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SWRANKIN NEWS

Good News You Can Use

Vol. 8, No. 04 | April 2023

The Pearl News

THE NEWS
RICHLAND

THE FLORENCE NEWS

2023 Pearl Day Concert to feature country star Carly Pearce

Special to The Pearl News

Mayor Jake Windham recently announced that country star Carly Pearce will be the headliner for the 2023 Pearl Day Concert, a celebration of the city's fiftieth birthday. The concert will take place Saturday, May 6, in the north lot of Trustmark Park. The concert will also include performances by Travis Denning and Ben Burgess. This year's show will feature free admission, and all attendees will receive a commemorative ticket as they enter.

"We are thrilled to have a rising star in Carly Pearce coming to celebrate our fiftieth year as a city," said Mayor Windham. "It will be an awesome night, as both Travis Denning and Ben Burgess will bring great music and high energy to get the show rolling."

GRAMMY® Award-winning singer/songwriter Carly Pearce's debut album *Every Little Thing* and the platinum-cer-



tified history-making title track, "I Hope You're Happy Now" with Lee Brice, won both the 2020 CMA Awards Musi-

cal Event and 2021 ACM Awards Music Event, plus ACM Single of the Year.

Pearce picked up her second consecutive ACM Music Event of the Year in 2022 with McBryde duet "Never Wanted to be that Girl," Pearce's third number one hit. The song also took home 2022 CMA Musical Event of the Year and won a GRAMMY® Award for Best Country Duo/Group Performance, marking Pearce's first and making history as the first female pairing to win in the category.

The Grand Ole Opry and Kentucky Music Hall of Fame member joins Blake Shelton's "Back to The Honky Tonk Tour" throughout the spring. She has also been honored as one of CMT's 2022 Artists of The Year, the 2021 CMA Female Vocalist of the Year and reigning ACM Awards Female Artist of the Year.

Pearce released her critically-acclaimed and commercially-lauded album *29: Written in Stone (Live from Music City)*, on March 24 via Big Machine Records.

Travis Denning is a singer/songwriter and Mercury Nashville recording artist who just released his "clever kiss-off" (*Billboard*) and "wickedly fun good-riddance anthem" (*People Magazine*) "Abby."

Ben Burgess landed his first career cut with Jonas Brothers' "Chillin' in the Summertime." Burgess' debut album, *Tears the Size of Texas*, is available now.

Parking is free of charge, and the concert will be open seating, first-come, first-serve.

Gates will open at 5 p.m., with the concert starting at 6 p.m.

Attendees are encouraged to bring collapsible outdoor chairs or blankets to enjoy the show. A list of prohibited items will be available at CityOfPearl.com under "City Events."

Mississippi 811 announces a passing of the torch

By Alexa Haik

The Mississippi 811 (MS811) Board of Directors recently announced that Fred Johnson will replace Sam Johnson as President of the organization. Located in Pearl, MS811, Inc. is a non-profit underground utility notification service center which establishes a statewide communications link between those who dig (excavators) and those who own and operate underground facilities (operators) in Mississippi. Fred Johnson previously held the title of operations/ human resources director. His transition to president follows Sam Johnson's announced of his retirement effective March 1, after thirty-nine years of service.

The Mississippi One Call System, or what has come to be known as MS811, was Sam Johnson's brainchild. In the early days, Sam worked for the Mississippi Public Service Commission in

the Pipeline Safety Division. Part of his duties required travelling to Oklahoma City for training. While there, he became acquainted with the one call system.

After becoming familiar with this type of notification network, Sam was convinced that Mississippi would benefit immeasurably by it. He sent correspondences to all of the utility companies he had in a database at that time to see if any of them would express an interest. As a result, approximately forty utility companies responded.

Sam followed with a second meeting, where a research committee was formed. Their purpose was to visit one call centers around the nation and report back with their findings. As a result, the "Mississippi One Call System" was born, and a nonprofit status charter for the company was created. Forty members quickly grew to 500 members. They have since grown to 1,053 members.



Special to The Pearl News

MS811 President Fred Johnson

In the interim, a State law was established under Mississippi Code of 1972, Chapter 13, Sections 77-13-1 through 77-13-23 that requires excavators, con-

tractors, builders and private citizens who are going to drill, blast, dig and/or bore to notify Mississippi 811, Inc. prior to any of these activities in order to prevent damage to underground facilities, injury and death to citizens and the curtailment of vital services.

The newly-elected MS811 president, Fred Johnson, has since selected Mike Morgan to replace him as operations/ human resources director. Morgan is a previous board member who brings with him many years of experience in supervisory positions with state and national utility companies.

Fred explains that, "We have got a great staff, our management team does a great job, [and I] just wanted to make sure we keep things flowing smoothly and keep providing the services that we have provided for a long time."

Morgan started his new position with MS811 on April 5.

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Richland High School earns 2023 High School Governor's Award

By Alexa Haik

Mississippi Association of Partners in Education (MAPE) recently recognized Mississippi's top school-community partnerships during the 21st annual Governor's Awards Celebration.

MAPE awarded a total of twenty-five school-community partnership programs that have produced outstanding results for students in K-12 public schools throughout Mississippi. Richland High School and Community Partners (a.k.a. the RHS Fire Academy) were among the twenty-five receiving the 2023 High School Governor's Award.

The RHS Fire Academy is an exclusive partnership between Richland High School and the City of Richland that originated as an after-school program in 2016 under the leadership of Principal William Sutton.

This year, there were fourteen students enrolled in the Fire Academy. Those students received instruction on many requisite firefighting skills and quali-

cations, including search and rescue techniques with first aid, the use of equipment such as the jaws of life, hands-on skills using firefighting tools and fire trucks, as well as rappelling techniques. Students were also instructed on equipment, gear, and truck management.

Those who matriculate through the fire academy and ultimately graduate from Richland High School (RHS) are immediately qualified to enter the Mississippi State Fire Academy. Additionally, these students will be duly prepared for other first responder jobs, as the skills acquired in the fire academy transfer well to those positions.

Dr. Marcus Stewart, the head principal of RHS, says this collaboration is designed to be a long-term commitment between the school and the City.

"We certainly anticipate this partnership lasting for many years to come," because the ultimate goal of the partnership "is to develop the long-term vision for the



Special to The Richland News

RHS Fire Academy is a partnership between Richland High School and the City of Richland.

fire academy, considering the needs of the students and the city" and to "secure resources to ensure RHS fire academy students are exposed to the equipment and resources to fit the current and future needs of the profession."

Stewart says receiving the 2023 MAPE

Award is not only an honor, it is validation of the fruits of their labor.

"Any time we receive recognition of this magnitude, it's humbling. We are appreciative. Honestly, the level of expectation is so high that everyone expects to receive these accolades and recognitions. The students work hard and are invested."

It turns out, the benefits of this collaboration have far exceeded anything that could have been anticipated. Just this past year alone, two RHS students were employed by the city of Richland. Over the past years, the academy has been responsible for producing students who have entered the military and law and other emergency response fields.

