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SWRANKIN NEWS

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The Pearl News

THE NEWS
RICHLAND

THE FLORENCE
NEWS

On 9/11's 22nd anniversary, MSFA reflects on its ongoing impact

By Alexa Haik

Matt Hinkle, the Operations Officer for the Mississippi State Fire Academy (MSFA), became a firefighter in 2003. At that time, he witnessed a lot of the change in priority of training. Nationally, increased funding went to many grant programs focused on additional training for firefighters; this was due to the creation of the Department of Homeland Security in 2002. The push after 9/11 focused on technical rescue logistics across the country.

As far as MSFA, the curriculum changed a good bit. Hinkle says, "A lot of our training started going towards counter terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, hazardous materials; a lot of that opened-up big time compared to what it had, so that's standard curriculum now. It wasn't standard back then. Our basic firefighter training fifty years ago was pulling fire hoses, throwing ladders, and making rescues, that was the main training. And now, even in the

basic firefighter training realm, they are having to learn hazardous materials programs, they are having to go through those programs as a basic firefighter not even going to their specialties yet. That has [all] been added into the curriculum [since September 11, 2001]."

The 9/11 commission report and the New York City Fire Department also aided in advancements in how fire departments, as well as other first responders, operate on scene. They did their own research and, as a result, a major overhaul in communications was put into place.

The National Incident Management System was also created at this time. Its purpose was to bring all first responders - fire, police, EMS, military - together and have a common defined language. It is now a requirement for as-

piring firefighters in Mississippi to complete four MSFA Incident Command System (ICS) courses -ICS 100, ICS 200, ICS 700, and ICS 800.

Another advancement since 9/11 is the ability to collect resources together in the State of Mississippi in what is called a "mission ready package."

Example? If Rankin County has a wide area search for a missing person, the state now has assets that can assist locals through the Statewide Mutual Aid Compact aka SMAC. According to www.mema.org, SMAC was created by

"MEMA to provide a more effective use of resources in times of disaster. It provides a way for cities and counties to request and receive help from each other when local resources are exhausted. SMAC provides a mechanism for

assistance to come from different part of the state."

These resources are just a sampling of advancements made in response to September 11, 2001.

Hinkle says in addition to these upgrades, the largest ongoing mission at MSFA, post 9/11, is preparing for the unexpected.

"We train all of the time, year-round. We have four to five classes on campus a week, almost the entire year, so there is almost always around 100 students on campus all the time. It almost never ends. They get to exercise their critical thinking skills...because we can really provide those challenges within our gates in a semi-controlled environment...so, when you get to the real emergency, you've done it before, you have already had the repetitions, and that is what we strive to do."

Mississippi State Fire Academy is a state agency that covers first responder training for the entire State of Mississippi. Its campus is located in Pearl.



Main Street Pearl seeking vendors, sponsors for 2023 Oktoberfest

Special to The Pearl News

Vendor applications are now being accepted for Main Street Pearl's 2023 Oktoberfest, scheduled for Saturday, October 14, from 3 to 7 p.m. The deadline to register is Friday, October 6. This is an outdoor event. There will be brats and brews, a live polka band – "The Delta Krauts," an "Arrrr-b-que Battle," food trucks, midtown market, outdoor viewing of college football, as well as an eating contest. The location will be behind Pearl City Hall at 2420 Old Brandon Road.

Vendor applications require standard contact information as well as a brief description of the items to be sold. Products that have proven to be popular in the past include: fine art, candles, pottery, woodwork, jewelry, holiday décor, bath and body, fiber/monograms/sewn items, edibles/cottage food/produce, and clothing/apparel.

Each vendor may request one, two, or three booth spaces to display their wares, with a \$50 fee per 10' x 10' booth space. Vendors will be responsible for tents, tables, and chairs.

All applicants must submit up to three photos of the general item types to be sold, labeled with individual's name and/or business name. Photos may be sent



by mail or email to mainstreetpearl@cityofpearl.com. Photos will not be returned.

Main Street Pearl accepts cash, checks, and money orders (payable to City of Pearl). Vendors may also pay with a debit or credit card; this will include a 3.5% processing fee.

Applications, photos, and payments may be mailed to: Main Street Pearl, P.O. Box 5948, Pearl, Mississippi, 39288.

Main Street Pearl is also accepting sponsorship applications. Four options are available: **Title Sponsorship**

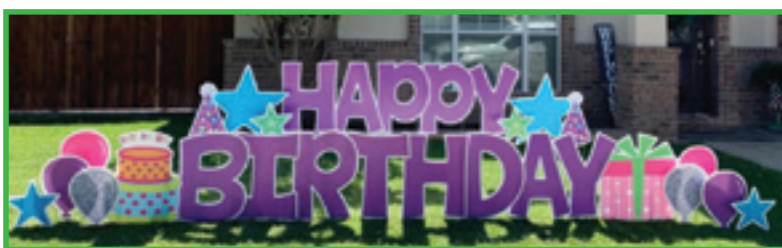
level, which includes a large company logo on t-shirts, stage banner, marketing materials and announcements during event, two booth spaces (must provide own tent, table, chairs, etc.), ten event t-shirts, and ten drink vouchers for \$2,500; **Platinum Sponsorship** level, which includes a medium company logo on t-shirts, banner, marketing materials and announcements during event, one booth space (must provide own tent, table, chairs, etc.), five event t-shirts, and five drink vouchers; **Gold Sponsorship** level, which includes name on t-shirts, banner, marketing materials, announcements during event, two event t-shirts and two drink vouchers; and **Silver Sponsorship** level, which includes company name on banner, marketing materials and announcements during event, one event t-shirt, and one drink voucher.

The deadline for Title, Platinum, and Gold Sponsorship levels is Friday, September 22. The deadline for Silver Sponsorship level is Friday, September 29.

To apply online, visit www.cityofpearl.com. Sponsorship applications may also be mailed to: Main Street Pearl, P.O. Box 5948, Pearl, Mississippi, 39288.

For more information, contact Executive Director of Main Street Stacy Smith at ssmith@cityofpearl.com.

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Citizens asked to work together for bus safety

Special to The Richland News

Matthew Quick serves the Richland school zone as Transportation Supervisor. Quick wants to remind motorists of the importance of driving safely and obeying traffic laws around school buses.

Quick has seen a trend in 2023 – a disregard by motorists for school bus safety. Quick emphasizes, “We’ve encountered at least four instances [this academic year] and, astoundingly, two individuals were arrested.”

Driven by deep concern, Quick has taken to social media to reach out to the community, urging all to “exercise caution and uphold safety norms around these school buses carrying our most precious cargo.” This issue transcends his professional responsibilities; it resonates personally.

“Being in education and a parent myself, sending our children to school should come with the expectation of seeing them return safely,” Quick affirms passionately. He firmly believes that “there’s simply no justification for negligence, texting, or breaking traffic laws. We’re just asking everyone to do their part.”

It’s easy to believe that such accidents won’t happen in the community. Tragically, they can and have. As a



grim reminder, back in 2011, a student lost their life in a hit-and-run incident while attempting to board a school bus in Richland. These heart-wrenching episodes devastate not only families but entire communities.

