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# SWRANKIN NEWS

Good News You Can Use

Vol. 6, No. 7 | July 2021

The Pearl News

THE RICHLAND NEWS

THE FLORENCE NEWS

## Pearl High School's White named "History Teacher of the Year"

Special to The Pearl News

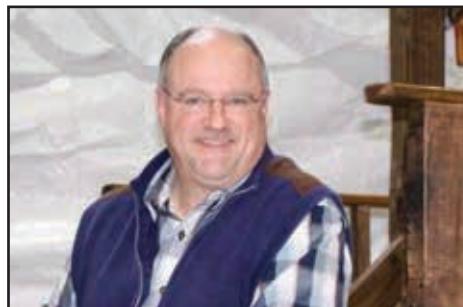
Steven White, a teacher at Pearl High School (PHS), has been named the 2021 Mississippi History Teacher of the Year. It is an award presented annually by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the nation's leading organization dedicated to kindergarten through twelfth-grade American history education.

In 2021, parents, students, teachers and administrators nationwide nominated a record 8,510 teachers for the History Teacher of the Year Award. Amidst a very competitive field, Steven White rose to the top in Mississippi.

Inaugurated in 2004, the History Teacher of the Year Award highlights the crucial importance of history education by honoring exceptional American history teachers from elementary school through high school. The award honors one kindergarten through twelfth-grade teacher

from each state, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense schools and U.S. Territories. In fall 2021, the National History Teacher of the Year will be selected from the pool of state winners.

White received his Bachelor's degree from Mississippi College in 1986 and teaches history and geography at PHS. He was the Mississippi Council for Social Studies Teacher of the Year in 2003 and 2015, Mississippi Geographic Visionary Educator award recipient in 2017, and PHS Teacher of the Year in 2019. A three-time winner of grants for enhancing classroom education, White is past president of Mississippi Council for the Social Studies and a recipient of a national Distinguished Teaching Award in 2013. In his twenty-four years in the classroom, he participated in field study trips abroad to Japan and Iceland. White creates a classroom atmosphere of deep learning to help students understand the past and connects them with artifacts in



Special to The Pearl News

order to become engaged and informed citizens.

In addition to a \$1,000 honorarium, Steven White's school will receive a core archive of American history books and Gilder Lehrman educational materials and recognition at a ceremony in Mississippi.

The ten finalists for the National History Teacher of the Year Award will be announced on Thursday, September 9, with the national winner announced later that month. An in-person ceremony for

the winner will be held in late fall 2021, health and safety protocols permitting. Support for the National History Teacher of the Year Award ceremony is provided by HISTORY®.

Nominations for the 2022 History Teacher of the Year awards are now open. Students, parents, colleagues, and supervisors may nominate K-12 teachers for the award by visiting [gilderlehrman.org/nhtoy](http://gilderlehrman.org/nhtoy). The deadline for 2022 nominations is March 31, 2022.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History was founded in 1994 by Richard Gilder and Lewis E. Lehrman, visionaries and lifelong supporters of American history education. The Institute is the leading nonprofit organization dedicated to kindergarten through twelfth-grade history education while also serving the general public. Its mission is to promote the knowledge and understanding of American history through educational programs and resources.

## "Mom's Trash Can" coming to Pearl in August

Special to The Pearl News

Mom's Trash Can (MTC) Trading Card Show is coming to Pearson Baptist Church in Pearl this month. On Saturday, August 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., trading card collectors may browse through hundreds of cards, from Magic Johnson to Magic: The Gathering.

According to MTC, these collectibles are "garnering record prices and have become investment assets like stocks, precious metals, etc. If you have a long-forgotten stash sitting in the attic or closet, bring them out and let one of the many vendors in attendance evaluate them for you. Or if you want to get started, come out and find your favorite player, team, celebrity or card game."

This is the first trading card show hosted by MTC. In the past, MTC has held swap meets and toy shows, including River City Toy Fest that took place in Vicksburg on July 17. They also held Mississippi's largest vintage and modern toy and collectibles show, MS Toy-

Con. Organizers said each event was a success in its own right, with 250 to 400 persons attending the swap meets, over 1,000 collectors attending the 2020 MS ToyCon and over 500 at River City Toy Fest.



Photos special to The Pearl News

Vendors will have the following items available for purchase: traditional sports cards (baseball, basketball, football); "other" sports cards (wrestling, golf, racing, etc.); non-sports cards (pop culture properties, movies, television, etc.); gaming cards (Pokémon, Digimon, Magic: The Gathering, etc.); comic books and video games, as well as sports mem-

orabilia and other collectibles. MTC continues to accept vendor applications for the event; however, space is limited.

MTC came into existence on Father's Day weekend 2018, at a Hot Wheels collectors event held at the Flowood

Target. Rankin County residents Neal Bumpus, Lowell Poe, and a few other local collectors discussed holding regular trade meetings. The first meeting followed shortly after, on August 11, 2018, at K&W Garage in downtown Jackson. The organization's primary aim is dedicated to the "collection of toys and other

cool things kids used to have that ended up in the bottom of Mom's trash can once they became teenagers or moved out."

Bumpus came up with the name based on the fact that "what has made vintage toys and collectibles valuable is that most were discarded after use. Almost every kid of the '60s-'70s-'80s has a story of their mom throwing away all their toys, comic books, etc. or giving them all to relatives or donating them or selling them at a garage sale."

Pearson Baptist Church is located at 151 South Pearson Road in Pearl.

For more information about Mom's Trash Can and upcoming events, contact [momstrashcan@gmail.com](mailto:momstrashcan@gmail.com) or visit them on their Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Save the Date: MTC will host MS ToyCon, presented by Nerdvana Comics, Games, and Collectibles, on Saturday, October 2, at the Pearl Community Center. Information updates may be found at [mstoycon.com](http://mstoycon.com).

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## RCSD provides guidelines for 2021-2022 school-year

By Kerri Roberts

With the 2021-2022 school year just a few weeks away, there are questions about what guidelines the school district will put in place to address COVID-19. The CDC has released their own recommendations for returning students, faculty, and staff. It is advised that all students over the age of twelve, faculty, and staff receive a vaccine, masks be worn indoors by those who are not vaccinated, and maintain a three-foot distance. Schools should also continue to isolate infected students, teachers, and staff, as well as continue contact tracing to identify exposed individuals for quarantine and exclusion from the school settings. The CDC goes on to say that fully vaccinated students, teachers, and staff are not required to wear masks, quarantine, or be excluded from the school setting un-

less COVID-19 symptoms are shown.

The Rankin County School District (RCSD) plans to begin school on August 6, with all students, faculty, and staff in-person. Their smart restart plan states that all parents and guardians should perform assessments of their children before leaving home. Students, faculty, and staff should stay home when they are sick or have a fever, especially if COVID-19 symptoms are present. For health and safety purposes, a nurse will be assigned to every campus. Students and staff who live with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 should stay home from school settings until the risk of transmission has passed. Everyone should also practice good hygiene measures such as hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes.

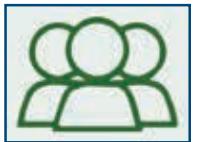


Hand sanitizer will be on all buses, in hallways, classrooms, bathrooms, entrances, and exits. Hand soaps and paper towels will be in all bathrooms. The district had planned to start the year with optional masks/face coverings, but as of August 10, facemasks are a mandatory indoor requirement until August 25. There will be isolation areas set up to quarantine students with symptoms. Symptom free students and employees who are fully vaccinated are exempt from the quarantine requirements.



The waiver from the Mississippi Department of Education on instructional minutes per day has ended, therefore the district will be returning to regular bell schedules for the 2021-2022 year.

This also means the early dismissal Wednesdays will not be returning. School assemblies, field trips, athletics, and all other activities will return to traditional procedures. Classroom and lunchtime visits will again be permitted on campuses, although it does not say if the students will begin eating in the cafeteria again or continue to eat in the classrooms. The Rankin County School District finally adds that in the event that covid numbers necessitate alterations to standard operating procedures, the school will implement additional measures.



