

Heavy rains cause Pearl flooding

By Susie A. Wolfe

By mid-afternoon on Wednesday, September 26, the National Weather Service (NWS) in Jackson reported three to five inches of rain since 9 a.m. These heavy rains caused flooding in Pearl affecting 200 homes and 25 businesses.

Gov. Phil Bryant said, in addition to buildings, more than 50 vehicles were damaged, and Rankin County Sheriff Bryan Bailey told local news outlets that 30 to 40 deputies helped rescue people. Pearl police reported that at least one bridge collapsed, and a strip mall's roof fell in.

Gov. Bryant sent out a tweet stating that he had been briefed on the damage by Mississippi Emergency Management Agency leadership.

"Approximately 100 homes, 25 busi-

ness and 50 vehicles have endured some degree of damage. Four bridges have been closed. All residents have been safely evacuated," the tweet said. Flooding has been especially severe in Eastgate Village between Old Brandon and Highway 80, an area that has grappled with past drainage issues and is prone to flooding. Meteorologist Anna Wolverton with the NWS in Jackson said Pearl residents were reporting



Photo by Kerrie Westbrook
Chotard Avenue is shown around noon after Pearl received massive amounts of rain in a short period of time on September 26.

flooding as "the most excessive they've ever seen." Power outages were also reported in affected areas. Motorists were being advised to avoid all flooded areas.

On September 30, the Sunday after

the flooding, The Exchange Church in Pearl held a Night of Hope at Pearl City Park, where they invited all those affected by the flood. Their church on Biederman Road received 2-3 inches. The 450-500-member church served 400 hamburgers and 250 hot dogs to flood victims, first responders, and local government leadership, including Pearl Mayor Jake Windham. There were also backyard games, inflatables, music and a time of prayer.

Mayor Windham reported that MEMA would be back in Pearl on Monday, October 1, continuing to assess the impacted areas. The Mayor said he agreed with the theme of the gathering, A City Standing United, and he is proud of the quick response by first responders and the resilience of the people of Pearl.

"When it's too tough for everyone else, it's just right for Pearl," he said.

Richland 49 Fest a success



Photo by SW Rankin News

Runaway Jane and Craig Morgan performed for cheering crowds to end a successful 49 Fest on September 29. Crowds enjoyed the day full of arts and crafts, Kids Zone with a Petting Zoo, a car show, Run Rangers Run 5K, Kickin' Cancer Kickball Tournament, local entertainment and food concessions. McKala Williamson, daughter of Brittany Boyd of Richland, is shown riding a unicorn. Pictured (l to r) are: McKala, Alexis Martin and Jeannie Chisholm.

FHS adopts Josh Sexton for Homecoming service project

Special to SW Rankin News

For the fourth homecoming in a row, Florence High School (FHS) kept its new focus of adopting community service projects to bring together the school and outside community. This year, FHS raised money for Florence Elementary School student Josh Sexton, for service dog training for Josh's new puppy, Winter. The goal was to raise \$8,000, and more than \$5,200 was raised by the end of September. Fundraising will continue until the amount is reached.

In 2016, Sexton was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a form of bone cancer which has taken Sexton's right arm and threatened his leg when the cancer returned in 2017. Sexton has undergone extensive medical treatments, and several local fundraising efforts have been done in the past to assist with medical expenses. Just last year, FHS hosted a "Gatorade & Supplies" drive for Sexton's hospitalization needs.



Special to SW Rankin News

Josh Sexton with his soon-to-be trained service dog, Winter. Winter was donated by R.H. Stockman of Jasper County and put in contact with Josh's family by the Seth Harris Childhood Cancer Foundations in Bay Springs.

"We had decided to adopt a service dog fundraiser this year because Brannon McLendon, one of our Florence Middle School students, brought that need to our attention last year," said Amy McAllison. *continued on page 10*

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Richland to host Bridal Expo in November - pg. 15

Jack Tullos remembered at Pearl Stadium - pg. 6

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Restoration Church hosts *Light the Night* October 31

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Sixth Annual Light the Night event will be held this Halloween, Wednesday, October 31, with seven festivals/stations in Florence and Richland by Restoration Church.