Beyond the emotional toll, there are also legal repercussions. The Richland Police Department recently posted on social media that disregarding Nathan’s Law incurs a \$473 fine and mandatory two-day incarceration upon conviction.

So, how can the community play a pivotal role? By

being well-versed in proper protocols at school bus stops.

“Familiarity with bus procedures is essential,” Quick stresses. “[When a bus driver intends] to stop, they activate the yellow lights to signal their intention. Upon stopping, the red lights flash, and the stop sign deploys. Fortunately, many of our buses have cameras on the stop sign. During this phase, all traffic must come to a stop, allowing the child to enter and exit safely. We try to avoid road crossings; however, when necessary, we follow a procedure – checking mirrors, monitoring traffic, ensuring a complete stop from all directions. The entire roadway should come to a standstill for the school bus. Once the stop concludes and the child is safe, we retract the stop sign, switch off the lights, and continue the journey.”

Another important way to support the community – witnesses can promptly report incidents by dialing 911 or visiting the local police station to file charges. The police will require specific information like license plate numbers, vehicle descriptions, and even driver details, if possible.

For additional insights into Nathan’s Law, visit www.mdek12.org/OSOS/SBS.

REDA to host "Fore the Kids Golf Tournament" at Patrick Farms

Special to The Richland News

Richland Economic Development Association (REDA) recently announced they will host the Richland Mayor’s Youth Council “Fore the Kids Golf Tournament,” on Thursday, October 5. The tournament will be held at Patrick Farms Golf Club located at 300 Clubhouse Drive in Pearl. All proceeds go to the Richland Mayor’s Youth Council as they continue their mission to “give back to the community and Richland Schools.”

Conveniently located ten minutes from the airport in Jackson, Patrick Farms Golf Club is a semi-private, year-round golf course and driving range. Featuring well-maintained fairways, the 18-hole, par-72 course spans 200 acres and is open to the public. The clubhouse features a family-friendly restaurant, members’ lounge, lobby, meeting room and



Special to The Richland News

pro shop.

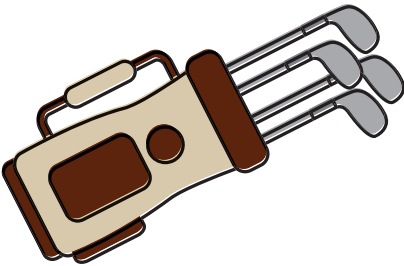
Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 1 p.m.

Registration options include a “Four Man Scramble” which includes green fees, a golf cart, lunch and door prizes for all team members at a cost of \$400. A “Hole Sponsorship” option is available

with at \$150 registration fee as well as a “Team & Hole Sponsorship” at a cost of \$550.

A \$15,000 hole-in-one prize will also be awarded at the event.

For more information, contact Special Events Coordinator and Mayor’s Youth Council Sponsor Stephanie Ward at 601-486-1186 or sward@richlandms.com.



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Award-winning storyteller to appear at Victory Church in September

Special to The Florence News

Victory Congregational Methodist Church in Florence invites all, young and old, regardless of denomination, to meet Jason David. David is known for his weekly Bible episode on MyTRIBE.watch, where he has gained quite a following, including Jessica Meredith, Victory Church Pastor Jed Meredith's wife. She discovered David on YouTube, enjoyed his message, and reached out to him to speak. For this reason, David has agreed to be the guest speaker on Thursday, September 21, beginning at 6 p.m. This free, family friendly event is expected to last approximately an hour and a half. Snacks will be provided. David is an award-winning story-



Special to The Florence News

teller, singer, songwriter, and children's motivational speaker. He is also the creator of MyTRIBE.watch and cancer survivor. In 2016, David was diagnosed with stage 4 tongue cancer. After several major surgeries, weeks of chemotherapy and multiple rounds of ra-

diation, Jason lost 80% of his tongue. Doctors warned him he may never speak or sing again. Today, not only does David continue to sing and preach, he travels the world on a mission to use his voice in bringing hope, joy and courage to those

in need. David currently resides in San Diego with his wife Alyson. Ample parking will be available in Victory Congregational Methodist Church's parking lot located on top of the hill adjacent. Victory Congregational Methodist Church is located at 125 Highway 469 North in Florence, MS. For more information, call 601-845-7774.



SRRC 5th Annual Motor Madness Car Show coming soon to Florence

Special to The Florence News

South Rankin Rotary Club presents the 5th Annual Motor Madness Car Show on Saturday, October 14, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Hemphill Park. The car show is billed as an entertaining event for all ages. Everyone is encouraged to "Get out, see cool cars, share stories, enjoy entertainment and support the local community, businesses, and charities." The Motor Madness Car Show began in 2019 as an idea to use a passion for antique and unique cars, trucks, and motorcycles to help local communities. Founded and hosted by South Rankin Rotary Club, the car show is designed to not only share the love of cars with the community, but to also be able to raise funds and support local charities.



Participants may preregister online by visiting www.motormadnesscarshow.com/participant/. Mail in registration is also accepted. Mail-in payments should be made payable to South Rankin Rotary Club and mailed to P.O. Box 180553, Richland, Mississippi, 39218. The cost for pre-registration is \$20 per person.

Folks may also register the day of the event, at \$25 per person. Registration includes prizes, trophies, giveaways, as well as a parking pass. South Rankin Rotary Club offers sponsorship packages as well. Proceeds go to toward scholarships for local high school seniors, local church leadership and to The Center

for Violence Prevention. Levels of support are as follows: \$250 Silver package includes name on banner, announcements, and logo on website; \$500 Gold package includes name on banner, announcements, logo on website, link on website, and trophy sponsorship; \$750 Platinum package includes name on banner, announcements, logo on website, link on website, half page ad on website, trophy sponsorship and surprise category judge; and \$1,000 Diamond package which includes name on banner, announcements, logo on website, link on website, page ad on website, trophy sponsorship and surprise category judge. Hemphill Park is located on South Church Street in Florence. Visit www.motormadnesscarshow.com for more information.

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Florence High School announces 2023 Homecoming Court

Senior Maids



Lacy Burns



Joselyn James



Avery Meredith



Breilyn Muse



Faith Quick



Lanie Smith



Annelise Weathersby



Ava Grace Weathersby

Junior Maids



Taylor Beam



Ryleigh Bishop



Katie Beth Kennedy



Caroline Sanford



Carley Jo Smith



Maddie Jae Windham

Sophomore Maids



River Cannon



Belle Clark



Abby Davis



Mary Elise Taylor



Cora Whitney



Daylee Wilder

Freshmen Maids



Skylar Cloer



Addison Grantham



Kristen Holmes



Alexis Smith



Chloe Stubbs



Tayshawna Young



Special to SW Rankin News

Florence High School (FHS) celebrated their 2023 Homecoming with a week of dress-up days, a parade in Downtown Florence, a presentation of the FHS Homecoming Court, the Friday night Homecoming game - Florence Eagles versus Magee Trojans, and a Homecoming Dance.

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City of Richland, Richland Fire Department announce burn ban

Special to SW Rankin News

The City of Richland, in conjunction with the Richland Fire Department, recently announced a burn ban until further notice. Burn bans are initiated when hot and dry weather has led to dry fuels and favorable wildfire conditions. The community is asked at this time to use extra caution until further notice.