MAPE President David Scommer agrees, "Our 2023 Governor's Award winners are truly making a difference in their community. They exemplify what can be achieved in Mississippi, through effective collaboration with community partners. Congratulations to all of our award winners!"

RecME provides recreation, mentoring, education to those in need

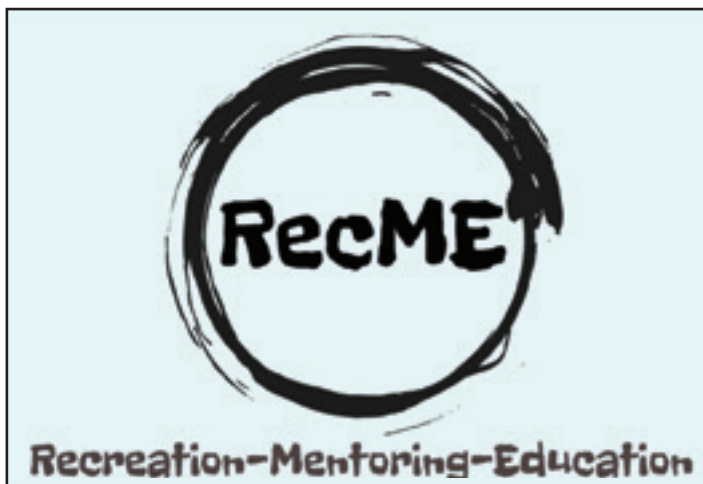
Special to The Richland News

Richland resident and Mrs. Mississippi America winner for 2019, Virginia Miller, established RecME in 2018. The Richland non-profit was originally conceived to make a difference in the lives of individuals, no matter their socioeconomic background or education.

"As members of a small community from a diverse background, we invest in people from all walks of life — giving them an opportunity to reach their fullest potential...through recreation, mentoring, and education," said Miller.

From her humble beginnings, Miller was inspired to create the organization by the experiences she had and the things she learned growing up.

Miller knew that she would have to



find her own way if she wanted a college education. Thankfully, she was able to participate in recreational activities that allowed her that opportunity. After teaching and coaching for many years, she

realized how vital playing recreational sports was to her. Not only did she develop a love of sports, she learned the value of teamwork, leadership, and healthy competition.



Virginia Miller

Special to The Richland News

RecME provides not only sponsorship opportunities for those in need (registration fees, sporting gear, etc.), it also provides two scholarships a year - not necessarily for the students with the highest GPA or the ones who receive the athletic scholarships, but for the student who works hard, enjoys participating in recreational sports, and gives of his or her time for others - no matter the socioeconomic background or education.

To learn more about volunteers, scholarships and sponsorships, or to access applications online visit www.OfficialMSPageants.wixsite.com/recme.

RecME is located at 309 A Monterey Road in Richland. For more information, call 601-594-0485, or email recme_scholarship_program@hotmail.com.

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Clark named finalist for MS Administrator of the Year

Special to The Florence News

Florence Elementary School Principal Amanda Clark is in the running to be awarded a \$5,000 stipend and be named the Mississippi Administrator of the Year.

Recently, the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) announced the finalists for the 2023 Mississippi Administrator of the Year, and Clark is now one of only four vying for the honor.

Clark, who is the Congressional District 3 finalist, notes that her personal philosophy includes the ideal that “every student and staff member should feel important, included, loved, and achieve academic success.”

Under Clark’s leadership, Florence Elementary was named a National Blue Ribbon School last fall. The coveted award given by the United States Department of Education recognizes schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

In 2021, Clark, who became head prin-



Special to The Florence News

In December 2022, FES Principal Amanda Clark was named the Rankin County School District’s overall Administrator of the Year. Clark has since been named one of four finalists for the Mississippi Administrator of the Year award given by the Mississippi Department of Education.

cipal of Florence Elementary School in 2018, was named Rankin County School District’s Elementary Administrator of

the Year, and, in 2022, she was chosen as the District’s overall Administrator of the Year. In addition, Clark currently serves on the MDE State Superintendent’s Principal Advisory Council, which provides direct input to the State Superintendent of Education about important issues in Mississippi schools.

The Mississippi Administrator of the Year Program (MAOY) recognizes outstanding achievement and performance by Mississippi school administrators and brings effective administrative practices to the attention of others. Those eligible for the award include elementary and secondary school principals and vocational-technical directors.

Each school district in the state is allowed one entry for the program. From all entries, the top sixteen candidates, four from each congressional district, are identified. Those sixteen are then sent to a selection committee, which narrows the candidates down to the finalists - one per congressional district.

To be eligible, an administrator must have at least three years’ experience as an administrator; must be a full-time certified K-12 administrator employed in a state-accredited Mississippi public school as a building elementary or secondary principal, assistant principal, career and technical education director or alternative school director; and must have plans to continue in an active administrator status at the building-level the following year.

The recipient will receive a \$5,000 stipend and will serve as an ambassador for the teaching and leading profession, as well as a spokesperson for leaders and administrators. The MAOY is also asked to share expertise through various presentations, professional development, and activities for the improvement of education in the state.

The Mississippi Administrator of the Year for 2023 will be announced on April 28 at the Jackson Convention Complex in Jackson.

Nationally-recognized fine art photography duo returns to Florence

Special to The Florence News

Florence natives Jason and Amanda Ray, the fine art photography duo known as “Double Negative” and recent Mississippi Arts Commission FY2023 Mini Grant award winners, originally left Mississippi in their twenties in pursuit of their interest and passion for the arts. Initially moving to Austin, Texas, they also resided in Colorado and Oregon before returning to the Florence area. This time, the move was motivated by practical reasons - to settle down, to buy a house, and to be closer to family.

Their roots to the Florence area run deep.

Amanda Ray’s family has resided in the Florence area for several generations. Boteler Road off Highway 469 in Florence is named for her family and is where her mother and grandfather reside to this day.

Jason Ray’s family has lived in the Cleary Heights area of Florence since the

early nineties. Both attended Florence High School, Jason being four years Amanda’s senior. They were married at Mynelle Gardens in October of 2007.

Ever since then, they have been experimenting with digital photography. In the beginning stages of their collaboration, the Rays spent countless hours “obsessing over the glory and grandeur of the ‘old school Hollywood days’ when movies were made on real film...[and] we wondered if this would translate to photography as well. We decided to get a film camera in late 2019...[and] when we got our photos back from our very first photo-shoot from Cedar Hill Cemetery in Vicksburg, we knew that film was something special and was light years ahead of what we could ever get from digital photography.”

And *Vogue Italia* agreed - the very first



Special to The Florence News

Jason and Amanda Ray

photograph they ever took on film was featured in the European publication, validating their belief that they had “finally

found our niche.”

