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SWRANKIN NEWS

Good News You Can Use

Vol. 7, No. 9 | September 2022

The Pearl News

THE NEWS RICHLAND

THE FLORENCE NEWS

20th Buddy Walk set for October 1 at Trustmark Park

Special to The Pearl News

The 20th Annual Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society (CMDSS) Buddy Walk is scheduled for Saturday, October 1, at Trustmark Park in Pearl. Typically, over 1,200 participants attend the event, forming teams in honor of their “buddies” with Down syndrome. In addition to the Buddy Walk, the event includes games, entertainment and a silent auction.

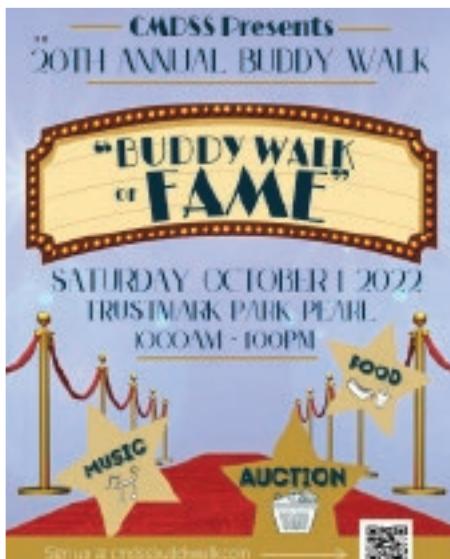
This year’s theme is “Buddy Walk of Fame,” where the buddies will be treated like royalty as they (literally) walk the red carpet. The funds raised at this year’s event will support the new Buddy Center that opened in Ridgeland in August.

Participants may register either by picking up the registration materials locally on

the day of the event or by having their packets mailed.

Free pickup is available (for adult, child, or Buddy) and includes participation in Buddy Walk Tailgating (in-person) event. All participating adults (eighteen years of age and older) will receive a 2022 Buddy Walk t-shirt and a 2023 awareness calendar.

Mailed registration is for those who wish to participate as a virtual walker. A Buddy Walk packet, including a 2022 Buddy Walk t-shirt and a 2023 CMDSS Awareness Calendar,



Special to The Pearl News.

will be mailed to the address provided. Packets will be mailed within two weeks of the event. Mailed registration is \$25 per person.

On a yearly basis, Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society publishes a full-color calendar that promotes public awareness and features local adults and children with Down syndrome. Additional 2023 CMDSS Awareness Calendars may be purchased for \$15.

Additional items that may be pur-

chased at the event include an “I Love Someone with Down Syndrome Tote Bag” for \$12 per bag, an “I Love Someone with Down Syndrome” car decal for \$5, and a Down syndrome awareness lanyard, which will be \$8 and features the message, “I Love Someone with Down Syndrome.”

The mission of CMDSS is to provide support, education and advocacy for people with Down syndrome, their families and communities across Central Mississippi. Their vision is for a community where people with Down syndrome have limitless opportunities and the ability to pursue their dreams.

Trustmark Park is located at 1 Braves Boulevard in Pearl.

For more information, visit www.classy.org/event/20th-annual-cmdss-buddy-walk/e405840.

Register now for a “Christmas Showtime in Branson”

Special to The Pearl News

Local senior adults are invited to join the Pearl Senior Center and Community Bank on Tuesday, November 1, as they embark on a Christmas tour of Branson, Missouri, where seasonal colors, memorable music and exciting shows are in full swing. The tour will include four nights’ first-class hotel accommodations in Branson.

Reserved seating will also be arranged for the following events: The Oak Ridge Boys in concert; Legends in Concert Show; Andy Williams Ozark Mountain Christmas Show with the Lennon Sisters; a lunch cruise on the showboat Branson Belle; and the Brett Family Singers Show.

They will also host an afternoon tour at College of the Ozarks – “Hard Work U!”- and a morning visit at Big Cedar Lodge and stunning views at the “Top of the Rock.”

One lunch and three dinners are included, as well as a deluxe hot breakfast each morning.

Bank representatives

will be available for the November tour, and representatives from Pearl Senior Center will also travel with the group, pending pre-registration of fifteen additional persons.

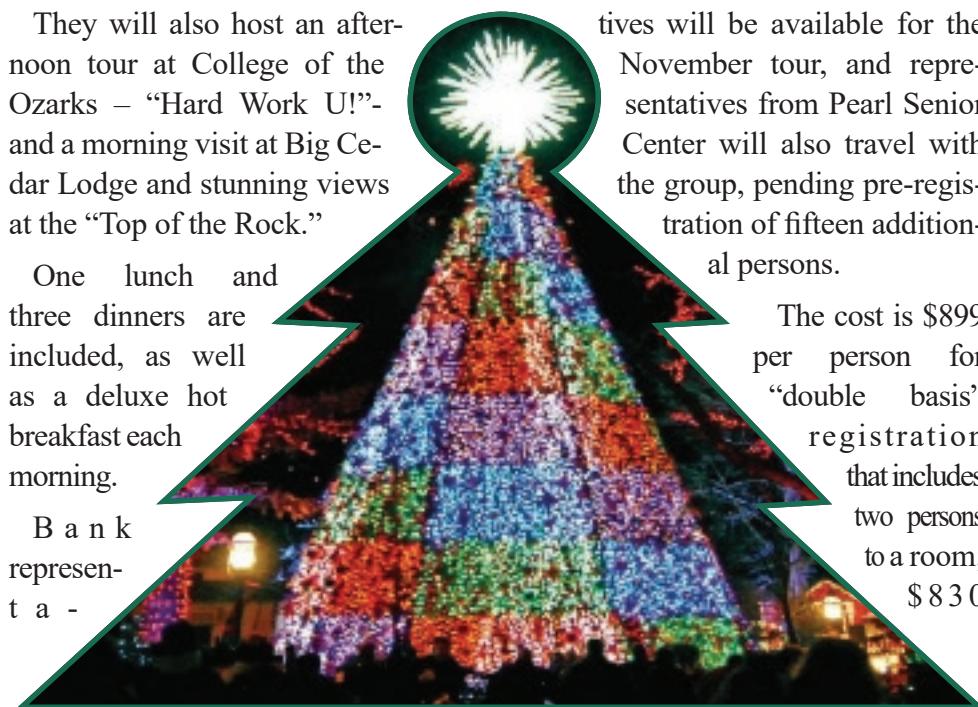
The cost is \$899 per person for “double basis” registration that includes two persons to a room; \$830

per person for “triple basis” registration that includes three people to a room; \$805 per person for “quad basis” registration that includes four people to a room; and \$1,110 per person for a “single basis” registration that covers one person to a room.

A \$100 deposit per participant is due to confirm registration. Full payment for the tour is due by October 7. No refunds will be given for cancellations after that date. Checks should be made payable to “Trek Travel.”

Interested individuals are encouraged to stop by the Pearl Senior Center for a full listing of all the shows, activities and pricing.

