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# SWRANKIN NEWS

Vol. 8, No. 03 | March 2023

The Pearl News

THE NEWS  
RICHLAND

THE FLORENCE  
NEWS

## Pearl joins MMSA on Main Street Legislative Day

*Special to The Pearl News*

On March 2, the Mississippi Main Street Association (MMSA) held a press conference at the Mississippi State Capitol building to celebrate the community and economic development success of the Mississippi Main Street Association and member communities. Main Street Pearl was represented by Executive Director Stacy Smith-Cupstid. Sen. Dean Kirby and Rep. Gene Newman also attended to show their support for the City of Pearl.

Special guests included Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann and Speaker of the House Philip Gunn, who made remarks as the organization shared its economic impact on the state economy and highlighted ongoing downtown revitalization efforts.

"Local Main Street Associations across the State are making our communities a great place to live and raise a family," said Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann. "These thriving, yet quaint communities are showing the world that Mississippi is a great place to visit, and it exhibits the

pride our residents have to be Mississippians."

In April 2021, MMSA designated the City of Pearl as an official Mississippi Main Street community. In the following year, Mississippi Main Street's forty-eight designated communities helped generate 495 new businesses, 841 new jobs, 56 business expansions, and catalyzed \$82 million in private investment, and \$160 million in public investment in Mississippi's Main Street districts. In addition, there were significant projects completed in the downtown districts in 2022.

"Dollar for dollar, Main Street has proven to be one of Mississippi's most successful programs at bringing new jobs and businesses to our downtowns," said Speaker of the House Philip Gunn.



*Special to The Pearl News*  
2023 Main Street Legislative Day at the Capitol included directors from Main Street organizations all over the state, state and local board members, state legislators, and other statewide partners, who celebrated Main Street and its positive impact on Mississippi communities and small businesses.

"Main Street helps attract visitors to our state and provides quality of life for Mississippi residents which, in turn, drives Mississippi's local economies."

Main Street is a nationwide preservation-based economic development program, with more than 1,200 local Main Street organizations across the United

States. Mississippi's Main Street program began in 1984 and helps create hundreds of new jobs and new businesses each year in downtowns throughout Mississippi.

"We are so thankful for the Mississippi Legislature's support of our work, and we look forward to continuing to be Mississippi's premier statewide organization for downtown revitalization and local economic development," said Thomas Gregory, MMSA Executive Director.

As a statewide non-profit organization, MMSA is led by a board of directors, and Michelle Jones, owner of The Cottage Industry in Starkville, is currently serving as the association's president.

"Looking at the number of new businesses and jobs created across Mississippi just this past year, Main Street truly is one of our state's most successful local economic development tools," Jones said.

Visit [www.msmainstreet.com](http://www.msmainstreet.com) for more information.

## Pearl collecting canned corn for March of the Mayors

*Special to The Pearl News*

Pearl residents are encouraged to donate canned corn to the March of the Mayors food drive.

March of the Mayors is an event hosted by Extra Table, a non-profit organization committed to ending hunger by providing food pantries and soup kitchens with the new and healthy food they need to feed the hungry in their community.

The event agenda includes a canned food drive, a fundraiser and "Mississippi's Largest Food Box Packing Party," complete with Moon Pies, Mardi Gras beads, volunteers and an event t-shirt all rolled into one jazzy Second Line with a mission to feed hungry Mississippians.

In addition to Pearl Mayor Jake Windham, seven mayors across the Jackson Metro Area have agreed to participate as well, including the City of Byram, which is accepting one-pound bags of rice; the City of Canton, accepting spaghetti



noodles; the City of Jackson, accepting canned tuna; the City of Madison, accepting peanut butter; the City of Raymond, accepting canned green beans; and the

City of Ridgeland, accepting canned fruit.

Canned corn donations will be accepted in the Pearl City Hall lobby, located at 2420 Old Brandon Road, and the Senior

Services Center, located at 110 Valen-tour Road, until March 24. The hours of operation are 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Located at 6000 Old Canton Road in Jackson, Christ United Methodist Church will host the packing party on Tuesday, March 28, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Volunteers are welcome.

The benefitting pantries of this food drive include Gateway, Good Samaritan, Stew Pot, Wells Church Food Pantry, Christ United Food Pantry, MAD-CAAP, Country Woods Baptist Church Food Pantry, and several other feeding partners.

For more information about the food drive or how to become a volunteer for this year's event, visit [www.EXTRATABLE.org](http://www.EXTRATABLE.org) or call 601-264-0672.

The City of Pearl encourages residents to donate: "No matter if it's one can or a pallet, we thank you for your support!"

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# Mississippi, Louisiana Showdown set for March 31

Special to The Richland News

The Richland Community Center will be the locale for the March 31 MS vs. LA Showdown, hosted by Central Mississippi Cornhole and Good Times.

"It is something an [American Cornhole League (ACL)] director from New Orleans and I came up with last year," says Regional Director and Conference Director with the ACL Jeff Richburg.

"We will take the top sixteen players basically from each state. And they will be in Richland – all the players will get to play singles, doubles and what we call a crew cup, which is a four-man team."

To qualify for the tournament, a player must finish in the top twelve

of their ACL state rankings. The final four spots will be voted on by the twelve players who qualified. Tournament players are also required to participate in monthly ACL regionals and local tournaments to improve their chances of representing their state.

There is no entry fee for spectators. For those not qualified to participate in the tournament, there will be events scheduled for players who just want to walk up and play. Each participant will play one singles game, two BYOP games, and one crew cup game. All ages and levels can play – and all can win.

During the tournament, Central Mississippi Cornhole and Good Times will also run some \$10



Special to The Richland News

and \$15 blind draws.

The Qualifier Finals will be held on March 31 at 6:30 p.m., followed by Blind Draws at 7 p.m. for those not playing in the Showdown. At 8 p.m., the MS vs. LA Showdown will kick off. On Saturday, April 1, the Central MS Regional #7 is scheduled to start at 10 a.m. BYOP - all divisions. It will be an all-day event. The winners receive cash prizes based on how much money has been collected.

Food will be provided by the City of Richland, including a concession stand, as well as a food truck or two.

For those interested in learning more about Central MS Cornhole and Good Times or the LA vs. MS Showdown, visit their self-titled Facebook page or contact Jeff Richburg at jeffrichburg@bellsouth.net.

# Richland Mayor's Youth Council now accepting applications

Special to The Richland News

The Richland Mayor's Youth Council (RMYC) is currently accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year. RMYC is a dynamic one-year program which offers leadership experience and active community involvement with the guidance of RMYC Sponsor Stephanie Ward.

The Council's purpose is to strengthen the community and promotes a spirit of pride in the city. Each member is expected to exhibit respectful and exemplary "leadership" behavior.

Participation in RMYC is a competitive process open to students entering ninth through twelfth grade, either living in Richland or attending Richland High School.



Richland Mayor's Youth Council members.

Special to The Richland News

For local youth interested in applying for membership, it is important to note that attendance at RMYC meetings is mandatory. Members are expected to commit to attend all monthly RMYC meetings

and participate in many of the additional service opportunities provided. Meetings are typically held on the second Monday of each month. RMYC members are also expected to arrive at least ten

minutes early and participate wholeheartedly.

Applications for the 2023-2024 RMYC are available for download by visiting [www.RichlandMS.org/City-Profile/community/Mayors-Youth-Council/](http://www.RichlandMS.org/City-Profile/community/Mayors-Youth-Council/). Applications may also be obtained from Richland High School, on the RMYC Facebook page, or at the Richland Senior Center.

