recognized for student advocacy work

Special to The Pearl News

Pearl High School Senior, 2019-2020 Senior Student of the Year and Mississippi State Thespian Student Officer (PHS Troupe 4537) Cameron Mayers, was acknowledged for his recent student advocacy work in a victory securing MS Senate Resolution No. 506, which recognizes the month of March as "Theatre In Our Schools" Month. Thanks to Mayers' efforts, Mississippi now joins the



Cameron Mayers

Educational Theatre Association and the International Thespian Society to raise public awareness of the impact of theatre education and draw attention to the need for more access to quality programs for all students. Mayers has been a part of Pearl High School Thespian Troupe 4537 for four years and has been instrumental in his work on and off the stage at Pearl. Mayers was also recently inducted into the Mississippi Thespian Hall of Fame.



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Five ways to spruce up your summer salads - pg. 4

RFGC announces 2020-21 officers - pg. 9

THE NEWS RICHLAND

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

City of Richland: A salute to it's essential workers

By Alexa Haik

There is a certain faith a community has in its local municipal resources.... the access to running water, roadway maintenance, regular removal of trash, as well as first response to medical, law or fire emergencies. In times of crisis, this reliance on the city to maintain its proper functionality is needed more than ever. The City of Richland is no different.

Mayor Pat Sullivan describes the local government structure as "a strong Board, weak Mayor form of government with a Mayor and five Aldermen." He further explains that "there is not just one [city employee who stands out above the rest]. I can say we operate as one unit, a team." The following is a breakdown of the City's essential team players.

The City Clerk, Karen Jackson, keeps Richland's books balanced by ensuring City bills, purchase orders and City equipment maintenance expenses are paid in a timely manner. The administrative staff, in general, work tirelessly and consistently to ensure procurements and ordinances are adhered to.

Harold Johnson, the Planning and

Building Code Enforcement Department Head, provides the needed resources to residents and businesses in the construction of new homes and commercial building. The department is streamlined as to make moving to Richland "as pleasant of an experience as possible."

Jason Sutphin, head of the Richland Water Department (RWD), is responsible for any water/sewer/street issue that arises. On call 24/7, the RWD continually tests and monitors the safety and quality of the water.

The Street Department head, Todd Whatley, faces the daily challenge to preserve roadways so that they remain safe for people to travel on. He continues to work diligently to maintain right-of-ways while allowing access to regular trash pick-up. He also responsible for regular landscaping maintenance.

Parks Director, Cole Smith, ensures that extracurricular activities hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department, as well as the Richland Senior Program,



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Pictured (l to r) are: Stephanie Ward, Mayor's Office; Cole Smith, Director of Parks & Recreation; Pat Sullivan, Mayor of Richland and Luke Comans, Street Department.

ultimately enhance the quality of life in the City. Currently he is working closely with the Mississippi Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) to guarantee that re-entry into Richland's parks and recreational areas, is a safe and organized process.

Last, but not least, is the public safety department. Police and fire continue answering calls and protecting Richland

citizens during the virus outbreak, as well as during the major road construction project on Highway 49. Both Chief of Police Russel James' and Fire Chief Brandon Weems' departments are ready and willing to help all local businesses and citizens.

Mayor Sullivan assures residents that "[h]aving personally used the rapid response team with my ailing mother-in-law, she was able to experience their gentle touch and genuine concern for her well-being. This makes me sleep better at night knowing they are only a phone call away."

Mayor Sullivan shared some parting thoughts about the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, "[c]ollectively we have stepped up. Richland will persevere during this COVID-19 Pandemic...[o]ne thing that I notice with the faces being partially covered with masks, is the eyes. The old saying is that the eyes are the windows to your soul. I would like to change that. The eyes are the windows to your heart, showing people's compassion in helping others during this crisis. I encourage each of you to help your neighbor, help those in need, and to stay safe."

