

## New family entertainment complex opens in Florence

By John David Harrison

Southwest Rankin residents now have a new venue for family fun, right in their own backyards. Spinners, a family entertainment center, has opened in Florence off of Highway 49, offering an array of activities all under one roof. The center includes a skating rink, bowling alleys, a massive arcade, bounce houses and virtual reality. Two more phases are in the works, with escape rooms under construction now. The third phase will feature a laser tag arena.

The brainchild of Florence residents Terence and Jennifer Lott, Spinners came into existence when the couple realized nothing like it could be found in the area. The venue, which opened its doors for the first time in April, was established a few years after the Lotts



Photo by John Harrison

embarked on a similar business venture.

"We lived in the Delta for a short time where we were school teachers, and the

kids just really needed something to do there; so we decided to open our first skating rink," says Jennifer Lott. "We chose Florence as our second location,

because it is my hometown; and it's also just such a great place for families."

When the Lotts started to plan for Spinners, they really wanted to create a place that people of all ages could enjoy.

"It's not your typical skating rink or bowling alley where there's just one activity; we try to put everything under one roof, so no matter what age, no matter what your interests are, you can come in and have a really good time," Lott says.

They even took the building's appearance into consideration, making sure the cosmetic aspects were appealing to adults.

Lott says they tried to stay away from bright colors and overly childish im-

*continued on page 3*

## Ballroom dancing lessons offered

Special to SW Rankin News

The City of Richland Community Center will host ballroom dance lessons beginning on Tuesday, May 14. Classes begin at 6:30 p.m.

The cost for couples is \$24, and classes will be held every Tuesday nights for six weeks. Instructors will be Gerry and August Corso.

Community Center is located at 410 East Harper Street in Richland. To sign up or to get more information, call 601-420-3400.



## Fire Academy groundbreaking set for May 15



Special to SW Rankin News

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The Mississippi State Fire Academy, located in Pearl, will host a groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday,

May 15. The groundbreaking event is for the Academy's \$12 million construction project, which will include a single building that houses a new fire

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**Inside this issue:**  
 Rankin families invited to join 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program - pg. 11  
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# Three Rankin County Girl Scouts earn Gold Award

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Three Rankin County Girl Scouts recently earned their Gold Awards. Since 1916, 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.

Niki, Troop 5590, of Richland, completed a "Strings and Things" project, which addressed a decline in the love of music. She developed a program to teach music appreciation to elementary kids. Part of the program included writing music about music greats, such as Beethoven, to give to kids to motivate them. She created a Spanish as well as English version. She also taught strings to elementary children, from beginning to advanced level.

Anna, Troop 5181, of Florence, addressed the lack of self-defense courses for girls ages twelve through eighteen in her "Self Defense" project. She developed a series of self-defense



Special to SW Rankin News

Pictured are (l to r) are Becky Traweek, CEO Girl Scouts of Greater Mississippi, and Girl Scouts Niki, Kayla, Emily, Anna, and Raven.

courses that she taught to girls and adults. In addition, she raised awareness of domestic violence against women. As a second-degree black belt, Anna felt strongly that schools should have access to materials that talk about this serious issue and the resources to help their students. She created a self-defense, self-safety video that she distributed to schools and women's groups.

Jayla, Troop 5590, of Florence, addressed the lack of musical activities offered to the veterans at the VA Medical Center Nursing Home. She noticed the lack of activity while visiting family and learned about the positive effects that music can have on the cognitive abilities of the elderly. Jayla organized a series of performances for the nursing home by recruiting volunteers from schools and her church. She also reached out to local piano teachers and musical organizations. She developed a series of brochures to highlight the benefits of music for the elderly and her performance series and distributed them throughout the community. Performances are planned monthly throughout 2020 for the nursing home.

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continued from page 1

# New family entertainment complex opens in Florence



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The new Spinners entertainment center currently offers bowling, skating, an arcade, bounce houses and virtual reality, with more activities planned.

ages, instead opting for a striking display of wall art done by a local artist. The party rooms, another amenity of Spinners, are also artistically designed. Each room has a distinct theme: the Blues, jazz, country, and rock 'n roll, and they can be rented for birthday parties and other family functions.