To find out more, call 601-863-3229.



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Richland is officially a “Qualified Resort Area”

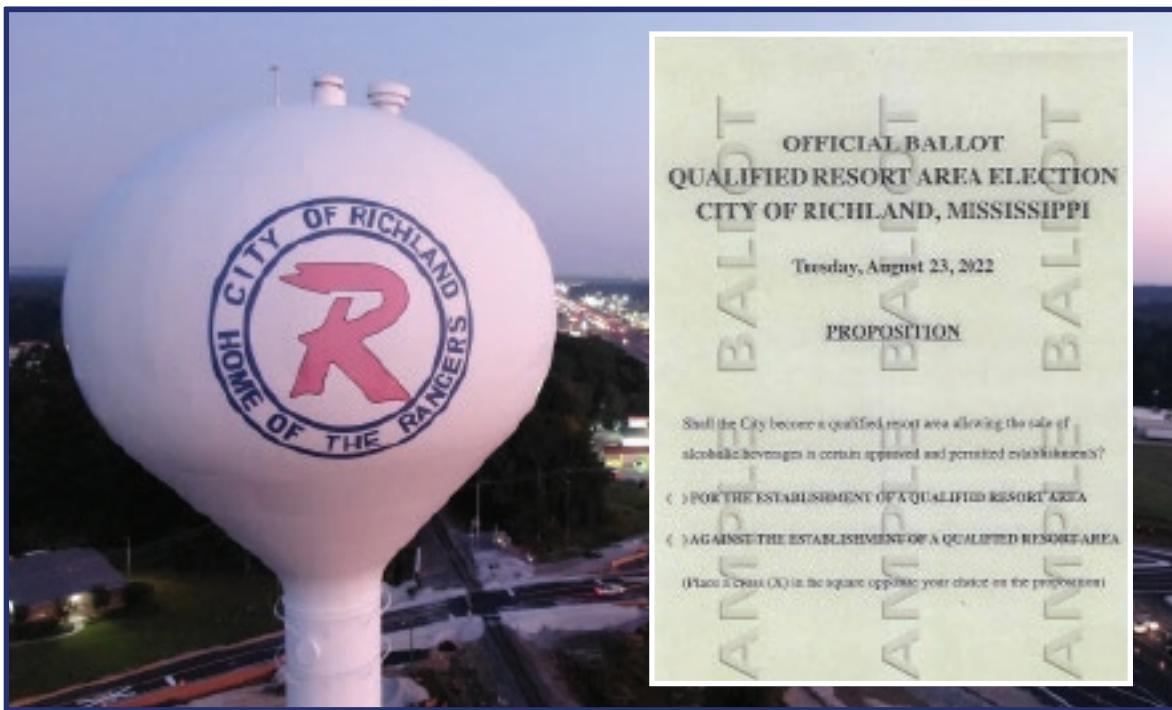
Special to The Richland News

Richland voters went to the polls on Tuesday, August 23, to cast a landmark vote - whether or not the city should be designated as a “Qualified Resort Area.” A qualified resort area under Mississippi state law is “any area or locality, outside the limits of corporate municipalities in the state, commonly known and accepted as a place that regularly and customarily attracts tourists, vacationists and other transients because of its historical, scenic and recreational facilities or attractions.”

The City had employed the assistance of a retail recruitment company, NaviRetail, to direct and assist with expanding the retail base. NaviRetail was able to conduct research, collect data and provide specialized guidance based on what they discovered. Offi-

cialists said that one of the major roadblocks to economic development progress was the fact that many popular restaurant chains who have been eager to move into the area require the ability to sell alcohol by the glass. They are hopeful that, for Richland, the passing of the referendum will mean, at the very least, the beginning of a new era in economic growth.

See page 13 for the full story, “Richland hopes to see economic advantages from qualified resort area.”



Photos special to The Richland News.

Officials gather in Richland to celebrate expanded U.S. Highway 49

Special to The Richland News

Officials gathered in Richland to cut ribbon on the recently expanded U.S. Highway 49 in Rankin County. Central Transportation Commissioner Willie Simmons was joined by Gov. Tate Reeves to celebrate the completion of this massive infrastructure improvement project.

“This 7.5 mile stretch of improvements from Florence to Richland consists of five years of committed work, \$253 million and a lot of collaboration between the public and private sector, and I am so grateful,” said Simmons. “Today is a great day for this community, the citizens and the 51,000 vehicles that travel this corridor every day.”

The project called for the widening of 7.5 miles of U.S. 49 from Florence to Richland, including three travel lanes and a shoulder in each direction. Crews experienced a variety of challenges, in-



Special to The Richland News.

cluding the heavy rains between 2018 and 2020 leaving grounds more saturated than anticipated, utility relocation, Right of Way and driveway coordination with local businesses along U.S. Highway 49. However, crews were able to perform the major reconstruction project without any complete shutdowns of U.S. 49. Plans required two lanes of traffic to be open in each direction during the day.

“We recognize that if we’re going to see long-term economic growth and prosperity, then we must invest in our in-

frastructure,” said Reeves. “The partnership between the Mississippi Legislature over the last five years and the executive branch has led to significant capital investments in core infrastructure. Infrastructure is exactly what government is supposed to do. It is a core function of government. It’s going to make a difference long term, and it’s something I think we can all be proud of.”

Work began in November 2017. The \$253 million project was awarded to W.G. Yates & Son Construction Company of Jackson. Expanding to three trav-

el lanes and a shoulder in each direction greatly opened one of the most heavily-traveled sections of highway in the state. U.S. 49 sees an average of 51,000 vehicles per day in Richland.

The newly-expanded roadway greatly reduces traffic congestion while enhancing safety and local commute times. Commercial traffic moving through the area, including tractor-trailers and other commercial motor vehicles, will now experience a more predictable and simpler journey.

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“Ride to Thrive Poker Run” set for September 17th

Special to The Florence News

Local residents are invited to join Bikers Against Trafficking Mississippi (BAT MS) at Black Axes Throwing Club for a “Ride to Thrive Poker Run” on September 17. The family-friendly event isn't limited to motorcycles – it's open to all - bikes, trikes, jeeps, trucks, cars, or anything else that can be driven from stop to stop.

This year the poker run will consist of a series of locations around the Ross Barnett Reservoir where the participants will draw playing cards in order to achieve a poker hand. To make it a little more interesting, new tasks have been added at each stop (i.e., corn hole, Nerf gun target practice, and axe throwing) to assist participants in potentially getting a better hand.

The poker run will be followed by live

music, a bounce house, an all first-responder dunking booth, a raffle with prizes (one being a \$500 gift card to DownRange Gun and Tactical in Clinton), and a motorcycle demonstration by the Mississippi Highway Patrol Motor Unit. All proceeds will go towards helping victims of human trafficking.

Live entertainment is set to include Jackson's premiere Classic Rock party band, Kreaux, as well as Miles Flatt, a high energy band that provides “a little something for everybody.”