Richland senior graduates with honors from MSA

Special to The Richland News

The Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) recently honored graduating Senior, Nikki Raines, of Richland. Raines studied in the visual arts program at MSA where she was also a MS Scholar. While at MSA, she was a Scholastic Arts Award Winner, a member of MSA Performance Troupe, Total Praize Gospel Choir, first and second ensemble and Artoberfest. Raines also received the Girl Scout Gold Award and All-National Honors Orchestra. She completed over two-hundred hours of community service and received a total of \$188,000+ in college scholarship of-

fers.

Suzanne Hirsch, MSA's Executive Director, had this to say about the graduating class of 2020, "As coronavirus has prompted changes in the traditional ways we normally celebrate our graduating seniors, it is our hope that students will recognize our respect for the immense hard work it has taken to get to this point in their lives. We do hope the education they have earned at MSA will serve them well. At MSA, we imagine, create, and realize a better world in which

to live and work daily. It is our hope this graduating class will know how very important they are to this world.

No matter where they go from here, they will make the world a better place."

The Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) is an eleventh and twelfth grade residential, public high school located in Brookhaven, Mississippi. Students not only meet and exceed the traditional Mississippi

high school curriculum, they receive special instruction in visual arts, vocal

music, dance, literary arts, filmmaking/media arts and theatre. In addition to MSA students consistently winning awards for their work on the state, regional and national levels, the school holds the number three highest ACT average in the state.

MSA is a great school for those students who want to explore the arts in an extraordinary way. They also fill a special need for students with demonstrated talent that need a collegiate level learning experience in the arts that is not widely available across the State of Mississippi.

For additional information, visit www.msabrookhaven.org.



Special to The Richland News
Nikki Raines of Richland.



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Florentine Club donates masks to local salon - pg. 9

THE FLORENCE NEWS

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What crazy times we live in...who would have thought



By Chris Caughman,
Senator of District
35

Joshua 1:9 – "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; Do not be discouraged,

for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."....What crazy times we live in. Who would have thought that we would be going through things such as we have the last few months. Schools shut down and seniors not being able to go through their normal senior year finalities. A Stay at Home request for all of us to be either at work, if you are one of the lucky ones, or at home as much as possible. Businesses being shut down for a long period of time. Friends losing their jobs or having to be laid off for a period

of time. And some of our best generation hit hard by this virus at hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities. God bless them and our nurses, doctors, assistants, owners, and all involved in taking care of our most vulnerable! You all are the real heroes through all of this! Thank you so much for putting yourself and your families in the front line of this fight each and every day!

Your Mississippi Legislature adjourned several weeks back but is now back in session as we try to do what we can to help in relief of some of those in most needs. There is 1.25 million in CARES federal monies that the state of Mississippi has to doll out in that relief. Last week, it was great to see the Governor, the Lt. Governor, and the Speaker of the House get together and let the people of Mississippi know they will work together in this process. The people of this

state do not care who gets credit, or who wins some political battle, they want to see their state leaders working together to get relief out as quick as possible! Businesses are hurting, people are hurting, hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities are hurting, and they don't want to see political games but their leaders working together to get this done ASAP!

The first thing the Legislature did last week was put together a plan for \$100 million of the funds to be issued out to Mississippi businesses in the shape of grants. This program would be administered through [the] MDA, who handle lots of grants in our state. The size would be anywhere between \$1,000 up to \$25,000 and would go to businesses with no more than 50 employees. The first targets of these grants would be those businesses that were shut down by their gov-

ernment and were not able to get any of the PPP loan issued out by SBA and the federal government. This would be barbershops, salons, gyms, and others of the such. If \$100,000 is not large enough, we can up that amount if need be. I happen to believe that number will be larger.

Now that is just a portion of the funds to be used in Mississippi. Between the Governor and our legislative leadership, they will work to come up with others that we can help. Our hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living community, along with education, rural internet are all some of the areas that need to be addressed.

Again, these are times we never dreamed of, but what we must all remember is that no matter how bad, how tough, or how messy things are or can still get, our God is still in control! God bless!