The Lotts say the venture has been a rewarding experience for them so far, as they have witnessed adults having just as much fun as the kids.

"One of the things that we've seen since we've been open is adults getting back on skates for the first time in years, because they're here having fun

with their kids; and so we try to really appeal to all ages, and I think we've accomplished that. It's been great watching families have fun together."

And it isn't just families enjoying the Spinners experience. They book school field trips, church groups, and have even had companies schedule outings. With their diverse collection of patrons, the Lotts have made an investment that they hope will provide a place for big fun in a small town.

Spinners is at 121 Revelation Drive next to Berry's Seafood. Prices and business hours can be found at [florescspinners.com](http://florescspinners.com).

# Temple, Perkins named as teacher and staff member of the month



Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Junior High School recently announced the teacher and staff member of the month for March. Nominations are open to all teachers and employees, and recipients are chosen based on various criteria. The teacher of the month receives a plaque, and the staff member of the month receives a certificate. Pictured are Natalie Temple (left), staff member of the month, and Mindy Perkins (right), teacher of the month.

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## Discovery Christian School enjoys *Pinocchio*



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Students from Discovery Christian School recently enjoyed a performance of *Pinocchio* by New Stage Theatre's Professional Acting Company. The updated, fast-paced version of the classic tale follows the little puppet Pinocchio on his quest to become a real boy. Directed by Sharon Miles, Education Director at New Stage, *Pinocchio* was performed by New Stage's Professional Apprentice Company members Cherry Rendel, Hayden Schubert, Sarah Coleman and Jordan William.

## Richland-Florence Garden Club hosts Mary Ellen Hester



Special to SW Rankin News

The Richland-Florence Garden Club recently had Mary Ellen Hester, Master Gardner from Brandon, present at their April meeting. She discussed growing dahlias and peonies and provided photos from her own garden. For more information on the club, call Debbie Knight, president, at 601-259-5009.

## Class of 2019 Highschool Graduations

### Graduation for Florence, Pearl and Richland High School Class of 2019

#### Richland High School:

Tuesday, May 14, 2018, 6:30 p.m. at the Mississippi Coliseum



#### Pearl High School:

Thursday, May 16, 2019, 7:00 p.m. at the Mississippi Coliseum



#### Florence High School:

Monday, May 20, 2019, 7:00 p.m. at Hinds Community College Clyde Muse Center



## Old Truths for Today

By J.T. Morgan



### God Holds You Accountable!

In the beginning as God began the creation, He set in motion the inflexible laws of nature. Lower animals were guided and governed by a law called instinct and have not the ability to reason. But when God created man, He gave him the power of choice; and his freedom to choose. The freedom of choice allows him to chart his own course in life and make his own decisions. Because of this man was elevated higher than other beasts of the field and imposed upon man certain responsibilities for which he will ultimately be judged. God makes man accountable for all his actions in life (Deut.30:15). His freedom of choice makes him liable for the mistakes he made in his choosing. (Deut.30:19). Man can choose either course, but having chosen, he must ultimately face the consequences of his choosing.

Man has the right to choose one of two paths before him. He has the freedom to choose either way and can walk in the path of his desire. However, only one way will lead to the salvation that God has promised. (Matt.7:13-14). God will not interfere or intervene with your freedom of choice, but He will hold you accountable for the choice you make. The popular path looks wonderful and a lot of people are traveling down that path, but at the end is only eternal ruin.

The odd thing about man is that he has the history of choosing the wrong path. (Psa.14:2-3). You have the right to follow the crowd in the broad way, but it is costly at the end (Deut.23:2). Since man is a free moral agent, he has the right to make his choice in religious affairs. Each man has as much right as another to choose his religion. Remember the foolish choice of man does not make God responsible for the consequences that result from the wrong choice.