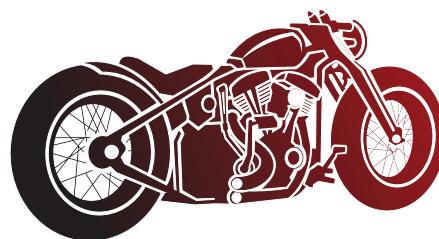
Registration begins at 12 p.m., with first bike out at 1 p.m., and last bike in at 3 p.m. The cost is \$20 per rider and \$10 per passenger.

The Mississippi Chapter of Bikers Against Trafficking, founded by Florence natives, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization made up of motorcycle riding enthusiasts. Their mission is to

bring awareness and help to eradicate human trafficking not only in the State of Mississippi, but around the world. 100% of all proceeds will go towards helping survivor thrive.

Black Axes Throwing Club is located at 1149 Old Fannin Road in Brandon.

For more information, call or text 601-460-1702, send an email to: BAT.MS@yahoo.com, or a message to this page: www.facebook.com/BikersAgainstTraffickingMS/.



Special to The Florence News.



Officials cut ribbon on expanded Highway 49

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Central Transportation Commissioner Willie Simmons was joined recently by Gov. Tate Reeves to celebrate the recently expanded U.S. Highway 49 in Rankin County - a massive infrastructure improvement project.

“This 7.5 mile stretch of improvements from Florence to Richland consists of five years of committed work, \$253 million and a lot of collaboration between the public and private sector, and I am so grateful,” said Simmons. “Today is a great day for this community, the citizens and the 51,000 vehicles that travel this corridor every day.”

The project called for the widening of 7.5 miles of U.S. 49 from Florence to Richland, including three travel lanes and a shoulder in each direction. Work included removing the old concrete roadway and unsuitable underlying ma-



Special to The Florence News.

terial, installing a stable base, tying in all side roads, enhancing bridges, roadway and drainage throughout the area, signal improvements, and updated signing, paving and striping.

Other work included new drainage, substructure, two new bridges and one

widened bridge.

“We recognize that if we're going to see long-term economic growth and prosperity, then we must invest in our infrastructure,” said Reeves. “The partnership between the Mississippi Legislature over the last five years and the

executive branch has led to significant capital investments in core infrastructure... It's going to make a difference long term, and it's something I think we can all be proud of.”

Work began in November 2017. The \$253 million project was awarded to W.G. Yates & Son Construction Company of Jackson. Expanding to three travel lanes and a shoulder in each direction greatly opened one of the most heavily-traveled sections of highway in the state. U.S. 49 sees an average of 34,000 vehicles per day in Florence.

The newly expanded roadway greatly reduces traffic congestion while enhancing safety and local commute times. Commercial traffic moving through the area, including tractor-trailers and other commercial motor vehicles, will now experience a more predictable and simpler journey.

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Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris, by Paul Gallico

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

In 1958, American author Paul Gallico (1897 – 1976) wrote *Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris*. His delightful creation in the person of “Mrs. Ada ‘Arris” is one of those cheerful, hard-working, Cockney cleaning ladies who “do” for Londoners to “keep life and limb together.” A small woman not quite sixty, her clever, mischievous eyes are blue; her cheeks are apple-red.

Her daily schedule of never-ending cleaning for her clients seven days a week hasn’t dimmed her ability to enjoy life. Occasionally, she and her best friend, charwoman Violet Butterfield, attend the “flicks” - the pub on the corner or spend an evening at the music hall. She hungers for beauty, which she nourishes with her flowers, raising geraniums in two window boxes of her flat, which is home to several pots of flowers gifted to her by clients.

Among Mrs. ‘Arris’ clients are Lady Dant, fashionable wife of a wealthy industrial baron whose picture is often seen in society magazines, and

her favorite, the little actress, Miss Pamela Penrose, who lives in a two-room Mews Flat. Young and beautiful, she longs to be a star; she is really not a nice girl - using others callously. Usually adept at sensing the true character of people, Mrs. ‘Arris is blinded by the girl’s tenuous connection with the glamour of stage and TV, not realizing how mean, hard, and selfish she really is.

We first meet Mrs. ‘Arris on board an airplane, having just crossed the English Channel and about to land in Paris. Three years earlier, she opened the wardrobe in Lady Dant’s bedroom and saw hanging there two stunningly beautiful dresses from Dior of Paris, one in cream silk with lace and the other in red silk with large silk ros-

es. When Lady Dant showed her the gowns, a craving to own a Dior dress was born in Mrs. ‘Arris’ heart. Lady Dant said they cost 450 pounds, an impossible amount for her to save; but, by giving up extras she enjoyed, scrimping and “syving,” for three years, she had the money to fly to and from Paris and buy a Dior dress.

While in Paris for a week, having fittings for the dress, “Temptation,” she became friends with everyone at Dior, especially Mme. Colbert, the Manageress at The House of Dior. Mlle. Natasha, Dior’s star model, loved Mrs. ‘Arris, and M. André Fauvel, the chief accountant, offered her a room in his home till the dress was ready. He, too, fell under her spell. Mrs. ‘Arris encouraged the young couple’s

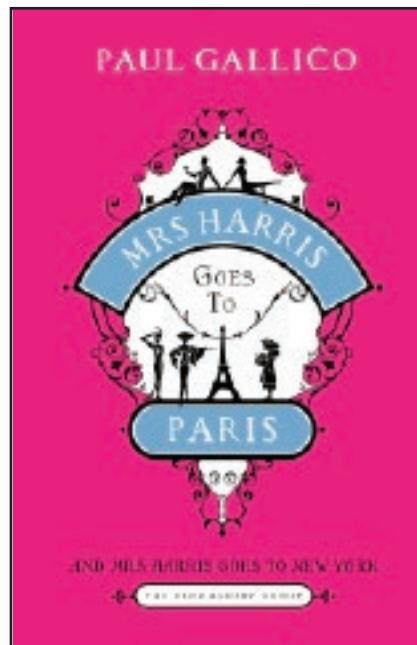
growing love.

When the happy week in Paris was over, she flew home. She stopped by Pamela Penrose’s flat to find her crying. Mrs. ‘Arris kindly loaned the gown to Pamela, so she could impress a motion picture producer; however, the thoughtless girl caused the gown to be partially burned. The next day, with no apology, she left the damaged gown in her empty flat with a brief letter and a pound note to pay for a week’s cleaning.

Mrs. Harris did not clean her flat.

Leaving the note and money inside the flat, she dropped the girl’s key into her mailbox in the time-honored manner of charwomen who summarily “drop” an unsatisfactory client.

She grieved for several days; but, a week later, flowers, flowers and more flowers arrived at her flat, lifting her spirits. They were from all her friends at the House of Dior and Paris. She decided against having the damaged gown repaired, choosing instead to treasure the greater joy that was now dearer to her heart - her warm and loving friends in France.