"There will be decorations, games, food, prizes, candy and more. Addresses of the small festivals will be posted on the Restoration Church web-site, Instagram and Facebook pages closer to the date," said Debra Brown, children's pastor.

"These stations give families a fun, safe place to stop and spend some time playing games and interacting with neighbors and members of their community," said Brown.

Restoration Church, 2136 US 49 in Florence, has approximately 300 members and is affiliated with Discovery Christian School. The Community church has a heart and vision for building relationships with families and together impacting our communities with the love and abundant life God has for each of us. They exist to help people to know God, find freedom, discover their purpose and make a difference.

According to Associate Pastor Larry



Photo by SW Rankin News

Bob Quick, Restoration member, is ready to share goodie bags with local trick-or-treaters.



Special to SW Rankin News

Bonnie Kate Floyd is showing a local princess how to score a prize.

Pate, "We build relationships through facilitating: Corporate Sunday services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.; a vibrant and active youth and children's ministry; weekly growth track classes that help each individual grow in their own personal spiritual development and discover their gifts and purpose; men's and women's ministries; free-

dom classes; and weekly small groups based on interests as well as relationships such as Bible studies, carpentry, auto repair, photography, family meal prep, community outreach, and college and career."

The ministry leaders include Senior Pastor Freddie Brown; Associate Pastor Larry Pate; Associate Pastor Jerry McNeece; Women's Pastor Janine

Mangum; Men's Pastor Ted Mangum; Children's Pastor Debra Brown; Worship Pastor Terri Pate; Youth Pastors Trent and Hillary Grantham; and Training Pastor Josh Quick. For more info on Restoration Church, Light the Night or other Restoration Ministries, find them on Facebook, Instagram, Restorationms.org, or download the church app RestorationMS.

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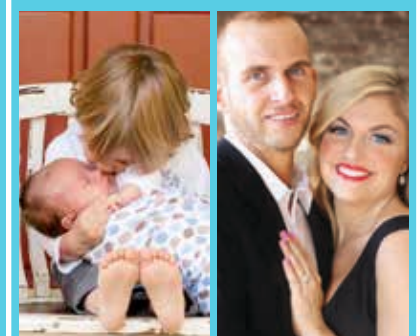
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County Judge Tom Broome qualifies for re-election



By Tom Broome, Rankin County Judge, Place 2

Special to SW Rankin News
Judge Tom Broome

Judge Tom Broome is seeking re-election for the position of Rankin County Judge, Place Two which serves as the County Youth Court Judge. Since 2002, his leadership has helped the Court to be recognized nationally as a model court for its innovative and collaborative programs, such as the Juvenile and Family Drug Treatment Courts; its ZERO TO THREE Safe Babies Court Team; and the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative.

Judge Broome has been recognized by the bench and bar for his dedication

to protecting the best interest of children and promoting public safety and accountability. He has received the MS Supreme Court Chief Justice Award, the MS Bar Judicial Excellence Award, the Southern Christian Services Award, the Judicial Innovation Award, and the One Loud Voice Champion of Children Award. He is the Chair of the MS Council of Youth Court Judges, the Co-Chair of the Commission on Children's Justice, and a member of the US Department of Justice Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice. He is a Director and the past Secretary of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Judge Broome also serves on the Drug Court Advisory Committee and the Statewide Steering Committee for the Mississippi Family

First Initiative.

Judge Broome graduated with highest honors from Mississippi College School of Law, where he served on the Law Review, Moot Court, and was President of the Law Student Bar Association. He is an active member in the Rankin County Bar, Capital Area Bar Association, MS Bar and the ABA Judicial Division. Broome is an adjunct professor at Mississippi College School of Law and is the former Rankin County Prosecutor.