Man's freedom of choice can jeopardize his freedom! One can become a slave to gross error! Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." (Jno.8:32). Paul makes a similar statement in Rom.6:17-18. One has the right to reject God's truth, but he cannot then escape the consequences of that choice! Paul gives a warning in 2 Timothy 4:3-4.

One day we will give account for all the choices we have made in our life, good or bad. "For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ." (Rom.14:10). Man will have no choice in the matter, we shall all be there! (2 Cor.5:10). (Be sure to read Matt. 25:31-46). What a great day that will be and we will all be present! You can choose what you will here but you will have no recourse on that day. Everyone will meet that summons! No excuses granted! Choose wisely the path we travel!

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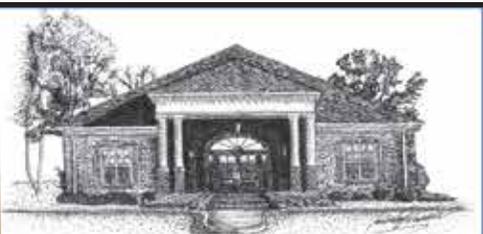
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Northside Elementary students treated to silly string party for test scores



Special to SW Rankin News

Julie Price's students at Northside Elementary who scored a level four or five on their final Case test had a silly string party to celebrate their accomplishments. Pictured are (l to r), front row: Kaleb Woodson, Aiden Everitte, Brody Bullock, Andres Poscasangre, Tony Miller and Carmelo Austin; middle row: Caleb Cathey, Haleigh Schilling, Tabitha Wood, Ariel Miner, Nevaeh Turner and Taby Girault; and back row: Kinslee Rogers, Adian Renfroe, Janiya Hudson, Julie Price, Caroline Wallace, Tristan Crump, Kynslie Taylor, and Cayden Henry.

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Fire Academy groundbreaking set for May 15

station, dormitory and state disaster staging area.

The fire station will simulate a real world environment for Fire Academy students, to better prepare fire fighters in training, while the dormitory will increase available space for students, thereby allowing the Academy to offer more classes to create more qualified first responders to serve Mississippi communities. In addition, in the event of a major disaster in Mississippi, the building will serve as a staging area for first responders, as they travel to and from the disaster scene.

The Academy is a division of the Mississippi Insurance Department. Over 15,000 students annually are trained at the Academy, which is dedicated to providing cutting-edge

technology training to emergency responders from municipal, volunteer, and industrial fire departments within the state, throughout the nation, and the world. The facility offers more than ninety courses, many of them both on-campus and off-site through their field delivery program, which allows fire fighters across the state to engage in critical training closer to their communities, reducing the amount of time they have to spend away from their departments to gain important knowledge and skills.

The groundbreaking is set for Wednesday, May 15, at 9:30 a.m., and the public is invited to attend. The facility is located at 1 Fire Academy USA in Pearl. For more information, call 601-932-2444 or visit [www.mid.state.ms.us/fireacad](http://www.mid.state.ms.us/fireacad).

Obituaries

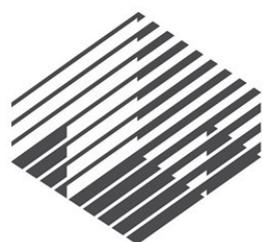
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## Bounds of Pearl selected as scholar athlete



Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl High School senior Hayley Bounds was recently honored as the District VI Lindy Callahan Scholar Athlete and was one of three selected to receive a scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are PHS principal Chris Chism, Bounds, and PHS girls basketball coach Jason Kennedy.

## PriorityOne Bank provides protection for seniors

Special to Pelahatchie News

Thanks to PriorityOne Bank, residents of the State Veterans Home in Collins, Mississippi, will live in a safer and more secure living environment. Through an ongoing partnership with CRA Partners, PriorityOne Bank is funding the Senior Crimestoppers program to protect those who live and work in this facility against theft, abuse and neglect.

Harvey Lott, Covington Division President stated, "PriorityOne Bank has supported the State Veterans Home in Collins for many years. Our Veterans Home is an important part of Covington County, and this program benefits not only its residents, but the Veterans Home employees, as well."