For the most up-to-date information on RCSD's Smart RESTART Plan for 2021-22 school year, see page 7-8.

## RFUMC shares "fruits of God's creation" with community

Special to The Richland News

Richland First United Methodist Church (RFUMC) recently offered fresh produce to the public, free of charge. Originally conceived as a way to draw people to the church, the purpose of the garden has evolved into providing fresh vegetables to anyone in need.

As RFUMC garden's spokesperson, Jerry Torrence, explains, "All good ideas evolve."

With a seven-member team of gardeners, including church pastor Reverend Barbara Taylor, the 2021 garden has currently had the most successful year of its three-year run. The cost for fertilizers, chemicals, seed, plants, equipment, travel, labor, etc. is provided by the seven volunteers.

Also this year, RFUMC was very grateful to receive a generous donation of seed from the Florence/Richland Garden Club.



Richland First United Methodist 2021 garden.

The 2021 garden began in March with tilling, fertilizing, planting and, Torrence adds, "hoeing weeds, hoeing weeds." Harvesting began in May with the first squash and continues until the veggies stop producing. Pumpkins and gourds will be planted soon for the October and November harvest.

The prodigious garden is located directly adjacent to the church, and sum-



Photos special to The Richland News

mer crops included purple hull peas, squash, zucchini, tomatoes, green beans, cream peas, zipper peas, okra, corn, nest onions, bell peppers and jalapeños.

There are also three fig trees that were available for the picking.

With a total of twelve rows at 120 feet each, there was plenty of produce distributed this year. The goal for the church gardeners was to distribute everything produced. The harvest season for 2021 is expected to end by mid-August.

Spokesman Torrence provided the following update as of July 28: "We had a productive garden, thanks to the volunteers and an abundance of rain, but the summer garden is coming to an end. Be on the lookout for the pumpkins and decorative gourds."

For more information about current offerings from RFUMC's garden, call 601-939-1319, or email richlandumc@comcast.net or jerrytorrence@att.net. Church office hours are from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Thursday. RFUMC Church is located at 255 Richland Circle in Richland.

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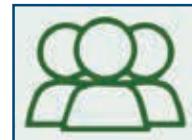
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# First Annual "Get Fit Florence" promoting community health

Special to The Florence News

Performance Therapy Florence (PTF) has always held an interest in hosting a community health event. When Florence High Medical Science Academy held "Get Fit Florence" last spring, PTF knew it was time to make it official.

Organization of PTF's First Annual Get Fit Florence has been a team effort, with lead direction coming from Physical Therapist Brooks Fortenberry. The main goal of the August event is to promote community health and fitness as well as raise money for the Florence Medical Science Academy (FMSA) and McLaurin Medical Science Academy (MMSA).

On Saturday, August 21, the run/walk will begin at 8 a.m., in the parking lot at Florence High School (FHS). A fun-run



Special to The Florence News

for the kids begins at 9 a.m. Each age group will have a winner.

Everyone is encouraged and invited to participate - all ages and fitness levels; runners and walkers; kids and adults. Complementary water will be provided as well as "a special treat" to be announced the day of the event. Food truck vendors will also be



Get Fit Florence event route.

Special to The Florence News

selling food and beverage items on-site.

Early registration is available online at \$25 per person until August 20, at [www.raceroster.com](http://www.raceroster.com) (search Get Fit Florence) or on the Performance Therapy Florence Facebook page. Early registration includes a t-shirt and participatory medal. Winners will receive additional items. Participants may also register on-site Saturday, August 21, at a cost of \$30 a head, but t-shirts are not guaranteed.

Ultimately, PTF's hope is that Get Fit Florence will grow in popularity each year and allow their fundraising efforts for FMSA and MMSA to continue.

FHS is located at 232 Highway 469 North. For more information, contact PTF at 601-891-8179 or [performanceflo@gmail.com](mailto:performanceflo@gmail.com).

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# A Summary: PPSD Back-to-School Plan

Special to SW Rankin News

Due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases and upon recommendation from the CDC and MSDH, the Pearl Public School District (PPSD) board voted to require masks to be worn indoors for all students, employees, and visitors beginning Tuesday, August 10, 2021. This decision was reached in an effort to keep the schools open and to provide students with face-to-face learning opportunities in a safe school environment.

Requiring masks will assist in the district's efforts to maintain a safe school environment for students and staff and to minimize classroom disruptions due to quarantines. Masks will be available for students and employees, if needed. Also, by keeping the schools open, parents/guardians are able to continue working and the economy can thrive, which is a concern for all of us.

The Board of Trustees and administrators of PPSD are working diligently to make decisions in the best interest of the students and employees during these uncertain times. As everyone is all aware, the entire COVID-19 situation is one that is constantly evolving. With this in mind, the district will continue to monitor and reevaluate the situation, making adjustments as needed.

Visit [www.pearlk12.com](http://www.pearlk12.com) for more details regarding back to school.

**Health and safety:** Students, staff, and parents are asked to assess themselves (or their children) before coming onto a school campus. Students and staff should not come to school and contact their healthcare provider if students or staff do not feel well or have any of the following symptoms: coughs, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

School nurses will be available on each campus to provide support and to respond to the health needs of students and staff on campus.

Hand sanitizing stations have been installed at entrances and high-traffic areas in schools and facilities.

Buildings and facilities will be cleaned and sanitized regularly throughout the day.

Teachers will be equipped with supplies to clean high-touch surfaces in their classrooms throughout the day.

Once on campus, all students, staff, and visitors will have their temperature checked daily. Masks are currently required in all indoor settings.

If school closures become necessary, students will continue instruction through Google Classroom (kindergarten through fifth grade) or Canvas (sixth through twelve grade) learning management systems.

**Activities and visitors:** School assemblies, field trips, athletics, and other activities will return following traditional procedures.

All venue capacity limitations have been lifted.

Visitors will be permitted on all PPSD campuses; however, there may be limitations. For safety purposes, visitors must

report to the office and show government-issued photo id.

Since physical distancing requirements do not allow for regular cafeteria procedures, visitors will not be able to eat lunch with students at this time.

Visitors should be symptom free and follow all school guidelines concerning health and safety.

**School Lunches:** All students enrolled in PPSD will be eligible to receive school meals (breakfast and lunch) for free under the USDA Seamless Summer Option (SSO) school food program through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. All households are encouraged to submit a

SY21/22 Free/Reduced Meal

Application so that their students may qualify for other benefits offered. Please visit [www.pearlk12.com](http://www.pearlk12.com) to find the application.

**Transportation:** Because social distancing on a bus may be challenging, face coverings will be required on all PPSD buses.

We strongly encourage families to bring student(s) to school to help minimize numbers on the bus.

Students will have assigned seating on buses. If the bus is not at full capacity, bus riders will have staggered seating.

Siblings or children living in the same household will be seated together.

Bus windows will be down for ventilation when appropriate.

Buses will be cleaned and sanitized after both morning and afternoon routes.

**Communication:** PPSD will continue to use its established methods of communication with families and the community. For daily schedule specifics, or to confirm the most up-to-date information visit PPSD's website, [www.pearlk12.com](http://www.pearlk12.com).

The mission of Pearl Public School District is to prepare each student to become a lifelong learner, achieve individual goals, and positively impact a global society.



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## SWRANKIN NEWS

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601-706-9237

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### Publisher

Clay Mansell  
claymansell@SWRankinNews.com

### Editor in Chief

Stephanie Tracy

### Managing Editor

Alexa Haik  
news@swrankinnews.com

### Sales Representatives

Clay Mansell  
claymansell@SWRankinNews.com

### City Beat Writer

Kerri Roberts  
kerri@swrankinnews.com

### Graphic Designer

Katie White  
designer@SWRankinNews.com

### Office Manager

Doris Bynum

### Distribution

Ben Barnett

For submission information, email  
news@SWRankinNews.com.