Completed applications must be submitted by 4 p.m. on March 28, 2023, at the Richland Senior Center (across from Richland City Hall), located at 371 Scarbrough Street in Richland.

For more information, contact Ward at 601-487-1186.

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# FHS MSA honored with Partnership Excellence Award

*Special to The Florence News*

The Florence High School Medical Science Academy (FHS MSA) was recently honored at the 21st Annual Governor's Awards celebration as one of the top school and community partnerships in the state.

The FHS MSA was one of only twenty-five school-community partnership programs recognized by the Mississippi Association of Partners in Education (MAPE) for producing outstanding results for students in K-12 public schools throughout Mississippi. The Medical Science Academy received the 2023 High School Partnership Excellence Award for their work with Wolfpond Animal Sanctuary, a no-kill animal sanctuary that was founded in 2013 and located in Magee, Mississippi.

Each year, FHS MSA asks their senior group, which consists of seventeen students, to decide on the project to focus on for the year. This year, senior student



*Special to The Florence News*

*FHS MSA students at Wolfpond Animal Sanctuary in Magee delivering their donations.*

Raegan West suggested Wolfpond Animal Sanctuary. She had adopted multiple family pets from this sanctuary, and her family had stayed in close contact with them throughout the years. West had become aware that the organization needed some support, so she made a pitch to the senior class, and

everyone agreed. After speaking with the sanctuary, they developed a plan for what would support them the most.

Once the decision was made, the MSA senior class began swiftly implementing their plan. To add more manpower to the project, they enlisted the help of the entire Medical Science Academy, an additional fifty-one students, as well as two local youth groups.

The students began collecting blankets, towels and rags. They then made and delivered donation boxes to all schools in their zone, as well as to Florence City Hall and two local churches. They made flyers to post around town and made social media posts throughout the collection drive. The day of delivery, students worked to create adoption videos for multiple dogs and posted them across various social

media outlets. They also worked with the Wolfpond staff to bathe recent intakes and clean cages to take some workload off of the staff.

FHS's Health Science Instructor Mary Traylor served as a facilitator throughout.

"We believe in letting the students plan and implement their project," said Traylor. "I only provided guidance on who to talk to in the community, helped them post over social media and across the schools in our area, and I went to Wolfpond with them on the day of delivery."

Although Traylor says that FHS MSA is truly honored by the official recognition they have received from MAPE, "receiving awards is never our intention. Our medical science academy puts a huge emphasis on community service, and our students truly enjoy these projects."

"Winning awards for their hard work is just a perk," Traylor continues. "Our big satisfaction comes from seeing our students engaged in their community and building a true passion for helping others."

# Ready to Rally tennis program coming to Florence this spring

*Special to The Florence News*

This spring, Florence youth have the opportunity to participate in a progressive tennis program, with the "That's My Game: Ready to Rally" beginner tennis program being offered through United States Tennis Association (USTA) Mississippi.

Area youth ages six to twelve are encouraged to register for the program, which will be held at Hemphill Park in the months of March and April. With rackets, balls and courts sized to fit their needs and abilities, organizers say that kids can feel successful right from the start. Research shows that when it comes to sports, kids just want to have fun.

Sessions will be held on Saturdays, March 18 through April 29, with no lessons Easter weekend. Sessions will be an hour long, from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m., and will be held at Hemphill Park located

at 437 South Church Street in Florence.

Each practice will include a warm-up activity that helps develop coordination and athletic skills, a review of what was learned the previous practice, and the introduction of a new skill with a series of games or drills. Eventually, point playing will develop, as well. Instructors say it is important to note that tennis is a hand-eye coordination game and may take some kids longer to master the skills than others.

Registrants are asked to wear comfortable clothing and sneakers, and hats and sunglasses are optional. Additionally, each participant should bring water or a sports drink.

Loaner rackets will be available for each



lesson; however, if a racket is brought from home, parents or guardians are asked to put the child's initials on it, and

the instructor will help determine if it is the correct size for the particular child.

For sessions where the weather is questionable, MSTA Mississippi will contact participants either through email or text about cancellations; and any lesson that is missed due to weather will be added at the end of the scheduled program.

To register, participants must have a USTA member number, which is free of charge. To receive a UTSA number for a child, call 1-800-990-8782 or visit [www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com) and click "join." Follow the instructions for a junior membership.

Once a membership number is assigned, parents or guardians can visit [TennisLink.UTSA.com/TeamTennis/Main/Registration.aspx](http://TennisLink.UTSA.com/TeamTennis/Main/Registration.aspx) to register for the program. Under "Team Number," type 7038451794, then enter the personal USTA number.

For more information, contact Angie Deleon at [angied@mstennis.com](mailto:angied@mstennis.com), or call 601-981-4421.

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# FHS hosts hundreds for HOSA Conference and Competition

By Florence High School Health Science Instructor Kira Birch

On Saturday, February 11, the Florence High School Medical Science Academy (FHS MSA) hosted thirty-five schools, forty-five advisors and nearly 600 students for the Mississippi Central District HOSA Conference and Competition. Future Healthcare Professionals (HOSA) is an international career and technical education student organization specifically focused on growing students' passion for medicine in nearly forty competitive healthcare event areas.

If students desired to pursue a particular medical science profession such as EMT, family physician, dentist, nurse, physical therapist, athletic trainer or medical assistant, they were provided a proficiency test in their particular subject matter. Upon passing the test, students advanced to a skills component that allowed them the opportunity to demonstrate the aptitude and abilities in their field of study.

Beyond healthcare career events, FHS MSA students are encouraged to participate in competitions that develop medical knowledge such as nutrition, medical law, medical math, pharmacology and more. Students may also grow their community, teamwork, and leadership skills by choosing events focused on community awareness, health education, mental



Special to SW Rankin News

Saturday, February 11, at the Mississippi Central District HOSA Conference and Competition.

health promotion, as well as public service announcements.

In addition to competition, students were able to gain leadership and professional development instruction from local community leaders, including Dr. Duguid, a motivational speaker from Do Good Leadership. Twelve colleges and companies were also in attendance to share what programs they offer for aspiring healthcare professionals.

FHS MSA Health Science Instructor Kira Birch expressed her gratitude to local professionals who participated in the event.



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Local community leaders, colleges and companies were in attendance at the conference to share what programs they offer for aspiring healthcare professionals.

“The Mississippi State Central District HOSA Conference and Competition

would not have been a success without the Florence community stepping up and serving as professional judges and student mentors,” said Birch.

Next up, FHS will advance thirty students to the state conference, set to be held in Jackson at the end of March. There they will compete for the opportunity to advance to the International HOSA Conference, which will be held in Dallas, Texas.

The FHS HOSA students advancing to state competition at the end of March include: Kenzie Hearn and Abby Davis in forensic medicine; Adrienne Burch in behavioral health; Luke Nicholson in dental science; Ariana Lewis in epidemiology; Reagan Hearn in clinical specialty; Paige Berry, Landree Smith and Avanlea Thornton in medical assistant certification; Layton Varner in prepared speaking; Gracie Walker in pharmacy science; Avery Clark and Cora Whitney in EMT; Rachel Parr in extemporaneous writing; Savannah French, Alexis Gonzales and Nyla Myers in public service announcement; Kimber Daniels in research poster; Abigail Brock in biotechnology; Abygail Buchanan in veterinarian science; Conner Ball in prepared speaking; Chloe Martin and Leah Green in physical therapy; and Hannah Reed, Rebecca Aycox, Joseph Dunlap, Caroline Sanford and Anna Fant in clinical nursing.