Crime against the elderly is an increasingly important issue that PriorityOne Bank is helping resolve through the funding of the Senior Crimestoppers program. Components of the program include personal lockboxes for the residents, continual education and training for facility members, and a toll-free tips line that receives information about wrongdoing and pays cash rewards up to \$1,000.

"Senior Crimestoppers works to en-

rich the overall quality of residents' lives. Implementing this program does not mean the facility currently has a crime problem. It means the facility is being proactive about protecting its seniors," says Terry Rooker, president of Senior Crimestoppers.

"PriorityOne Bank is proud to support our veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our freedom. We take our responsibility to help protect them from becoming victims of theft, abuse and neglect very seriously, which is why we partnered with CRA Partners to fund the Senior Crimestoppers program," said Robert Barnes, president and CEO of PriorityOne Bank.

PriorityOne Bank, based in Magee, Mississippi, operates fifteen offices in twelve Mississippi communities: Collins, Seminary, Hattiesburg, Magee, Mendenhall, Richland, Brandon, Ridgeland, Flowood, Pearl, Pelahatchie, and Morton. The bank has assets of approximately \$600 million.

For information about Senior Crimestoppers, visit SeniorCrimestoppers.com or call 800-529-9096, and for CRA Partners or the Preventing Elder Financial Abuse Video Toolkit, visit SHCPFoundation.org, or call 877-232-0859.

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## PHS archery students place at championships



Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl High School's archery athletes Conner Stingley (left) and Chase Copeland (right) scored in the top five for Class III at the MHSAA State Championships. Stingley finished with the third highest score, and Copeland with the fourth highest score.

## Payne of Richland receives Roy Pete Soccer Award



Special to SW Rankin News

Carrington Payne, a 2017 graduate of Richland High School, recently won the Roy Pete Soccer Award for excellence in academics and leadership at the East Central Community College Awards Ceremony. Attending ECC on a soccer scholarship, Payne completed requirements for her Associate Degree from ECC in December of 2018 and now attends the University of Southern Mississippi. She is the daughter of Christy and Jeff Payne, both of Richland. Her grandparents are Dee and Charlie Payne of Florence and the late Peggy and Bill Callahan of Newton.

## Pearl Early Childhood Education Center students participate in sunshine project



Special to SW Rankin News

Students in Candice Goff's class at Pearl Early Childhood Education Center are spreading joy and happiness by participating in what they have titled the Sunshine Project. Each week in April, Mrs. Candice's class chose a teacher to receive a bucket full of sunshine filled with yellow treats and cards. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Ainsley Scutch, Christopher Leak, LoriEllen Harper, Marlee Hunter, Breeilyn Case, Brooklyn Byrd and Eli Williams; and back row: Cari Gilmore, DeAnthony Gipson, Abney Parker, Casyn Wempren, Kylie Vargas, Holden Bolls, recipient Amanda Robison, Easton Helms, Makayla Wristen, Brayden Rouhan, Ja'Shua Harris, Thomas Goodwin and Candice Goff.

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**Singleton named Employee of the Qtr.**



Special to SW Rankin News

Terry Shingleton of Pearl

Special to SW Rankin News

Methodist Rehabilitation Center has announced Clinical and Support Service Employees of the Quarter for its Jackson hospital and external campuses. For the second quarter of 2019, the honorees include Angelia Warner of Brandon, respiratory therapist at MRC; and Terry Shingleton of Pearl, secretary for MRC's neuropsychology department. Methodist Rehabilitation Center provides comprehensive inpatient medical rehabilitation programs for people with spinal cord and brain injuries, stroke and other neurological and orthopedic disorders.

**Lord graduates from Marine Corps boot camp**



Special to SW Rankin News

Jared Michael Lord of Florence recently graduated from United States Marine Corps boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island. Private Lord successfully completed thirteen weeks of intensive basic training at MCRD Parris Island in Training Platoon 1026. While in recruit training, Private Lord qualified as Rifle Expert. Following ten days home on leave, he will report to Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, for one month at Military Combat Training, then Military Occupation Specialty School. Private Lord will be stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, following training. Lord is a 2018 Florence High School graduate and the son of Dana and Chris Bulman of Florence, and Billy and Katie Lord of Clinton.