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# MPA to hold annual convention in Florida

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The Eighty-fourth Annual Mississippi Poultry Association Convention is just around the corner and Mississippi Poultry Association (MPA) invites all to join them at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa on the Emerald Coast of Destin, Florida.

The yearly event kicks-off Thursday, September 16 and runs through Sunday, September 19. On the agenda are: multiple industry speakers; business sessions; a golf tournament; a fishing tournament; as well as a special ladies program with guest speaker, Jackson T.V. Personality and Author, Barbie Bassett.

MPA was formed in 1937 to promote the health of the state's poultry flock. Mississippi produces about 750 million birds per year. The poultry industry in Mississippi has grown to be the fifth largest in the nation and exports about twenty percent of its production to more than seventy countries around the globe. Poultry is Mississippi's largest agricultural industry and the MPA represents all aspects of the industry.

The association offers educational seminars for its members and seeks to educate the public and government officials about the value of the industry to Mississippi. Even as the Mississippi Poultry industry has grown to have a global impact, the concerns remain, bird health, producing a healthful product and ensuring a vibrant

industry.

With \$3 billion paid to growers and direct employment of 28,500 people, the industry has a total impact on Mississippi's economy of \$20 billion, according to the National Chicken Council and the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association. That same report estimates the industry pays \$1.5 billion in federal, state and local taxes.

In addition to the 1,700 family-run poultry farms around the state, Mississippi has fifty processing plants, hatcheries, feed mills and egg farms. These businesses interact with banks, real estate firms, insurance agencies, farm supply stores, grain farmers, plant and poultry house equipment manufacturers who are allied members



of the association.

Registration fees are broken down into three categories: The Formula/Allied member's single or couple registration fee at \$375; the non-member single or couple registration fee at \$475; and The MPA grower member's single or couple fee at \$50. MPA accepts Master Card, Visa, American Express and Discover credit cards. A \$100 late registration fee will be charged on registrations received after August 31, 2021.

Visit MPA 2021 Conference Registration, [www.mspoultry.org/registrations/index.cfm](http://www.mspoultry.org/registrations/index.cfm), to learn more, register or donate.

MPA is located at 110 Airport Road, Suite C, in Pearl. To contact MPA, call 601-932-7560.

# Local libraries provide back-to-school support

Special to SW Rankin News

School is back in session, and southwest Rankin libraries would like to provide support to students to make this a successful school year. Library staff can request needed books from all Central Mississippi Regional Library System (CMRLS) libraries and across the state.

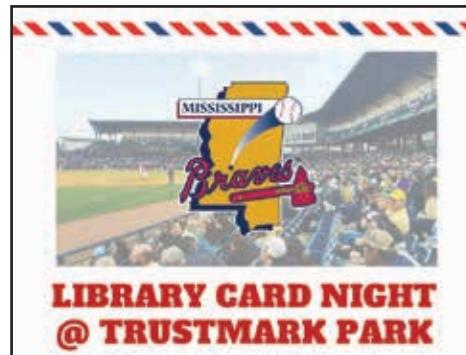
They also have access to the best research databases for school projects, and they can instruct in their use.

If a student is under the age of eighteen, he or she is eligible for a fine-free library card, also known as the Acorn Card. The card is free, and there are never any late fines. With this card, students may check out two books; when those are brought back, they may check out two more.

CMRLS wants students and parents alike to know that, "We want the 2021-2022 school year to be successful for all students!"

CMRLS is also partnering with the Mississippi Braves for Library Card Night at Trustmark Park.

On the evening of August 28, at 6:05 p.m., families can visit the park, provide a CMRLS library card and receive up to four guests in the game for \$3 each.



Images special to SW Rankin News

Also, in the month of August, Pearl Public Library (PPL) will host Toddler Time each Tuesday at 10 a.m. This story time is designed for toddlers, but younger babies are always welcome. The program includes lots of movement for wiggly friends, as they enjoy stories, rhymes, activities, and songs.

Each Wednesday at 10 a.m. is Pre-school Story Time, where young patrons

are invited to "Come enjoy a story, make a craft, and shake your sillies out!"



On Wednesdays at 4 p.m. is Peanuts After School. Children are invited to join library staff in reading stories and making crafts after school. Snacks will be served. This group is for kindergarten through sixth grade.

Each Monday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., adults

and seniors can stop by the Reference Desk and receive free basic computer instruction. Participants must have (or be ready to sign up for) a library card.

BINGO for Books will be held Thursday, August 12, at 6 p.m. at PPL. Patrons can come and play a classic game of bingo with a twist and for a chance to win a choice of a free book from the library's huge selection.

PPL's Adult Book Club will meet Wednesday, August 25, at 10 a.m. The Pearl Book Club meets every other Wednesday. Newcomers are always welcome, and books are chosen at the meetings.

At the Richland Public Library in August, there will be Preschool Story Time on Mondays at 11 a.m. They will have books, songs and a craft designed for children from birth to preschool age. Themes for August include: August 16 – Bugs; August 23 – Colors; and August 30 – Hats.

For adults and seniors, the Richland Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday, August 17, at 11 a.m. This month, the group we will be discussing *Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarty. Visit [www.cmrls.lib.ms.us](http://www.cmrls.lib.ms.us) to reserve a copy.

The Pearl Public Library is located at 2416 Old Brandon Road in Pearl. For more information, call 601-932-2562.

The Richland Public Library is located at 370 Scarbrough Street in Richland. For more information, call 601-932-1846.

The Florence Public Library is located at 115 West Main Street in Florence. For more information, call 601-845-6032. More information about the libraries can be found at [www.cmrls.lib.ms.us](http://www.cmrls.lib.ms.us).

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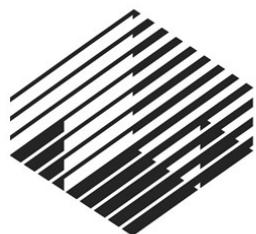
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## Local Churches



### Old Truths for Today Facts That Must Be Faced

J.T. Morgan



There are some people who simply cannot face facts. When some are confronted with certain truths in the social, moral, financial, political or spiritual realm, they refuse to accept them. For us to be honest with ourselves we must face up to facts, in whatever realm these truths may be found. The most important of all facts are spiritual truths found in the Bible.

One of the most important facts facing the sinner is that salvation is a very personal and individual matter. This does not mean that salvation is some "secret" matter or it's "none of other people's business." It is important that we become interested in each other and assist each other in being or becoming a Christian with being a "busy body." The wise man said, "He that winneth souls is wise." (Prov. 11:30).

Regardless of how much one cares for another person or how much teaching may be done there is something the sinner must do to be saved. The Philippian jailer asked, "What MUST I DO to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). The question was not, "What must someone else do?" but "What must I do?" Those on Pentecost in Jerusalem asked, "What shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). It was not a question of what God, Christ or the Holy Spirit must do. They have done their part and is doing all that can be done for the salvation of all men, in keeping with God's righteous purpose and plan. God is "not slack" or careless concerning the salvation of the lost. (Ezek. 18:31; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet.3:9). Salvation of man involves what MAN must do to be saved; it is an individual matter. Saul of Tarsus when Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus, Saul asked, "Lord what do you want ME to do?" and Jesus replied, "arise and go into the city and it will be told what YOU MUST do." (Acts 9:1-18; 22:1-16).

There are two sides to salvation. There is God's side, the divine and the human side involving man. God has made the greatest provisions that could ever be made for our salvation. He so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son to die and shed His blood for us in order to save us from perishing forever in the devil's hell. (Jon. 3:14-18). Christ then came as the gift of divine love tasting death for every man, shedding His own precious blood for a lost world, without which none could have been saved. (Heb. 2:9-10; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 1 Jon. 2:1-2; Matt. 26:28; Col. 1:14). He ascended to the right hand of God and sent the Holy Spirit to reveal and confirm the "good news" to all mankind. (Jno.14:15-17; 16:13; Acts 2:1-4). The Holy Spirit gave us the gospel which is the "power of God unto salvation" (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-4), through the apostles.