FHS announces Class of 2020 "Top Ten"

Special to The Florence News

Florence High School (FHS) recently announced the top ten students of the 2020 graduating class, in terms of grade point averages compiled at the end of their high school careers. The top graduates from the FHS Class of 2020 are, in order of their ranking: Sam Courtney, Justin Humphrey, Jessie Millette, Makenzie Cotton, Sarah Lindsey Goodin, Grayson Doss, Ian Vaughn, Maggie Hunter, Jana Withrow and Will Lingold.

The 2020 valedictorian is Sam Courtney, son of Todd and Laura Courtney. In his four years at FHS, Sam accumulated a 102.4 GPA. He is also the 2020 FHS Star Student. The 2020 salutatorian is Justin Humphrey, son of Jackie and Cathy Humphrey. Justin is completing his time at FHS with a 100.7 GPA.

FHS honored the Class of 2020 with a drive-through graduation ceremony at Florence High School on May 11 and 12.



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Richland youth encouraged to sign up for RMYC



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Richland Mayor's Youth Council (RMYC) 2020/2021 applications are now available for interested parties.

RMYC is open to students living in Richland or attending Richland Public Schools and entering their freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior year during 2020/2021. Submissions include a completed 2020/2021 RMYC application, a copy of current progress report and a facial photo (no larger than 4x6).

The last day to sign up is Friday, June 26, 2020, by 5 p.m. in the Richland Mayor's Office at 380 Scarbrough Street. Applications may be placed in the night deposit box (in an envelope) at City Hall (380 Scarbrough Street). Only completed applications will be accepted.

Visit www.richlandms.org/city-organizations/mayor-youth-council/to download an application. For additional information, contact Stephanie Ward at 601-420-1530.

COVID-19 library services update

By Mara V. Polk, Executive Director of Central Mississippi Regional Library System

While Central Mississippi Regional Library System's libraries' doors were physically closed, our digital collection and social media presence were open 24/7. Free Wifi was always accessible at all twenty locations.

Since the day we closed our doors,

creating our plan, all of our librarians were working from home, participating in professional webinars and reviewing current library reference services. Curbside Services is only Phase Three of seven total phases.

I want our valued CMRLS patrons to know that we will eventually be open for patrons to physically visit us again. We do not have a date, but we do have a goal to be open again. During this time,



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the CMRLS family has been working hard for you. The Board of Trustees and I have made every decision for the library, its librarians and our patrons with safety being the highest priority. As the director, I have worked with my team to procure the necessary supplies to have librarians return to work safely. Each librarian was provided with masks and access to disposable gloves. While I was

we ask that our patrons be patient with us and know that we will take care of them the best way we can. During this curbside services only phase, libraries will not be hosting any in-person programming. We are working on virtual programs. Of note, we will be hosting a completely virtual summer library program for all ages, which will start June 15. More information will come soon.

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Obituaries

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Mae Graves	72	Richland, MS	05/01/20	Chancellor Funeral Home
Shaun M. Leonard	56	Brandon, MS	05/01/20	Chancellor Funeral Home
Jim Tucker	83	Florence, MS	05/08/20	Chancellor Funeral Home
Penney "Rayne" Morgan	24	Brandon, MS	05/10/20	Chancellor Funeral Home
Frances Adell Vance	88	Florence, MS	05/14/20	Chancellor Funeral Home
Bobby Malley	75	Florence, MS	05/23/20	Chancellor Funeral Home
Doris Gallaspy Stringer	92	Florence, MS	05/25/20	Chancellor Funeral Home
J. W. Walker	84	Florence, MS	05/28/20	Chancellor Funeral Home
Peggy Therrell Simmons	90	Florence, MS	05/28/20	Chancellor Funeral Home
Cynthia A. Page	70	Richland, MS	05/30/20	Chancellor Funeral Home
Lillie M. Bridges	81	Florence, MS	05/31/20	Chancellor Funeral Home
Israel Lee Hodges	44	Florence, MS	05/31/20	Chancellor Funeral Home

Old Truths for Today

By J.T. Morgan



THE VALUE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

There are two extreme ideas which people have about the importance of the Old Testament. Some believe that the Old Testament is still God's law today. There are two facts that must not be ignored: (1) The Old Testament law was given to the Jews only, never to all mankind; (2) Christ fulfilled the law (Matt.5:17) and nailed it to the cross (Col.2:14). The law was simply a tutor, a schoolmaster, to lead us to Christ. (Gal.3:25). Christ is the mediator of a better covenant which is based upon better promises. (Heb.8:6).