Now enjoying the fruits of their labor, Jason says that they have had to overcome multiple obstacles to get to where they are today,

“I am actually a high school dropout, and we both never finished college. We have had zero training or education in fine arts or photography. [However], through first-hand experience, a willingness, and a passion to experiment, and a lot of mistakes and tribulations along the way, we have made our own way in life despite those lack of achievements. Regardless of a degree, we kept trying, and we never gave up. That is why we are finally seeing a measure of success from our endeavors.”

To learn more about Jason and Amanda Ray or to view their photo catalog, visit them on Facebook, at www.DoubleNegativePhotography.com or on Instagram @DoubleNegativePhotography.

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Mangum named to Holmes CC 2023 Hall of Fame

Special to SW Rankin News

Each year, Holmes Community College faculty and staff members select the winners for the prestigious Hall of Fame. This year, the Hall of Fame inductees from the Ridgeland Campus included Elijah Dustin Mangum of Florence.

Mangum, son of Tamara and Dusty Mangum, is a communications/journalism major. He is a reporter for *The Growl* newspaper staff and a Dean's List scholar. For *The Growl*, he produced Holmes' first video stories.

Off campus, Mangum is an intern with Dark Horse Press and an active member of Cleary Baptist Church in Florence. At Cleary Baptist, he volunteers with media and children's ministries.

He has interviewed journalists and public figures for both his Dark Horse Press internship and for his personal YouTube channel, Mangum Studios. Upon graduation from Holmes, he plans to transfer to Mississippi College in the fall of 2023. Mangum hopes to intern and eventually work



Special to SW Rankin News

Pictured (l to r) are Holmes Community College 2023 Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame inductees, front row: Callie Kurth McKinney of Flowood, Hollyn Grace Oswalt of Clinton, Makyra Miller of Brandon and Darian Alexandra Blackburn of Vestavia Hills, Alabama (with Nikki Blackburn in front); middle row: Mikala Alayne McDonald of Byram, Jaylen Grays of Jackson, Cooper Herrington of Brandon and Charlotte Lamar of Jackson; and back row: Elijah Dustin Mangum of Florence, Garrett Michael Viator of New Iberia, Louisiana, Daniel Patrick O'Dell of Madison and Derrick Lashun Taylor II of Clinton.

at WLBT as a reporter after graduating from Mississippi College in 2025.

"All glory of these achievements ultimately belong to God!" Mangum said. "None of these things could have been possible without Him, as well as the support from my family, church and journalism mentors."

Other Hall of Fame inductees for 2023 included Darian Alexandra Blackburn of Vestavia Hills, Alabama; Jaylen Grays of Jackson; Cooper Herrington of Brandon; Charlotte Lamar of Jackson; Mikala Alayne McDonald of Byram; Callie Kurth McKinney of Flowood; Makyra Miller of Brandon; Daniel Patrick O'Dell of Madison; Hollyn Grace Oswalt of Clinton; Derrick Lashun Taylor II of Clinton and Garrett Michael Viator of New Iberia, Louisiana.



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PCT offering summer children’s musical theatre camp

Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Community Theatre (PCT) is offering a summer children’s musical theatre camp entitled, “Summer Showtime: Jukebox Time Machine,” which will be held May 30 through June 2 at Pearl High School in the William H. Dodson Performing Arts Center.

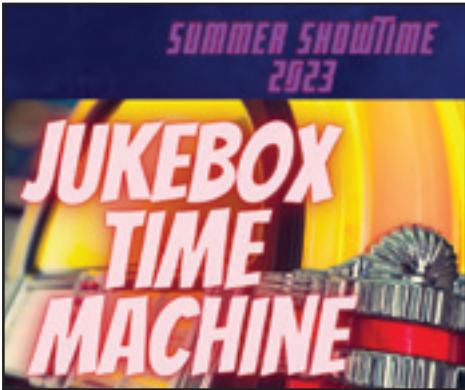
Each camp day activities start at 8:30 a.m. and will include the chance to learn and perform choreography and music from the decades. Students will also participate in arts and crafts, and team building exercises. Snacks will be included every day, and each student will receive a t-shirt. Activities wind down at noon, with a final performance for family and friends scheduled for Friday at 12:30 p.m.

Children K4 through fifth grade are welcome to register by visiting www.PearlCommunityTheatre.org. The cost is \$75 for the first child and \$50 for each additional child in one family. Space is limited.



2022 Kids Summer Theatre Camp Show

Special to SW Rankin News



ited. Payment is due upon arrival on the first day of camp. Make all checks payable to Pearl Community Theatre. PCT asks that all students be dropped off and picked up in front of the William H. Dodson Performing Arts Center, the parking lot nearest I-20 and flag pole. Founded in 2020, Pearl Community Theatre is a Mississippi 501(c)3, created to promote the Performing Arts in Central Mississippi. It is funded in part by The City of Pearl, and will embark on a two-year capital campaign with

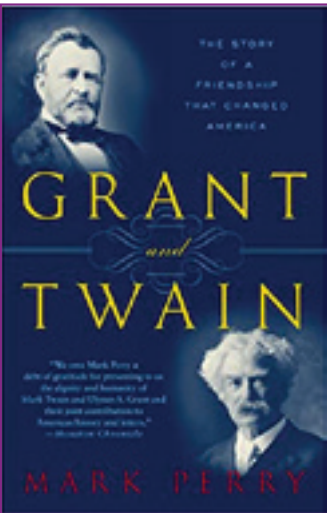
the hopes of opening its own permanent structure. PCT operates under the artistic direction of Harriet Matthews, a retired Pearl High School Theatre Educator and twelve Board of Directors and annually produces a musical, play, children’s show, and a Kids Summer Theatre Camp. Pearl High School is located at 500 Pirates Cove in Pearl. For more information, visit PCT on Facebook or at www.PearlCommunityTheatre.org.

Grant and Twain: The Story of a Friendship That Changed America by Mark Perry

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

Mark Perry’s book, *Grant and Twain: The Story of a Friendship That Changed America*, was published in 2004. He masterfully combined the heroic life stories of two iconic Americans. Ulysses S. (Sam) Grant and Mark (Sam Clemens) Twain, had much in common, despite having been born thirteen years apart and spending their lives in divergent careers. Hiram Ulysses Grant was born April 22, 1822, in Point Pleasant, Ohio. Samuel Langhorne Clemens was born November 30, 1835, in Florida, Missouri. Both men had difficult relationships with their fathers. Mark Twain’s father was a judge in Hannibal, Missouri, who wanted his son to study law; but Twain went west to be a gold miner, a printer, eventually becoming a Mississippi riverboat captain. In 1839, young Grant entered West Point as Ulysses Simpson Grant. This wasn’t what he wanted, yet, he agreed