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# Maddy's Memories Foundation identifies emotional support focus

By Alexa Haik

Maddy Pitman, born in April 2020, was diagnosed with an aggressive form of infant leukemia at just eleven weeks old. Her family rallied, moving to north Mississippi to be within driving distance to St. Jude in Memphis for long-term treatment. After a courageous battle, Maddy passed away September 6, 2022, at two years and four months old. To honor her memory, Maddy's family created Maddy's Memories Foundation, and they are planning to use their resources to fill what they identify as a support gap.

For those facing cancer, it becomes evident quickly that emotional support is at least equally as important as the medical intervention itself. Unfortunately, those who are fighting cancer and their caregivers say that, oftentimes, resources for the former tend to be limited. Therefore, Maddy's Memories Foundation organizers say they will focus on providing aid to Mississippi families facing pediatric cancer by offering that emotional support.

The goal of the foundation is to provide a quality "break from cancer" - a couple of days of retreat - to create some memories together as a family. It may be a few days stay at a local AirBnB, a family photo session, or a visit to the beach.



Maddy Pitman

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Maddy's mother, Amanda Pittman, explains that, "We learned, through our experiences, there is not a lot for Mississippi families - and especially not a lot for families with infants. Most organizations focus their support on ages three years and up. So, we especially want to target the little ones and give them and their families the opportunity also to be able to do some of those things that are just not available to them."

To promote self-care, the foundation will also be providing care packages, not only for the patient, but for their siblings and for the care givers themselves, "because that tends to be something that gets

put to the side during all of that."

As with all non-profits, fundraising will be a large part of Maddy's Memories Foundation. Most events will be held in the Central Mississippi area to support families with patients at Blair E. Batson.

This year, the third annual Miracle Maddy 5k was held Saturday, March 4, in Rankin County. It was headed up by Pearl residents and family friends Emily Wooten and Kim Edwards, who were the original organizers for the first and second Miracle Maddy 5K Races held in years past. They will continue to provide their support and resources to the cause as Maddy's Memories Foundation board members.

Other events on the agenda will include a live entertainment fundraiser, as well as seasonal family fun days.

Pittman says she is excited about the potential for growth.

"I would love to be able to support families right here in Mississippi, but then, as we grow, I would like to be able to expand that reach, so maybe grow across the south, just to be able to help as many people as we can."

However, she adds that timing is important.

"It has to be done the right way; it's kind of like my little baby. I definitely want to take it slow and steady, so that we can make sure it does continue to grow and becomes something that lasts."

In the meantime, she says Maddy's Memories Foundation is there for those families in Mississippi who have a young child diagnosed with cancer. For those in that community, Pittman offers words of advice and encouragement.

"For families still struggling, not sure where to go, I would definitely say to start with getting in touch with a social worker and finding what resources are available out there, because there were a lot that [our social worker connected us with] that we didn't know about but that have helped us. You can also go to [www.FindHelp.org](http://www.FindHelp.org), and it will give you a list of resources that are for your situation and your location."

For more information, or to inquire about available resources, visit Maddy's Memories Foundation on Facebook or at [www.MaddysMemoriesFoundation.org](http://www.MaddysMemoriesFoundation.org). Inquiries sent via the MMF website contact page will receive a response as soon as possible, between twenty-four to forty-eight hours.

# An Irish book report: *Hannie Rising* by Jeanette Baker

A book report by Beth Woodmansee for The Friends of the Richland Library

Jeanette Baker, whose books reflect her love of Ireland, published *Hannie Rising* in 2022. Her tale begins in an operating room in Tralee, Ireland. Mickey Enright floats near the ceiling while doctor and nurses are busy working on a patient. The doctor calls the time of death, and Mickey is whisked away.

A year later, he meets St. Peter who tells him he is dead and that his is a difficult case; he has been given a second chance to tie up some loose ends. Mickey is sent to his old neighborhood in Tralee and begins interacting with members of his family who know him only as Patrick; his wife, Johannah and his two grown children, Katie and Liam. His elderly mother-in-law, Dolly Little, and her big hound, Seamus, recognize him; but when Dolly talks about seeing Mickey, the family thinks her dementia is getting worse. "Hannie," as Mickey called his wife, has been a widow now

for one year, settling into a life she enjoys--no family responsibilities, no one telling her what to do and she is developing her skills as a social worker at the Health Service Executive, helping wives of deadbeat Irish husbands who would rather drink most of their wages than support their families. It is at this point that her family all descend upon her at home; so, "Mother can make their lives easier." A judge tells Johanna that Dolly, in early stages of dementia, cannot live alone and she must bring her mother and that oversized dog, Seamus, home with her. Daughter Katie regrets her marriage to Dermot Kelliher whose family owns the hardware store over which she, Dermot and four-year old Evan live in a too-small flat. She wants the kind of life that successful jazz mu-

sician, Ritchie O'Shea, could give her—the life she experienced somewhat in America before returning to Tralee and marrying Dermot. Her brother, Liam,

happy-go-lucky, clueless bachelor, decides to return to college to make a better life for himself. Staying with his mother will help him save money. He is attracted to a young bar maid, Ciara, whose family are, "Tinkers," believed to be a lawless family of thieves. Ciara is trying to make a better life for herself and disassociates herself from her oafish brothers. Patrick/Mickey learns to see her with an unbiased heart.

Hannie thinks of Patrick as someone in whom she can confide. Liam and Katie find in Patrick that same easy confidant who sees their problems with a nonjudgmental eye. Patrick helps Dermot understand

why Katie wants to live somewhere not above the hardware store and use her degree in nutrition. Dolly, who knows Patrick is really Mickey, finds comfort from him as she faces her fears of forgetfulness. Finally, to finish his work, Mickey has to accept, with humility, Saint Peter's remarks about his wrong idea of making life easier for his family; that his mission is to help them make hard decisions and support one another. Once he realizes this, he is truly able to guide each one into healthier, more productive lives. He accepts that, "Hannie," can take care of herself.

As the tale ends, Saint Peter meets Mickey in a green place and tells him that he had been a, "lout, self-serving and pitiful. Now you are a presentable specimen, quite satisfactory," As for Johannah; Saint Peter says, "She knows her own mind. Now, we must move on to other business." Peter rests his hand on Mickey's shoulder saying, "the beauty of this place is that we are never finished with the good we can do."





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# Pearl school district receives grant for new school bus

Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Public School District was recently selected as one of thirteen school districts - out of twenty-five applicants - to participate in the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ's) 2022-23 Mississippi Diesel School Bus Replacement Program. Each district will receive a rebate of up to \$23,093 to replace one older diesel school bus with a new diesel school bus.

"It's a rewarding part of our job to be able to oversee programs like this which benefit our communities and schools while making a positive environmental impact across the state," said Chris Wells, Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

The Mississippi Diesel School Bus Replacement Program is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



(EPA) through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) State Grants Program. The goal of the Mississippi Diesel School Bus Replacement Program is to reduce emissions from diesel school buses through the early retirement of older, pre-2010 model year buses.

Since implementing the program in 2014, the Mississippi Diesel School Bus Replacement Program has provided over \$2.4 million to sixty-three school districts for the purchase and replacement of 145 school buses.