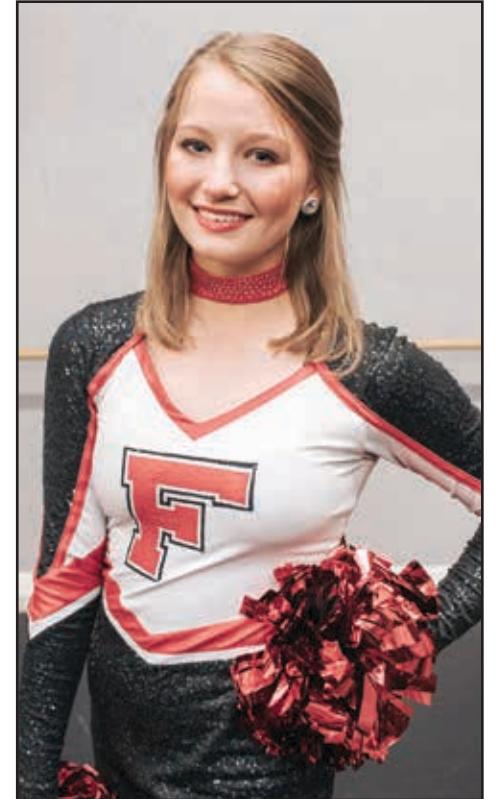
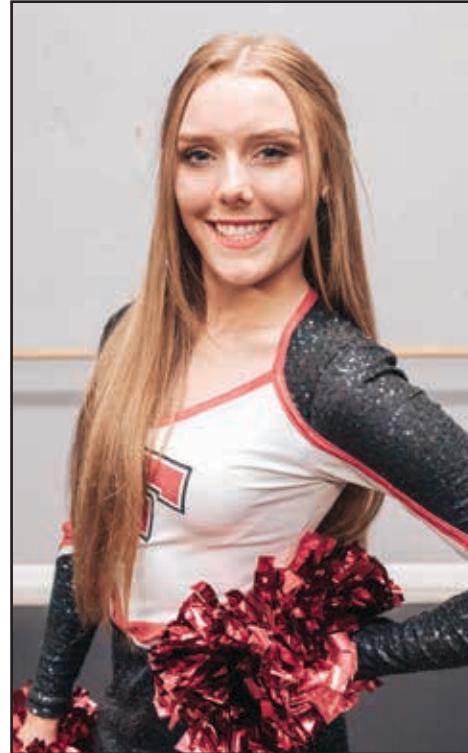
The fact is that God, Christ and the Holy Spirit have done their part for the salvation of mankind. It is now up to the sinner. This is a personal matter. Now man must respond to the invitation of the Lord (Matt. 11:28-30) and obey the commands given by Christ. (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15,16).

Your attitude toward these facts will determine your destiny! Why not believe them and obey the Lord to be saved then live for Jesus the remainder of your life?

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

Visitors are always welcome!

## The 2021-2022 FHS varsity dance captains revealed



Florence High School recently named its varsity dance captains for the 2021-22 school year, Abigail Taylor and Jennifer Albright Muse. Pictured, Abigail Taylor and Jennifer Albright Muse.

Special to SW Rankin News

Jennifer Albright Muse

## Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Funeral Home
Anita Hardee May	88y	Florence, MS	6/28/2021	Chancellor Funeral Home
Jennifer Patterson Solano	46y	Florence, MS	7/1/2021	Chancellor Funeral Home
Marion "Squeaky" Ingram	79y	Florence, MS	7/3/2021	Chancellor Funeral Home
James Edwin Gray	78y	Richland, MS	7/10/2021	Chancellor Funeral Home
Helen Jane Webb Campbell	82y	Florence, MS	7/12/2021	Chancellor Funeral Home
Charles David Beaver	84y	Florence, MS	7/14/2021	Chancellor Funeral Home
Glenda Marler Gardner	79y	Florence, MS	7/16/2021	Chancellor Funeral Home
Sandra Nunn Ward	79y	Natchez, MS	7/17/2021	Chancellor Funeral Home
Jack Hourguettes, Jr.	69y	Florence, MS	7/19/2021	Chancellor Funeral Home
John Walter Haley	45y	Richland, MS	7/19/2021	Chancellor Funeral Home
Dr. Jean Holland	85y	Richland, MS	7/20/2021	Chancellor Funeral Home
Wade Lee Overby	80y	Richland, MS	7/25/2021	Chancellor Funeral Home
George David Forbes	76y	Florence, MS	7/26/2021	Chancellor Funeral Home
Suzanne Polander	64y	Richland, MS	7/26/2021	Chancellor Funeral Home
James Vernell Mitchell	84y	Terry, MS	7/28/2021	Chancellor Funeral Home
Robert Boyle, Sr.	71y	Braxton, MS	7/29/2021	Chancellor Funeral Home
Frankie Henley	72y	Harrisville, MS	7/29/2021	Chancellor Funeral Home
Bobby Joe Tucker	84y	Florence, MS	7/30/2021	Chancellor Funeral Home

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# SRRC hosts "Motor Madness Car Show" in August



Special to SW Rankin News

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South Rankin Rotary Club (SRRC) welcomes locals to the Third Annual Motor Madness Car Show, slated for Saturday, August 21, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m., at Hemphill Park in Florence. Admission is free. There will be U.S. cars, U.S. trucks, imports, vintage, as well as modern muscle cars on display.

The Motor Madness Car Show began 2019 as an idea to use the passion for antique and unique cars, trucks, and motorcycles to assist local communities. Founded and hosted by SRRC, 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.

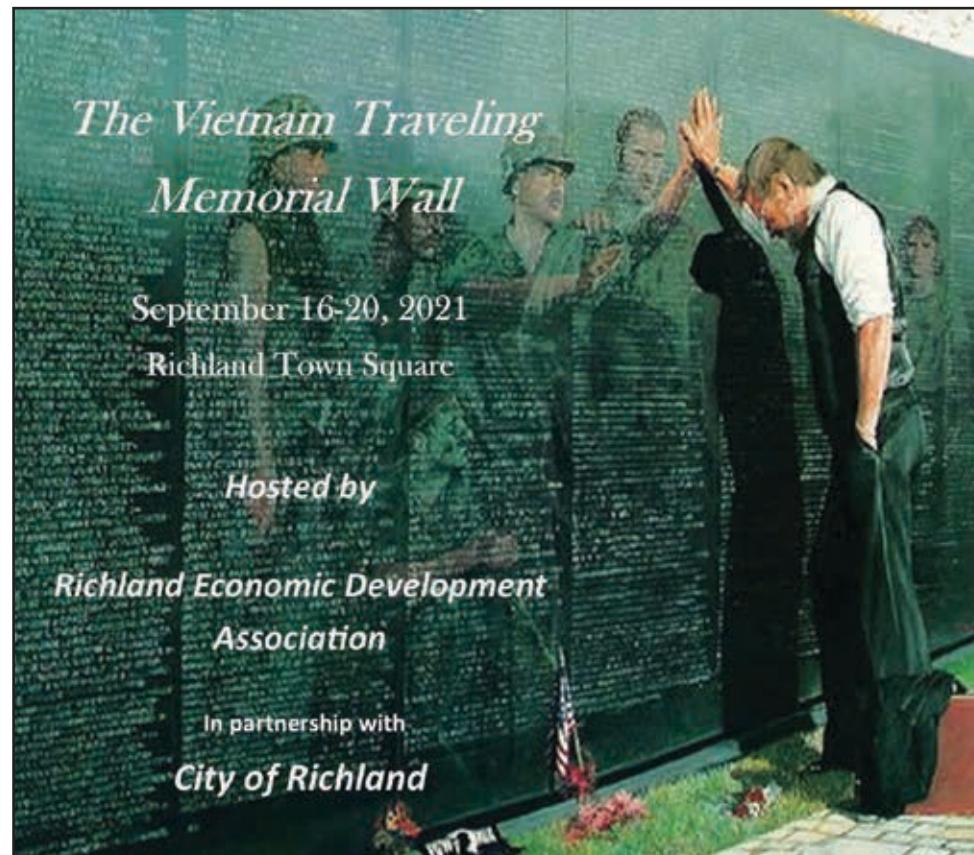
Location charities receiving funds from events such as this include: the Center for Violence Prevention, a domestic violence emergency shelter offering services to victims of domestic violence,

sexual assault, and human trafficking, with services that include advocacy, case management, therapy, and shelter; the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home, where families and children can find themselves in need of extra love and care; the Billy Brumfield House, which provides shelter for up to fifty men per night, and includes a homeless program, a drug-work transitional program, and a special needs program; and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), an intensive leadership experience organized by Rotary clubs and districts where leadership skills are cultivated while having fun and making connections.