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601-706-9237

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Publisher

Clay Mansell
claymansell@SWRankinNews.com

Editor in Chief

Stephanie Tracy

Managing Editor

Alexa Haik
news@swrankinnews.com

Sales Representatives

Clay Mansell
claymansell@SWRankinNews.com

Judy Duke
Judy@SWRankinNews.com

Graphic Designer

Holly Embry
designer@SWRankinNews.com

Office Manager

Doris Bynum

Distribution

Ben Barnett

For submission information, email
news@SWRankinNews.com.

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SOUTHWEST RANKIN LIBRARIES ARE USHERING IN AUTUMN BY OFFERING AN ASSORTMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR PERSONS OF ALL AGE AND SKILL LEVELS.

PEARL PUBLIC LIBRARY (PPL) PRESENTS:

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME - WEDNESDAYS AT 10 A.M. INFANTS AND TODDLERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. PEANUTS K-4 STORY TIMES FOLLOW IN THE AFTERNOON ON WEDNESDAYS AT 4 P.M. THERE WILL BE STORIES, MUSIC AND CRAFTS.

THE PEARL BOOK CLUB WILL MEET WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, AT 11 A.M., TO DISCUSS THE GROUP BOOK, *THE MAIDENS*, BY ALEX MICHAELIDES. NEWCOMERS ARE WELCOME.

FAMILY COLORING TIME IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, AT 6 P.M. THE WHOLE FAMILY IS INVITED TO PPL TO RELAX AND UNWIND. COLORING SHEETS AND COLORED PENCILS WILL BE PROVIDED.

SIMPLY CRAFTS WILL BE HELD AT PPL TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, AT 6 P.M., WHERE THE ADULT CRAFT GROUP WILL CREATE DO-IT-YOURSELF CRAFTS.

RICHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY (RPL) IS OFFERING:

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME FOR CHILDREN AGES BIRTH TO TWELVE YEARS EVERY MONDAY AT 11 A.M. AT EACH STORY TIME, THERE WILL BE BOOKS, SONGS AND AN AGE-APPROPRIATE CRAFT PROJECT.

SEPTEMBER'S THEMES INCLUDE:

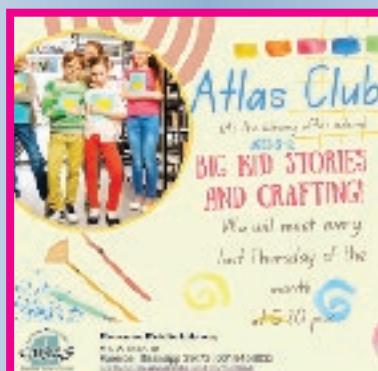
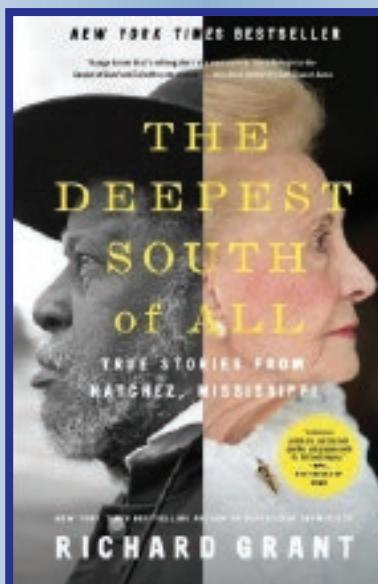
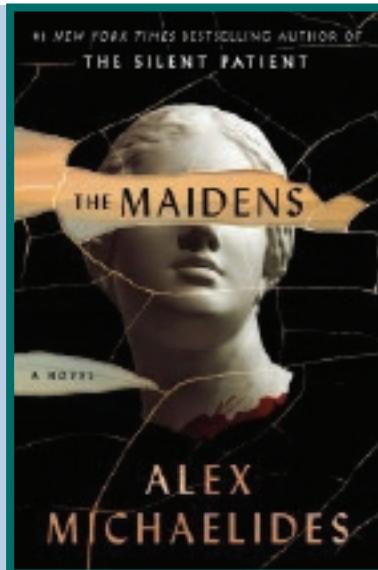
SEPTEMBER 12 - WOLVES

SEPTEMBER 19 - ELEPHANT AND PIGGIE

SEPTEMBER 26 - OWLS.

FAMILY CRAFT NIGHT AT RPL WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, AT 6 P.M., WHERE PARTICIPANTS WILL BE CREATING "FIT DOLLS," AND EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO "THROW A FIT DOLL" INSTEAD OF THROWING A FIT.

FOR ADULT AND SENIOR ADULTS, THERE IS THE **RICHLAND BOOK CLUB**. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, AT 11 A.M., THEY MEET TO DISCUSS THIS MONTH'S BOOK SELECTION - *DEEPEST SOUTH OF ALL* BY RICHARD GRANT.



FLORENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY (FPL) WILL OFFER: PRESCHOOL STORY TIME ON WEDNESDAYS AT 11 A.M. THE LINE-UP FOR SEPTEMBER INCLUDES:

MERCER MAYER ON SEPTEMBER 14

WACKY WEDNESDAY ON SEPTEMBER 21

SEEDS AND COOL BEANS ON SEPTEMBER 28

THE ATLAS CLUB WILL MEET AT FPL AFTER SCHOOL THE LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5:30 P.M. CHILDREN AGES FIVE THROUGH TWELVE ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THESE BIG KID STORIES AND CRAFTING SESSIONS.

FOR KIDS IN THEIR TEENS, **TEEN HANGOUT NIGHT** WILL BE HOSTED BY FPL THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH BETWEEN 5 P.M. AND 7 P.M.

ADULTS AND SENIOR ADULTS ARE INVITED TO FPL'S **COFFEE, CRAFTING AND BOOKS** THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 6 P.M. BOOKS TO BE DISCUSSED ARE *CARNEGIE'S MAID* BY MARIE BENEDICT; *LETHAL* BY SANDRA BROWN; *REBECCA* BY DAPHNE DU MAURIER; AND *WHERE'D YOU GO*, BERNADETTE BY MARIE SEMPLE. THE CRAFT WILL BE A RECYCLED BOOK PAGES FALL WREATH.

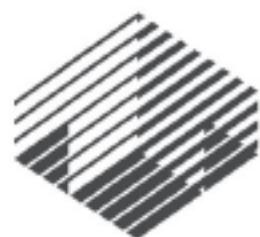
SEPTEMBER IS ALSO **NATIONAL LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH**. IF A STUDENT IS UNDER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN, HE OR SHE MAY GET A FINE-FREE LIBRARY CARD, EVEN IF THEY ALREADY HAVE A LIBRARY CARD. THE FINE-FREE CARD IS CALLED THE ACORN CARD. THE CARD IS FREE, AND THERE ARE NEVER ANY LATE FINES. IT ALLOWS STUDENTS TO CHECK OUT TWO BOOKS, AND, ONCE RETURNED, THEY MAY CHECK OUT TWO MORE.