Currently, there is no expiration date on the burn ban, and no exemptions. Exemptions include: certified burn managers, county fire services, commercial contractors with heavy construction equipment, providing that said burn meets Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

(MDEQ) regulations and agricultural field burn.

The Rankin County Sheriff’s Department enforces burn bans. There is a stiff penalty for any person who knowingly and willfully violates a burning ban. It is a misdemeanor that carries a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$500.

Anything with an open flame that produces an ember is not allowed during a burn ban. The wind can carry floating embers away from the original fire and start a spot fire up to one-half mile away from the burning area. This includes: campfires, bonfires, fire pits, fire rings, burn barrels, debris burning and field burning.



What is allowed during a burn ban?

Propane/gas grills, propane/gas heaters as well as charcoal grills, are allowed. Use these items as described by their manufacturer, safely away from combustible materials, and never left unattended. Dispose of them properly after use.

Charcoal grill briquettes are of great concern. After use, always let the coals cool completely and douse in water before disposing of them in a metal container. The residual ash should be cold to the touch before disposal.

For up-to-date information about the burn ban in Rankin County, visit www.mfc.ms.gov/burning-info/burn-bans/.

Main Street Pearl seeking “backyard barbecue champs” for Oktoberfest

Special to SW Rankin News

Main Street Pearl will host their first ever “Pirates of the Pit, Arrr-B-Que Battle” during the Oktoberfest event to be held Saturday, October 14, from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. Main Street Pearl has more than \$5,000 in total prize money and trophies to award, so trophies and cash prizes will be up for grabs.

The 2023 Contest Category “Anything But” prizes for chicken wings include: \$500 plus a trophy for the first-place winner, \$300 plus a plaque for the second-place winner, and \$200 plus a plaque for the third-place winner.

The 2023 Contest Category “Anything But” prizes for barbeque sauce include: \$100 plus a trophy for the first-place winner, \$75 plus a plaque for the second-place winner, and \$50 plus a plaque for the third-place winner.

The 2023 Contest Category “Anything But” prize for desserts (cakes and pies) is a trophy.

The 2023 Contest Category “Patio Team” prizes for pork ribs include:



\$1,000 plus a trophy for the first-place winner, \$700 plus a plaque for the second-place winner, and \$400 plus a plaque for the third-place winner.

The 2023 Contest Category “Patio Team” prizes for pork loins include: \$1,000 plus a trophy for the first-place winner, \$700 plus a plaque for the second-place winner, and \$400 plus a plaque for the third-place winner.

Visit www.cityofpearl.com/live/city-events to download a cooking application. Contact Main Street Pearl at mainstreetpearl@cityofpearl.com for more information.

Old Truths for Today

J.T. Morgan



What Is Obedience?

Have you ever thought whether or not obedience is necessary to please God? Obedience to the gospel of Christ is essential to salvation. Paul declared, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.” (Rom.1:16). Peter stated this: “Seeing you have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth.... having been begotten again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God...” (1 Pet.1:22,23). “And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Heb.5:9).

From these scriptures we observe that obedience to the gospel is imperative. The serious consequence of not obeying the gospel is revealed in 2 Thes.1:7-9.

Just what is meant by the term “obedience”? Webster defines obedience as “compliance with command, prohibition or known law and rule of duty prescribed; the performance of what is required or enjoyed by authority. To constitute obedience, the act of forbearance to act must be in submission to authority; the command must be known to the person, and his compliance must be in consequence of it, or it is not obedience.”

The essence of obedience is willing submission to authority. In all ages, God has had some test of obedience, some way to test a person’s loyalty to Him. Everyone has a will of nature and assert itself. This is seen early in childhood. The will must be trained; it must learn its lesson. The child very early learn some lessons to natural laws. He reaches his hand out and touches a hot stove and learns a very valuable lesson. If it were not for these early lessons in life he learns he would soon destroy himself. A child must learn obedience to his/her parents. Many parents fail to realize that obedience must be learned. Paul says that Christ “learned obedience by the things which He suffered” (Heb.5:8). Training a child to respect parental authority prepares him to be more respectful for all other rightful authority, both civil and divine. One has only to look at what is happening to society in general. When there is no respect for authority our country is being flooded by men and women without respect for constituted authority filling our prisons to overflowing.

One of the first lessons a military person learns is unquestioning and prompt obedience. The purpose of much of his training is that he may learn to obey, as well as respect the authority.

Remember the words of Jesus, “If you love Me keep My commandments” (Jno.14:15).

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Memories of September 11, 2001: A first-hand account

By Alexa Haik

For our September issue, *SW Rankin News* approached the Mississippi State Fire Academy in Pearl, to discuss how their training has evolved in the aftermath of 9/11. In response, we were offered immensely more than we had hoped for. It turns out that the Deputy Director of Instructional Services, Barry Burnside, happens to be good friends with a New York City firefighter who responded that day. The following story is the recollections of one Carl T. Schramm, in his own words, of the events that unfolded on September 11, 2001, and immediately afterwards.

I became a New York City police officer in 1983. In April of 1987, I switched over to the fire department. From April of '87 on up to 9/11, I was in the fire department. I worked as a Hazardous Materials Specialist in the Hazardous Materials Company #1 (HazMat1). It is a specialized unit that goes to fires and incidents involving chemicals; we were the only HazMat Unit in the city.

On that day, initially, I was at home. I was supposed to fly down to Florida...we were going down there to spend the rest of the week with the kids at Disney. I was actually at home getting out of the shower, and my phone's ringing, and I didn't answer it. I hit the message, and it is my



Photos courtesy of Carl Schramm

Carl Schramm putting on one of Hazardous Materials Company #1's chemical suits to handle an incident.

friend Dominic saying, "I just heard something on the radio about a plane crashing into the World Trade Center." So, I am trying to call him back, and, while I was trying to dial him, [I turn on the TV] and it was a picture that was taken from the Empire State Building looking at the side of the building that was hit. I see this oval shaped hole in the building that almost went from one edge to the other. When I first heard of it, I was thinking it was a little Cessna, private plane or something. When I saw that, my exact words were "that's a big !&# hole." Because I knew how big that building was.*



The scene a couple of blocks away from the World Trade Center shortly after the buildings came down.

And now [I realize] I gotta get in touch with my wife...I was able to speak to her, and [then] I got in touch with my one son, who was still in high school. I told him what was going on, I said, when you come home, just send me a text message that I know you are there. [Then] I got in touch with my other son, who was up at college in upstate New York, and I told him what was going on. I wasn't able to reach any of my immediate family.

Just before I left, the second tower got hit. Again, I am watching TV and I am on the phone calling people...there was something going across the sky...I am just in my head going, that's going way too fast, and it crashed into the second building.

I am getting myself ready, getting things together, [then] the first tower came down. I see it on TV and I thought in my head, I can't imagine how many cops and firemen just died, and people. Then I drove into the city. I was about thirty miles away from my fire station, and they had shut the highway down. They were letting the cops and firemen go, and everyone else they were getting off of the

highway.

I got to my fire station. I had a pickup truck, and I pull up and there's a bunch of guys already getting there. Our fire house was in Queens, which is one of the five Burroughs in New York City.