There will be food vendors on site, but SRRC welcomes more. Contact Javier Araujo at 769-232 - 5139 or Speed Auto Sales at 601-891-8475 for more information.

To register online, or learn more about becoming a sponsor, visit <https://motormadnesscarshow.com/about/>.

# Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall coming to Richland



Special to SW Rankin News

Special to SW Rankin News

A special escort will begin Thursday, September 16, from a truck stop located at the front gate of Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg. Traveling north up Highway 49, the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall will be assembled at its intended destination - Richland Town Square in Richland. This unique memorial honoring U.S. military servicemembers who lost their lives in Vietnam, will be available for viewing by the public twenty-four hours a day until Monday, September 20.

The free event is hosted by the Richland Economic Development Association in partnership with the City of Richland.

The Traveling Wall is a 3/5 scale repli-

ca of the Vietnam Memorial located in Washington, D.C. It stands six feet tall at the center and covers almost 300 feet from end to end. It was created to allow communities the opportunity to visit loved ones in their home town who otherwise may not be able to make the trip to Washington.

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall® is part of the Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard (VVB) located in Brevard County Florida, a grass roots, community-based organization. The VVB is a 501(c)(3) organization that was formed and incorporated in December of 1985.

For further information contact Stephanie Ward of the Richland Mayor's Office, at 601-420-1530 or [sward@richlandms.com](mailto:sward@richlandms.com).

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# PPSD, RCSD offering free school meals through SSO

Special to SW Rankin News

All Rankin County School District (RCSD) students are eligible to receive a free breakfast and lunch through the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Seamless Summer Option (SSO). All RCSD households are encouraged to submit a SY21/22 Free/Reduced Meal Application so that their students may qualify for other benefits offered, such as ACT/PSAT waivers and Pandemic-EBT benefits, to name a few. RCSD applications may be submitted online at <https://zcu.io/E6wA>.

Pearl Public School District will also offer healthy meals for free every school day for the 2021-2022 school year. The completion of the meal application will not impact or affect PPSD

children's access to free meals; however, it will help the district to identify those students who might be eligible for P-EBT benefits and/or any other Federally-funded program benefits. Online and paper meal applications are currently available.

To complete a PPSD online application, visit [www.pearlk12.com](http://www.pearlk12.com) and click on the fork and knife icon. A paper application packet for free or reduced-price meal benefits and a set of detailed instructions from the child's teacher are also available at the front office of all PPSD schools. Paper applications may also be obtained by contacting the Child Nutrition Department at 601-932-7956.

These institutions are equal opportunity providers.



Special to SW Rankin News

## Richland honors South Rankin 7/8 League Champions



Special to SW Rankin News

South Rankin 7/8 League Champions were recognized at the July 6 City of Richland Board of Aldermen meeting. Pictured (l to r) are Grayson Cobb, Coach Ryan Chance, Graceleigh Brantley, Able Hall, Kaidon Johnson, Kylin Netherland, Noah Patrick, Asher Smith and Coach Brent Cobb. Not pictured: Coach Gerald Smith, John Parker Chance, Bentley Fallin, C.J. Mack, Lucas Pope, Bryce Tanner and Cruz Diaz.

## FYSA announces new partnership with BFC

Special to SW Rankin News

Beginning with the 2021 fall soccer season, Florence Youth Soccer Association (FYSA) will be partnering with

joy the game and grow in it without having to leave their communities, provide opportunities for local youth to develop a love the game, and receive quality instruction with the proper resources.



Special to SW Rankin News

Brandon Futbol Club (BFC) in an effort to help soccer improve for all of the players and families in both communities.

By doing this, BFC will be able to provide staff and programming to players at Florence Futbol Club (FFC) and FYSA. There will also be unique opportunities for players in both locations to add to their existing programs.

The goals for the future are to ensure that players have the opportunity to en-

In regards to the fledgling collaboration, FYSA released this statement via Facebook:

"We believe this partnership will greatly benefit our soccer community and our growing association's developmental needs for our youth players. We are committed to providing the best opportunities to our players, parents and community. We simply cannot wait to get started. See you on the pitch this fall!"

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# RCSD policies for 2021-22 school year

Special to SW Rankin News

**Update - August 10, 2021**

The number one goal of the Rankin County School District (RCSD) is to keep children safe while educating them face-to-face and in person, which requires that RCSD keep the doors open to the schools. Their hopes were to remain in school while “highly recommending masks” and utilizing other prevention strategies. However, the number of positive cases and quarantines of students and employees has become a concern after just two days of school opening.

After careful consideration, RCSD felt it was necessary to require masks to be worn indoors for all students and employees beginning Tuesday, August 10, 2021, until Wednesday, August 25, 2021. RCSD will reevaluate the situation on August 25, to decide if the District can return to “recommending” masks. Due to short notice, RCSD will provide masks to students and employees for the first week, as needed.

**School hours:** Due to the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) ending the one-year waiver on minimum instructional minutes per day, there will not be reduced days on Wednesday during the 2021-2022 school year. Ad-

ditionally, the Rankin County Schools bell schedules for the 2021-2022 school year will be closely aligned with bell schedules used prior to 2020. The bell schedules are currently posted on school websites.

**Health and safety:** Parents/guardians should perform an assessment of their child(ren)’s health before leaving home. If your child feels unwell, or has any of the following symptoms, please do not allow him or her to come to school and contact your healthcare provider. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea; a nurse will be assigned to every campus; RCSD will require the wearing of masks in all indoor settings until August 25; students, faculty, and staff should stay home when they are sick, when they have a temperature of more than 100°F (38°C), or when they do not pass the daily at-home screen-



ing examination; students and staff who live with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 should stay home from school until the risk of transmission has passed; everyone should practice good hygiene measures such as hand washing often with soap and warm water for

twenty seconds and covering coughs and sneezes; faculty and staff will assist in monitoring students for symptoms and will refer anyone with symptoms to the school nurse/school designee for evaluation; hand sanitizer will be on all buses, in hallways, classrooms, bathrooms, and at school entrances and exits; hand soap and paper towels will be in all bathrooms; isolation areas will be set up to quarantine students with symptoms; and symptom free students and employees who are fully vaccinated are exempt from quarantine requirements.

In the event that COVID-19 case numbers necessitate alterations to standard operating procedures, schools will implement additional measures per the original Smart Restart document.

**Activities/visitors:** School assem-

blies, field trips, athletics, and other activities will return to traditional school procedures; Visitors to campus should go directly to the school office area; Classroom and lunchtime visits will be permitted on campuses following the school’s guidelines; Visitors should be symptom free and follow all school guidelines concerning health and safety.

**Transportation:** RCSD plans to start the school year with optional face masks/coverings on the buses. (However, masks may become necessary during the course of the school year depending upon state guidelines due to the increased spread of illness.); Hand sanitizer is provided for students and bus drivers; Buses are disinfected following both the morning and afternoon routes, and buses; Again, refer to the original Smart Restart 2020-2021 document for more information on adjustments that may be made throughout the 2021-2022 school year per the guidance of the Mississippi Department of Health and the Governor’s Executive Orders.