MDEQ is responsible for protecting the state's air, land, and water. Their mission is to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of present and future generations of Mississippians by conserving and improving the environment and fostering wise economic growth through focused research and responsible regulation.





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## Old Truths for Today

J.T. Morgan



### The Ark and Salvation

Beginning with Genesis 6 we find the account of Noah's ark. There is a very striking similarity between this and God's truth regarding the church of the New Testament and the gospel plan of salvation.

Only one material was used in the construction of the ark (Gen.6:14): gopher wood. Noah was not at liberty to use any other kind of wood in the building of the ark of his own choosing. Noah and his family constituted the saved of the antediluvian world. (1 Pet.3:20-21). Today the saved of earth constitute the New Testament church that Jesus built (Matt.16:18; Eph.5:23). In the New Testament church there is but one material: obedient believers (Acts 8:12; 18:8; 1 Cor.12:13).

According to Gen.6:16 only one window went into the ark. Today, for the church there is only one source of spiritual light: God's word, the Bible. Jesus said the apostles would be guided into all truth (Jno.16:13). Hence, the writings of the apostles constitutes all not just some of the truth. Paul states that the writings or scriptures furnish us unto all god works (2 Tim.3:16:17).

In the ark there was only one door (Gen.6:16) and was the only means of entrance into the ark. Noah was not allowed to make other doors of his choosing in the ark to allow anyone to enter in. Today there is only one means of entering the church (kingdom): baptism, preceded by faith and repentance. (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 8:12; 18:8; 1 Cor.12:13; Gal.3:26-27). And according to Gen.6:16 God shut the door after the animals and Noah's family were in. No one can tear down and replace God's plan of salvation!

The ark contained only one family (Gen.7:7; 1 Pet.3:20), the family of Noah – eight souls. Today the church has only one family: the family of God. God is the only one that does the actual enlarging of the borders of the kingdom (Acts 2:47).

To those in the days of Noah salvation was in the ark. Note that those eight souls were saved IN the ark. Today salvation is IN the church (Eph.5:23). This is the church we can all read about on the pages of the New Testament (Matt.16:18; Rom.16:16; Eph.1:22-23; Eph. 4:4; Eph5:23).

Tragedy came to all living things outside the ark (Gen.7:21-22). If Christ is the Savior of the church , He is not going to save the accountable ones of this dispensation who are outside the church (Eph.5:23; 2 Thess.1:7-9).

Peter teaches us that the salvation of Noah by the water of the flood was a type of our salvation by the water of baptism today (1 Pet.3:20-21). God used the flood as a means or condition or something essential to Noah's salvation. In a similar way God uses baptism as a means or condition or something essential to our salvation (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet.3:21).

Florence church of Christ- P.O. Box 277 –Florence, Ms 39073  
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# FHS students to serve as pages in Mississippi House



Special to SW Rankin News

Braxton Byrd, Lane Stewart and Morgan Weathersby, all of Florence, recently served as pages for the Mississippi House of Representatives. Pages generally run errands for officials and House staff. Byrd, fourteen, is the son of Jessica Weathersby and Calvin Byrd and the grandson of Representative Tom Weathersby (R – Florence). Stewart, fifteen, is the son of Mandy and Kevin Stewart. Weathersby, also fifteen, is the son of Jerri and Bradley Weathersby and the grandson of Rep. Weathersby. The students are freshmen at Florence High School and were sponsored for the week by Rep. Weathersby. Pictured (l to r) are: Rep. Tom Weathersby, Morgan Weathersby, Lane Stewart, Braxton Byrd and Speaker Philip Gunn.

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# FHS celebrates its First Annual Winter Homecoming



Special to SW Rankin News

On January 20, the Florence Eagles celebrated their first Winter Homecoming. The Eagles participated in a week of Spirit Dress up days, pep rallies, and a presentation of the first Winter Homecoming Court. The court was presented pre-game before the district basketball games versus Brookhaven. During this presentation, the 2023 Winter Homecoming Queen and 2023 Basketball Maid were crowned by Principal Tony Martin and District 1 Supervisor Jared Morrison. Chosen by the student body as the 2023 Winter Homecoming Queen was Laila McCoy. McCoy (pictured above) is the daughter of Shunta Wade and Larry McCoy. At Florence High School, she is part of the Lady Eagle Basketball team, Track, BETA Club, the Random Acts of Kindness Club, Interact Club, and DECA. Payton Arrington was selected as the 2023 Basketball Maid. She is the daughter of Buddy and Connie Arrington. At FHS, Arrington is involved in Student Government, DECA, FCA and the FCA Leadership Team, and the Eagle Insight Student Media Team.

# Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	FUNERAL HOME
Judith Ray May	76y	Brandon, MS	02/04/2023	Chancellor FH
Robert "Andy" Vinzant	56y	Union Corp, CO	01/25/2023	Chancellor FH
Sue Burchfield	57y	Florence, MS	02/10/2023	Chancellor FH
Misty Burchfield	48y	Florence, MS	02/07/2023	Chancellor FH
Andy Boatwright	51y	Brandon, MS	02/12/2023	Chancellor FH
Sharron Flowers	79y	Star, MS	02/11/2023	Chancellor FH
Julia "Judy" Brasher	80y	Brandon, MS	02/16/2023	Chancellor FH
Nyonia Roberts Evans	82y	Richland, MS	02/20/2023	Chancellor FH
Joey Glaze	71y	Florence, MS	02/20/2023	Chancellor FH
Katherine Courtney	96y	Florence, MS	02/23/2023	Chancellor FH
Willie Smith-Jones	94y	Florence, MS	02/28/2023	Chancellor FH
Virgil William Malley, Jr.	80y	Florence, MS	02/25/2023	Chancellor FH

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# Richland Public Library celebrates Irish-American Heritage Month

Special to SW Rankin News

Richland Public Library (RPL) is offering many suggestions for and activities in March to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day and Irish-American Heritage Month. Originally a religious holiday to honor St. Patrick, who introduced Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century, March 17 has evolved into a celebration of all things Irish. March was eventually proclaimed Irish-American Heritage Month by the U.S. Congress in 1991, and the president issued a proclamation commemorating the occasion each year.

For the youngest of library patrons, RPL presents **Preschool Story Time** for kids, Birth to twelve years of age, each Monday in March at 11 a.m. The themes of the month are: Dr. Seuss, Leprechauns, Pete the Cat and Llama Llama. During each program RPL will provide age-appropriate books, songs and a craft.

**Family Craft Night**, an event for all ages, will be held on Thursday, March 16, at 6 p.m. in RPL’s meeting room. In the spirit of all things Irish, this month the craft will be painting flower pots to look like leprechaun hats.



Space is limited so preregistration is required. Visit <https://libraryaware.com/2QQYC0> to register online.

For Adult and Senior Adult patrons, RPL offers **The Freedom Rides: Journey for Change** exhibit through March 21. It features historic photographs exploring one of the most important events in civil rights history through the eyes of the activists fighting for change and is part of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Traveling Exhibits Program. Exhibit Hours are Monday and Thursday 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

For book lovers, **Richland Book Club** will meet Tuesday, March 21, at

11 a.m. in the RPL meeting room to discuss their latest read. They encourage all to “Join us for Book Club!”

RPL also encourages all to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and Irish-American Heritage Month by reading fiction with the subject Irish or Irish-American, biographies, non-fiction about travel and places, or watch videos-everything from music, dance, Irish authors, and sports.