Judge Broome is married to Paula Henderson Broome, the Chief of the MS Attorney General's Bureau of Victims Assistance. He is the son of retired school teacher Betty Broome and the late Circuit Judge Rufus Broome. He is an honor graduate of Pearl High

School and Mississippi State University where he was inducted in the Hall of Fame. Broome has also served as President of the Methodist Men at McLaurin Heights United Methodist Church. He is a Rankin County Forestry Association board member and a Master Mason at the Pelahatchie Lodge. Judge Broome is a graduate of the first Leadership Rankin Class for the Rankin County Chamber of Commerce and has served on the Board of Directors for the Pearl Chamber of Commerce.

Judge Broome has the experience, judicial temperament, and integrity that Rankin County needs in a Youth Court Judge. On November 6th, please vote to keep Judge Tom Broome, Rankin County Court Judge, Place Two.

Maurices donates to PLE



Photos special to SW Rankin News

As part of its community support initiatives, Maurices women's fashion store located in the Outlets of Mississippi presented Pearl Lower Elementary with a donation of \$100. Pictured (right) (l to r) Ashley Washington and Brittany Henderson are pictured presenting the check to Mrs. Canda Jackson, PLE Principal. Maurices also presented Pearl Lower Elementary first-year teachers with a basket full of classroom necessities. Pictured (left) (l to r) are Ashley Washington, Sarah Skaggs, Jennifer McInnis, and Brittany Henderson.

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Funeral Home
Heather Jamison	37	Florence, MS	9/6/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Eunice Smith	92	Florence, MS	9/7/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
John MaCoy	72	Harrisville, MS	9/9/18	Chanellow Funeral Home
Ronnie "Sonny" Bridges	76	Richland, MS	9/11/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Mary Louise Stephenson	69	Florence, MS	9/13/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Marilyn Renee Fewell	62	Byram, MS	9/13/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Lecy Bridges Purvis	92	Florence, MS	9/18/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Joshua Dill	26	Floyd, MS	9/18/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Tommy Hudson	45	Richland, MS	9/21/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Barbara Ann Heathcock	70	Prentiss, MS	9/24/18	Chancellor Funeral Home
Mattie Elizabeth Carroll (Infant)	-0-	Florence, MS	9/26/18	Chancellor Funeral Home

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Community journalism matters because communities matter

By Guest Columnist Matt Geiger

"Everything in this newspaper is important to someone."

It's become something of a mantra for me, in recent years.

Weekly community newspapers are eclectic, to say the least. We publish photos of ribbons being cut at bakeries, and donations being dropped off at local food pantries. We print the school honor roll, the court report, and in-depth stories on decisions made by planning commissions and town boards. Sometimes we cover murders, abuse, and horrific car crashes, and when we do our community journalists often experience these tragedies as both reporters and neighbors — as both professionals and human beings. We cover the referendum that will determine whether a new school is built and our readers' taxes will rise. We publish birth announcements, obituaries, and the various things that, when wedged between those two bookends, make up the lives that make up our communities.

I've learned more than I ever wanted to know about sewage, in order to cover the approval and construction of a new treatment plant. I interviewed a survivor of the Iran hostage crisis about what

it's like to be held prisoner in a foreign land while the world looks on. I've interviewed grandmothers about their favorite holiday recipes. Perhaps most importantly, I've interviewed little kids about what they want to be when they grow up, and what type of world they hope to inhabit.

I've even eaten *lutefisk* — a type of gelatinous Scandinavian fish that is usually only consumed as part of a dare — in the warm hum of a local church's kitchen. (I even liked it, which I think qualifies as a kind of small-town gonzo journalism.)

People sometimes ask me why community newspapers are important. My reply is always the same. It's because everything in those pages is important to someone. Maybe the ribbon cutting isn't flashy enough to go viral, and the Thanksgiving turkey recipe is not going to change culinary trends across the nation. But these things, these small things in communities across the coun-

ty and across the world, are what give meaning and purpose to all of our lives.

The ribbon cutting is the culmination of a childhood dream. The donations

again.

The new school being paid for with the referendum is where a young student might develop an interest in science, growing up and developing a treatment for cancer or Alzheimer's, allowing millions of people to live a little longer, and have their faces kissed by those who love them a few more times.