Refer to the 2021-2022 Student Handbook for information on attendance, policies, etc.

Visit [www.rcsd.ms/coronavirus-information/smart-restart-2122](http://www.rcsd.ms/coronavirus-information/smart-restart-2122) for the most up-to-date information on the 2021-22 School Smart Restart policies.

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Copiah Bank  
Country Meat Packers  
El Cabrito Mexican Restaurant  
First Baptist Church

First Baptist Church  
Florence Dental Clinic  
Florence Family Medical  
Florence Public Library  
Jerry's Catfish House  
Los Cazadores Mexican Grill  
MaMa's Kitchen  
McGee Realty  
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Parks & Recreation Center  
Police Department  
Polk's Drugs  
Pruitt Rental and Outdoor  
Rebecca Rose Flea Market  
Red Wagon Boutique  
Revell Hardware  
Richland Public Library  
Richland Parks & Recreation  
Shell Station  
Stoney Creek Mobile Home Park  
StowAway Self Storage  
Stribling Equipment

T-Rays BBQ  
Tiny Treasures  
The Donut Shop Café  
Willow Blu

**Schools**

Discovery Christian School  
Florence Elementary  
Florence Middle  
Florence High  
McLaurin Elementary  
McLaurin High

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## MDOT COVID-19 vaccination transportation

Special to SW Rankin News

As the fight against COVID-19 continues, limited access to transportation to vaccination sites has become a concern particularly for persons with transportation challenges. In an effort to help residents in need of vaccination, the Mississippi Department of Transportation

(MDOT) is supporting a statewide initiative that assists local residents in scheduling free rides to local COVID-19 vaccination sites. While not limited to a particular group, the emphasis is placed on linking persons facing transportation challenges, such as disabled or low-income individuals, veterans, and the elderly, with available transportation providers.

MDOT's toll-free line, 1-866-813-3616, offers information and referrals for transportation to vaccination sites by connecting callers to a designated regional call center.

This initiative is being coordinated through six networks of regional community transportation providers across the state.

"This is just a small way MDOT can help Mississippi take a step forward as everyone works to combat COVID-19,"



Special to SW Rankin News

said Commissioner Tom King, Chairman, Mississippi Transportation Commission.

When contacting the toll-free number, the caller will be able to select their scheduled vaccination site from a menu of six options; Delta Area, Golden Triangle Area, Northeast Area, Central Area, Southern Area and Southwest Area. Once the region is selected, the caller will be connected to the designated call center for the ride to be scheduled within twenty-four to forty-eight hours. For evening and weekend calls, every effort will be made to confirm scheduled trips by the next business day.

"We at MDOT recognize the importance of everyone receiving the vaccine to protect themselves and their loved ones, so we are supporting free transportation for our citizens to local vaccine locations," Commissioner Willie Simmons, Central Transportation District.

The menu will also include an information option for questions and referrals through MDOT's Public Transit Division. To reach the Public Transit Division, contact them directly at 601-359-7800.

## Special items collected for "Mission Monday" at PSC



Special to SW Rankin News

Recently, Pearl Senior Center (PSC) senior adults collected multiple hygiene items for locally incarcerated women. They then decorated bags to use for their distribution.

## Florence Night Out scheduled at Hemphill Park



Special to SW Rankin News

Special to SW Rankin News

Residents are invited to join the City of Florence on Thursday, August 12, at 6 p.m. for a meet and greet between locals and the employees of the Florence Police Department. Bounce houses will be available on-site to entertain youth. The City of Florence

encourages the community to come enjoy "free food, fun and fellowship with our first responders at Hemphill Park."

Hemphill Park is located directly next to the community center at 437 South Church Street in Florence.

For further information, contact the City of Florence at 601-845-7508.

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## Civil War Relic Show benefits the Wounded Warriors of MS



Special to SW Rankin News

The 2021 Civil War Relic Show was recently held to benefit the Wounded Warriors of Mississippi. The Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp # 265 said they would like to thank all who helped make their ninth annual show a success. They said that, without the support, donations to local heroes would not be possible. For more information about The Wounded Warriors of MS, The Sons of Confederate Veterans, or future community projects, visit The Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp #265 Facebook page, or contact Tim Cupit at 769-234-2966 or [timcupit@comcast.net](mailto:timcupit@comcast.net).

## RCC hosts 2021 Social Workers Conference

Special to SW Rankin News

The Rankin County Chamber of Commerce (RCC) - Quality of Life Committee, in partnership with Jackson State University School of Social Work, will host the 2021 Social Workers Conference Friday, August 13, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Quality-of-Life Committee is made up of chamber members whose expertise lies within the quality-of-life vocations, whether it be hospice care, hospital workers, insurance workers, physical fitness experts, nutritionists or social workers themselves. The fifteen-member committee was originally designated as the "Elder Service Committee" and held their annual conferences at the Mississippi State Hospital.

Since 2000, the City of Richland has provided the venue for the special event. The distinguished list of speakers attending this year's event are: Dr. Lori F. Tate, DSW, LCSW; Andrea Sanders, JD, MSW; Dr. Jared Taylor, adjunct faculty; Melody Vaughn, MSW, LSW; and Dr. Jacqueline Loggins, DSW, LCSW. In 2020, the conference drew approximate-

ly 200 attendees.

The purpose of the event is to allow social work professionals the opportunity to gain a total of four general and one mandated continuing education credits. All registrants must attend all scheduled activities to receive a certificate.

Registration remains ongoing for attendees. To register, visit [www.rankinchamber.com](http://www.rankinchamber.com) to access an attendee paper application. Once registered online, the application must be completed and emailed to Sarah Adams, member relations specialist, at [sadams@rankinchamber.com](mailto:sadams@rankinchamber.com). The cost is \$75 for advance payments, and \$85 for those who register the day-of. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

The conference provides space for a total of twenty-three vendors. Interested parties may contact Adams at 601-825-2268 or [sadams@rankinchamber.com](mailto:sadams@rankinchamber.com) to inquire about available space. The cost for RCC member booth registration is \$100 per applicant, and for prospective member booths, the cost is \$150 per applicant.

Richland Community Center is located at 410 East Harper Street in Richland.



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## It's official: 2021 Southwest Rankin Mayors and Board of Aldermen sworn in



On Thursday, July 1, 2021 in the City of Richland's Board Room, the newly-elected Board of Aldermen were officially sworn in. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Alderman Beth Sanford (Mayor Pro Tempore), Mayor Pat Sullivan and Alderman Gus Black; and back row: Alderman A.J. Shields, Alderman Matthew Quick and Alderman John Hamilton.



Rankin County Chancery Court Judge Troy Odom administered the oath of office to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen at Pearl City Hall on July 1, 2021. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Alderman-At-Large John McHenry, Mayor Jake Windham and Alderman District 3 Johnny Steverson; and back row: Alderman District 2 Keith Dennis, Alderman District 1 Sammy Williams, Alderman District 6 Gavin Gill, Alderman District 5 James Thompson and Alderman District 4 Casey Foy.



Photos special to SW Rankin News

On the evening of July 7, the Florence Aldermen Board Members were sworn in by the city attorney. The mayor, the five aldermen and their families attended the inauguration that Tuesday evening. Mayor Bob Norris was sworn in first, followed by the aldermen, Todd Norris, John Helms, Trey Gunn, Brian Grantham and John Banks. Also appointed were John Helms as mayor pro-tem, Ringer, Lingold & Spencer as city attorney and prosecutor, Ken Fairly as city judge, Joshua McCrory and Randy Clark as city judge pro-tem, Sarah Gregory as indigent attorney, Linda Wigley as city clerk, and Dan McClendon as chief of police.