The video, *More Than a Game*, follows Akron's St. Vincent-St. Mary Fighting Irish high school basketball team (featuring five future NBA players, including superstar LeBron James) as they win their way to national acclaim.

For those interested in learning more about the history of Central Mississippi Regional Libraries, visit the CMRLS News Blog. Every two weeks their blog will feature a different library's history.

Richland Public Library is located at 370 Scarbrough Street in Richland. For more information about these or other upcoming events at the library, contact Branch Manager Dewayne Hellums at 601-932-1846 or [ribm@cmrls.lib.ms.us](mailto:ribm@cmrls.lib.ms.us).

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# Ingle selected for all-star team



Special to SW Rankin News

McLaurin High School's Emma Ingle was recently selected as one of the top twenty-four bowlers in the State 1A-6A and will participate on MAC Bowling Girls All-Star team.



Special to SW Rankin News

The Mississippi Association of Coaches 2023 All-Stars Bowling Girls' All-Star Bowlers are: Maggie Bradley of Neshoba Central, Kylie Carpenter of Florence, Brianna Chanhtrattana of Hancock, MacKenzie Conway of Hancock, Brooklyn Gaines of Desoto Central, Sally Kate Gardner of Kossuth, Avery Hurd of Madison Central, Emma Ingle of McLaurin, Kaley Jackson of Mantachie, Sarah Lewis of Neshoba Central, Ashton Luke from Neshoba Central, Maddie Mask of Kossuth, Ramsey Montgomery of Mantachie, Madline Nguyen of D'Iberville, Haley Padget of Northwest Rankin, Emely Randolph of Neshoba Central, Casey Renner of East Union, Jaiden Sawyers of Neshoba Central, Alexia Schmitt of East Central, Emily Shelby of Madison Central, Olivia Tedford of Lafayette, Kayla Tilman of Desoto Central, Lauren Trantham of Kossuth and Lynley Woodruff of Kossuth.

# PFD accepting applications for the position of firefighter

Special to SW Rankin News

The Pearl Fire Department is currently hiring qualified individuals to fill the position of firefighter. Potential recruits must be at least eighteen years of age, possess a Mississippi drivers license, pass a written test and a physical agility test, and participate in a job interview.

The fire department maintains fifty-seven firefighters and fire officers, who are diverse in their training from high angle rope rescue to hazardous material incidents. All are trained in fire suppression techniques, technical rescues, and emergency medical incidents. These individuals are augmented by six administrative personnel. The fire department also currently has twelve nationally registered paramedics, three nationally registered EMT-Advanced, and one nurse.

The City of Pearl Fire Department currently utilizes four fire stations, which are fully operational twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.


The mission of the City of Pearl Fire Department is to provide all occupants of the city, a well maintained, trained, and equipped fire control force to provide fire suppression, fire prevention and emergency rescue activities in an effort to reduce the loss of life and property.



The Department will, to the best of its ability mitigate, prepare for, and respond to those in need of emergency assistance as a result of fire, entrapment, medical emergency or other life-threatening situations.

Job applications are now available at the Pearl Fire Department Central Station location at 3603 Highway 80 East in Pearl, or may be submitted online at [www.cityofpearl.com/work/jobs/](http://www.cityofpearl.com/work/jobs/). The written portion of the test will be held the week of March 20 with the physical agility being held Saturday March 25 at 1 p.m.

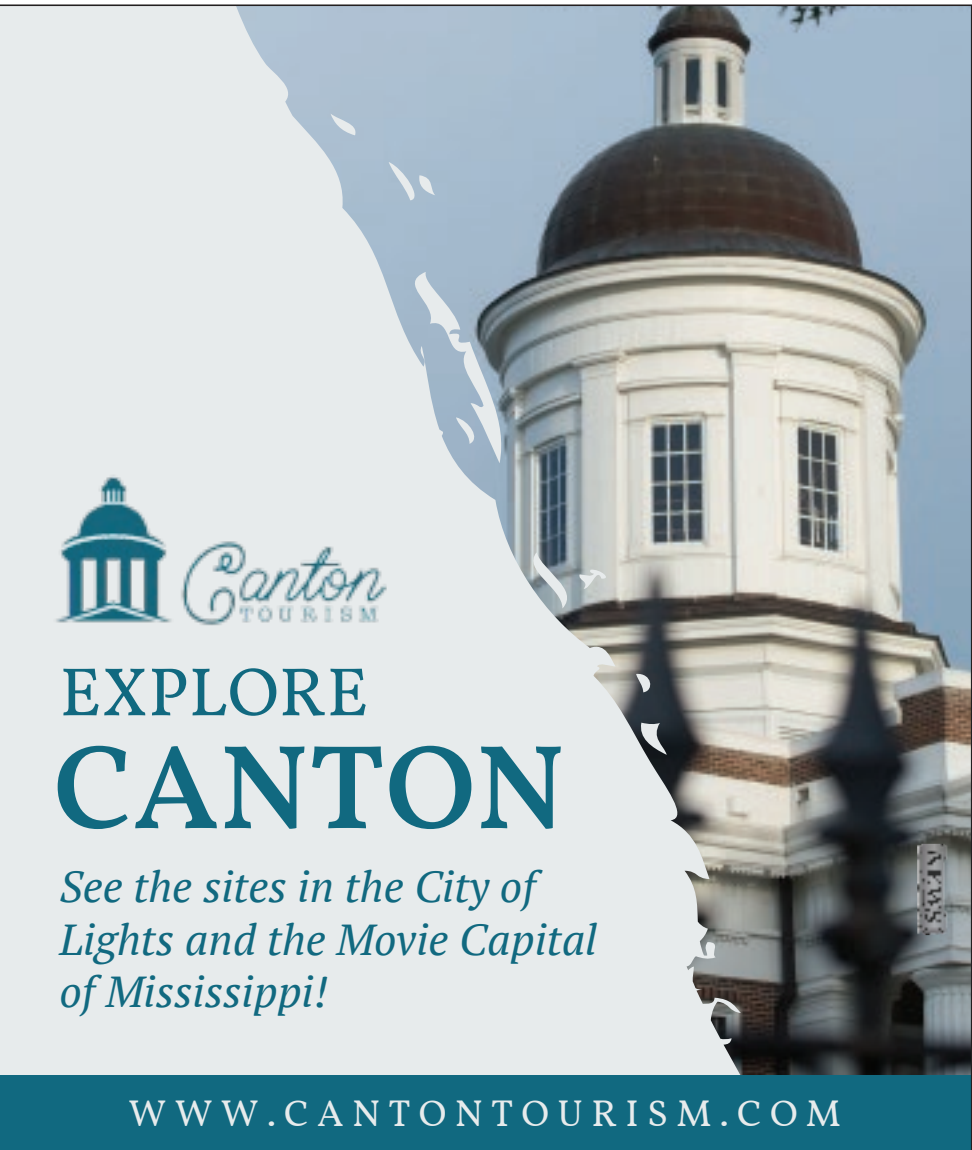
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# Richland High School presents monthly Leadership Awards

Special to SW Rankin News

Each month, Richland High School recognizes two students for exemplary performance in academics, leadership and service. The students are selected by teachers and announced to the student body.



Pictured (l to r) are sophomores Charles Willias and Nora Edwards, who were chosen for the November 2022 award.