When you looked out the front doors of our fire house, you were looking straight at the World Trade Center; and evidently one of the guys was outside smoking a cigarette, and he saw the plane hit the first tower. He then ran inside and contacted dispatchers. [Consequently], both units in my fire station, which was HazMat1 and Squad 288 had left

immediately. Those trucks were gone, now we show up, and there's a bunch of the off-duty guys there. One lieutenant asked, "are you willing to use your truck to bring guys in," and I said "yeah." At least ten to twelve guys piled into the back of my truck. Another guy had a small pickup truck, and we loaded all the equipment into his, and then we

headed into the city. I was on my way from there to Manhattan with the guys in my truck [when the second tower collapsed].

We got to a fire station and were kind of meeting up with people. We didn't have really any idea of what we were getting into. So, we all took indelible marker and wrote our name and badge numbers on our arms, and we went down to the scene, not knowing [if we are all] even coming back.

When we got down there, all you could see was wall to wall fire helmets, and then we just started working our way to the collapsed area, searching for people.

It was such an immense scene, so

you are trying to do whatever you could, helping with whatever equipment we had available.

On the second day, I helped them [rescue] a woman out of the rubble. They put her on what's called a "stokes basket." [We] probably had to pass it 100 yards to the end, because you couldn't really walk on this rubble.

Later that day, on the 12th, probably around 6 or 7 o'clock at night, I had been there now for probably 36 hours, I was like, I really should go home. So, I start walking back to where my truck was. [What I remember] was you get a few blocks, and there is like nobody there. There is nothing happening.



The scene a couple of blocks away from the World Trade Center.

And the dust from the collapse had covered everything. It was like you were in a black and white movie... You are looking at these two buildings that were 102 stories tall, and, other than the really heavy steel with the outside frame of the building, you don't see a desk, you don't see a file

Continued on page 5

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Continued from page 4

Memories of 9/11: first-hand

cabinet. I mean everything is just pulverized. You might find a piece of concrete about the size of a grapefruit, and that was about it.

I [eventually] found [our fire station's] two fire trucks. There was one guy there. Turns out he was the only guy on duty that day who survived, because somebody always had to stay in the truck to look up the chemicals we were dealing with. Everybody else, of course, died. We lost nineteen guys from my fire house [that day].

In the beginning, it seemed like something that was never gonna end; it seemed like an insurmountable thing...Looking at stuff, you are just seeing this big pile. I had been to building collapses before, where you search and, after a while, you find people. This thing, we are searching, searching, it's now getting dark and now it's getting light and we are not finding anybody. There were fire trucks that were buried, and you would see some flashing lights in the rubble. Our breathing apparatus had an alarm on it that, if you stay motionless for more than forty seconds, it goes off...and you can hear these things in the rubble. You are



A decal that is placed on all their fire trucks and Carl Schram has in his office. It lists the names of the nineteen firefighters who were lost from his fire station, eleven from Hazardous Materials Company #1 and eight from Squad 288.

looking and looking, and you are just not finding anybody.

It was not too long into it when I realized the magnitude of what this was. At one point, I was talking with somebody while we were down there. He said, "You know, man, this is going to change the city," and I said, "This is going to change the world."

Part two of this series, "Barry and Carl: A friendship borne in the aftermath of 9/11," will be available in the October issue of SW Rankin News.

Pearl Fire Department announces recent promotions



Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Fire Department recently recognized the promotion of three of its members: Assistant Chief Justin Priest, Captain B.J. Wells and Lieutenant Adam Rawls.



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PCT Board Member applications now being accepted

Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Community Theatre (PCT) recently announced they have openings for members on their Board of Directors. Locals interested in supporting the arts in the City of Pearl, and theatre specifically, are encouraged to complete an application.

The major responsibilities of a PCT board members are as follows: organizational leadership and advisement; organization of the board of directors, officers and committees; formulation and oversight of policies and procedures; financial management, including adoption and oversight of the annual budget; oversight of program planning and evaluation; personal evaluation and staff development; review of organizational and programmatic reports; promotion of the organization; and fundraising and outreach.

Each board member is expected to: attend and participate in meetings regularly and in at least two special events each year; participate on a standing committee of the board, and serve on ad-hoc committees as necessary; advise and advance the start-up phase in each

particular member's area of expertise; help communicate and promote PCT's mission and programs to the community; become familiar with PCT finances, budget, and financial/resources needs;



and financially support PCT or help to build financial support for PCT.

Founded in 2020, Pearl Community Theatre is a Mississippi 501(c)3, created to promote the Performing Arts in Central Mississippi.

Pearl Community Theatre is funded in part by The City of Pearl, and will embark on a two-year Capital Campaign with the hopes of opening its own permanent structure. Their purpose is to create and provide a diverse community theatre that enriches, educates, and entertains the people in the City of Pearl and surrounding areas. PCT's goal is to be a vital part of the cultural life in Pearl by striving to enhance the creativity and quality of their performances, growing their membership, and expanding their audiences, encouraging volunteerism, training, and motivating local talent that will continue to pursue and support theatre arts while meeting the needs of their audiences by staying in touch with the community's desires.

Under the Artistic Direction of Harriet Matthews, a retired Pearl High School Theatre Educator and twelve Board of Directors; Pearl Community Theatre annually produces a musical, play, children's show, and a kid's summer theatre camp.

For more information, visit them on Facebook or apply online, visit www.pearlcommunitytheatre.org.

The 17th annual "Under the Stars"



The City of Richland is hosting its' 17th Annual Movies under the Stars event Saturday, September 16. The screening will be held at Richland Soccer Field located at 410 E. Harper Street in Richland. The movie for September is The Super Mario Bros. Movie starring Chris Pratt, Anya Taylor-Joy, Charlie Day, Jack Black, Keegan-Michael Key, Seth Rogen, and Fred Armisen. It is a 2023 American computer-animated adventure comedy film based on Nintendo's Mario video game franchise. Produced by Universal Pictures, Illumination, and Nintendo, and distributed by Universal, it was directed by Aaron Horvath and Michael Jelenic and written by Matthew Fogel. The film features an origin story for the brothers Mario and Luigi, Italian-American plumbers who are transported to an alternate world and become entangled in a battle between the Mushroom Kingdom, led by Princess Peach, and the Koopas, led by Bowser. The event starts at 7:30 p.m. and showtime will begin at dusk. All ages are welcome to attend this family-friendly event and attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs. For more information, contact Stephanie Ward at 601-487-1186.

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RHS cheerleaders take home multiple UCA awards



Richland High School (RHS) cheer attended the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) summer camp in Fort Morgan, Alabama. They won second place in camp dance, all blue ribbons, and a spirit stick, nine All-Americans, and three pin-it-forward winners. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Isa Alvarado - Co-Captain, Anecia Robinson – Captain and Cierra Sheppard - Co-Captain; middle row: Brooklyn Brown, Peyton Perkins, Ritchelle Burns, Madison Archuleta, Coach Terri Sullivan, Dixie Rivard, Gracie Courtney, Hanna Armstrong and Arianna Norwood; and back row: Kiersten Thompson, Kellie Gast, Kyleigh Williams, Mary Lynn Brannan and Macie Tagert.