Journalism matters, now more than ever, because people

Special to SW Rankin News



at the food pantry will allow a family to gather around their table without worrying if there is enough to fill each plate. The honor roll goes on the fridge, of course, because it's a reminder to a young student that she can flourish when she applies herself. The birth announcement marks the proudest, greatest moment of a mother and father's life together. The face looking out from the obituary is one that a wife, and children, and grandchildren, will never kiss

matter. Community journalism matters, now more than ever, because roughly half the world's population lives in small communities, and in the pages of their newspapers, they see themselves and the ones they love.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Matt Geiger is the executive editor of News Publishing Co. in Black Earth, Wisconsin. His editorial is published in recognition of National Newspaper Week, October 7-13, 2018.

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Coxwell announces run Rankin County Chancery Court Judge



Special to Pelahatchie News
Mel Coxwell

By Mel Coxwell

My name is Mel Coxwell, and I am a candidate for Rankin County Chancery Court Judge. Judge John Grant is not seeking re-election. The majority of Chancery Court cases are family law cases. It also handles wills, estates, trust and most land matters, but the most important thing a Chancellor does is protect children.

All too often, children are abused in Rankin County, but just as troubling is when a parent makes false allegations of abuse against the other parent to gain an advantage in a custody case. A chancellor has to base a custody decision on a few hours or at best a few days of often conflicting evidence and

testimony. If abuse exists and he gets it wrong, the child stays with an abusive parent. But if abuse doesn't exist and he gets it wrong, a parent-child relationship is destroyed. Within days of taking office, your new chancellor will be handling his or her first contested custody trial as a judge. The children in these cases need a judge with decades of court room experience handling these difficult and emotional cases. They need a judge with experience that matters.

This election, based on the experience of the candidates, offers a clear choice. One is an oil and gas lawyer, who has never tried a contested custody case, and the other has practiced law for less than ten years. My opponents are nice people, but simply being a nice person doesn't prepare you to be a Chancellor. For the past 26 years, I

have tried cases in Justice, Municipal, County, Circuit, Chancery and Federal District Courts all over this state. As an assistant district attorney, I assisted law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of felony cases, including armed robbery, child abuse and capital murder. I am the candidate with experience trying contested custody cases including divorces, modifications and termination of parental rights. This year alone, I have already tried six custody cases. I am the only candidate with judicial experience, having served as a municipal court judge and presently serving as a guardian ad litem, investigating claims of abuse and neglect on behalf of the Rankin County Chancery Court.

On a personal note, I'm 53 years old and have been married for 28 years to Lea Ann Jones Coxwell, a nurse prac-

itioner. We raised three children in Rankin County and its public schools. Claire is an ICU nurse, and Katie and John are in college at Southern Miss. We attend Brandon First United Methodist Church where I serve as Chairman of the Council of Ministries and as a certified lay speaker. I've previously served as

- Vice-President and President of the Rankin County Bar;
- Vice-President and President of the Rankin County Rotary Club;
- President of the United Methodist Men at Brandon First; and
- Chairman of the Rankin County United Methodist Men.

I am the candidate with the experience that matters. I'm asking for your support, your prayers and, on November 6, your vote.

RCSD Bullying Awareness Poster Contest

Special to SW Rankin News

Students are encouraged to submit artwork for RCSD's annual Bullying Awareness Poster Contest. Artwork is due by October 26 and should be

turned in to the student's school counselor. The posters will be judged in four separate divisions for grades Pre-K through high school.

Visit www.rcsd.ms/Page/55471 for a list of complete rules.

Batson named September Teacher of the Month



Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Upper recently named its Teacher of the Month for September, Mrs. Candice Batson, counselor. Pictured with Mrs. Batson is Gavin Gill.

Pearl HS' Rogers selected for Safety Task Force



Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl High School (PHS) senior Zach Rogers was selected to be part of a focus group to improve school safety. Rogers was selected by a member of the Governor's School Safety Task Force through the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. The focus group is comprised of twelve Mississippi youth who met over the summer to provide feedback on what Mississippi can do to improve school safety. The Governor's School Safety Task Force wanted to hear first-hand from students about strategies that could identify threats and methods of prevention and response to improve school safety in Mississippi. Rogers is pictured receiving his certificate from Pearl High School Principal Chris Chism.