When some learn that the Old Testament is no longer binding upon, they jump to the opposite extreme and assume that it has no practical value for the Christian. We learn from Paul that the Old Testament was written for "our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope". (Rom.15:4; 1 Cor.10:11). How then is it valuable to Christians?

(1). The Old Testament is the greatest of all historical records. It is our only reliable account of the origin of the world and the origin of man. It contains the historical records of man's spiritual development from his creation till about 400 B.C. It also contains an accurate secular history of many nations.

(2). The Old Testament aids in a study of the New Testament. "The Old Testament is the New concealed. The New Testament is our only rule of faith and practice. Many statements would not be understood without the study of the Old.

(3). The Old Testament introduces us to Christ. We see the first glimpses of the Savior in the promises, prophecies and types of the Old Testament. We see Him in the Passover lamb, the Lion of Judah and the suffering servant of Isaiah.

(4). The Old Testament provides undeniable evidence for the deity of Christ. He is the perfect fulfillment of more than 300 Messianic prophecies that brings us to conclude that He is the Christ. (Jno.5:37-47).

(5). The Old Testament is a book of examples. It contains warnings against unrighteousness and examples of faith and obedience. Though the Israelites were saved, they sinned and fell, their fall was a warning to us to take heed lest we fall. (1 Cor.10:12). When King Saul failed to carry out all that God commanded it taught that to obey is better than sacrifice. (1 Sam.15:6-26). The faith of Abraham, the patience of Job, the courage of Daniel and many more as described in Hebrews 11. They are all serve as a witness for us to live according to the commandments of God. (Heb.12:1,2).

Without a proper understanding of the Old Testament we cannot appreciate or learn how to be acceptable to God today as revealed in the New Testament.

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Five ways to spruce up your summer salads

By Sherry Lucas

As the weather warms, thermostats inch toward cooler settings. Appetites do, too. Something refreshing, those taste buds seem to say. Something light, those bathroom scales seem to say. Something that doesn't heat up the kitchen, folks in the house definitely say.

Salad, it is. The basic lettuce and dressing of choice fills the bill, but branching out can take full advantage of all the produce that summer sun is helping grow.

Look to farmers markets, produce stands and local farmers for seasonal bounty, at peak freshness, that can make home salads sing.

Home sweet homegrown - It's a given in the Mississippi summer.

"Of course, we have homegrown tomatoes," says Marcie Bullock at Doris Berry's Farmers Market in Pearl. And, what screams summer louder than a ripe tomato? Those luscious beauts don't need greens to back them up - just as well, since lettuce is more a cool weather crop.

Try a Caprese salad that lets those tomatoes simply shine in all their bright red glory. Fresh basil and fresh mozzarella round out the colors of the Italian flag, and a drizzle of balsamic vinaigrette takes it over the top.

Crank up the color - That same rainbow of hues that makes you pull into a farmers market or a roadside produce stand is the same thing that will whet your appetite on a plate.

Purple cabbage is one of many winners in that book.

"A lot of people like to put that in salad for filler. It's good for color, and, of course, it's more enticing when you have

the color," Bullock says. That adds some nice crunch for texture, too. Don't forget it when it comes time for coleslaw, either.

Be open to inspiration - Let the abundance of seasonal vegetables be your guide, whether that means incorporating the new potatoes at Doris Berry's Farmers Market into your favorite potato salad recipe, or combining sliced cucumbers and jalapeno pepper for the thrilling cool/hot mix of a Thai cucumber salad.