RHS cheerleaders pictured (l to r) front row: Isa Alvarado, Anecia Robinson and Cierra Sheppard; and back row: Peyton Perkins, Ritchelle Burns, Madison Archuleta, Dixie Rivard, Gracie Courtney and Hanna Armstrong were named All-American Cheerleaders at the UCA Cheer Camp in Fort Morgan, Alabama. They will go on to perform at the Pearl Harbor Parade in Honolulu, Hawaii this fall.



Photos special to SW Rankin News

RHS cheerleaders Isa Alvarado, Anecia Robinson, and Hanna Armstrong, were awarded the Pin It Forward Award. This award is given to a UCA cheerleader that is recognized for a quality that makes them stand out at the camp.

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	FUNERAL HOME
Elizabeth Ann Atkins	74y	Florence, MS	07/28/2023	Chancellor FH
John Martin	53y	Florence, MS	07/31/2023	Chancellor FH
Lisa Rickels Pace	56y	Florence, MS	08/01/2023	Chancellor FH
Clara Nell Mancil	89y	Richland, MS	08/07/2023	Chancellor FH
Betty Renfroe	94y	Florence, MS	08/08/2023	Chancellor FH
Jacob Pearson	43y	Canton, MS	08/10/2023	Chancellor FH
Sue Sims	84y	Pearl, MS	08/10/2023	Chancellor FH
Martha Dansby	83y	Braxton, MS	08/12/2023	Chancellor FH
Joel Lesley	81y	Terry, MS	08/12/2023	Chancellor FH
Jo Ann White	83y	Florence, MS	08/14/2023	Chancellor FH
Jack Dunning	73y	Florence, MS	08/16/2023	Chancellor FH
Robert Bryan	76y	Richland, MS	08/18/2023	Chancellor FH
Gerald Dungan	76y	Florence, MS	08/20/2023	Chancellor FH
Sarah Frances Miles	77y	Crystal Springs, MS	08/24/2023	Chancellor FH
E. W. Grantham	91y	Florence, MS	08/24/2023	Chancellor FH
Leonard Earl Odom	87y	Florence, MS	08/25/2023	Chancellor FH
Jay Q. Bearden	79y	Richland, MS	08/27/2023	Chancellor FH
Betty Todd	90y	Florence, MS	08/30/2023	Chancellor FH

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Buddy Walk celebrates Down Syndrome Awareness Month

Special to SW Rankin News

The 21st Annual Central Mississippi Buddy Walk is scheduled to be held on October 14, at Trustmark Park in Pearl. Over 1,500 participants (i.e., people with Down syndrome from the state, their families, friends, teachers, coworkers, and other supporters) attend this event, forming teams in honor of “buddies” with developmental disabilities.

in 1995 to nearly 300 walks today. Each year, more than \$12 million is raised across the country and around the world to support local programs and services, as well as national advocacy and public awareness initiatives of NDSS that benefit all individuals with Down syndrome.

The mission of CMDSS is to provide support, education, and advocacy for people with Down syndrome, their families, and communities



In addition to the Buddy Walk, the event includes games, lunch, and entertainment, as well as a basket raffle.

The Buddy Walk® is one of over 250 Buddy Walk® events planned in cities across the country and in select international locations this fall. It was developed by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) to promote acceptance and inclusion of all people with Down syndrome.

At 10 a.m., the Buddy Walk opening ceremony will begin, which features adults with Down syndrome, followed by the Walk ceremony. This year's event will celebrate “buddies” or individuals with Down syndrome with a carnival theme “Buddies Under the Bigtop.” Throughout the Buddy Walk, participants will have the opportunity to visit Info Alley, grab a bite to eat, hang out in Entertainment Alley for face painting, temporary tattoos, games and much more.

The Buddy Walk® was developed by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) in 1995 to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October and to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome. The Buddy Walk® has grown from seventeen walks

across Central Mississippi. Their vision is for a community where people with Down syndrome have limitless opportunities and the ability to pursue their dreams.

The new CMDSS Buddy Center opened in August 2022 offering resources, activities and a place of belonging for individuals with Down syndrome and their families. It's the first center of its kind in Mississippi and will make the mission of CMDSS even more accessible to the families and individuals they serve.

The vision for the Buddy Center is to offer a space to foster community and provide a place of belonging, all where those with Down syndrome are provided limitless opportunities and the ability to pursue their dreams. Individuals and families will be provided a support network to access free resources and programming provided by CMDSS.

Trustmark Park is located at 1 Braves Boulevard in Pearl.

Participants may pre-register for no cost at www.cmdssbuddywalk.com. There will be a fee for day-of registration.

For more information, contact Jenny Babl of the Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society at 601-385-3696 or Jenny@cmdss.org.

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A Street Cat Called Bob and How He Saved My Life, by Bowen and Jenkins

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

The cover of James Bowen’s book, *A Street Cat Called Bob, and How He Saved My Life*, published in 2012, was just too intriguing to pass up. Twenty-nine-year-old James Bowen was a recovering heroin addict in early 2007, when he first spotted the scroungy-looking ginger tom cat sitting in front of a flat’s door on the second floor of his government-supported apartment building.

The next morning, the cat was still there, and, that evening, James asked about the cat. The man opening the door didn’t know and didn’t care; so, James took the cat all the way up to the fifth floor (no elevator) and began tending his wounds, giving him food out of the little he had. James was a recovering heroin addict and street musician, licensed to play and sing in certain areas of London--a hand-to-mouth existence.

In their first week together, James realized he and “Bob,” as he named the cat, were much alike in having had some tough life experiences, such as “living rough” on the streets of London.

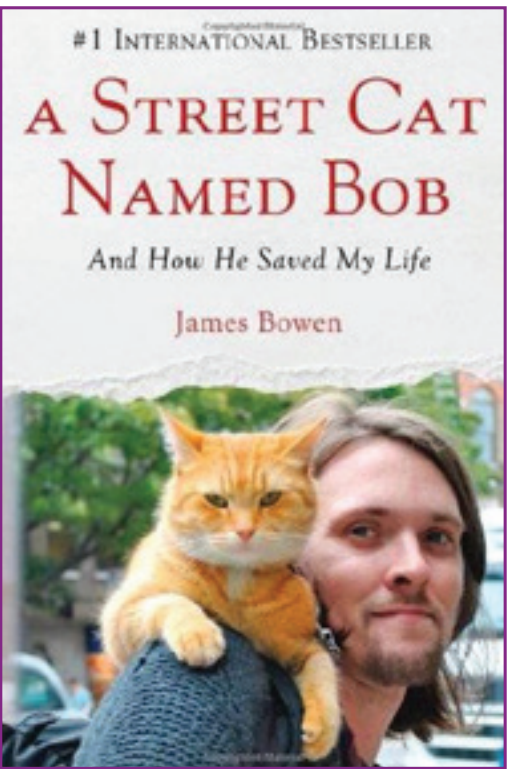
James was born in England but had lived in Australia for some time with his mother. Due to family problems, he moved back to London at age seventeen to see if he could become a recording star.

Forming a band and recording two CDs, which did little on the charts, convinced him he wasn’t going to make it; but he had his guitar. He got his license and became a “busker,” playing for money in Covent Garden and Piccadilly Circus. He made enough to get by.