Pictured (l to r) are freshmen Bryce Shows and Maddison Phillips, who were chosen for the December 2022 award.



Pictured (l to r) are eighth graders Ethan Franklin and Makayla Sanford, who were chosen for the January 2023 award.

# Two Florence natives graduate MSFA

Special to SW Rankin News

Firefighter Class 201 of the Mississippi State Fire Academy (MSFA) is making a difference with twenty-seven students graduating from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 Firefighter I-II course held at the Mississippi State Fire Academy in Jackson.

This intense seven-week course included online, classroom, and hands-on instruction in the areas of fire behavior, fire suppression, rescue, incident command, hazardous materials, and other fire relat-

ed topics. This course meets and exceeds the National Fire Protection Association for Firefighter Qualifications and the uniform minimum training standards stated in the Mississippi Code section 45-11-7.

The Mississippi State Fire Academy is a division of the Mississippi Insurance Department. State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney and Academy Executive Director Terry Wages believe these firefighters will be an asset to the fire departments they represent. “We are excited for them to go and serve their community,” said Director Wages.




Special to SW Rankin News

Firefighter and Airman 1st Class Logan Lewis Hazlewood of the Richland Fire Department graduated in Class 201 from the NFPA 1001 Firefighter I-II course held at the Mississippi State Fire Academy in Jackson.



Special to SW Rankin News

Firefighter Matthew Tilghman of the Richland Fire Department graduated in Class 201 from the NFPA 1001 Firefighter I-II course.



WORD SEED

“Word Seed”

**“But Simon answered and said to him, Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at your word I will let down the net. And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.” Luke 5: 5-6**

The focus of our attention is verse 6: **“And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking”**. I believe God wants to give His people a “net-breaking blessing”!! That’s more than a not enough, barely enough, just trying to get by blessing.

First, we must seek the Blesser more than the *blessing*. God told Abraham, **“I AM thy shield and great reward”**. HE...the Lord Himself is our great reward. He..... Jesus, God’s Son, is our Savior, our healer, our helper, our strong tower, our constant companion...indeed, He is our great reward! Acts 3:26 says, **“To you first, God, having raised up his servant Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning you from your iniquities”**. Jesus has not come to hurt us - He came to help us. He didn’t come to push us down—He came to lift us up. It is out of our relationship with Him and His Presence, in our life that blessings flow. If we want net-breaking blessings in our life, in our home, we must seek the *Blesser* more than the *blessing*. The fact is, it’s one thing to seek Him... it’s quite another to seek Him *first*. Jesus said, **“Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you”**. Priority speaks of precedence - our seeking of Him is to take precedence over everything else. Seeking God goes beyond a one hour visit to church on Sunday. Daily, we seek God in prayer and by spending time reading His Word. *Seek the Blesser*.

Secondly, we must surrender. Being a fisherman, Simon’s boat represented who he was, what he did and-it represented his income. In surrendering his boat, Simon surrendered all it represented to Jesus. We must surrender our all. All we are—our past, our future, our family, our finances, our relationships. The question is are we *“all in”*? Being “all in” leaves nothing out. When a person enlists in the military they are no longer in charge of their life. The reality is we do not determine the terms of our surrender to the Lord. Jesus said in Luke 11:23, *you are either for me or against me*—there is no middle ground.

So, what’s going on in your life right now? Where is it that you need an incredible, uncontainable, net-breaking blessing? Perhaps you are weary from striving, straining, and struggling. Regardless of situation or circumstance, net-breaking blessings await us as we seek God and surrender to His will, way, and direction for our lives.



# PSS offers day-trips for spring and summer fun

Special to SW Rankin News

Area seniors (ages fifty-five or older) are encouraged to join Pearl Senior Services for multiple day-trip opportunities in the coming months.

The first trip on the agenda is a "Mystery Trip," destination unknown. Those interested in a little adventure, being a spectator to something fun and exciting, and who enjoy a delicious lunch may sign up by calling 601-863-3229. The cost of participation is \$130 per person, with a \$50 deposit to confirm reservations. The final payment deadline is March 15.

Next up will be PSS's Historic Day in Central Mississippi, scheduled for June 20. Departing by motorcoach, participants will visit the Ruins of Windsor, Rosswood Plantation and enjoy lunch at the famous McComb Dinner Bell Restaurant. The group will return to town via Amtrak. A \$50 deposit is required to confirm a reservation. The complete pricing for this day-trip will be announced shortly.

The last item on the agenda is the Holly Springs Hummingbird Festival. On September 8, a group of seniors will participate in the Annual Hummingbird Migration and Nature Celebration. They will have the opportunity to hear expert speakers, mingle with local artisans while observing thousands of hum-



Special to SW Rankin News  
Ruins of Windsor.



mingbirds. Lunch is included in the cost of registration. There is a \$50 deposit to confirm registration, and a total cost of \$135 per person. The final payment for this day-trip will be due on August 4.

For more information about these or other events curated by Pearl Senior Services, contact Senior Services Director Stacy Smith at 601-863-3229 or visit the Pearl Senior Center at 110 Valentour Road in Pearl.

# 13th annual RCSD golf foundation tournament planned

Special to SW Rankin News

The Foundation for the Rankin County Public Schools will host their thirteenth annual golf tournament Thursday, March 30, through Friday, March 31, at The Refuge Golf Course in Flowood. Registration and the driving range will open both days at 7 a.m. and 12 p.m., with a shotgun following at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Lunch will be served at noon.

Each foursome will compete in a scramble format, where each team will select its best shot from the tee through the last putt. There will be a first, second and third place prize for gross team scores. Mulligans will be available for purchase: one for \$10 or four for \$25. There also will be a prize for closest to the pin and longest drive.

As it is a shotgun tournament, space is limited. Golfers will be accepted on a first paid and received basis. The cost for teams is \$600 with a hole sponsorship, or \$500 without a hole sponsorship. The entry fee will include eighteen holes of golf, lunch, cart use, and great prizes.

The tournament champions the Foundation's mission - to provide a way for businesses and individuals to support



the work of Rankin County Schools and to encourage academic excellence.

To register, download the event brochure/registration form at [www.rcsd.ms/foundation](http://www.rcsd.ms/foundation) or register online at [www.rcsd.ms/golf](http://www.rcsd.ms/golf).

For more information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Foundation-ForRankinSchools@gmail.com, or call 601-825-5590.

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# MS House Weekly Summaries: February 2023

By MS House of Representatives  
Information Officer Barrett Wilson

The past several weeks of the 2023 Legislative Session have been busy for lawmakers.

**House Bill 370** came back before the House. The bill would have authorized a removal process of municipal elected officials using the same process of removal of county elected officers. The bill failed by a vote of 54-60.

**House Bill 1276** would provide for a runoff election for state officials if no candidate receives a majority of the votes. **HB 1276** passed by a vote of 75-39.

Penalties for fleeing law enforcement would increase under **House Bill 402**. The bill comes after several accidents across the state that occurred were caused by police pursuit of a suspect. **HB 402** passed by a vote of 85-31.

**House Bill 1070** would create the Patriotic Education Grant Program under the Department of Education. The program would encourage school districts to teach American history outside of regular school requirements. **HB 1070** passed with a vote of 110-6 and will now go to the Senate.

**House Bill 1490** would require the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks to suspend hunting licenses for people who fail to pay child support. The bill passed 81-29 and has been sent to the Senate.