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Pearl JHS named August Teacher and Staff Member of the Month



Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Junior High School (PJHS) named the teacher and staff member of the month for August. Nominations are open to all teachers and employees, and recipients are chosen based on various criteria. The teacher of the month receives a plaque donated by Crown Trophy, and the staff member of the month receives a certificate. Pictured (l to r) are: Coach John McHenry, teacher of the month; and Ms. Geneva Davis, staff member of the month.

Farough named PJHS August Pirate of the Month



Special to SW Rankin News

Each month, the administration and faculty of Pearl Junior High School (PJHS) select a student who has excelled in representing Pearl PiratePRIDE: Prepared, Respectful, Involved, Dependable, and Excellent. The recipient of the award for August is sixth grader Mackenzie Farough. Pictured (l to r) are: Dr. Jessica Broome, PJHS Head Principal; Mackenzie Farough; and Kristin Farough, Mackenzie's mother.

Jack Tullos remembered at Pearl stadium



Photo by SW Rankin News

At the Pearl Pirate Stadium, Row 24, Seats 9 and 10 were dedicated in memory of Jack Tullos on September 21. Tullos, who passed away in June, was described as "the ultimate Pirate fan." Pictured (l to r) are his children, Kristy and Shane Tullos.

September Pearl Officer of the Month



Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Mayor Jake Windham awarded Mandy Dearman Officer of the Month at the September Board Meeting. Pictured (l to r) are: Dearman and Mayor Windham.

Special to SW Rankin News

The Pearl Police Department Officer of the Month is Officer Mandy Dearman. Dearman is a Pearl High School graduate and graduated from Mississippi Law Enforcement Training Academy in 2013. She has worked on patrol, code enforcement and warrants and is presently the School Resource Officer at Northside Elementary. The parents, teachers and principal all appreciate her support and protection to the children of Northside. A letter of recommendation from Northside Principal Nikki Graham was received to nominate her for this award.

The Pearl Chamber of Commerce presented Officer Dearman with a framed certificate, a \$100 Walmart gift card, a Cracker Barrel gift basket along with a certificate for a meal for two and a \$25 gift card to the Outlets of Mississippi. The Pearl Municipal Federal Credit Union donated a \$25 VISA gift card; Jose's Mexican Restaurant donated a \$25 gift certificate; Rivertrust Federal Credit Union donated a \$25 VISA gift card; McAlister's Deli donated two free meals; Eclipse Nutrition donated a \$25 gift certificate; Scotts Miracle Gro donated a Fit Bit and Great American Cookie donated a chocolate chip cookie cake.

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Red Wagon Boutique
Revell Hardware

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Richland Parks & Recreation
Shell Station
Stoney Creek Mobile Home Park
StowAway Self Storage
Stribling Equipment
T-Rays BBQ
The Donut Shop Café
Tiny Treasures
Willow Blu

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Florence Middle
Florence High
McLaurin Elementary
McLaurin High
Northside Elementary
Pearl Lower Elementary
Pearl Upper Elementary
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PHS presents 2018 Homecoming Maids

Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl High School celebrated their homecoming on Friday, October 5.

The Homecoming Parade was held that Thursday. The homecoming court was

presented during halftime of the Friday night game.



Special to SW Rankin News

The 2018 PHS Freshmen Maids pictured (l to r) are Dani Tompkins, Alexis Lewis, and Zamiya Warner.



Special to SW Rankin News

The 2018 PHS Sophomore Maids pictured (l to r) are Tori Douglas, Olivia Wilson, Amrit Kaur, and Ashton Spell.



Special to SW Rankin News

The 2018 PHS Junior Maids pictured (l to r) are Rachel Hernandez, Antjuanque Rimmer, Erin Collins, Presley Brewer, and Melody Rawls.