to attend West Point. After graduating, he joined the army and became an excellent soldier. President Abraham Lincoln famously said of Grant, “He fights,” making him Commander of the Army of the United States during the American Civil War. He won many victories for the Union: Vicksburg on July 4, 1863; Chattanooga, in late 1863; in 1864, he won the “Battle of the Wilderness” in Virginia. On April 9, 1865, Grant accepted Robert E. Lee’s surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, at Appomattox, Virginia. By allowing the Rebel soldiers to return home rather than taking them as prisoners, he garnered long-lasting respect from both sides in the war. In 1867, Mark Twain published *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*. In 1868, Grant was elected pres-



ident of the United States of America in a landslide victory, serving two terms, from 1869 to 1877. Grant and Twain became close friends during this period; Twain urged Grant to write his memoirs, stating he would publish them. Four years after friends of the former President Grant encouraged him to become a partner in their bank, named “Grant and Ward, Co.,” it failed in May, 1884, when it was revealed Grant had been swindled by Ferdinand Ward, who disappeared with \$150,000. Grant repaid all who had lost money; leaving himself nearly destitute. In June, he felt a sharp pain in his throat—the diagnosis: throat and tongue cancer. Fearful of leaving his widow, Julia Grant, destitute, Grant worked long hours and diligently on his memoirs, in spite of agonizing pain from the cancer growing in his throat and tongue.

During the next fifteen months, Twain was with him much of the time throughout his suffering, encouraging him in his writing; Grant accepted Twain’s offer to publish his memoirs. *Huckleberry Finn* was published in February, 1885, and hailed as one of the greatest novels of America. Twain wrote in the vernacular, “Huck Finn” and the other characters spoke in the contemporary dialect, using words such as “ain’t” and some which were considered vulgar. This was a major change in literature for children, influencing future novels, despite considerable protests from persons outraged by this new style. Grant finished his memoirs July 16, dying a week later on July 23, 1885. The two-volume *Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant* were published December 10, 1885, selling 312,000 copies over the next three years. His widow, Julia, received \$450,000, equivalent to about ten million dollars in today’s money. Grant’s memoirs received high accolades for his writing, an amazing feat considering he was literally on his death bed in those last few months. Twain continued writing until his death on April 21, 1910. He never ceased to speak of his admiration of General Grant.



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Area schools earn Military Star School designation

Special to SW Rankin News

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) recently named sixty-one of the state’s schools as Mississippi’s first Military Star Schools. The designation recognizes schools that have made a significant commitment to supporting military families and children of service members.

Included in the honor were Florence Elementary School, Florence Middle School, Florence High School, McLaurin Elementary School, McLaurin High School, Richland Elementary School, Richland High School and Steen’s Creek Elementary School.

The Military Star School program was established in February of last year through Executive Order 1561, making

Mississippi one of thirty-one states with a formal program to recognize schools that support military families.

Military Star Schools must meet specific requirements that address the unique needs of military students and families. Requirements include appointing a dedicated school liaison for military families, providing student-led transition services and peer support, ensuring professional development for staff to respond to the needs of military students and families, and publicly recognizing service members and their families.

“As a member of a military family, I understand the crucial role our schools play in supporting military-connected students,” said Dr. Robert Taylor, state superintendent of education. “The teachers, staff and leaders of Mississippi’s



Military Star Schools have demonstrated their commitment to their students and our nation. I am incredibly proud of the work they do every day to support the

children of service members.”

The Military Star School program is designed to help schools respond to the educational and social-emotional challenges military-connected children face during their transition to a new school and keep them on track to be college, workforce and life-ready. Military-connected refers to children of service members on active duty and in the National Guard and Reserves.

The Military Star School designation remains in effect for two years. Schools can reapply to maintain the designation. New schools can apply to receive the designation in 2024.

For more information or to view a list of all of Mississippi’s 2023 Military Star Schools, visit www.MDEK12.org/MilitaryStarSchool.





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Old Truths for Today
J.T. Morgan



Knowledge of God’s Word

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” (Jno.8:32). God has made provisions for every generation to hear and learn His will. This was true in former ages as well as in this Christian age or dispensation. God’s plan to make known His will to man included the sending of His Son through whom He now speaks to man. (Heb.1:1; Jno.3:2; Matt. 17:5; Acts 3:22-23). Before His ascension back to His Father, Jesus chose apostles to be with Him and taught them for about three and one-half years giving them God’s word. (Jno.17:8, 14). He commissioned them to go teach God’s word to the world (Matt.28:19-20; Mk.16:15-16). He promised them following His return to heaven the Holy Spirit would come to “guide them into all truth” and bring to their remembrance “all things Jesus taught them” (Jno.14:26; 16:13). On the first Pentecost following the Lord’s ascension the apostles received the promised Holy Spirit and spoke as He gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4). The Holy Spirit inspired men to not only speak God’s word, but to write it as well. (1 Cor.14:37). The writings of these inspired men are the commandments of the Lord. These writings are the new Testament which is the Will and Testament of Christ. We cannot hear those inspired men in person however, we can read and study their writings in the Bible. To hear them is to hear Christ. (Lk.10:16; 1 Jno.4:6). Since we have access to God’s written word there is no excuse for ignorance concerning our duty to God.

Some people have the ability to learn a lot, but do not have a knowledge of God’s word. They are “ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (2 Tim.3:7). Paul states he had preached nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (1 Cor.2:2). Preaching Christ involved teaching all the commands of God, as well as His warnings and promises. To preach Christ is to preach the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27). Paul states that Timothy had know the holy scriptures from childhood (2 Tim.3:15). He was also instructed to “study to show thyself approved unto God” (2 Tim.2:15). Some in Berea were complemented because “they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were true”. (Acts 17:11).

Since God has made it possible for all to hear and learn His word and has made it plan enough to be understood. God expects everyone to learn His word but it is sinful for one to neglect or refuse to learn Bible truth. Learning involves three elements: teaching, studying and learning. In addition man is required to obey God’s commandments. Obedience is based upon his knowledge of God’s word. “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by God’s word.” (Rom.10:17). Separate and apart from God’s will there can be no salvation. The gospel is God’s power to save (Rom.1:16). God will reject man when he rejects God’s word and if he fails to do according to the knowledge he possesses he will be lost. (Ezek.33:31; Hosea 4:6). “Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”. (Jno.8:32).

Florence church of Christ- P.O. Box 277 –Florence, Ms 39073

RHS announces student athlete college selections



Photos special to SW Rankin News

Richland High School's (RHS's) Draten Norwood signed his letter of intent to play for Coahoma Community College in 2023. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Mabel Campbell (grandmother), Tiffany Craft (mother), Draten Norwood and Pernell Norwood (father); and back row: Assistant Principal Dr. Thomas Dudley, Samuel Norwood (brother), Sonia New (grandmother), Tony Craft (grandfather), Tammy Bates (grandmother), Assistant Coach Todd Montgomery, Assistant Coach Brent Cobb and Castalono Norwood (brother).