**Hinds Phi Theta Kappa chapters win honors**



Special to SW Rankin News

Pictured (l to r) are Connor Case of Brandon; Caleb Ries of Florence; Amber Williams and Makenzie Downs, both of Brandon; Gabbi Walters of Pelahatchie; Emily Bennett, Antara Sharma, PTK faculty advisor Joy Rhoads, Anna Pate, and advisor Suzanna Session, all of Brandon; Kellie Jefcoat of Florence, and PTK International vice president David Scott, of Texas.

Special to SW Rankin News

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

The Alpha Omicron Omega chapter at the Rankin Campus won a Distinguished College Project Award for collaborating with the college's Student Recreation Department in planning and installing a disc golf course on the campus. Also, Rankin Campus Vice President Dr. Norman Session was named a Distinguished College Administra-

tor for his support of Phi Theta Kappa members and programs on his campus.

Phi Theta Kappa membership is extended to students with a 3.5 cumulative GPA on at least twelve hours of college-transfer credit coursework earned at Hinds. Students who reach this benchmark by the end of the semester may still join PTK. Members can take advantage of leadership, scholarship, service and fellowship opportunities within their chapters. At transfer, all of Mississippi's public and private colleges and universities award generous, non-competitive scholarships to members. For more information, call 601-857-3531.



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**Florence adds second waste collection day**

*Special to SW Rankin News*

The City of Florence Mayor and Board of Aldermen recently announced that waste collection would increase to two days per week, beginning last month. City officials say the extra collection day has been requested for many years by a majority of the citizens of Florence.

Collection days will be Wednesday and Saturday. The City's waste collection contractor is Waste Management.

Customers are asked to have all household waste placed in containers or bags no greater than thirty-five gallons in capacity. Containers or bags should not weigh more than fifty pounds. All waste must

be out by 7 a.m. and placed within five-feet of the curb in front of the residential unit being serviced. Containers larger than thirty-five gallons in capacity may be used if waste is placed in bags and tied.

Yard waste will also be collected by Waste Management and should be in bags, containers or bundled and placed



*Special to SW Rankin News*

at the curb on the second service day. Tree trimmings and branches must be cut to lengths of no longer than five feet, be no greater than eight inches in diameter and weigh no more than sixty pounds. Yard waste and tree trimmings must be placed directly on the curb in the same location as household garbage. Grass clippings, leaves and pine straw must be bagged or containerized. Limbs cut by a tree service contractor will not be collected; the contractor is responsible for removal.

Waste collection fees will be \$16.67 per household, or \$8.33 if the account holder is 65 years of age and over or is one hundred percent disabled. An application is available at City of Florence Public Works office for those who qualify for the rate reduction. A copy of a letter from the Social Security Administration stating full disability or a copy of the applicant's driver's license will be required for the application.

For more information, contact the City of Florence public works department at 601-845-3542.

**Youth tennis lessons offered**

*Special to SW Rankin News*

The City of Florence Parks and Recreation Department and the United States Tennis Association (USTA) will be partnering to provide tennis lessons for children ages six to twelve at Hemphill Park. Lessons will take place on Saturdays from June 15 through July 20.

USTA's "Ready to Rally" beginner tennis program provides children the opportunity to learn the game of tennis from certified tennis professionals in a fun and engaging environment. "Ready to Rally" classes, designed for children who have never played tennis, will be held from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m.

A "Ready to Play" program will also be offered for experienced players. The "Ready to Play" class will be held from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m.

Cost for the tennis lessons is \$50 for six weeks.

Each practice will include a warm up activity to help develop coordination and athletic skills, a review of what was learned in the previous practice, and the introduction of a new skill with



*Special to SW Rankin News*

a series of games or drills. Players should wear comfortable clothes and sneakers and bring water or a sports drink; hats and sunglasses are optional. Loaner rackets will be available for each lesson, but children who have their own rackets are encouraged to put their name or initials on it and bring it to the lessons.