Special to SW Rankin News

The 2018 PHS Senior Maids pictured (l to r) first row, are: Raven Smith, Cheyanne Jimenez, and Nya Alexander; second row: Ariel Boston, Rashauna Thomas, and Amya Thomas; and back row: Anna Grace Gill and Anna Crane.

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DCS Lady Lions soccer off to good start



Special to SW Rankin News

Discovery Christian School's (DCS) Lady Lions soccer team has begun its third season. The girls are coached by Head Coach Megan Schirmer and Assistant Coach Paula Cook. Coach Schirmer tells the team that winning on the field is important, but the attitudes of these girls off the field is what matters at DCS. To view a 2018 schedule, or to learn more about DCS, visit www.discoverychristianschool.org.

Discovery Christian introduces Move to Learn

Special to SW Rankin News

Coach Larry Calhoun, the star of the *Move to Learn* exercise break videos, was at the Discovery Christian School campus on September 20 to introduce administrators, teachers and students to the Move to Learn Initiative.

A team from The Bower Foundation and the Mississippi Department of Education's (MDE) Office of Healthy Schools (OHS) accompanied Calhoun to present a live demonstration of the *Move to Learn* videos.

"Improving nutrition and physical activity levels for Mississippi school children is a priority; healthy children are more likely to be academically successful," said Anne Travis, CEO of The Bower Foundation. The foundation is partnering with the MDE OHS to improve the health of students statewide through the program.

"Brief physical activity and increased fitness improve learning and test scores. With this in mind, *Move to Learn* was designed to be fun for students, improve learning, and assist teachers with classroom management," said Scott Clements, Director of MDE's Office of Healthy Schools.

The *Move to Learn* videos feature

Coach Calhoun leading students in simple movement exercises that can be done in a small space. Teachers are noticing that incorporating the fitness breaks in the classroom has increased their students' ability to learn and to focus on schoolwork. The fitness breaks help teachers create positive learning environments and promote effective classroom management.

These brief, organized, and free classroom movement breaks can help teachers manage their students' energy levels so that, after a fitness break, children's brains are more focused and ready to learn or take a test. These breaks were developed by Mississippians for Mississippi children. Research shows that when people exercise their bodies, they are also exercising their brain.

Mississippi teachers say they are excited about this resource as they prepare students to meet education standards. "We understand the importance of students learning to make healthy choices.

Studies have shown that physical activity increases a child's ability to learn, and as fitness improves, test scores improve.

More information about The Bower Foundation's *Move to Learn* programs may be found on the Internet at www.movetolearnms.org.



Special to SW Rankin News

Coach Larry Calhoun, the star of the *Move to Learn* exercise break videos, was at the Discovery Christian School campus on September 20 to introduce administrators, teachers and students to the *Move to Learn* Initiative.

DCS inducts 32 students into National Honor Society



Special to SW Rankin News

Discovery Christian School (DCS) recently inducted high school students into the National Honor Society. Students must maintain a 3.5 GPA or higher, participate in two service projects a year, and be focused on leadership, scholarship, character, and service. Pictured (l to r), front row, are: School Co-Head Wendi Teten, Scout McCrory, Peyton Hollingsworth, Markez Andrews, Wesley Murphy, Cameron Macoy, and Sponsor Larami Brunson; second row: Katelyn Rodan, Avery Garrett, Makaylin Cuellar, Jackson Campbell, Isaac Bradshaw, Haydon Dillon, and Joe Gipson; third row: Briana Benton, Logan Fryery, Jady Bledsoe, Madison Goldman, Emma Gifford, Savannah Wilkinson, and Sydney-Grace Lewis; fourth row: Mack Talley, Elizabeth Russell, Melody Leggett, Sydney Helms, Audrey Garrett, Piper Tolleson, and Braydon Evans; and top row: Jamie Thompson, Benjamin Joiner, Reese Jones, Ethan Saik, Isaiah Yates, and Aaron Effinger.

City of Richland Parks & Recreation

BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

October 15-26

BASKETBALL

AGES 9-12

\$50

REGISTER

Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

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richlandms.org

Prepayment plan offered in-office.