## RCSD welcomes newest administrative staff



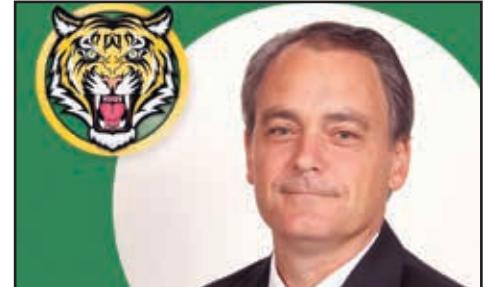
Amanda Boteler will begin serving as assistant principal at McLaurin Elementary School for the 2021-2022 school year. Boteler served as a literacy coach for Richland Upper Elementary School for the past two years.



Kelsey Williams will begin serving as assistant principal at Florence Middle School for the 2021-2022 school year. Williams previously served at Pelahatchie High School for the last seven years as a math teacher and transportation supervisor.



Johnna Henley will begin serving as assistant principal at Richland Elementary School for the 2021-2022 school year. Henley previously served as interventionist for Richland Upper Elementary (one year), teacher at Flowood Elementary (six years), and counselor at Richland Elementary (ten years).



Russ Granberry will begin serving as principal at McLaurin High School for the 2021-2022 school year. Granberry previously served as an assistant principal for Brandon High School for the past three years.



Cindy Morris will begin serving as assistant principal at Florence High School for the 2021-2022 school year. Morris has previously served as a math teacher at Pisgah High, Puckett High, and Richland High over the past seventeen years.



Keith Reed will begin serving as principal at Florence Middle School for the 2021-2022 school year. Reed previously served as assistant principal at Florence High School and Puckett High School for the last ten years.



Jason Thomas will begin serving as assistant principal at Florence High School for the 2021-2022 school year. Thomas He previously served as an assistant principal for Florence Middle School for the past seven years.



Photos special to SW Rankin News

Keith Reed will begin serving as principal at Florence Middle School for the 2021-2022 school year. Reed previously served as assistant principal at Florence High School and Puckett High School for the last ten years.

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# Foundation to hold twelfth annual golf tournament at CCC

Special to SW Rankin News

The Twelfth Annual Foundation for Rankin County Public Schools, Inc. Golf Tournament is being held Wednesday, October 13, through Thursday, October 14, at Castlewoods Country Club (CCC) in Brandon.

Registration and the driving range will be open from 7 a.m. until 12 p.m. A shotgun start will be at 1 p.m. on Wednesday and 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Thursday. Lunch will be served at noon.

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

This is a shotgun tournament, so space is limited. Golfers will be accepted on a first paid and received basis. Cost for teams is \$5,000 with a hole sponsorship, or \$400 without a hole sponsorship. Entry fee includes eighteen holes of golf, lunch buffet, cart and prizes.

The Foundation's purpose is to facilitate businesses' and individuals' support for the work of Rankin County Schools and to encourage academic excellence. As the charitable organization of the Rankin County School District, their hope is to help their students become community leaders by encouraging involvement, enriching their excellent schools, and expanding their supporters and business partners. They continually plan for the future of their children and want to assist student success by helping students prepare for their future and to become productive members of the community. The Foun-



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ation is helping the Rankin County School District move from "great to BEST!"

The Foundation Board Members include President and Congressman Michael Guest, Vice President John Sullivan, Secretary Paul Bowen, Treasurer Shane Dubois, Member Dr. Ruth Burgess, Member Rachael Boyer, Member Noel Daniels, Member Benny Hubbard, Member Kelly Martin, Member Ashley Shivers, Member Maggie Wade, and Ex-Officio Member Dr. Sue Townsend.

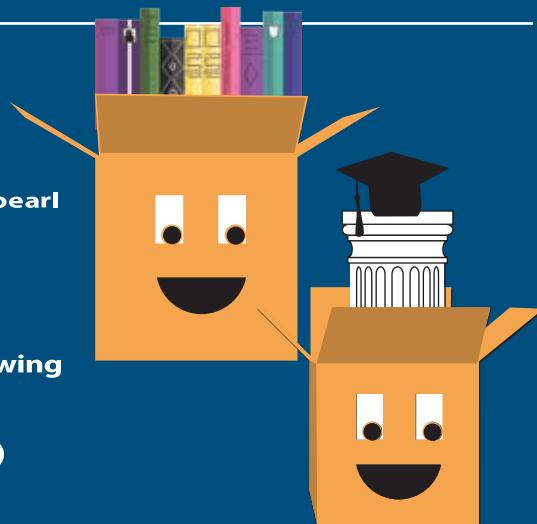
For more information on sponsorship opportunities, contact [FoundationForRankinSchools@gmail.com](mailto:FoundationForRankinSchools@gmail.com) or visit [www.rcsd.ms/about-rcsd/rcsd-foundation/foundation-golf-tournament](http://www.rcsd.ms/about-rcsd/rcsd-foundation/foundation-golf-tournament).

## BACK TO SCHOOL TIME! HOPE YOU HAVE A GREAT YEAR!

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## MDEQ NOx emissions reduction projects seeking qualifying applicants

Special to SW Rankin News

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) recently released an application package for the funding of nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions reduction projects. This funding opportunity is a reimbursement program for qualifying projects under the State of Mississippi Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program. The project submittal deadline is October 29, 2021.

MDEQ invites universities, private organizations, non-profit organizations, businesses, and any county, city, state, or other local government in Mississippi to submit applications to implement cost-effective and innovative projects to reduce NOx emissions.

The Volkswagen Diesel Settlement required VW to establish a \$2.7 billion Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund to be distributed among states to fund eligible mitigation projects to replace diesel emission sources with cleaner technology to reduce excess nitrogen oxide emissions. VW established the Mitigation Trust Fund in part to settle claims that it sold vehicles with "defeat devices" designed to cheat emissions tests. Mississippi has been allocated approximately \$9.8 million to fund projects designed to reduce NOx emissions in the state.

The application package (which can be found at [www.mdeq.ms.gov/air/vw-mitigation-trust/](http://www.mdeq.ms.gov/air/vw-mitigation-trust/)) outlines the process of applying for funding and information on

the background of the program, the entities and projects eligible for funding as well as the required application content and procedures. The project selection process, a timeline for administering the grant, and other details regarding project requirements are also included in this package.

The list of eligible projects is predominantly focused on the reduction of diesel emissions, which are a large contributor of NOx emissions. Reducing diesel emissions is currently one of the most important air quality challenges in Mississippi. Although more stringent emission standards have taken effect for new, heavy-duty, on-road and non-road engines, older diesel engines still in use will continue to emit large amounts of nitrogen ox-



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ides and particulate matter for years to come. These pollutants affect many areas of the state and hinder its ability to continue to comply with National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and they contribute to public health problems.

MDEQ will award funds on a competitive basis and will only consider complete applications submitted by the submission deadline. A review committee consisting of MDEQ staff will review proposals and will assign points to each proposal based on criteria listed in the application package. Project proposals will be ranked according to the total points received.

More information can be found on the MDEQ Air Division's webpage [www.mdeq.ms.gov/air/vw-mitigation-trust/](http://www.mdeq.ms.gov/air/vw-mitigation-trust/).

# Honoring RHS's Brandon Smith: Member of MSU championship team



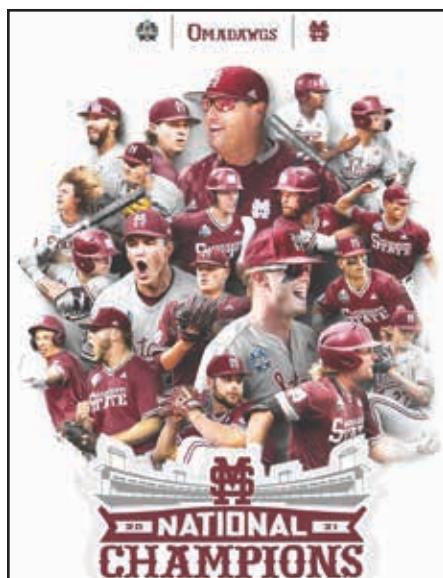
Smith representing the Mississippi State University (MSU) Bulldogs



Brandon Smith



Playing for the Richland Rangers



The 2021 MSU Baseball Team

Photos special to SW Rankin News



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## Killing the Rising Sun, A book report

By Beth Woodmansee for The Friends of the Richland Library

*Killing the Rising Sun: How America Vanquished World War II Japan*, by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard is the best book on the history of World War II. It details the final months of the war against Japan, including the growing tension between an American president and the Commander of American Forces.