Worried about Bob, he took the cat to a free veterinary clinic to have his wound and scratches treated. James then made a little extra money and bought some cat food and cat milk. Cats are lactose intolerant, but special “cat” milk doesn’t upset their stomachs. In a few weeks, Bob’s ginger fur was beautiful and healthy, and James decided to take him with him instead of leaving him in the flat.

Bob really enjoyed this excursion into the heart of London---sitting on James’ shoulder as they first walked, then rode a double-decker bus.

Once in Covent Garden, James



opened his guitar case, so people passing by could toss their coins into it---if they liked his music---and Bob curled up in the open case or sat up watching everyone. That first day, James took home three times as much money as he usually made!

James and Bob became well-known; James no longer felt invisible when he was with Bob. Many Londoners and tourists got to know Bob, took his photo, uploaded them onto YouTube, and gave a little extra because of Bob’s personality—he was definitely a charmer.

James took him to the free clinic to be neutered and no longer worried that Bob would run off and be injured again in a cat fight. He also had Bob microchipped, making it “official” that he and Bob were family.

In time, James, who had to see the Methadone-treatment doctor every two weeks in order to get his Methadone from a pharmacy every day, decided it was time to get off his dependence on any drug—to be clean again after ten long years.

His doctor at the free clinic wrote a prescription for his final dose of Methadone. Withdrawal lasted forty excruciating hours, and Bob was there with him in the apartment, helping him get through all of it; the hallucinations, shaking, wild temperature swings, vomiting! James credited taking responsibility for Bob with saving his own life, and he never went back to drugs.



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EEOC Compliance: Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion , Box 1100 Raymond MS 39154; Phone: 601-857-3458 or Email: EEOC@hindscc.edu.

Title IX: Associate Vice President Student Services, Title IX Coordinator , Box 1100 Raymond MS 39154; Phone: 601-857-3353 or Email: TitleIX@hindscc.edu.

Florence's Tullos receives Rural Physicians Scholarship

Special to SW Rankin News

Ethan Lee Tullos, Florence native and first year medical student, was recently awarded the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship at the annual scholarship ceremony in Jackson for his medical training at the William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Tullos is the son of Jimmy and Marilyn Tullos. The scholarship was presented by Mis-

six primary care specialties: family medicine, general internal medicine, pediatrics, medicine-pediatrics, psychiatry, or obstetrics/gynecology. The MRPSP Scholar must provide four years of service in a clinic-based practice in an approved Mississippi community of 15,000 or fewer population located more than twenty miles from a medically served area.

MRPSP provides a means for rural Mississippi students to earn a



Special to SW Rankin News

Ethan Lee Tullos

issippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program Commission Member Emeritus Dr. Lucius Lampton.

Created in 2007, the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program (MRPSP) is designed to provide more primary care physicians in rural areas of Mississippi. During medical school, each MRPSP scholar receives \$35,000 per year based on available funding. Consistent legislative support of the MRPSP translates to sixty-two medical students receiving a total of \$2,170,000 to support their education this fall. In addition to legislative support, three privately funded scholarships are also awarded this year from the Madison Charitable Foundation, the Selby and Richard McRae Foundation, and the Medical Assurance Company of Mississippi. Other benefits include personalized mentoring from practicing rural physicians and academic support.

Upon completion of medical school, MRPSP scholars must enter a residency program in one of

seat in medical school and to earn a \$140,000 medical school scholarship in return for four years of service and learn the art of healing from practicing rural physicians.

The Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program and the Mississippi Rural Dentists Scholarship Program were formed to increase the number of physicians and dentists serving the health-care needs of Mississippians in rural areas. Housed at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, and collaborating with its schools of medicine and dentistry and the College of Osteopathic Medicine at William Carey University in Hattiesburg, the programs use various outreach, mentoring and training methods to identify, support, educate and deploy new generations of health-care workers for Mississippi's underserved populations.

To learn more about either program, visit www.umc.edu/Office of Academic Affairs/For-Students/Academic Outreach Programs/Academic Outreach Programs.html.



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Pearl Public School District Child Find Publicity Campaign

Pearl Public School District needs your assistance as we continue to participate in the Statewide Child Find effort to identify, locate, and evaluate children who are in need of special education and related services. This identification includes individuals from birth to twenty-one who are disabled regardless of severity of the disability. Once you or other concerned persons in the area make a referral to our office, it is my responsibility as Child Find Coordinator to insure that the Referral-to-Placement procedures required by the State of Mississippi are followed. The first and most important step in that process is to meet with the parents to gather a history and to obtain permission for assessment.

Special Education services are provided for students ruled eligible in one of the categories listed below: Specific Learning Disability, Traumatic Brain Injury, Hearing Impairment, Multi-Disability, Development Delay, Emotional Disability, Educational Disability, Visual Impairment, Deaf/Blind Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Autism, and Language /Speech.

Your help in identifying children with needs in any of these areas has been greatly appreciated, and we ask for your continued support. Please call or write me personally to make a referral or have the parents contact me to schedule an appointment. In addition, we kindly ask that you display the enclosed Child Find flyer at your center.

As the community works together, children who need help can be identified early and will have a greater chance for a productive, successful life.

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Special Services Director

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Herd brings creative energy to MHS as new art teacher

Special to SW Rankin News

Lydia Denise Herd was recently welcomed to McLaurin High School (MHS) as the art teacher for ninth through twelfth grade. She will be teaching Art I, II, III, and IV. This will be her twenty-first-year teaching art education. Art is her passion, which she expresses by sharing her knowledge of all forms of art while encouraging students to grow in their techniques, challenge their thought process, and “Think outside the Box” in creating art. This year, students will focus on the value of how art is connected by all subjects and understanding the concepts by creating art.

The following are a few highlights of the upcoming year for MHS’s art students: creating art for local veterans; “The Empty Bowl” project - a community service project for a local food bank; making homemade paper from recycled materials; a photography lesson; a string art project; wet and needle felting; graffiti wall art; batik painting; and a floral study. There will also be a focus on artist techniques in their birthday months for art history.

Herd’s goal is to “Bring creative, energetic



Special to SW Rankin News

Lydia Denise Herd

energy in my class by enlightening students about past cultures, how art is used in everyday life, the beauty of works of art, and knowledge of artists of all eras. I also feel very proud and humble to support our military and Veterans with sharing patriotism in my everyday classroom in providing my students with different outreach programs through the community during the school year.”

She is a seventeen-year member of Twin City Ballet Company of Monroe, Louisiana; a past Twin City Ballet Board member; she implemented the Veteran's Day programs in Richland Parish, Louisiana; she directed school wide programs for Veterans' Day and Christmas programs; and she also conducted University of Louisiana at Monroe Summer Art Workshop for Special Education.

Herd is married to Brandon Herd, the Senior Army Instructor JROTC at Pelahatchie High School. She is a mother to three sons, Harrison, Austin, and Hampton. She loves plants and flowers, repurposing furniture by painting, watching home decorating shows, and spending time on the water.



“Word Seed”

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

“Not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” ...it is on the basis of that truth that we do what we do. Without that one truth we could not with confidence evangelize the lost.