To register for youth tennis, visit [mstennis.com/content/beginner-programs](http://mstennis.com/content/beginner-programs) and choose "Hemphill Park."

For more information, contact Angie DeLeon at 601-981-4421.

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# Rankin families invited to join 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program

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Families are invited to join the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at their local CMRLS Library. The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is a nationwide challenge that encourages parents and caregivers to regularly read aloud to their children. By reading just one book a night, and it is okay to repeat books, families can reach the 1,000-book goal in three years and provide their children essential early literacy skills.

Research shows that the most reliable predictor of school success is being read to during early childhood. Reading to children from an early age can help close the vocabulary gap and prepare

children to enter kindergarten with the skills they need to succeed. Most importantly, sharing books with children promotes a lifelong love of books and reading.

The year-round program means that there is no start or finish date. There are no fees, and books may be checked out for children on their very own fine-free library card. Local libraries should also have a phone app to easily keep track of

the books read to children. When participants have read 1,000 books together or children begin kindergarten, local libraries can print for free a list of the books read together and a completion certificate for personal records.

When asked about this program, CMRLS Director Mara Villa Polk said, "Reading with your children is a legacy that will remain with them for a lifetime. I have

two children under the ages of three. I read to them before they were born, and since then, they have displayed an excitement and joy for books and reading with me."

The program is free, the library card is free - and fine free, and progress can be monitored on a phone, tablet, or computer.

For more information on 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, visit or call a local CMRLS library. Contact information, location and hours of operation can be found at [www.cmrls.lib.ms.us](http://www.cmrls.lib.ms.us), or call 601-825-0100. Central Mississippi Regional Library System serves the public libraries and the more than 216,000 citizens of Rankin, Scott, Simpson and Smith Counties.



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## Richland High School names March Top Rangers



Special to SW Rankin News

Richland High School recently named their March Top Rangers. The Top Ranger Award is given to students who have shown exemplary behavior in and out of the classroom. Students receiving this award have been standout students and have continually worked hard at their coursework. Students awarded this accolade receive free lunch at Mazzio's in Richland. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Breanna Cook, Emily Adams, Katie Beth Holmes, Lauren Hill, Chloe' Knippers, London Hobbs, Gracie Leggit, Jordan McKey, Morkot Suon, Destiny Stampley and Deneshia Kitchens; and back row: Joey Rodriguez, Jacob Hemsley, Noah Moudy, Matthew Bass and Edin Lopez.

## Richland Jr. High School names March Top Rangers



Special to SW Rankin News

Richland Jr. High School recently named their March Top Rangers. The Top Ranger Award is given to students who have shown exemplary behavior in and out of the classroom. Students receiving this award have been standout students and have continually worked hard at their coursework. Students awarded this accolade receive free lunch at Mazzio's in Richland. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Julia Eubanks, Alainah Alexander, Blair Tew, Briana Tew and Kori Edwards; middle row: Marley Price, Keshuna Rabon, Sydney Sheppard, Gracie Craft, Cierra Sheppard and Hailie Parker; and back row: Joshua Jackson, Blake Patterson, Jeremy Thomas, Isaiah Harris, Nathan Wisdom, Blade Daniel and Michael Mendoza.

## Meet the staff of Richland's Public Works Department



Special to SW Rankin News

By Guest Columnist Harold L. Johnson

Welcome to the City of Richland Public Works Department/Planning and Development/Building Department. In this department, you will find any and all information about renting, buying and having your utilities tuned on. Any questions on building construction and ICC 2018 Building Codes will be answered within these walls of the City of Richland Public Works Department/Building Department. But first, let me introduce you to the personnel that make all this happen.

My name is Harold Johnson, I am the City Building Official. I ensure that all codes and ordinances are enforced in a fair manner all across the city. I also ensure that all zoning issues are handled in a timely manner. In addition, this department also handles any and all stormwater problems and/or concerns.

This department will also assign 911 addresses to all new business and new residences.