CHECK OUT CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM'S ONLINE CALENDAR TO FIND LIBRARY CARD SIGN UP MONTH EVENTS AT PEARL, RICHLAND, AND FLORENCE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

PEARL PUBLIC LIBRARY IS LOCATED AT 2416 OLD BRANDON ROAD IN PEARL. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, JUST CALL 601-932-2562.

RICHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY IS LOCATED AT 370 SCARBROUGH STREET IN RICHLAND. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL 601-932-1846.

FLORENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY IS LOCATED AT 115 WEST MAIN STREET IN FLORENCE. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL 601-845-6032.



Trustmark
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Florence Middle Eagles of the Month recognized

Florence Middle School recently named their Eagles of the Month. They included Sixth Grade Student of the Month Ty Vincent, Seventh Grade Student of the Month Lily Nichelson, Eighth Grade Student of the Month Sergio DeLaTorrezarate, and Teacher of the Month Kasey Nail. Each Eagle received a yard sign and gift basket courtesy of Tanner Wilson of Farm Bureau.



Pictured (l to r) are: Florence Middle School (FMS) Head Principal Keith Reed, Assistant Principal Kelsey Williams, Teacher of the Month Kasey Nail, FMS Assistant Principal Kelsey Williams, and Tanner Wilson.



Pictured (l to r) are: Head Principal Keith Reed, Assistant Principal Kelsey Williams, Seventh Grade Student of the Month Lily Nichelson, and Tanner Wilson.



Pictured (l to r) are: Head Principal Keith Reed, Assistant Principal Kelsey Williams, Eighth Grade Student of the Month Sergio DeLaTorrezarate, and Tanner Wilson.



Pictured (l to r) are: Head Principal Keith Reed, Assistant Principal Kelsey Williams, Sixth Grade Student of the Month Ty Vincent, and Tanner Wilson.

All photos special to SW Rankin News.



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Old Truths for Today

J.T. Morgan



How Do We Get Wisdom?

Here is a question that the Bible directly answers in scripture. In James 1:5, James writes, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James states that if someone wants wisdom, that he may ask God and God will give him wisdom. James doesn't, however, state "how" God gives wisdom; neither does James state that prayer is the ONLY way through which we can get wisdom. James simply says to ask for it if you lack it and God will do the giving. But how does God give wisdom?

In the past, God gave wisdom directly to those who were inspired. In Daniel 2:23, Daniel thanks God for the wisdom that God had miraculously given to Him. He says, "I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast now made known unto me what we desired of thee; for thou hast made known unto us the king's matter." Peter also tells us that God had inspired Paul with wisdom to write his epistles in 2 Peter 3:15-16.

Paul also wrote concerning miraculous wisdom that was given by the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:8: "For to one is given through the Spirit the word of wisdom; and to another the word of knowledge, according to the same Spirit." With the cessation of miraculous gifts (1 Corinthians 13:8-10) also came the cessation of miraculous wisdom. Does God give wisdom directly today? One might just as well argue that God gives knowledge directly as he would that God gives wisdom directly today.

However, God does give wisdom in other ways. Just as God once gave knowledge directly by inspiration, which knowledge is now contained within His word, so also God, who gave wisdom by inspiration, has also left much wisdom for us in His word. The writer of the book of Proverbs states plainly that if one desires to know wisdom, that he should study that book. Proverbs 1:1-3 state: "The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity." Paul also spoke concerning the wisdom that was revealed through the gospel in 1 Corinthians 6:7, "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory." Finally, Paul teaches that within the mystery of Christ "are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3).

Are there other ways in which God makes wisdom known? Yes. In Ephesians 3:10 Paul writes that God makes known His wisdom through the church. "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God." We also may gain wisdom through our cumulative lifetime experiences. If we believe that all things work together for good for the Christian (Romans 8:28), then God may also use "all things" to give wisdom as well.

God gives wisdom! What a great and wonderful blessing. May we ever look for and expect the wisdom of God in our lives. (Bulletin article written by Kevin Cauley).

Florence church of Christ- P.O. Box 277 -Florence, Ms 39073
220 White Street

Herrens celebrate at recent HCC graduation ceremony



Special to SW Rankin News

Brenda Herren tearfully congratulates granddaughter Hannah Herren of Florence after the recent (July) graduation ceremony at Hinds Community College. Looking on is Hannah's dad, Stephen Herren. Hannah played striker on the women's soccer team. She is considering furthering her education for a physical therapy degree as her next step. Hinds Community College awarded 653 degrees and certificates to 555 students.



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Florence High School presents 2022 Homecoming Court



Special to SW Rankin News

Florence High School has announced its 2022 Homecoming Court. Homecoming at FHS will be held the week of September 12. The Homecoming parade will follow Tuesday, September 13, at 6:30 p.m. in downtown Florence. The pre-game presentation of the 2022 Homecoming Court, including the announcement of the Homecoming and Football Queens, will be Thursday, September 15, beginning at 6:45 p.m.

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	FUNERAL HOME
Mr. R. C. Stephens	77y	Richland, MS	05/29/2022	Chancellor FH
Mrs. Vera "Eileen" Gault	67y	Bolton, MS	05/29/2022	Chancellor FH
Mrs. Dorothy "Dot" Randall	85y	Richland, MS	05/31/2022	Chancellor FH
Mrs. Nelda Shows	86y	Pearl, MS	06/04/2022	Chancellor FH
Mr. Benny E. Sebren	70y	Richland, MS	06/06/2022	Chancellor FH
Mr. Ryan Glen Finnegan	49y	Florence, MS	06/13/2022	Chancellor FH
Mrs. Jane Dunn Mason	79y	Florence, MS	06/16/2022	Chancellor FH
Mr. Brandon Lee Coleman	23y	Florence, MS	06/18/2022	Chancellor FH
Mr. Monty Downard	63y	Florence, MS	06/19/2022	Chancellor FH
Mr. William "Bill" Montgomery	84y	Richland, MS	06/19/2022	Chancellor FH
Ms. Karen "Baby Girl" Jones	69y	Richland, MS	06/21/2022	Chancellor FH
Mrs. Sandra Elaine Johnson	84y	Star, MS	06/19/2022	Chancellor FH
Mr. Ollie "Faye" Peters	90y	Richland, MS	06/25/2022	Chancellor FH
Mr. John Wilson Dear	74y	Florence, MS	06/26/2022	Chancellor FH
Mr. Rexford "Rusty" Russum	60y	Braxton, MS	06/25/2022	Chancellor FH
Mr. Jerrel Dale Smith	88y	Brandon, MS	06/28/2022	Chancellor FH
Mr. Raymond "Ray" Bearden, Jr.	74y	Florence, MS	06/28/2022	Chancellor FH

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MC student awarded Rural Health Scholarship Program



Special to SW Rankin News

Nine current or former Mississippi College (MC) students have been selected to participate in scholarship programs designed to increase the number of physicians and dentists serving the healthcare needs of citizens living in rural areas of the state. Of the five current MC students chosen to participate in the undergraduate portion of the program there is Ethan Tullos of Florence, a senior in the Biology Medical Sciences Program (pictured far right). Created in 2007 by the Mississippi Legislature, the MRPSP identifies rural college students who aspire to return to their roots to practice medicine. It provides a means for the students to earn funding for a seat in medical school in return for four years of service. The scholars receive academic support while learning the art of healing from practicing rural physicians.