Something catch your eye but is new to your kitchen? Google it and add "salad" to the search, and a world of possibilities opens.

Be fruitful and multiply - "A lot of people like to add fresh pineapple, peach and apple to salads," says Karen Wright, owner of Wright's Fruit Stand in Richland. "That's really good."

Want to go beyond fruit salad? Greens, cheese and nuts are great supporting players to make the fruit shine, such as these combos: peaches, pecans and feta with mixed greens; apples and walnuts with

romaine and Gorgonzola. Imagine the double-whammy refreshment that cucumber plus pineapple, with lime and cilantro, would bring to the summer table.

Don't squash good intentions - Zucchini and yellow squash are growing like gangbusters these days, and incorporating them into salads keeps you ahead of the curve.

A pretty way to play with these summer champs is to get out the vegetable peeler and make ribbons of them. "Shave" them lengthwise, making wide, flat ribbons for a lovely raw salad and be amazed at how well a simple vinaigrette, a bit of Manchego cheese and some fresh herbs can dress them up.



Pearl employee of the month honored



Special to SW Rankin News

Pictured (l to r) are: Pearl Mayor Jake Windham, Robert Killingsworth and Public Works Director Shane Burrell.

Special to SW Rankin News

Robert Killingsworth was recently selected as the City of Pearl "Employee of the Month" for May 2020. Killingsworth has been working for the city for seven years and is currently the foreman in charge of the inmate crews. Killingsworth receives work orders on a daily basis, such as cutting ditches and

cleaning out debris in ditches and inlets. He can be counted on in emergencies to place barricades and to deliver and place sandbags when the city experiences a heavy downpour. He has delivered thousands of sandbags and worked long hours no matter what the weather conditions are. He is a valuable employee that is always on time and never misses a day of work.

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Pearl's students of the year announced

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Pictured (l to r) are, top row: 4K student Coralee Phillips, kindergarten student Brayden Rouhan, first grade student Viriya Mol, second grade student Ja'Den Morris, third grade student Tripp Myers, fourth grade student Avery Bell, fifth grade student Parker Batson; and bottom row: sixth grade student Rhett Cutcliff, seventh grade student Melissa Miranda, eighth grade student Akira Chatman, freshman Genevieve Moore, sophomore Zori Jackson, junior Madi Temple and senior Cameron Mayers.

Special to SW Rankin News
Each year, Pearl Public School District (PPSD) selects one student from

each grade as the students of the year. The 2019-2020 PPSD students of the year have been selected by the administration at each school for their out-

standing achievement and for their demonstration of Pirate Pride: being prepared, respectful, involved, dependable, and excellent. Through the

generosity of an anonymous donor, each student was presented with a Sonic gift card and recognition certificate.

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McLaurin High School Class of 2020