The one idea permeating the entire book is the militaristic nature of Japanese society in the late 1800s to 1940s, exemplified in the Japanese military's commitment to the Samurai code of "Bushido" - to surrender is a form of dishonor. The Japanese believed Emperor Hirohito to be a living god and the Japanese to be superior to all others. Combine these beliefs with desire for power above all else, and you will find yourself facing an indomitable foe.

Japanese soldiers were trained never to take prisoners, nor to become one. Japanese soldiers, if taken prisoner, "lost face." Better to kill themselves. Captured American and Allied soldiers being held in POW camps were treated like slaves; given little food, water or medical treatment. In 1886, Japan had signed the first Geneva Convention of 1864, and a subsequent agreement of 1929; but, Japan conveniently forgot.

The plan to invade Japan was to sail from one island to the next, re-taking each along the way.

Guadalcanal, 1942, was the first stop in this "island-hopping strategy," bringing Americans 3,000 miles closer to Tokyo. Peleliu Island, late 1944, brought Americans 1,000 miles nearer. Iwo Jima's surrender on March 26, 1945, brought them 750 miles closer. Okinawa was half that distance.

Each island was re-taken only after intense fighting and terrible loss of lives. On Okinawa, the fighting lasted eighty-two days with over twenty thousand American soldiers dead.

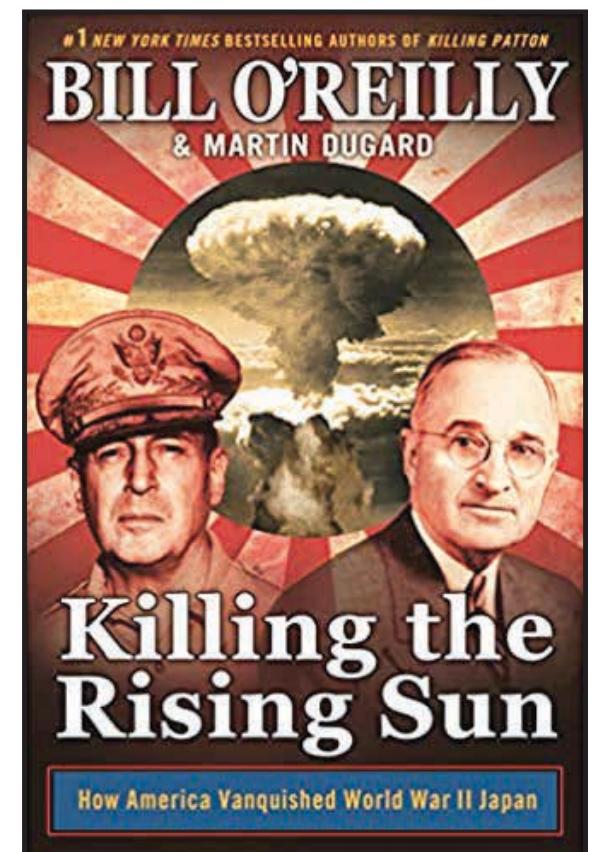
In spite of the numbers of dead and wounded troops on both sides, Japan refused to surrender. This was the enemy that Americans forces fought against in the Pacific - implacable, intractable, choosing death before surrender. How many thousands, maybe millions, of Americans and Japanese would die if Japan itself was invaded?

In a last-ditch mission to end the war, General Curtis LeMay was put in charge of a campaign, "Operation Meetinghouse," to decimate Tokyo. March 10, 1945, Tokyo was destroyed

by "Firebombs," a special M-69 bomb, twenty inches long, filled with jellied gasoline called "napalm."

The bomb exploded 2,000 feet above the ground, igniting ferocious fires. Three-hundred thirty-four B-29 bombers decimated Tokyo. Burning napalm stuck to anything it landed on, and 100,000 people died horribly. No surrender. Five other cities were fire-bombed: Nagoya, Yokohama, Osaka, Kobe and Kawasaki, with similar loss of lives. No surrender!

American President Franklin Delano Roosevelt died April 12, 1945,



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and Harry S. Truman, recently elected vice-president, was sworn in as president. Within days, Truman was informed about the top-secret "Manhattan Project," under which American and Allied scientists spent years creating the atomic bomb, the most powerful bomb ever. Many advocated using it instead of a naval invasion of Japan. Forty-four days after Okinawa was re-taken, on August 6, 1945, under Truman's authority, the first atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, bringing unimaginable death and destruction. August 9, a second atom bomb all but obliterated Nagasaki. Finally, on September 2, Japan officially surrendered.

In 1948, Colonel Paul Tibbets, pilot of the B-29 which dropped the atom bomb on Hiroshima, and several of his original crew completed a minor mission to Nagasaki. He and his men were "touched by the friendliness of the Japanese people" on this occasion.

"This brief visit left me with considerable respect for the people who had been our enemies such a short time ago." (Page 275, Chapter 29)

# August agenda from Pearl Senior Services



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Pearl Senior Services (PSS) will usher in the last days of summer with a number of entertaining events and activities for the month of August.

Beginning on Thursday, August 12, at 11:30 a.m., PSS will host the first in a series of Lunch and Learns, where the guest speaker for the event will be a representative from Ott and Lee Funeral Home. A light lunch will be served.

Following on Friday, August 13, at 10 a.m., is the final destination in a series of virtual tours, Armchair Travel to Spain. Attendees will visit the ten best places to visit in Spain, enjoy a local snack, while learning how to paint a Spanish-inspired image by Spanish artist Lucia Duque.

On Tuesday, August 17, at 10 a.m., a special arts and crafts event will be held. Attendees will paint nineteen-inch wood cutout HOME signs. The cost for attendees is \$10 a head and is due at registration.

On Thursday, August 19, at 11:30 a.m., PSS will host the speaker of the month, State Historian Clint Bagley. Greenville native Bagley, with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, will be presenting his lecture, "Talks and Tours Along the Mississippi." Interpreting historical sights in Natchez and Vicksburg, he will identify and acquaint everyone with examples of the various styles of architecture of the Lower Mississippi Valley. Bagley will discuss popular myths and show how historic records, genealogy and oral histories can

bring a historic house to life. Tickets are available for purchase at \$5 per person.

The second Lunch and Learn for August will be held Monday, August 23, at 11:30 a.m. Missions Pastor of Fondren Church Van Hardin will be on-site to discuss how to have "Hope in Hard Times." Lunch will be provided.

Monthly Birthday Bingo will be held Thursday, August 26, at 1 p.m.

Finally, on Monday, August 30, at 1 p.m. is the Monday Movie Matinee, where this month's showing is of Dolly Parton's *Coat of Many Colors*. It is based on the inspiring true story of living legend Dolly Parton and her remarkable upbringing. Providing a front-seat view inside the tight-knit Parton family, the film shows the struggle they faced to overcome devastating tragedy and discover the healing power of love and faith. The setting is in the Tennessee Great Smoky Mountains of 1955. It is neither a biopic nor a musical about Parton's life and career, but a family-oriented faith-based story about the incidents in her and her family's life when she was approximately nine years of age.

Advanced registration is required at all Pearl Senior Services events, and space is limited. There are no holds for any of the scheduled events. All residents fifty-five and older are encouraged to attend.

The Pearl Senior Center hours are Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

For more information, call 601-863-3229.

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