Next is Melissa Johnson. As you enter the Public Works Department/Administration, she will be the first person that you encounter. Melissa will take care of any permits, inspections, privilege licenses and will assure that all utilities are turned on in a timely manner.

Next is Bryan Malone; he is our Building Inspector. Bryan will take care of any and all building inspections

that you might have. He will also assist you with any questions you might have concerning building codes and construction setbacks. Also, if you are bringing in a mobile home, please check with him first to ensure that your home will fit on your lot.

Next is Shelton Griffin; he rounds out our building department. He is our city's Solid Waste/ADA Administrator. He works hard on keeping the city clear of trash, debris, broken down fences and junk cars. He also tries to ensure that our streets are kept clear of parked cars, trailers or anything in the City Right of Way that would impede traffic flow. This would ensure that the streets can be used for their intended purpose, which is for safe vehicle travel, fire department access and police department access to any property during an emergency.

The list goes, but I think you get the picture.

Just remember, the City of Richland Public Works Department/Building Department is here to assist you and answer all of your questions about living in, moving to and enjoying all that Richland has to offer.

Our mission is to make moving to Richland as easy and stress-free as possible.

You can find us at our website at [www.richlandms.org](http://www.richlandms.org).

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Harold L. Johnson is the Building Official/Zoning Administrator for the City of Richland.*



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## Richland High School recognizes two students for exemplary performance



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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. Juniors Jacob Hemsley (left) and Anna Wood (right) were chosen for the March award. The students are pictured with RHS Principal Dr. Scott Rimes.

## RHS names March Students of the Month



Special to SW Rankin News

Richland High School recently named the March 2019 Students of the Month. These students are nominated and selected by their teachers for such qualities as dependability, attitude, leadership, attendance and class work. Students are awarded a certificate from the Exchange Club, a book donated to the library in honor of the senior from the Exchange Club, a gift card from BancorpSouth, and Mazzio's. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Sydney Shepard, Olivia Gilmore and Jeremy Thomas; and back row: Principal Dr. Scott Rimes, Hannah Williams, Anna Wood and Jacoby Bailey.

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<b>COSTS</b>				
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Tuition:	\$200	\$675	\$675	\$2,700
Program Total:	\$230	\$705	\$705	\$2,730
<b>Application Deadline</b>	May 15, 2019	May 15, 2019	May 15, 2019	June 16, 2019

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**Leadership Studies Program**  
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**Summer Gifted Studies Program**  
June 23-28, in-residence program  
Open to students who have performed at or above the 91st percentile on either an individually administered IQ test or a nationally normed achievement test, course offerings include topics such as engineering design, medical innovations, movie special effects, dance, debate, and sports.

**Summer Program for Academically Talented Youth (SPATY)**  
July 7-26, in-residence program  
Open to students who have earned an eligible score on the ACT or SAT taken as early as the 7th grade, the three-week program will help to build academic prowess by offering courses in astrophysics, advanced debate, human biology, psychology, accelerated mathematics, and creative writing.

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## Pearl Upper Elementary names fifth-graders of the month



Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Upper Elementary recently named the fourth-grade students of the month for March. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Karol Molina, Gabriella Clark, Ethan Kleinschmidt, Declan Cox, Taye Cooper, Isaac Dearing and Vivian Pan; and back row: Natalia Gomez, Lyric Bender, Abigail King, Taylor Cubit-Dixon, Michael Brown, Haley Taylor, Terry Thornton and Pearl Upper Elementary Assistant Principal Shelia McKay.

## Pearl Upper Elementary names fourth-graders of the month



Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Upper Elementary recently named the fifth-grade students of the month for March. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Carly Manning, Alexa Bueno, James Owen, Hannah Dosunmu, Alayah Babb, Allison Jones and Payton Rowell; and back row: Sevin Crump, Harley Thrash, Bailey Floyd, Pa'Lela Walker, Kristen Shaheen, MaKenzi Taylor Banks and Pearl Upper Elementary Assistant Principal Kim Scutch. Not pictured are Kaylin Fisher, Laithan Andrews and Evander Jenkins.