How unwilling is God that none perish and all come to repentance? God is so unwilling that none perish and all come to repentance that He gave His only Son to die for all mankind even though all of mankind has sinned: **“But God commended His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”** God is so unwilling that any perish that He chose to love us when we didn’t love Him: **“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and gave Himself to be the propitiation for our sins.”** God is so unwilling that any perish that He made salvation simple by providing one Savior....not a multiplicity of options and alternatives. There are not seven or seventeen...just one: **“Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved.”** God is so unwilling that any perish that He made salvation available to all and excluded none: **“And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”** God is so unwilling that any perish and all come to repentance that He made Salvation “faith-based” rather than “works-based”. **“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”**

How unwilling is God that none perish? God is so unwilling that any perish and all come to repentance that He placed within every person the faith needed to believe and trust in Jesus and His shed blood as the payment and atonement for our sin. **“God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”** God is so unwilling that any perish that He provided His Word to teach us about His love, our sin and His salvation. **“Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”** God is so unwilling that any perish and all come to repentance that He sent the Holy Spirit to convict/convince us of our need for Christ and to draw us to Him: **“And when He (the Holy Spirit) is come, He will reprove/convict/convince the world of sin, righteousness and judgement.”** No wonder the song writer wrote: *Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!* Know this today: God loves you so much-regardless of how conflicted your life is, how un-loveable, how unacceptable and how unworthy you feel....God loves you with an unconditional love!

Now, in conclusion, the question that every one of usthat all of us must answer is: **How Unwilling Are We That None Perish And All Come To Repentance? What will we do....how far will we go to keep one person from living and dying without God?**

Underwood Selected as Ole Miss Women's Council Scholar

Special to SW Rankin News

Nate Underwood of Pearl has been awarded the Christine Hickonbottom Council Scholarship - one of the largest and most innovative awards on the University of Mississippi campus.

The \$40,000 Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy scholarships have a far greater impact on students' lives than just providing them with financial assistance, said Suzan Thames, chair of the OMWC.

"Our scholarship recipients receive access to caring guidance from mentors, significant training in leadership skills, exceptional life and career development, and meaningful personal development through travel and cultural opportunities," Thames said. "OMWC's goal is to successfully prepare our scholars for exceptional lives and careers, while encouraging them to develop a lifelong commitment to service."

"The OMWC is thrilled to welcome Nate Underwood as one of our incoming first-year scholars."

OMWC scholars participate in a series of leadership symposiums using the philosophy of servant leadership as the core curriculum. Recipients are expected to participate as leaders in campuswide organizations and as OMWC speakers at special events.

Scholars also gather monthly for a dinner hosted by council members, where guest speakers provide advice and guid-



Special to SW Rankin News

Nate Underwood

ance on life and careers in a comfortable, informal setting, in addition to weekly nonacademic classes on various topics in leadership, philanthropy, communications and service opportunities.

As a scholarship recipient, Underwood can also apply for Global Leadership Circle support from the OMWC, which provides assistance to those who want to study abroad or pursue internships on the national and international level.

The OMWC was established 23 years ago at the university. An accomplished council of female leaders and philanthropists has secured almost \$20 million to endow scholarships awarded to both male and female students. The carefully designed program is producing a strong circle of leadership, mentorship and philanthropy.

Rankin County Juvenile Justice Center honors Judge Thomas Broome

Special to SW Rankin News

Rankin County authorities recently honored the legacy of the late Youth Court Judge Thomas H. Broome, announcing that the building where he worked to protect the lives and well-being of children now bears his name.

The Rankin County Board of Supervisors on July 14 adopted a resolution changing the name of the Rankin County Juvenile Justice Center in Pelahatchie to the Thomas H. Broome Juvenile Justice Center. On July 28, the Board, Judge Broome's family, judges, court staff,

and retired County Court Judge Kent McDaniel. Judge Broome was an innovator who constantly looked for ways to better serve the children who came under his care.

"They are available to you and your children and your grandchildren because of what Tom Broome has done," Judge Morrow told those attending the ceremony.

The Rankin County Board of Supervisors in its resolution honoring the life and service of Judge Broome said his "incredibly profound legacy will be felt for generations." The Board said, "Judge Broome was a genuinely kind man who loved

people and sought their greater good. Tom loved his fellow public servants, the youth court staff, and Tom loved his role as a steadfast protector of the disadvantaged and troubled youth of Rankin County. Tom was full of compassion for the less fortunate and he made time, day or night, for anyone who required his help. Tom's larger than life presence, personality, leadership ability, legal acumen and love for people will be greatly missed."

Board Attorney Craig Slay, who read the resolution at the ceremony, noted that Judge Broome also had a talent for finding federal funds and grants to help pay for some of the innovative programs that benefitted Rankin County children and families. That was music to the ears of the Board of Supervisors.

Judge Broome founded the Rankin County Juvenile Drug Court in 2006, and he started one of the state's two earliest family drug court programs in 2010. He established a Safe Babies Court Team for Rankin County

in July 2015 - the second in the state. He implemented the state's second Zero to Three program, giving intensive services to children from birth to age three. He helped lead a movement to provide legal representation to parents in youth court. When the program started in 2012, one county in the state paid for lawyers to represent indigent parents in Youth Court;



Judge Thomas Broome's family surround his portrait as his wife, Paula Broome, right of portrait, unveils the picture.

today about 40 percent of the counties provide some level of representation. A dog stood in the courtroom before the ceremony began. Judge Broome introduced therapy dogs to comfort the children.

Judge Broome was instrumental in building the facility that now bears his name. The court moved into the facility in 2011.

Judge Morrow said, "Tom Broome breathed life into this building, every fiber of this building." Gesturing to the Youth Court staff standing facing the audience, he said, "His heart still beats today through the staff... This is the heartbeat of the Rankin County Youth Court, and it all comes from Tom Broome."

Youth Court Administrator Julie Thompson said, "We had some hard days out here without him. He was our family and we love him. He's still here. He has taught his staff well.

We will continue to work every day making sure the children of Rankin County are OK."

Resident Jurist John Hudson of Natchez said Judge Broome "loved the families and children that he served and always sought to do right by them." He worked to deliver justice for all who came before him. He was the embodiment of Micah 6:8: "and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

He also worked to bring about improvements for the juvenile justice system across the state and at the national level, Judge Hudson said. For instance, he helped develop a risk assessment instrument to help those in charge of juvenile detention to determine who had to be detained, and



Rankin County Court Judge David Morrow, at left, speaks at the July 28 ceremony honoring the late Judge Thomas Broome. Retired County Court Judge Kent McDaniel, at right, is master of ceremonies.

who should not be.

Throughout his career, he was a regular visitor to the Legislature, pushing for changes that would benefit children. "So much of the progress that has been made has been because of his hard work," Judge Hudson said.

Judge Broome served as a board member and later as secretary to the National Council of Juvenile

Continued on page 15



Photos special to SW Rankin News

The Rankin County Board of Supervisors, at left, and Judge Thomas Broome's family, at right, stand by the newly posted sign outside the Thomas H. Broome Juvenile Justice Center in Pelahatchie on Friday, July 28.

law enforcement and friends packed the courtroom to honor the life and service of Judge Broome. Paula Broome, Judge Broome's wife, unveiled a portrait in the courtroom.

Judge Broome died on May 21. He was fifty-seven.