Bridget Aycock, McLaurin High School Valedictorian



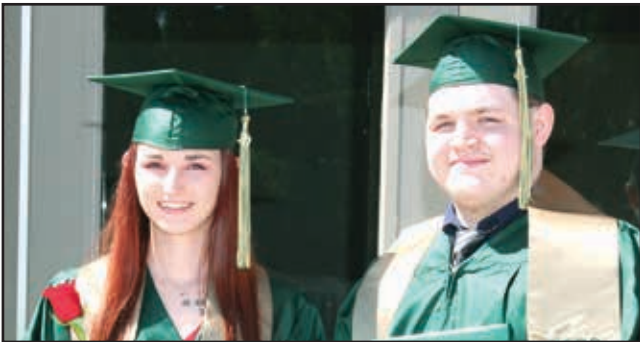
Anna Sprayberry



Amy Dykes



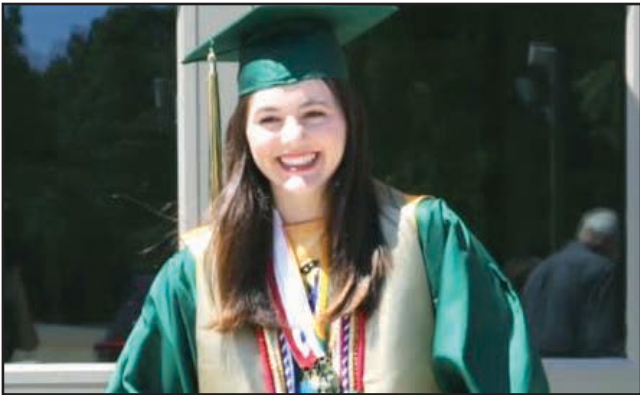
Brooke Musgrove, McLaurin High School Salutatorian



Brookelee Allen and Preston Allen



Dakota Vandusen



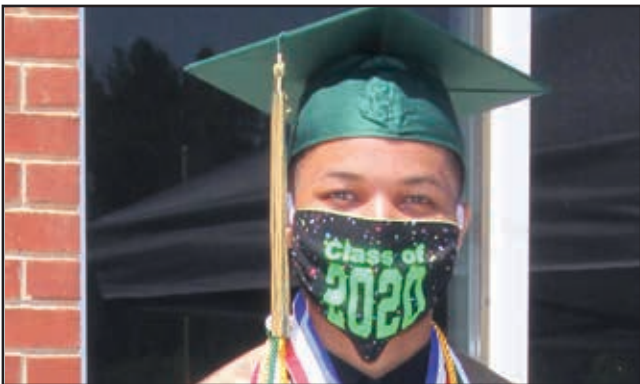
Emma Little



Grace Arthur



Kenning Bridges, McLaurin High School Student Body President



Jermel Quezaire



Kelsea Haymer



Grace Brown



Desmond Wright



Sam Atarji and Hannah Owens

Photos special to SW Rankin News

A message to MHS's Class of 2020

By Tammy Crosetti, Head Principal of McLaurin High School

This year marks an unprecedented time in history. The Class of 2020 will not only be remembered for their accomplishments, but they will also be remembered as the class that was a part of history. COVID-19 has changed the way we look at things this year-namely, the Class of 2020's Graduation. This class has sacrificed a traditional graduation for quite a different experience - the most unique McLaurin graduation on record thus far. With all of this, how can this class not go out and change the world? I challenge the Class of 2020 to contin-

ue to make history, change lives, and do amazing things! I speak on behalf of the faculty of McLaurin High School in saying that we are so incredibly proud of you and all you have accomplished. We know that your future is going to be everything you want it to be and more. Always remember that we are forever in your corner and your biggest cheering section! So, off you go, to the next incredible chapter in your lives.



Special to SW Rankin News
Tammy Crosetti

Scenes From Self-Isolation

Wait, scroll down. OK.

Stop there! I want to see that picture. What's going on? Are you guys FaceTiming each other?!

Yes. Claire wanted to show me a website. You realize you're in the SAME ROOM, right? I didn't want to stand up.

Oh my gosh, we've reached a new low. No, move your phone closer. Kate, can you see it now?

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Tigers for L.I.F.E. graduates honored

By Nicole Wimberley, Special Education Teacher and Department Case Manager for McLaurin High School

This school year definitely didn't end as planned, and we terribly miss our students. We are so proud of our two graduates from our Tigers for L.I.F.E. program! Even though they have graduated from McLaurin High School, these two amazing students will remain with Rankin County to move on to higher things.



Kaylee Barr

Kaylee Barr has applied and has been accepted into the Project Search Program under the guidance of her teacher, Christina Guarino. The Project SEARCH Program is a unique, business-led, one-year employment preparation program that takes place entirely at the workplace.

Irby "Dillon" Tait has been accepted into the Phase Two Program with Rankin County. Phase Two is a transition pro-

gram that helps students with disabilities (ages eighteen to twenty-one) to become productive members of society. Regardless of their individual differences, our students are provided with the skills and tools to successfully transition into the work world following completion of their high school education. In order to achieve this goal, our students are provided the opportunity to transfer the skills learned in the classroom to the community. Functional skills that aid our students in transition to the work world fall in the areas of vocational, leisure/recreation, and community living. In acquiring these skills, our goal is for our students to live independently and gain employment in their communities. You can follow them on Facebook. Dillon's Phase Two teachers will be Tricia Bennett and Jane Smith.