**House Bill 723** would establish the Mississippi Transit Corporation and

create a study committee to make recommendations for bus, rail and light rail services in Mississippi. The bill passed with bipartisan support by a vote of 109-7.

Several bills that passed overwhelmingly with little debate included the following: the Department of Public Safety would be authorized to issue state identification cards to homeless individuals (**House Bill 368**); language in the Mississippi Code regarding rape would be updated, and spousal exception of rape would be removed (**House Bill 995**); a domestic abuse court program would be established (**House Bill 170**); and the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks would be allowed to issue a hunting license to a person whose parents was born in Mississippi and on active duty military service at the time of the applicant's birth (**House Bill 49**).

The eighth week of the 2023 Legislative Session, marked the deadline for original floor action on House appropriations and revenue bills.

**House Bill 1671** would provide tax credits for businesses and individuals for making contributions to crisis pregnancy centers. After two amendments were tabled that would expand postpartum Medicaid cover-

age and increase TANF benefits, the bill passed 104-9 and has been sent to the Senate.

**House Bill 1720** would give funding to the UMMC for the renovation of the psychiatric program facility, and **House Bill 1722** would give funding for the repair and renovation of the School of Dentistry. Both bills passed the House by votes of 113-5 and have been sent to the Senate for consideration.

Several bills regarding elections have also been introduced. **Senate Bill 2352** would penalize any person who fraudulently requests or submits an absentee ballot. **SB 2352** passed the House 81-36, and it has been returned to the Senate.

**Senate Bill 2353** would increase the wages for poll managers and workers. **SB 2353** passed by a vote of 113-5 and has been returned to the Senate. **Senate Bill 2358** would ban certain instances of ballot harvesting, a practice in which a person other than the voter turns in an absentee ballot. The bill would authorize election officials, U.S. Postal workers and family members or caregivers to deliver these absentee ballots. The bill was laid on the table subject to call.

During the ninth week of the

2023 Legislative Session members worked on the following Senate bills on the House floor, with a deadline of March 8.

**Senate Bill 2781** would create the Mississippi Access to Maternal Assistance Program under the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Child Protective Services and the Division of Medicaid. The program would provide information and services related to pregnancy, childbirth and childcare for expectant mothers and new parents. The House passed the bill by a vote of 113-4 and has been returned to the Senate.

**Senate Bill 2700** would provide homestead exemption for unremarried surviving spouses of military members killed on active duty or training. **SB 2700** passed unanimously by a vote of 117-4.

The Mississippi Vulnerable Persons Abuse Registry would be created under **Senate Bill 2652**. The bill is the Senate equivalent to **House Bill 1392**, which passed unanimously earlier in the session. **SB 2652** passed by a vote of 118-1.

The House continued to work on bills originating from the Senate until the deadline the following Wednesday. All Senate bills approved by the House were sent back with changes to the Senate where they can concur with the changes or invite conference. There were more than sixty Senate bills remaining on the House calendar to be dealt with by March 8.



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# Rhodes for MS District 36

By Brian Rhodes

Rankin County farmer and businessman Brian Rhodes filed to run for state senate at 10 a.m. today on the first day of candidate qualifying. Rhodes is running as a Republican in the newly drawn Senate District 36, which includes Smith County and a portion of Rankin County.

At the Mississippi Republican Party headquarters in Jackson, where he filed papers to officially qualify as a candidate, Brian Rhodes said, “Ashley and I are excited about this campaign and the opportunity to share our vision for the future of Smith and Rankin counties and Senate District 36. As a conservative farmer and small business owner who has been deeply involved in Farm Bureau and other organizations in our community, I seek to bring a wealth of practical, real-world experience to the state senate along with a commitment to transparency and responsiveness for our citizens. Ultimately this is about leaving Mississippi a better place for not just for my children but for all of our children.”

Brian Rhodes is a Christian, a husband, a father, a farmer, and a conservative Republican. A life-long resident of Rankin County, Rhodes is a third-generation poultry and cattle farmer. He bought his first poultry farm while in college in 2007. In 2008, he married the former Ashley Laird of Morton. Together they own ten poultry houses and a cow-calf operation of about 100 head of commercial beef cattle.

Ashley and Brian are both graduates of

East Rankin Academy and Mississippi State University. They’ve been married for 14 years and have three children – two daughters and a son. Ashley taught in the Rankin County school district for five years before becoming a full-time homemaker.

- Recognized as the Rankin County Farm Family of the Year by the Rankin County Chamber of Commerce
- Lifelong active member and leader in The Church at Shiloh
- Appointed by Gov. Tate Reeves to serve on the Mississippi Land, Water and Timber Resources Board
- Member of the Rankin County Farm Bureau Board of Directors; served as President for 4 years
- Served on the Mississippi Farm Bureau Board of Directors 2020 – 2021
- Member of the Mississippi Poultry Assoc.
- Member of the Rankin County Cattlemen’s Association; served as President for 3 years
- Served as Area Vice President of the Mississippi Cattlemen’s Association
- Served on legislative policy development committees for several years with both Mississippi Farm Bureau and the Mississippi Cattlemen’s Association
- Member of the Rankin County Republican Executive Committee and the Rankin County Republican Club
- Associate member of the Rankin County Republican Women
- Awarded the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award in 2020
- Placed 4th nationally in the American Farm Bureau Achievement Award competition in 2020

A map of District 36 can be viewed here: <https://rhodesforsenate.us/district-36/>.



# Community outreach with R-FGC



Special to SW Rankin News

Members of the Richland-Florence Garden Club (R-FGC) gathered on February 2 to create and decorate Valentines for the residents of Plainview Assisted Living. The Valentines were then delivered by members, pictured (l to r): Debbie Knight and Carol Azzone. The RFGC is federated with The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc., and a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Garden Club, Inc. and Natchez Trace District.



Special to SW Rankin News

R-FGC members decorated Valentines for the residents of Villa South Assisted Living. These were delivered on February 13 by garden club members. Pictured (l to r) are: Debbie Knight, resident Agnes Hawthorne (seated) and Carol Azzone.



Special to SW Rankin News

R-FGC met recently at the Richland Community Center. The hostesses were Scottie Boyanton and Sandra Hales-Boyd. Gail Moore was the guest speaker, who discussed pollinator gardens. Pictured (l to r) are: Susan Harrison, Gaynell Ainsworth, Debbie Knight, Annajeral Knight, Linda Stringer, Susie Gulleddge, Sandra Hales-Boyd, Beverly Hemphill, Gail Moore, Minetta Veasey, Scottie Boyanton, Teenie Boone, Marie Phillips, Shirley Wilson, Carol Azzone, Connie Snow, Lynne Wynne and Perrie Paul.

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# Pearl proclaims March as "Youth Art Month"



Special to SW Rankin News

Mayor Jake Windham and the Board of Aldermen have proclaimed that March be observed as Youth Art Month. All citizens are urged to take an interest in and give full support to quality school art programs for children and youth and support should be given to art teachers as they attempt to strengthen art education in their schools and communities. Pictured are Mayor Windham and students from Pearl Public School District, in attendance at Pearl City Hall for the Art Month Proclamation.

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# McNinch for RC Tax Assessor

By Staci McNinch

On January 9, 2023, Flowood resident, Staci McNinch, qualified to run for Rankin County Tax Assessor in the August 8, 2023, Republican Primary. The current Tax Assessor is not seeking reelection.

McNinch held her Campaign Kickoff event at the Vault Venue in Brandon on January 24. In her remarks to the crowd, she said her inspiration to serve the public started at an early age.