Thornton of Pearl receives MTAF scholarship award

Special to SW Rankin News

This year, the Mississippi Trucking Association Foundation (MTAF) held a scholarship awards ceremony in Jackson. Among the thirty-seven 2022-2023 MTAF Scholarship recipients was Pearl native Victoria Thornton.

Over thirty-two years ago, the MTAF Scholarship Program was created. The primary objective of the Foundation, a 501(c) (3) charitable corporation designed to receive contributions, memorial gifts and property, is to promote educational projects related to the trucking industry and to provide scholarships to deserving students who have ties to the trucking industry and that are enrolled in scholastic endeavors.

This class joins over 330 students who have received this scholarship. Scholarships are offered through the Mississippi Trucking Association Foundation, Mike McLarty Endowment, the John Fayard Endowment, H. Dean Cotten Endowment, G. Larry Kerr Endowment, the R. Gene Holmes Endowment, the Vernon & Nancy Sawyer Endowment, and John D. Stomps Endowment.



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Big Fix Clinic, Big Thrift suffer damage from recent flooding



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Due to the recent rain and flash flooding in the Southwest Rankin County area, Mississippi Spay and Neuter's (MS SPAN's) Big Fix Clinic and Big Thrift suffered further water damage to their building. A previous issue with an inefficient drainage system was exacerbated by the inundation of flood water on Wednesday, August 24.

The much-needed upgrade to their drainage system and gutters and the replacement of an old air-conditioning unit that went out of out of service has

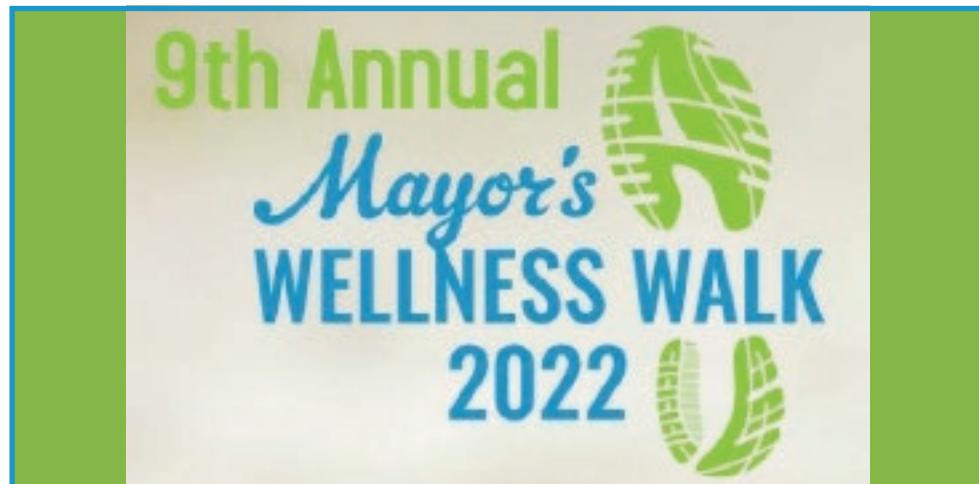
MS SPAN reaching out to the public for donations, whether large or small, to assist them in continuing their mission of providing high-quality, low-cost spay and neuter surgeries for cats and dogs.

As of press time, they remain \$13,000 short of the funding needed to complete these urgent repairs.

The Big Fix Clinic and Big Thrift store are located at 657 Highway 49 in Richland.

For more information or to donate, contact MS SPAN's Big Fix Clinic at 601-420-2438.

Mayor's Wellness Walk in Pearl set for October 14th



Special to SW Rankin News

Special to SW Rankin News

The City of Pearl is encouraging local residents to "Put on your walking shoes and come join the fun!" and meet Mayor Jake Windham at the Mississippi Braves Stadium for the annual Mayor's Wellness Walk on Friday, October 14.

The free event for citizens over age fifty-five has been established to promote a high quality of life through healthy lifestyle choices. All who

pre-register will receive a t-shirt, goody bag and lunch. Participants will be presented with a medal by Mayor Windham as they cross the finish line.

Check-in starts at 9 a.m., and the walk begins at 10 a.m. Trustmark Park is located at 1 Braves Boulevard in Pearl.

Interested individuals can stop by the Pearl Senior Center at 110 Valentour Road in Pearl to complete a registration form. For more information, contact Pearl Senior Services at 601-863-3229.

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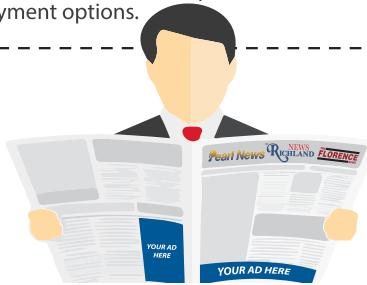
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Discovery Christian presents 2022 Homecoming Court



Special to SW Rankin News

Discovery Christian School recently announced their 2022 Homecoming Court. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Crown Bearer Henry Craft and Flower Girl Ellie Jane Miller; and back row: Freshman Maid Katie Stamps, Sophomore Maid Olivia Teten, Junior Maid Bella Yates, Senior Maid Brianna Marino, Senior Maid Megan Hardage, Football Princess Lona Coleman, Junior Maid Bella Wade, Sophomore Maid Sara Benton and Freshman Maid Blaire Kelly.

PPSD school nurses receive National Board Certification



Special to SW Rankin News

Three Pearl Public School District (PPSD) nurses recently received their National Board Certification in school nursing. Pictured (l to r) are: Kelley Smith, Pearl Junior High School nurse; Aly Weems, Pearl Lower Elementary nurse; and Julie Thornton, Pearl High School nurse and PPSD head nurse.

Exchange Club of Richland inducts newest members



Special to SW Rankin News

Four new members were recently inducted into the Exchange Club of Richland. Pictured (l to r) are: Member Matt Quick, Member Melissa Lovorn, Member Paige Monk and Member Reed Hawthorne, who pledged the Covenant of Service. They received their Exchange Club pin and Member Certificate. Anyone interested in joining Exchange Club may contact them on Facebook, by phone at 769-230-0264, or reach out to any club member. All are welcome to join the Exchange Club at their regular meetings held the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Richland Senior Center in Richland.