Photos special to SW Rankin News
Dillon Tait

We are so proud of both of our students and cannot wait to see what the futures hold for them!

Pearl native named MSH Employee of the Month



Special to SW Rankin News

Special to SW Rankin News

Christopher Michael was recently named Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) February Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

Michael, a Pearl native who still resides there, is a housekeeper working on Jaquith Nursing Home's Madison Inn. He is a Hinds Community College alumnus who has been employed at MSH for almost 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.

MSH, a program of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and helps the individuals it serves achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promoting safety, and supporting recovery. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

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RFGC announces 2020-21 officers



Special to SW Rankin News
Pictured (l to r) are, front row: President Debbie Knight, Vice President Gaynell Ainsworth; and back row: Corresponding Secretary Beverly Hemphill, Treasurer Susan Harrison and Recording Secretary Shirley Wilson.

Special to SW Rankin News

Recently, the Richland-Florence Garden Club (RFGC) announced the installation of officers for the upcoming 2020-2021 year. The ceremony was held outside on Shannon Laseter’s backyard patio. Each officer received fresh tulips in a different color signifying the importance and the responsi-

bility of that particular office. Present were last year’s president, Carol Azzone, and advisory chairman, Shannon Laseter. Planning for next year is underway with lots of new activities, hands on projects, informative speakers and fun field trips. Each month will be packed with opportunities for service projects and something for each member to participate in.

Florentine Club donates masks to local salon



Special to SW Rankin News
GFWC-MFWC Florentine Club of Florence, Mississippi, donated twenty masks, made by club member Debi Gibson, to The Glossary Salon in Florence. This project was to assist small business owners during the coronavirus pandemic. Pictured are Co-owners Kerri Welch and Tracy Branch with other stylists of The Glossary.

SW Rankin police officers named "Top Cops"

Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Police Officer Donell Reynolds was named a Top Cop by Central Mississippi Crimestoppers (CMC). Reynolds was nominated for always going above and beyond for his fellow officers and the public since joining PPD in 2018.

Richland's Lieutenant (Lt.) James Whittington and Sergeant (Sgt.) Clay Hastings both received this years' Top Cop Award for locating and saving two lost children in a nearby lake. Their quick thinking and actions prevented tragedy.

The Top Cop award is presented each year on Police Memorial and Appreciation Day.



Pearl Police Officer Donell Reynolds and Pearl Mayor Jake Windham.



Special to SW Rankin News
Pictured (l to r) are: Assistant Chief McDonald, Lt. James Whittington, Sgt. Clay Hastings and Assistant Chief Aldridge.

1 IN 4

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FHS's "Character Student of the Month" for 2019-20



The August 2019 Character Student of the Month Winner at Florence High School was Lizzy Mayne for representing "The Big 3: Treating Others Right, Making Smart Decisions, Maximizing Potential."



The September 2019 Character Student of the Month at Florence High School was Ethan Seane for representing trust.



The October 2019 Character Student of the Month at Florence High School was Tyler Steed for representing courage.



The November 2019 Character Student of the Month at Florence High School was Blake Breau for representing honor.



The December 2019 Character Student of the Month at Florence High School was Sara Jackson for representing joy.



The January 2020 Character Student of the Month at Florence High School was Layla Green for representing knowledge.



Photos special to SW Rankin News
The February 2020 Character Student of the Month at Florence High School was Ahnna Newell for representing creativity.