The programs which Judge Broome developed and the resources which he made available to Rankin County children during his twenty years as Youth Court judge are a model unmatched in the state, said Rankin County Court Judge David Morrow

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MFC approves county-wide burn bans in regions 3 and 4

Rankin County Chamber hosting “Pass the Gavel” breakfast in Pearl

Special to SW Rankin News

In August, the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) approved eighteen county-wide burn bans, effective immediately. Burn bans are voted on by County Boards of Supervisors and then approved by MFC. The agency approved seven burn bans in Region 3 for Covington, Jasper, Jones, Rankin, Simpson, Smith, and Wayne Counties. Eleven burn bans were approved for Region 4 in Adams, Amite, Franklin, Hancock, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Lincoln, Marion, Pearl River, Pike, and Walthall Counties.

“Typically, wildfires pick up in Mississippi in September and October, but we are seeing earlier activity due to very dry, hot, and windy weather conditions,” said MFC State Forester Russell Bozeman.

The MFC approved the burn bans due to increased wildfire activity, elevated drought conditions, dry vegetation, and forecasted weather patterns. The current seven-day forecast does not predict significant rainfall large enough to pull the state out of the current drought.

“Since August 1, MFC wildland firefighters have responded to more than 150 wildfire calls across the state that have burned nearly 3,500 acres,” Bozeman said. “Because of the lack of rainfall, the



Rankin County is under burn ban notice as of August 15 and until further notice, no exemptions.

state has seen over the past month, and the current forecast, the threat of wildfire is elevated across the state.”

A burn ban means no outdoor burning of any kind. Under state law, anyone caught burning during a burn ban may be fined up to \$500. Individuals are also responsible for any damage caused by the flame or smoke from a fire they set. Even if your county is not under a burn ban, it is still essential to refrain from burning outdoors under the current weather conditions.

For more information about active burn bans, visit www.mfc.ms.gov/burning-info/burn-bans/, or like and follow @MSForestryComm on Facebook and Twitter.

rankinchamber OUR COUNTRY. YOUR BUSINESS. SINCE 1968.	OCT 06	PASS THE GAVEL
	OCT 12	CHAMBER CONNECTIONS Chamber Partner Luncheon
	NOV 09	CHAMBER CONNECTIONS Chamber Partner Luncheon
	DEC 01	LET IT GLOW! KICKOFF
	FEB 9 - 10	5TH ANNUAL KREWE DE ROUX


Special to SW Rankin News

Join Rankin County Chamber on Friday, October 6, at the Clyde Muse Center in Pearl, for their Pass the Gavel breakfast. Running from 8:30 a.m. until 10 a.m. this event is the Chamber’s annual member celebration, as well as the new 2023 - 2024 Board of Directors’ welcome ceremony. Table and attendee tickets will be available for purchase soon, so visit www.rankinchamber.com

for their 2023 calendar of events, including updates on their annual Krewe de Roux. Information such as specific times and locations for each of their events is continuously being updated, so check back often.

The Clyde Muse Center is located at 515 Country Place Parkway in Pearl.


For more information, contact the Rankin County Chamber at 601-825-2268 or information@rankinchamber.com.



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MSFA EMS Bureau: Six firefighters earn EMT advanced certifications

Special to SW Rankin News

Six firefighters from the Brandon, Madison, and Richland Fire Departments completed the Mississippi State Fire Academy's (MSFA) Advanced Emergency Medical Technician Course (EMT-A). The EMT-A Certification is the next step towards achieving Paramedic.

Matthew Watson of Richland Fire Department completed the thirteen-week course led by MSFA EMS Bureau Instructor Gary Huhn. This program is for firefighters who have already completed the Emergency Medical Technician-Basic Program. The EMT-A provides skillsets of advanced emergency medical care for patients who require emergency medical services. Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians function as part of a comprehensive EMS response and possess the training and skills to perform life-saving interventions. The MSFA's EMT-A program is designed to prepare the student for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician's Advanced EMT Certification exam.

Instructor Huhn, along with the MSFA, say they are proud of these firefighters. "This course takes dedication and hard work. These firefighters were taking this class eight hours each day for thirteen weeks, while simultaneously working their regular shifts at their fire department" said Huhn.



Special to SW Rankin News

Mississippi State Fire Academy's Advanced Emergency Medical Technician Course Class photo. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Instructor Rickey Lee, Instructor Gary Huhn, Firefighter John Arterberry, Firefighter Jeff Allen, Instructor Charles Weathersby, Instructor Chief Rob Fisher; and back row: Firefighter Daniel Mabus, Firefighter William Sekul, Firefighter Matthew Watson and Firefighter Weston Stewart.

Firefighters desiring to further their career through the EMS Bureau should contact the EMS Bureau at MSFAMed@msfa.ms.gov.

The MSFA is currently enrolling students into the EMT-Basic Program, with classes starting in October 2023 and early 2024.

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Richland-Florence Garden Club celebrates “End of Summer”



Richland-Florence Garden Club (RFGC) recently celebrated an “End of Summer” party at the Richland Community Center August 3. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Glenda Scoggins and Annajeral Knight; and back row: Susan Harrison, Debbie Knight, Gaynell Ainsworth, Shirley Wilson, Rowan Craft, Beverly Hemphill, Susie Gullledge, Elizabeth Hawthorne, Marie Phillips, Lynne Wynne, Rita Wigal, Minetta Veasey, Carol Azzone, Linda Stringer and Perrie Paul (photographer). The RFGC is a member of the Natchez Trace District, the Garden Clubs of Mississippi, and federated with the National Garden Club, Inc.



Door prize winners (left to right):
Lynn Wynne, Rita Wigal, Susan Harrison



RFGC Officers 2023-2024 (left to right): Annajeral Knight, Pres.; Linda Stringer, Corresponding Sec.; Rita Wigal, Recording Sec.; Minetta Veasey, Vice Pres.; Susan Harrison, Treas.

Photos special to SW Rankin News

Continued from Page 12

RCJJC renamed, honors judge

and Family Court Judges. He was fondly remembered at a recent national meeting, where the incoming Council president spoke of Judge Broome’s helpful mentoring, Judge Hudson said.

“Tom was my best friend, and, when I think of him now, joy comes to me always,” Judge Hudson said. “He would always lift my spirits.”

Judge Broome’s self-deprecating humor lightened a room or broke tension. He once quipped about his power as a judge, saying “Everyone knows that I carry more weight than any other judge in Mississippi.” For those who never met him, Judge Broome was a big man.

Working together for many years, Judges Broome and Hudson always bantered over the Mississippi State-Ole Miss rivalry. Judge Broome graduated with highest honors from Mississippi State University with a degree in mechanical engineering before earning a law degree from Mississippi College School of Law. Judge Hudson, a University of Mississippi Law graduate, made an extreme concession at the ceremony, hoisting and clanging a cowbell. Then he put it down with a gesture like he had touched something unpleasant.



A decal that is placed on all their fire trucks and Carl Schram has in his office. It lists the names of the nineteen firefighters who were lost from his fire station, eleven from Hazardous Materials Company #1 and eight from Squad 288.

All who spoke at the ceremony agreed that renaming the building was the best possible way to honor Judge Broome – and that he would have disapproved. He did not seek accolades or honors. But he would have loved the fellowship of the gathering and a shared meal. The Rankin County Bar Association spread a barbecue lunch afterwards.

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