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MHS's Deputy Gober: It's more than a badge

Special to SW Rankin News

The Rankin County School District (RCSD), the Rankin County Sheriff's Department, the Brandon Police Department, and the Florence Police Department share an interlocal agreement providing law enforcement to each of the twenty-eight school campuses in the district. These resource officers are there to protect students, staff, and families. The resource officers say their role is much more than a badge to them; the job is about building relationships, showing the students that they matter, and, at the end of the day, just being part of a family, a team, and a community.

Deputy Sheriff Michael Gober is the school resource officer for McLaurin High School (MHS). Starting his career in law enforcement in 1992, Deputy Gober has accumulated over thirty years in law enforcement. His career has taken him from Court Services to Campus Police at a university, Deputy Director of a County Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Response Coordinator with another state agency to becoming

the Law Enforcement Director of a State Park agency. He always said he would give up his law enforcement administrator position if ever given an opportunity to be a school resource officer.

A typical day in the life of a school resource officer looks a little different for everyone, but, for Deputy Gober, it consists of checking the building's entrance security, school traffic duties, keeping watch on all who enter and exit the campus, and being visible and available to all that come to the campus.

For Deputy Gober, his duties go beyond the typical. Building relationships with school administration, teachers, students and parents is what



Special to SW Rankin News
Deputy Gober with MHS Volleyball team member.

he feels makes the real difference.

"The interactions and relationships that we build with staff who are here to educate and help our students grow into future leaders is one of the most rewarding aspects of the job," said Gober. "Building those same relationships with students is also an incredible opportunity for those of us who get to do this. Honestly, I think I learn more from the students than I could ever give back to them."

After working in school districts for many years, Deputy Gober began to see the importance of exemplifying to the students the positive side of law enforcement, which he says is

the motivation for keeping a box of stuffed animals in his patrol vehicle to give out if the need arises.

"It's amazing to see a child's face light up with that small gesture. In some cases, the situation they are in is out of their control. Just a small act of kindness may be all it takes to completely change their outlook."

Boxes of stuffed tigers from Amazon are a regular delivery at the home of the Gobers, and they are always excited to see them at their door. Since Deputy Gober has been sharing his stuffed tigers, the trend has caught on across the district among the resource officers. Deputy Ruthie Harrington at Northshore Elementary has her own stash of stuffed animals.

After almost three decades in law enforcement, Deputy Gober says he is thankful for the opportunity from the Rankin County Sheriff's Department and the Rankin County School District to serve as a school resource officer for McLaurin High School.

"It's places like McLaurin High School that remind you what really matters in life," said Gober.

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Flash flood elicits immediate response from city, county personnel

Special to SW Rankin News

Record daily rainfall amounts were set on Wednesday, August 24, as an estimated twelve inches of rainfall were recorded within a three-day period.

The city of Pearl fire, police and public works crews worked diligently all over the city rescuing residents from flooded homes, while some side streets were barricaded in an effort to protect homes and businesses.

In Richland, many roads were flooded and some streets were closed, including Richland East, Lowe Circle from Southwind Subdivision to Linda Jo Drive, Prewitt Circle, Eastside Park, Richland Circle, and Ted Circle. While the rain continued to fall, locals were cautioned to avoid these areas while city crews were working diligently to keep everyone safe.

In Florence, 104 children and fourteen daycare workers at the Railroad Center Day Care were rescued by Rankin County Sheriff's Department deputies after floodwaters began to inundate their facilities.

In an effort to keep flood waters away from homes and businesses, sandbags were offered to local res-

idents in Richland at the City Barn on West Harper Street, as well as at Rankin Emergency Management Operation's self-serve location in Florence at Jerry's Fish House.

Much to everyone's relief, the National Weather Service reported on Monday, August 29, that the Ross Barnett Reservoir water levels were finally "holding steady as peak inflows reached the spillway, and the Pearl River was forecast to remain steady at near 35.37 feet, then begin a slow fall."

After all was said and done, the City of Richland thanked their support staff - police, firemen, city workers and even some aldermen, for their assistance in keeping everyone safe.

The City of Pearl reported that "[the city] is working hard every day on new projects and solutions to move water through drainage around the city. We have made great strides. By comparison, the flooding event in September 2018 had 168 homes sustain damage."

"The new detention pond near Upper Drive just south of I-20 held a large amount of water back in this event. The ongoing construction of

a much larger detention pond between Hinds Community College and Country Place will alleviate flooding issues in the Skyway Hills area once completed."

The Rankin County Sheriff's Office thanked all sheriff's department employees "for coming together as a team and doing what was needed to help the people."

They also expressed gratitude for the quick response of all their employees: "The citizens of Rankin County have true public servants working for them. From the dispatchers who kept the information flowing, to the deputies that were responding to all the calls for help, to the admin staff who responded to care for the senior citizens at the saferoom, and to the jailers and trustees that responded alongside the deputies!"

Rankin Emergency Management Operation offers sandbags to county residents.



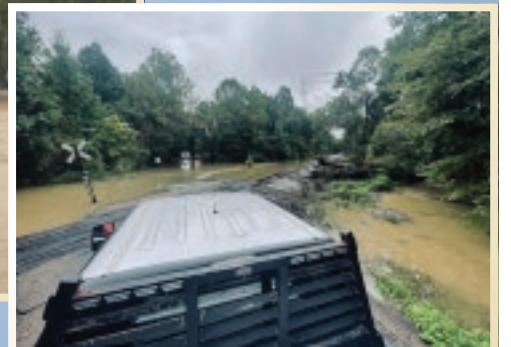
Rankin County Sheriff's Department deputies at Railroad Center Day Care in Florence.



Crossroads in Richland on August 24.



Wednesday, August 24, Pearl neighborhood.



Old Pearson Rd., August 24.

All photos special to SW Rankin News

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Local Garden Club officers selected for 2022-23



Special to SW Rankin News

The Richland-Florence Garden Club met recently and elected officers for the upcoming year, 2022-2023. The officers pictured (l to r) are, front row: Susan Harrison and Linda Stringer; and back row: Shannon Laseter, Debbie Knight and Carol Azzone. The club is federated with The Garden Clubs of MS, Inc., a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc., The Deep South Garden Club, Inc., and The Natchez Trace District.

Pearl schools seek to identify children with disabilities

Special to SW Rankin News

The Pearl Public School District is participating in the statewide effort to identify, locate, and evaluate children birth through the age of twenty-one who have a disability. The Child Find Coordinator of Pearl Public School District implements this process.

Family members, physicians, educators, or other individuals with knowledge of the child may make referrals of in-school or out-of-school children. Representatives of various agencies, such as the Health Department, Mental Health, Head Start and day care centers, may also refer children. Early identification of children in need of special educational services is most important.

Disability categories include the following: autism, developmental delay, emotional disability, and deaf/blind dis-

ability, hearing impairment, language speech impairment, intellectual disability, orthopedic impairment, and other health impairment, multiple disability, specific learning disability, traumatic brain injury and visual impairment.

Each school district has special education programs that provide services to students who have been determined to have one or more of these disabilities. Information gathered from contacts with parents and agencies helps school districts determine present and future program needs, so that a free appropriate public education can be provided to all children with disabilities.