Jameson Miller committed to play soccer at Hinds Community College for the 2023-2024 school year. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Joe Miller (dad), Jameson Miller and Virginia Miller (mother); and back row: Assistant Principal Dr. Terrance McEwen, Assistant Principal Corey Yates, Assistant Coach Corey Myers, Coach John Adams, Assistant Coach Ross Rodgers, Principal Marcus Stewart and Athletic Director Todd Montgomery.

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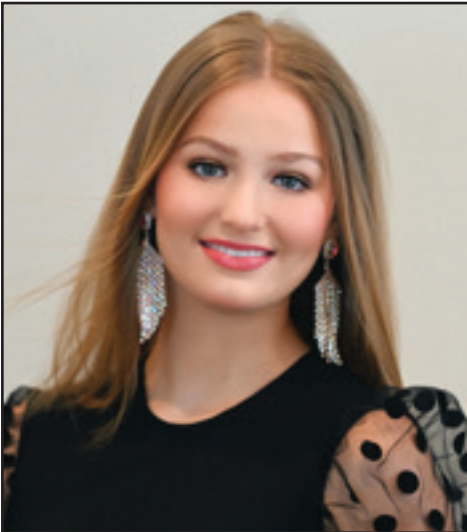
FHS’s Muse selected Distinguished Young Woman for Rankin County

Special to SW Rankin News

Brelyn Muse, a current junior at Florence High School (FHS), was chosen recently as the Distinguished Young Woman for Rankin County. Scholarship winners are selected based on academic achievement, leadership, talent and community involvement.

Muse is a member of the Florence High School Medical Science Program, serves as a captain on the Florence High School Varsity Dance Team, serves as a Diamond Girl for FHS baseball, and is president of the Junior Class.

She is also a member of the BETA Club and the Random Acts of Kindness Club. She regularly volunteers with the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Muse will represent Rankin County in the Mississippi Distinguished Young Woman Competition in July.



Brelyn Muse
Special to SW Rankin News



Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	FUNERAL HOME
Joe Dearing	87y	Pearl, MS	03/01/2023	Chancellor FH
James Pettigrew Sr.	77y	Braxton, MS	03/02/2023	Chancellor FH
Thomas "Jerry" Staggs	74y	Braxton, MS	03/02/2023	Chancellor FH
Patricia "Pat" Hunt	77y	Florence, MS	03/05/2023	Chancellor FH
Tommie Dell Roberts	71y	Richland, MS	03/07/2023	Chancellor FH
Frank Polo	59y	Florence, MS	03/07/2023	Chancellor FH
Kenneth Saxton	77y	Florence, MS	03/07/2023	Chancellor FH
Inge Thibodeaux	88y	Florence, MS	03/08/2023	Chancellor FH
John "Chris" Bowman	50y	Florence, MS	03/08/2023	Chancellor FH
Ellon Wages	87y	Florence, MS	03/13/2023	Chancellor FH
Ella Wease Brock	86y	Richland, MS	03/10/2023	Chancellor FH
James "Jimmy" Ferrell	86y	Greenville, MS	03/16/2023	Chancellor FH
Doyle Cole	61y	Braxton, MS	03/26/2023	Chancellor FH
Gray Lyford	70y	Richland, MS	03/24/2023	Chancellor FH
Gilda Summerlin	92y	Pearl, MS	03/29/2023	Chancellor FH
Sam Sandifer	59y	Florence, MS	03/30/2023	Chancellor FH

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M-Braves announce new flagship radio station

Special to SW Rankin News

The Mississippi Braves (M-Braves) and New South Radio have announced a partnership that will see all 138 M-Braves broadcasts on WIIN 780 AM, 102.1 FM The Box, and www.MississippiBraves.com during the 2023 season.

"The Mississippi Braves are proud to announce this new partnership with New South Radio. We have had a great relationship with their network of stations for many years," said Pete Laven, Vice President and General Manager of the Mississippi Braves. "We look forward to having Chris Harris and Jack Sadighian deliver the M-Braves action, both home and road, on WIIN 780 AM and 102.1 FM The Box throughout the 2023 season."

"Since the inaugural season in 2005, New South Radio has been a huge fan and loyal supporter of the Mississippi Braves," said New South Radio General Manager Kelly Crocker. "Now, we are excited to become their official broadcast partner and air every exciting game on our station, 102.1 The Box. We're looking forward to a great season of amazing baseball action! Go, Braves!"



Each broadcast begins fifteen minutes before the start of each M-Braves game, with the pregame show hosted by play-by-play announcers Chris Harris and Jack Sadighian. The broadcast will conclude with a fifteen-minute post-game show that will recap each game and get fans prepared for the next game broadcast.

Harris enters his fifth season as the radio voice of the Mississippi Braves. He has broadcast over 1,800 Minor League games and has twice been selected as Southern League Broadcaster of the Year. Before his time with the Braves, Harris was the Director of Broadcasting and Media Relations for the Biloxi Shuckers from 2015-2018 and Jackson (Tennessee) Generals

from 2009-2014. During the baseball offseason, he serves as a football and basketball play-by-play broadcaster for ULM on the ESPN family of networks. Harris also is a play-by-play contributor for the Southern Miss Sports Network.

Sadighian enters his second season as a broadcast and media relations assistant with the Mississippi Braves. Sadighian was a 2021 graduate of the University of Georgia in December. He recently served as a play-by-play broadcaster for Georgia softball on the SEC Network and Mercer basketball on ESPN+. In addition, Sadighian made stops in the Cape Cod Baseball League with the Wareham Gatemen in 2021 and California Collegiate League with the San Luis Obispo Blues in 2019. In Wareham, Sadighian appeared on NESN as a play-by-play broadcaster for the network's league coverage.

The first Mississippi Braves radio broadcast was on Friday, April 7, when the team opened the season at Trustmark Park against the Biloxi Shuckers.

Tickets are on sale now for the 2023 season of Mississippi Braves baseball.

FMS Lindsey wins MAEA flag award



Special to SW Rankin News

Camden Lindsey, a Florence Middle School eighth grader, recently won the Middle School Level art contest through the Mississippi Art Education Association (MAEA). The contest is an annual flag design contest in honor of Youth Art Month that is held every year during the month of March. Youth Art Month is designed to bring awareness of the importance of the arts in education.

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

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



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Celebrate Earth Day with free shredding, electronics recycling

Special to SW Rankin News

The City of Pearl will celebrate the beginning of spring with Earth Day on Thursday, April 20, at Kroger on Highway 80 from 12 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Residents may bring unwanted electronics and paper documents to be shredded. All paper documents will be shredded at no cost. Electronic devices will also be accepted for recycling, including computers, monitors, keyboards, laptops, desktop copiers, full size copiers, fax machines, radios, cell phones, electronic games, scanners, stereos and televisions.

There will be a \$15 fee for televisions and a \$5 fee for computer monitors.

Earth Day is an annual celebration that honors the achievements of the environmental movement and raises awareness of the need to protect Earth's natural resources for future generations. Earth Day is celebrated on either April 22 or the day the spring equinox occurs throughout the rest of the world.