“My mother devoted more than thirty years to county government, and my father is a retired State Trooper. Their commitment and decades of service – placing others before themselves – has truly laid the foundation of my life.”

Stating that most of her career had been in the private sector, McNinch explained, “I had the honor of providing funding for small businesses, first homes, and new beginnings during my time with Community Bank. While at the Mississippi Development Authority, I had the pleasure of working with local governments to secure funding for public infrastructure and economic development purposes.”



Following her fifteen-year banking and finance career, McNinch devoted

ten years to community service. She served four years on the Board of Directors of the Junior League of Jackson, ultimately leading the 2400 member organization as President during the COVID pandemic.

“I have managed multi-million-dollar projects, multi-million-dollar budgets, and hundreds of individuals.

Analyzing financial statements, budgets, appraisals, and impact studies—these things are not new to me,” said McNinch.

She concluded her remarks, stating, “I am ready to be your full-time Tax Assessor. I love Rankin County; I believe in the people of Rankin County! I believe big things are coming, and I believe that with principled and proven leadership, we will move forward together, keeping Rankin County as the best place to live and raise a family!”

McNinch currently serves as Chief Deputy Tax Collector. She has been married to Jeremy McNinch, originally of Pearl, for seventeen years. They have three children, ages 10, 9, and 6, and have been active members of Pinelake Church since 2011.

# Gilbert running for RC Tax Collector

By Caroline Gilbert

It is my honor and privilege to announce my candidacy for re-election as your Rankin County Tax Collector. During my current term in office, I have relied upon my sound Christian values and knowledge as a Certified Public Accountant to provide conservative fiscal leadership to the Tax Collector’s Office. I have implemented many new processes that have improved efficiency and accountability and have created stronger internal controls. As a result, our municipalities and school districts receive their tax revenues sooner than ever before.

During my first few months in office we were faced with an unprecedented pandemic. During that time, my office never shut down. I was committed to providing service, especially during a time of such uncertainty. Many of you remember those long lines, but I most remember the teamwork that allowed our office to stay up to date and to continue to serve you. As I worked alongside my staff on those hot, and sometimes rainy days, going from car to car to help keep the line moving, I was in awe of the grace that our Rankin County family showed us and the resilience that my team displayed. The pandemic was certainly a trial by fire, but it helped me



quickly understand what it really means to be elected to carry out the job of the Tax Collector.

Not long after taking office, I discovered an embezzlement scheme involving Waste Management funds. I made good on my promise to protect your tax dollars and took the case all the way through prosecution. I undertook an analysis of the needs of each of my offices and

implemented modernized practices and created efficiencies that provide quicker customer service, which means we address your needs faster. My job doesn’t stop at my office door. In addition to working with our mayors and supervisors, I work regularly with other Tax Collectors and Assessors, and with our state legislature to help revise current laws and regulations to help improve how we serve the needs of our citizens.

The Tax Collector’s Office plays a vital role in ensuring that Rankin County remains one of the best places in Mississippi to live and raise a family. The last three years have seen us take great strides in making the Tax Collector’s Office more accountable, transparent, and efficient, but there is work left to do. Please follow me on Facebook at Re-Elect Caroline Gilbert, Rankin County Tax Collector, and on August 8, 2023, I ask that you cast your vote for me and allow me to continue to work for you.

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Adcock runs for Circuit Clerk

Morrison for MS District 36

By Michelle Adcock

Rankin County Chief Deputy Circuit Clerk Michelle Adcock qualified to run for Circuit Clerk on January 3, 2023. Adcock is running as a Republican to fill the seat that will be left open upon Becky Boyd's announcement that she is retiring at the end of her term.

With the support of family and a call from her Lord and Savior, Adcock decided to seek this position. Adcock has a love for Rankin County, its people and a passion for the work being done in the Circuit Clerk's office. A graduate of Mississippi College with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and an emphasis in Accounting, Adcock has served her community in the Information Technology field at both Region VIII Mental Health and the Rankin County Board of Supervisors for the past 25 years. She has written and modified software being used in almost all departments of the county. She was recruited to work for the Circuit Clerk's office in 2018 and was promoted to Chief Deputy Clerk in 2021. With election security and integrity being at the forefront of the news media, her 15 plus years of invaluable experience working with the Circuit Clerk, the Board of Supervisors, and the Election Commission to help put



on Federal, State and County elections is an asset. Her extensive hands-on working knowledge of the office and her technology background gives her the experience to run the office on day one.

Her goal, if elected, is to advance the clerk's office by making every effort to create innovative ways to help streamline processes and services, create a voter education program for high schoolers, and continue to make the office as efficient and transparent as it has been for decades. Her pledge to all citizens is to work hard every day to serve the people of Rankin County with courtesy, dignity, and professionalism.

Adcock has been a resident of Rankin County for over 32 years. She has been married to Bill for 27 years and they have two sons, Wyatt and Weston, who both reside in Brandon. She is a member of The Mississippi Republican Party, The Rankin County Republican Women and Brandon Rotary Club. Her family worships each Sunday at The Way Church, where Adcock volunteers for the Women's Ministry, the Children's Ministry, and the prayer team.

For more information on her experience and qualifications, visit online at [michelleadcock.com](http://michelleadcock.com).

*Paid for by Michelle Adcock for Circuit Clerk Campaign.*

By Jared Morrison

It is with much thought and prayerful consideration that I Jared Morrison would like to announce my candidacy for election August 8, 2023 to the Mississippi State Senate to represent District 36. As a lifelong resident of Rankin County, husband, father, business owner and Rankin County Supervisor. I am committed to serving Senate District 36 with integrity, a strong work ethic, and proven leadership and experience.

I was raised on and still maintain our family farm with my wife Sheila. Together we have 5 children and blessed to be called "Big J" to our beautiful grandchildren. I graduated Florence High School and went on to attend Hinds Community College where I majored in Business Management. I have been blessed to have built our family business Morrison Welding & Crane Service that has served the State of Mississippi for over 30 years. I'm a life-long member of Marvin United Methodist Church and have served as Rankin County District 1 Supervisor for 16 years.


Among the proud achievements in my 4 terms as a County Supervisor I am proud to have worked with the Board of Supervisors to continue the positive growth and address infrastructure needs throughout Rankin County. Economic development as well as supporting the needs of our infrastructure has played a large roll in the growth of



the county and has helped in keeping our unemployment as one of the lowest in the state. Those needs have included new roads, the reconstruction of existing roads, and creating a continual maintenance program for over a 1000 miles of roads and roadsides. As a strong supporter of law enforcement, emergency services, both paid and volunteer fire departments, and our first responders, I feel strongly that all these entities have helped in and with the growth of our cities, our schools and the for future of our young people.

With the working relationships that have been built with our current legislative body and the experience that has been gained throughout my years in office will allow me to continue to be a strong voice for the people. These experiences have given me the ability to make the tough decisions that will go into governing our state and representing the citizens, young and old, of Rankin and Smith Counties as well as our state. I pledge to represent ALL the people of Senate District 36 as your next State Senator and will continue to be a strong voice for our Christian Conservative values. Together with your support, we can make a positive difference.


I humbly ask for your prayers and your support, thank you and God bless. [www.jaredmorrisonforstatesenate.com](http://www.jaredmorrisonforstatesenate.com) Facebook @jaredmorrisonforstatesenate. "I can to all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



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