Those who wish to refer a child or need more information are encouraged to contact the Child Find Coordinator for Pearl Public School District, Ashley Chism. Chism can be reached by phone at 601-932-7965 or by mail at P.O. Box 5750, Pearl, Mississippi, 39288.



Special to SW Rankin News

Tour registration open for "A Hallmark Christmas in Natchez"

Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Senior Services (PSS) encourages area seniors to join them as they head to beautiful and historic Natchez, where the Hallmark Company filmed their movie, *Every Time a Bell Rings*. There will be a tour of some beautiful homes and museums, plus a little shopping. Participants will depart on Monday, December 5, and return on Wednesday, December 7.

The activities scheduled for the three-day trip include two nights' first class hotel accommodations in Natchez; a guided sightseeing for the new Hallmark movie, *Every Time a Bell Rings*; a jeweled Christmas tour at the Towers Mansion; an afternoon tour of Sunnyside Estate, the "Do You See What I See" tour; a guided tour of Oak Hill Home; sightseeing at the Natchez in Historic Photographs Museum; and time for shopping in downtown and the surrounding Natchez area. One lunch and one dinner are included in the travel package, as well as a deluxe hot breakfast each morning.

The group will include Community Bank participants. Representatives from Pearl Senior Center will also travel with the group, pending pre-registration of fifteen additional persons.

The cost is \$545 per person for "double basis" registration that includes two persons to a room; \$489 per person for "triple basis" registration that includes three people to a room; \$465 per person for "quad basis" registration that has four people to a room; and \$699 per person for a "single" registration that covers one person to a room.

Special to SW Rankin News

A \$100 deposit per participant is due to confirm registration. Full payment for the tour is due by October 7. No refunds will be given for cancellations after that date. Checks should be made payable to "Trek Travel."

Interested individuals are encouraged to stop by the Pearl Senior Center for a full listing of all the shows, activities and pricing.

For more information, call 601-863-3229.





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Richland hopes to see economic advantages from qualified resort area

Special to SW Rankin News

Shortly after the polls closed at the Richland Community Center, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, August 23, it was announced that the referendum to designate Richland as a qualified resort district passed with an impressive eighty-percent approval rating. According to the Richland Economic Development Association (REDA), "Great things are coming to Richland."

REDA, whose self-described goal is to advance the civic, economic and social welfare of the community and its citizens, emphasized the newly-added resort designation could mean more national chain restaurants in the City of Richland. The addition of a single new sit-down restaurant would add as much as \$100,000 in tax revenue that could be allocated towards the Richland Parks and Recreation department for growth and improvements. Restaurants being considered for the Richland area in-

clude Outback Steakhouse (coming soon), P.F. Chang's, Longhorn Steakhouse, Red Robin, and Olive Garden, to name a few.

REDA cautions that although a vote "for" a Qualified Resort Area designation will likely mean future growth and expansion for the city, including the addition of many popular chain restaurants in Richland, it does not mean the addition of stand-alone bars or liquor stores.

An increase of high-profile restaurants within the city limits will not only stimulate economic growth through proceeds coming from the City's two percent food and beverage tax, it would also usher in multiple employment opportunities. The restaurant industry, according to REDA, employs as much as ten percent of the American workforce. To emphasize its impact, they also stated that approximately ten percent of America's economy is affected by the restaurant industry

alone. Essentially, more growth means more opportunities.

With Richland being strategically bisected by U.S. Highway 49 South and bordering on the intersection of Interstate Highways 55 North-South and 20 East-West and minutes from the Jackson International Airport, Richland is the hub of a thriving transportation, warehousing, and distribution industry and an Ad Valorem tax rate among the lowest in the Jackson-Metro area at nineteen mills, which REDA says makes Richland an excellent place to grow a business.

"It is exciting to see the amazing transformation of our city," said Richland Mayor Pat Sullivan. "Upon completion of the U.S. Highway 49 widening project, the City

of Richland will be on the precipice of unprecedented commercial, industrial and retail expansion. Richland will be the first stop on the 'New Gateway to the South,' showing the entire state what it has to offer. The Richland Economic Development Association will be working diligently with Mississippi Development Authority, Rankin First, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District, and retail groups to fill gaps in services and job creation."



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RPD hosts first National Night Out in Richland

Richland Police Department (RPD) hosted its first National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2, at the Richland Parks and Recreation Center, located at 460 East Harper Street in Richland.

Local residents were encouraged to come out and meet Richland's police officers, firefighters and K9s. Admission was free. The event agenda included a helicopter show, space jumps, MS Meta Humans, a foam party, face painting, raffles, games and a dunking booth.

Food trucks were also on site, providing an assortment of foods and beverages. Live entertainment included music by Zach Bridges of Pearl.

According to the National Night Out website, www.natw.org, "National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances."



All photos special to SW Rankin News

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RCSD recognizes educators earning advanced degrees, certifications

The Rankin County School District recognized their educators who recently earned advanced degrees and/or certifications. Several teachers from Richland and Florence schools were included.



DaVida Fletcher, a special education teacher at McLaurin Elementary School, received an Advanced Master's Degree.



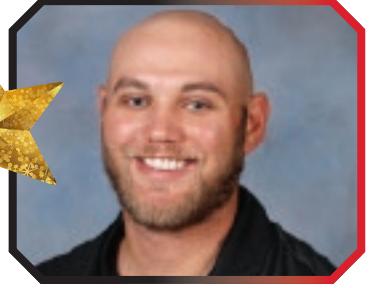
Dianne Roberts, a faculty member at Richland Upper Elementary, received an Advanced Specialist Degree.



Elizabeth Counts, a counselor at Richland Upper Elementary, received an Advanced Master's Degree.



Gabrielle Sutherland, a counselor at Richland High School, received an Advanced Specialist Degree.



Gregory Nickles, a science teacher at Florence High School, received an Advanced Master's Degree.



Jessica Plunk, a special education inclusion teacher at Richland Elementary School, received an Advanced Master's Degree.



Kiara Franklin, a fifth-grade math and science teacher at Florence Elementary School, received an Advanced Specialist Degree.



LaQuinta Lewis, a seventh- and eighth-grade teacher at Florence Middle School, received an Advanced Master's Degree.



Lori Shows, a second-grade teacher at Richland Elementary School, received an Advanced Master's Degree.



Michelle Steward, who specializes in dyslexia therapy at Richland Upper Elementary School, received National Board Certification.

All photos special to SW Rankin News.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Recognized for their achievements but not pictured are Samantha Bolton, a third-grade teacher at Florence Elementary School, who received an Advanced Master's Degree; Kathy Berry, a college algebra, trigonometry, dual credit statistics and algebra 2 teacher, who received an Advanced Master's Degree; Ally Long, a third-grade teacher at Florence Elementary, who received an Advanced Master's Degree; and Sara Makamson, a speech pathologist at McLaurin Elementary School, who received National Board Certification.

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