For more information about Earth Day, contact Pearl Chamber of Commerce at 601-939-3338.



PPSD selects Teacher, Parent, and Administrator of the Year



Angie Rawls, Pearl High School teacher, was selected as the 2022-2023 Pearl Public School District Teacher of the Year. Rawls will represent the district in the Mississippi Teacher of the Year Program.

Lauren Smith was selected as the 2022-2023 Pearl Public School District Parent of the Year. Smith will represent the district in the Mississippi Parent of the Year Program.school and community."



Paige Broman, Pearl Public School District Chief Financial Officer, was selected as the 2022-2023 Pearl Public School District Administrator of the Year. Broman will represent the district in the Mississippi Administrator of the Year Program. school and community."

Photos special to SW Rankin News



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Pearl High School 2022-2023 STAR Student and Teacher named



Special to SW Rankin News

Pictured (l to r) are: 2023 PHS STAR Teacher Andrew Beasley and 2023 PHS STAR Student Genevieve Moore.

Special to SW Rankin News

Genevieve Moore has been named the Pearl High School STAR Student for the 2022-2023 school year. The STAR Student program is sponsored by the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) M. B. Swayze Foundation. Established by MEC in 1965, the purpose of the STAR program is to recognize outstanding students and teachers in Mississippi through its education celebration. The theme this year was “The Pursuit of Excellence.”

The Pearl High School senior will be honored during the annual Education Celebration on April 13 at the Clyde Muse Center, 515 Country Place Parkway in Pearl. The event is co-sponsored by multiple state and national businesses.

Additional local support for the STAR program is provided by MEC members from communities across the state.

STAR Students are selected based on academic excellence. Both American College Test scores and scholastic averages are compared to determine the school's STAR Student, explained Vickie

Powell of Jackson, Senior Vice President of Foundations.

"The STAR program encourages and promotes academic achievement among Mississippi's high school seniors," Powell said. Each STAR Student is asked to designate a STAR Teacher, the teacher who has made the greatest contribution to the student's scholastic achievement.

Andrew Beasley, choir director at Pearl High School, was designated as Moore's STAR Teacher for 2022-2023.

Over six hundred STAR Students and STAR Teachers will receive recognition from MEC's M.B. Swayze Foundation at the Celebration. The top twenty STAR Students - the ALL-STAR Scholars - will receive scholarships, and their STAR Teachers will receive awards provided by the Kelly Gene Cook, Sr. Charitable Foundation. The highlight of the Education Celebration will be the naming of the Mississippi ALL-STAR Scholar for 2022-2023 school year, who will be the winner of the coveted \$24,000 Cook Foundation Scholarship.

Spikes earns gold medal in SkillsUSA state championship



Special to SW Rankin News

The Holmes Community College representatives at the SkillsUSA State Championship 2023 included (l to r), front row: Chef Alexei Harrison (instructor), Sarah Hammons, Leah Rainey, Jacob Sledge, Heather Mooney (instructor) and Peter Hindman (instructor); and back row: Ethan Oxley, Kennedy Lacey, Derrick Rainey (instructor), Will Alexander (instructor), Jacob Lott and Arzelle Spikes.

Special to SW Rankin News

The SkillsUSA chapters from Holmes Community College's Goodman and Ridgeland campuses successfully competed in the 2023 SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference.

Arzelle Spikes of Pearl won first place in the category of Heating, Ventilation, and Air Condition (HVAC) and was recognized during a ceremony at

the Hilton Jackson.

Overall, Holmes took home seven awards: six gold medals and one bronze, and every participant placed.

The first-place winners are invited to take part in the Annual National Leadership and Skills Conference, which will be this summer in Atlanta, Georgia.

they represent. “We are excited for them to go and serve their community,” said Director Wages.

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"Word Seed"

More and more Christianity is defined as believing in God without a personal trust in Christ as Savior. **Religious people believe in God...saved people believe/trust in Jesus and His atoning death on a cruel cross.** Some well-intentioned and sincere people believe that being a Christian is predicated on doing good things and refraining from doing bad things. How wonderful it is to know that we are saved not by what we do, but by what He has already done and our acceptance of that as the payment for our sin! On this day of Easter week, consider with me some life changing truths that reveal God's great love for us:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16-17)

At the tomb on resurrection morning, two men in shining garments said, **"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!"**(Luke 24:5-6)

He is our Righteous Redeemer! He is our Ransom! He is our Refuge and Resurrection! Christians are not delusional, merely mesmerized by the memory of one who was no more than a religious reformer. JESUS.....the devil couldn't stop Him, the grave couldn't hold Him and death couldn't keep Him! Three days after He drew His last breath, the shackles of death were broken and Jesus the Son of God rose.....VICTORIOUS over death, Hell and the grave!

His resurrection is relevant for every country, culture and generation. Jesus' resurrection power resides in every man, woman, boy and girl that has placed their trust in His cleansing blood. Indeed, **"Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world!"** Troubles come. Problems, pressures and perplexities of life abound.... but, we need not falter nor fear for He who conquered the grave lives in us and flows through us! Because He lives, we understand that the last stop is not the cemetery. At death we exhale here and inhale over there and join our loved ones forever living under the pavilion of His pristine Presence!

Some may trust in their treasures. Others may rely on their religion and others may put confidence in their conduct. But the child of God chooses to trust in the blood that stained the Old Rugged Cross! Christianity it is about sinful man, a sinless Savior, a bloody cross and an empty tomb. How great is His grace, how measureless is His mercy and how limitless is His love!

Richland HS announces Students of the Month



Richland High School (RHS) recently named the January 2023 Students of the Month. These students are nominated and selected by their teachers for such qualities as dependability, attitude, leadership, attendance, and class work. Students are awarded a certificate from the Exchange Club, a book donated to the library in honor of the senior from the Exchange Club and gift cards. Pictured (l to r) are the January SOM winners, front row: Sadie Grace Conner, Macie Ray Tagert and Ritchelle Burns; and back row: Mattie Belle Tagert, Cierra Sheppard and Jeremy Thomas.



RHS recently named the February 2023 Students of the Month. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Abigail Robb, Alejandro Martinez and Ryder McGowan; and back row: Diem My Nguyen, Yareli Castillo and Garrett Myers.

Layton Varner and Rep. Tom Miles win at Dixie National



Special to SW Rankin News
Pictured (l to r) are: Rankin County Extension Agent Heather Jennings, Layton Varner, Representative Tom Miles, Scott County Extension Agent Jason Hurdle and Lance Varner.

Special to SW Rankin News

Each year, the Mississippi Legislators are paired with students that are showing their livestock at the Dixie National Rodeo. This event is sponsored each year by the 4H and Extension group across Mississippi. The Legislators are divided in two groups between the Representatives and the Senators. Layton Varner, Rep. Tom Miles, and Layton’s prize winning goat, Maverick, won the overall competition this year. The pair were presented with matching belt buckles and earned bragging rights for the year.