PCC announces May's firefighter of the month

Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Chamber of Commerce recently announced that the Pearl Fire Department (PFD) Firefighter of the Month for May 2020 is Captain James McGraw. McGraw began his career with the PFD on November 20, 2004. Over the years, McGraw has shown his heart for helping his fellow man in the way he carries himself while on duty as well as on his days off. He has amassed over 1,000 hours of continuing training from the Mississippi State Fire Academy, with the most recent being a new pilot program for Advance EMT, where he finished in the top of his class. McGraw was promoted to Lieutenant on January 12, 2009, and then to



Special to SW Rankin News

Pictured (l to r) are: Ron Hopson, Donnie Boykin, Todd Burkes, James McGraw, Mayor Windham, Brad Thornton, Marty Grant, Philip Ohlis, Todd Harvey and James Byrd.

Captain on June 24, 2016. Throughout his career with PFD, Captain McGraw has taken it upon himself to help train new firefighters as well as assist with the training of new Driver Operators.

His colleagues say Captain McGraw has been, and will continue to be, a vital piece of the puzzle at the Pearl Fire Department. On his days off from PFD, Captain McGraw has also served as a

pastor of a local Methodist Church.

McGraw is a graduate of McLaurin High School and is married to Amanda McGraw. He has three children, Kaley (17), Mason (12), and Wyatt (7).

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Terrell awarded Girl Scout's highest honor

Special to SW Rankin News

Since 1912, Girl Scouts have been making meaningful, sustainable change in their communities and around the world. The Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn, acknowledges the power behind each recipient's dedication to not only empowering and bettering herself, but also to making the world a better place for others. These young women are courageous leaders and visionary change makers.

Madison Terrell, of Troop 5149 in Pearl, was one of nine young Mississippi women who received the "Gold Award Girl Scouts" designation.

Terrell's winning entry, *Comfort through Colors*, focuses on explaining cancer through art. As she describes it, "[c]ancer, at any age is devastating. But for children, a cancer diagnosis can be particularly scary and confusing. Through my own personal experience, I know that understanding can make the treatment process less intimidating. My project used art to explain cancer and its impact on children through the development and distribution of a coloring book with colors. The book, which is now copyrighted, was also uploaded online and is available at www.storyjumper.com. Distribution



Madison Terrell

Special to SW Rankin News

sites include local oncology and cancer centers, UMMC, Ronald McDonald House, St. Dominic and Baptist cancer center as well as many others. I also created a social media blog entitled "Comfort through Colors" on YouTube, so that others could view my story and the coloring book. My takeaway from this project is that time is a precious jewel."

PHS Class of 2020 Hall of Fame inductees announced



Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl High School (PHS) recently announced the Class of 2020 Hall of Fame. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Justin Smith, Elizabeth Prejean, Alexis Harrison, Melody Rawls and Josef Rutledge; and back row: Tyler McKenzie, Brayden Cook, Brennan Houston and Jaydon Haymon.

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"Lunch2Go" program continues through summer

Special to SW Rankin News

Rankin County School District recently announced that the Grab and Go meal program has reopened. Meals will be served on Mondays (two meals) and Wednesdays (three meals) from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Pick up is available at three locations (McLaurin Elementary, Pelahatchie Elementary,

and Richland Upper Elementary). Due to increased participation and inability to accurately predict numbers, lunches will be first come/first serve.



Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Day Concert moved to October 2020

Special to SW Rankin News

Mayor Jake Windham recently announced that the Pearl Day Concert will still take place in 2020 and has been rescheduled for Friday, October 30. The original date was May 1, but due to the COVID-19 precautions, the city chose to move the date rather than cancel the event.

"It was very important to us to have this event take place this year," said Mayor Windham. "We worked closely with Jamey Johnson, Frank Foster and Zach

Bridges to find a date that would fit into all of their schedules. This really gives our folks something to look forward to as we work through this COVID-19 pandemic."



Jamey Johnson



Frank Foster



Zach Bridges

Tickets are all \$25 and can be purchased through Ticketmaster.

The concert will take place in the north lot of Trustmark Park starting at 5:30 p.m. The 2019 Pearl Day Concert featuring Lauren Daigle drew more than 10,000 people.

The City of Pearl will be celebrating its forty-seventh birthday after being established in 1973.

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