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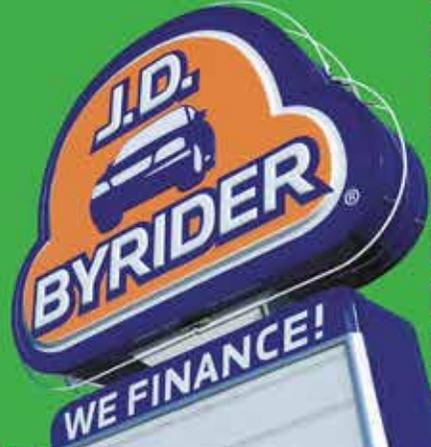
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## Florence High JROTC athletic team competes in state meet



Special to SW Rankin News

The FHS JROTC athletic team includes (l to r), front row: Lindsey Huffman, Mason Freeman, Clayton White and Curtis Love; and back row: Judy Slay, Cade Brantley, Andrew White, Isaac Harrell, JJ McQueen, Jay Whitey, Wesley Smalley, Bella Solano, Cannon Craft and Ayden Harrell.

### Special to SW Rankin News

Florence High School's JROTC athletic team recently competed in the Mississippi All-Services athletic meet

held at Germantown High School. They competed in the one-mile run, ammo can relay, 100-yard relay, tire flip relay, pull ups, flexed arm hang, and the litter carry, earning fourth place overall.



Special to SW Rankin News

Cadet Mason Freeman competes in the tire flip event.



Special to SW Rankin News

Cadets Lindsey Huffman, Clayton White, Curtis Love and Cade Brantley compete in the Litter Relay.

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## Spring Lake Garden Club partners with Pearl High School



Special to SW Rankin News

Members of The Spring Lake Garden Club of Pearl recently spent a morning participating in a garden therapy project, Teacher Appreciation. For the past several years, members have worked with Ms. Cole's class at Pearl High School on this project, which allows students to create flower arrangements for a special teacher from flowers provided by the Garden Club members. Members who helped with the project this year included Marie Jackson, Ruby Whitehead, Bonnie George, Mary Johnston, Tiffany Olexy, Linda Brown and Angelia Wade, with Betty Newman providing the roses from her garden for the arrangements.

## MRC names Employees of the Year



Special to SW Rankin News

Methodist Rehabilitation Center recently announced 2018 Clinical and Support Service Employees of the Year for its Jackson hospital and external campuses. The honorees include (l to r) Leslie Taylor of Brandon, supervisor of therapy services at MRC; Kathy Kendrick of Madison, senior programmer analyst for information services at MRC; Heather Taylor of Brandon, a registered nurse at Methodist Physical Medicine; and Maxine Jackson of Pearl, a dietary services cook at Methodist Specialty Care Center.



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# Pearl beautified on Earth Day



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*Special to SW Rankin News*

The Spring Lake Garden Club of Pearl spent Monday, April 22, celebrating "Earth Day" with two beautification events.

Thirteen members of the club, along with eleven members of City of Pearl Mayors Youth Council, several Keep Pearl Beautiful members, City Of Pearl workers and volunteer Jeremy Olexy, did a huge landscape project in the city. Sixteen drift roses, sixteen camellia, twenty-eight Encore azalea, six rolls of pine straw, thirty-three bags of dirt and twenty-three bags of mulch were distributed in four different locations in the city.

Locations included the City of Pearl (Plant it Pink) flower bed, Memorial Garden, Trustmark Park and Bright Park. The project was funded by a Landscape Grant awarded to the Mayors Youth Council and donations from Keep Pearl Beautiful and The Spring Lake Garden Club of Pearl. The City of Pearl Fire Department assisted with watering of plants at Trustmark Park.

In addition, five members of the club volunteered to assist the Pearl Chamber of Commerce Earth Day Recycling Event. Hosted at the Bank of Yazoo, residents were able to drop off electronics for disposal and paper to be shredded. Around sixty people took advantage of the event.



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