Layton is a sophomore at Florence High School and the daughter of Lance and Lacy Varner of Florence.

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MS House Weekly Summaries: March 2023

By MS House of Representatives
Information Officer Barrett Wilson

The week of March 6, 2023, was the tenth week of the 2023 Legislative Session. Wednesday was the deadline for the House to discuss general Senate bills. Any Senate bills that did not make it off the calendar and before the House died. The deadline to discuss Senate appropriations and revenue bills would occur on March 14.

Senate Bill 2212 would extend postpartum Medicaid coverage for new mothers from sixty days to a full year. The bill passed by a vote of 92-27 and was returned to the Senate. Governor Tate Reeves has indicated that he would sign postpartum Medicaid expansion into law should the Legislature pass it.

A ballot initiative process could be restored under **Senate Concurrent Resolution 533**. Unlike the former process, SCR 533 would allow for statutory changes, or changes to the law, rather than an amendment to the constitution. SCR 533 passed 77-9 with many members voting present. The concurrent resolution will go to conference for further revisions before the session is over.

Other Senate bills that passed the House included a bill to ban ballot harvesting (**SB 2358**), a bill to allow armed educators in schools (**SB 2079**), a bill to create a Public Funds Offender Registry (**SB 2420**), a bill to revise the

boundary lines of the Capitol Complex Improvement District (**SB 2343**), a bill that would revise the penalty for motor vehicle theft (**SB 2099**) and the Mississippi Regional Pre-Need Disaster Clean Up Act (**SB 2538**).

Several local and private bills were also taken up this week. These bills dealt with a variety of topics, such as authorizing certain cities and counties to make various contributions to local organizations and extending repealers on certain cities' tourism taxes.

During the eleventh week of the 2023 Legislative Session (week of March 13), much time was spent deciding whether to concur with any changes made to

House bills by the Senate or to invite conference on those bills.

House Bill 1222, or the Mississippi Collaborative Response to Mental Health Act, which requires each municipality and county law enforcement agency to provide mental health training to all officers by 2031, passed unanimously, 114-0. It has been sent to the governor for his signature.

Governor Tate Reeves signed **House Bill 1027** into law, which designates the blueberry as the official state fruit.

As the session begins to wind down, legislators will spend much of their time in conference committees ironing out the final details of bills that were sent to conference. These conference committees will then have to file reports before the end of session.



Westerfield serves on PRAM Central 2023 Board of Directors



Special to SW Rankin News

The Public Relations Association of Mississippi Central Chapter recently inaugurated its 2023 Board of Directors, which consists of ten accomplished public relations practitioners from the central Mississippi area. Matt Westerfield, APR, a resident of Pearl, will serve on the board as career development coordinator, in combination with his role as Communications Director for the Mississippi Division of Medicaid. Pictured (l to r) are Vice President of Programs Shanderia Minor, Treasurer Jas N. Smith, Career Development Coordinator Matt Westerfield, Immediate Past-President Bill Moak, President Jean Cook, President-Elect Sophie McNeil Wolf, Vice President of Membership Corie Jones, Secretary Vanessa Lowe-Garcia and Vice President of Communications Jan Schaefer. Not pictured is Member-at-Large Chrystelle Thames.

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Mississippi State Hospital shows appreciation to local law makers



Special to SW Rankin News

Pictured (l to r) are: MSH Director Bo Chastain and Senator Dean Kirby, District 30.

Special to SW Rankin News

On Thursday, March 2, Friends of Mississippi State Hospital (MSH), Inc. showed some appreciation for Mississippi State Legislators and their staff by providing a food truck lunch near the Capitol grounds.

On hand were Representative Tom Miles, District 75, Rankin and Scott Counties; Senator Dean Kirby, District 30, Rankin County; and Representative

Tom Weathersby, District 62, Copiah, Rankin, and Simpson Counties, who visited with Mr. James G. "Bo" Chastain, MSH Director and Friends members in the Capitol rotunda during the event. Several legislators conveyed their appreciation for the work performed by the staff every day at Mississippi State Hospital.

The legislative appreciation event is an annual program hosted by Friends of MSH. Friends is a volunteer, 501c (3)



Special to SW Rankin News

Pictured (l to r) are: Representative Doug McLeod, District 107, Representative Tom Weathersby, District 62, and Representative Joseph Tubb, District 87.



Special to SW Rankin News

Pictured (l to r) are: Representative Tom Miles, District 75 and Director of Mississippi State Hospital James G. "Bo" Chastain.

non-profit organization, whose primary function is to promote awareness of mental health issues and raise funds for projects that enhance the quality of life for individuals served at the hospital throughout the year.

Employees, volunteers, advocates, and other members of the Friends group hosted the event in order to thank lawmakers for their work in the legislature and for their continued support of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.

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Top Rangers announced at RHS

Florence HS honors January Students of the Month



Special to SW Rankin News

The Top Ranger Award is given to Richland High School students who have shown exemplary behavior in and out of the classroom. Students receiving this award have been standout students and have continually worked hard at their coursework. Students awarded this accolade receive free lunch at a local restaurant in Richland. February Top Rangers pictured (l to r) are, front row: Tykira Burns, Isabella Roberts, Samaryah Williams, Ritchelle Burns, Yareli Castillo, Shontrese Cage, Kaniya Jefferson and Adriana Dees; and back row: Charles Williams, Marcoz Bueno, Bryce Young, Noah Aldridge, Jose Espino and Nolan Smith.



Special to SW Rankin News

Florence High School (FHS) recently announced their January Student of the Month award recipients: Brooke Paal (tenth grade) and Khamari Mangum (ninth grade).

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MS SPAN seeking donations for Summer Spaytacular

Special to SW Rankin News

Mississippi Spay and Neuter (MS SPAN) is seeking donations for the 2023 Summer Spaytacular’s online auction. They say that nothing is off limits - crafts, household items, pet items, oddities, gift cards, experiences, and more. For individuals interested in donating to the auction, or businesses interested in being an event sponsor, contact Ashlynn at ashlynn@msspan.org or 601-420-2438, extension 25.

Each year, MS SPAN of Richland holds this fundraiser to defray the daily expenses of running the non-profit organization. Their primary goal is to provide low-cost spay and neuter services across the state of Mississippi. This year’s “Summer Spaytacular” is being held as an online event.

For those unable to donate or sponsor this event, donations of everyday supplies to the Big Fix Clinic are also being accepted. At this time the clinic is running critically low on the following supplies: one-ply toilet paper, paper towels, thirteen-gallon trash bags, distilled water, wet cat food, baby wipes, seventy-percent (or higher) rubbing alcohol



and hydrogen peroxide.

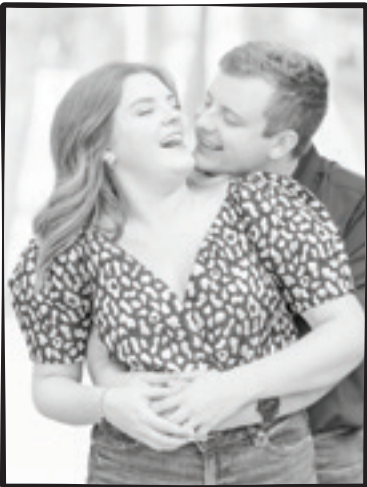
Donations are accepted Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the clinic or online via Mississippi Spay and Neuter's Amazon Wish List.

Those unable to donate supplies may donate time instead. A direct mail campaign is going out in the month of May, and volunteers are needed to stuff envelopes. To submit a volunteer application, visit www.msspan.org, or email Ashlynn at ashlynn@msspan.org.

Mississippi Spay and Neuter is located at 657 Highway 49 in Richland.

Madeline Kate Stanteen & Isaac Daniel Little

July 1, 2023
First Baptist Church of Clinton



Reverend and Mrs. Kenneth Wayne Stanteen, of Clinton, Mississippi, announce the engagement of their daughter, Madeline Kate, to Isaac Daniel Little, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Daniel Little, of Star, Mississippi.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mrs. Doris Rigby Lepard and the late Wesley Evon Lepard of Clinton, and Wilbron Wayne Stanteen and the late Mrs. Genevieve Hawkins Stanteen of Harlingen, Texas.

The prospective bridegroom is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. James Melvin Long, Jr., of Florence, Mississippi, and Mrs. Martha Faust Little and the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ralph Little of Star, Mississippi.

Miss Stanteen is a 2017 graduate of Clinton High School, a 2021 graduate of Mississippi College and will graduate from Dallas Baptist University in May of 2023 with a Master's degree in worship studies. While at CHS, Madeline was a three-year singer/dancer in the award-winning Attaché Show Choir. In 2015, Madeline was crowned Miss Clinton's Outstanding Teen and competed in the Miss Mississippi Outstanding Teen Pageant in Vicksburg, Mississippi. In 2019, Madeline was crowned Miss Jackson and competed in the Miss

Mississippi Pageant in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Mr. Little is a 2017 graduate of McLaurin Attendance Center, where he played baseball and golf. Mr. Little is a 2021 graduate of Hinds Community College. He is employed at Byrd and Cook Paint and Decorating Center in Pearl, Mississippi.

Vows will be exchanged at 6 p.m. on July 1 in the Sanctuary at First Baptist Church of Clinton.

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Pearl Upper Elementary names February Students of the Month

Photos special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Upper Elementary (PUE) recently presented its fourth-grade Students of the Month for February. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Principal Gavin Gill, Casey Roberts, Ainsley Abner, Zoie Fowler, Asher Lowry, Ryleigh Sayers and Caleb McCoy; and back row: Brielle Guillory, Jadan Smith, Parker Williams, Elizabeth Roblero, Kennedy Bonds, Gael Belmontes and Jada Smith. Not pictured is Avery Bowman.

PUE recently announced its fifth-grade Students of the Month for February. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Kevin Martinez, Brantley Morgigno, Zee Rainer, Rachel Evans, Tyler Luchi and Karlie Hardge; and back row: Principal Gill, Natalie Williams, Keiona Jackson, Sophia Price, McKenzie Jackson, Cameron Holloway, Shelby Neal and Lily Landry. Not pictured are Jeferson Molina Barahona and Kayden Thompson.

Harrison runs for Circuit Clerk

Windham runs for Rankin County District 1 Supervisor

By Melissa Harrison

I am excited to announce my candidacy for the position of Circuit Clerk in Rankin County. As a dedicated member of this community, I believe that I have the skills and experience needed to effectively serve as your Circuit Clerk.

I have been married to Mike Harrison for 32 years and we reside in Florence. We have two wonderful sons Marshall and Maverick who both live in Rankin County. Our family owns and operates 4M Farms, LLC. My family and I are members of First Baptist Church of Florence. I am a Delta State University graduate but have also attended Mississippi State University and Belhaven College for post graduate classes and Hinds Community College.

I have been an educator for three decades, influencing and guiding our most precious asset, our children. I am currently a RCSD teacher at McLaurin High School. During my time as an educator, I have served as a high school science teacher, librarian, student tech team leader and have been a member of a multitude of committees: literacy team, teacher advisory board, DECA sponsor, science department chair, and Mississippi Professional Educators member. I also have been a MPE classroom grant recipient for two consecutive years and used the grant to purchase



the supplies needed for students to participate in the first vegetable growing season in the McLaurin High School greenhouse. I had the privilege of being awarded teacher of the year when I was a state tested biology teacher.

During my years in education, I have gained valuable insights into the needs and concerns of our community. As an Educator I see a desperate need to introduce the local government and the importance of voting to our younger generation. After speaking with several high school graduates, I was surprised to learn they do not realize their vote matters.

I am the working face of Rankin County bringing a New Perspective to the Circuit Clerk's Office. As your Circuit Clerk, I will prioritize transparency, efficiency, and accessibility. I am committed to ensuring that the Circuit Clerk's office is accessible to all residents and implementing new technologies that streamline office procedures. I will work tirelessly to make that a reality.

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve my community as your Circuit Clerk. I believe that with my experience and passion for public service, I can make a positive difference in the lives of the residents of Rankin County. I ask for your vote and support in this election.

Paid by the Melissa Harrison Campaign for Circuit Clerk

By Mike Windham

My name is Mike Windham, and I'm humbly excited to announce I have qualified to run for Rankin County District 1 Supervisor. My family moved to Florence, MS in 1970, it would be an honor to support my constituents, the people of District 1. I'm a graduate of Florence High School. My family and I are proud members of First Baptist Church of Florence. My wife, Jamie Windham, and I have been married 22 years and live in Florence. We have three beautiful daughters, son-in-law and a grandson, Lindsey (Windham) Myers, Robert Myers (son-in-law), Luke Windham (grandson), Micah Windham and Maddie Jae Windham.

I am an Electrical Contractor and owner of MW Electric, LLC based in Florence, MS for 8 years. I worked for Trustmark Bank for 26 years as a Facilities Services Manager where I gained invaluable skills and knowledge managing




ing and overseeing major jobs. Managed over 50 locations South Mississippi and Central Alabama for Trustmark Bank. I developed budgets for each of the locations I managed. Worked

with city officials, developers and contractors on numerous projects. I was also part of the hurricane disaster relief team.

My wife, Jamie, has owned and operated Shear Shack Salon in Florence for 19 years. Beyond the workforce, I have had the honor of serving as a softball coach for the past 20 years for our local community recreational park.

I formally served as the President for MS Junior High Rodeo Association and Director for MS at the National level of the Junior High Rodeo Association.


I graciously ask for your prayers, support and vote on August 8, 2023. I'm very thankful for this opportunity and will strive to help our county reach its highest potential structurally, economically, recreationally and beyond.



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