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For more information
Call: 601-487-9989

(\$5 non-resident fee
\$5 multi-child discount)

or email
gsmith@richlandms.com

Florence students qualify for Duke Gifted Program



Special to SW Rankin News

DCS seventh graders Ben Gipson and Jake Johnson have been invited to join the Duke TIP Program, a prestigious Seventh Grade Talent Search.

Special to SW Rankin News

Ben Gipson and Jake Johnson, seventh grade students at Discovery Christian School, have been invited to join the Duke University Talent Identification Program's (TIP) prestigious Seventh Grade Talent Search.

Each year, Duke TIP identifies a group of academically talented students in the United States based on their exceptional grade-level standardized test scores. Only those who score at or above the ninety-fifth percentile qualify. Those students are invited to participate in the Seventh Grade Tal-

ent Search and to take the ACT or SAT, which are designed for college-bound eleventh and twelfth graders. Taking an above-grade-level test is an experience that allows these gifted seventh graders to more accurately gauge their academic abilities and potential, as they need more advanced examinations than they find in their grade level.

Participants in the Seventh Grade Talent Search also receive a variety of support services and gain access to research and other information about using their academic abilities more effectively.

Florence MSH employees honored for years of service



Special to SW Rankin News

Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) recently honored employees with September anniversaries for their years of service to the hospital. Each employee received a certificate and service pin. Pictured (l to r), front row, are: Loretta Franklin, Morton, five years; Lula Green, Jackson, five years; Dorothy Sutton, Florence, one year; Jovita Noble, Jackson, one year; middle row: Patra Askew, Florence, 25 years; Toy Landingham, Clinton, 30 years; and Jessica Boykin, Brandon, five years; and back row: Danny McClung, Brandon, five years; Dr. Robert Maddux, Whitfield, ten years; and Denorris Skinner, Ridgeland, 30 years.

continued from page 1

FHS adopts Josh Sexton for Homecoming service project

ter, FHS homecoming coordinator. "We researched options for organizations to work with on this, but this opportunity to help Josh literally fell in our laps." Sexton was recently given a Belgian Malinois, a common breed for service dogs and K-9 officers, by Jasper County K-9 handler R.H. Stockman. Officer Stockman was referred to Sexton by the Seth Harris Childhood Cancer Foundation in Bay Springs. Southern State Canine has agreed to reduce their training

fees from \$50,000 to \$8,000 to help out with the finances of the project.

As with last year's Make A Wish project, FHS organizations and other Florence zone schools are already planning their fundraising efforts. FHS DECA and HOSA will plan and organize the project, the FHS Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) Club is preparing for its now annual Pie a Principal fundraiser, and each graduating class will find other ways to raise funds for Sexton.



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RANKIN COUNTY CHANCERY JUDGE

PLACE 2

Azevedo receives five-year service pin



Special to SW Rankin News

Ryan Azevedo received his five-year service pin from the Street Department at the regular scheduled Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 4.

RHS August Teacher of the Month



Special to SW Rankin News

Richland High School (RHS) Principal Dr. Scott Rimes (center) and RCSD School Board Member Kym Jamison (left) congratulate Katherine Sherlock (right) on being chosen as the Teacher of the Month for August. Sherlock teaches in the RHS SPED Department, specifically with the self-contained students. She received a gift from Red Wagon Boutique.

Area Spotlight: HR Department FAQ

Special to SW Rankin News

Question: How do I apply for employment with the City of Richland?

Answer: You may come to City Hall for a general application, but you will also need to apply with TempStaff. Only completed applications will be considered for employment. Each applicant shall answer all questions and furnish all information as required on the application. All applications shall be signed by the applicant attesting to the truth of all statements contained in the application.

Question: My child would like to apply for a summer job with the City. What is the process?

Answer: The City of Richland employs summer workers during the months of June and July. We accept summer worker applications each January to April prior to that summer. Summer workers must be at least 16 years of age or older and have a valid driver's license.

Question: What are the different departments that the City hires for when there is an opening?

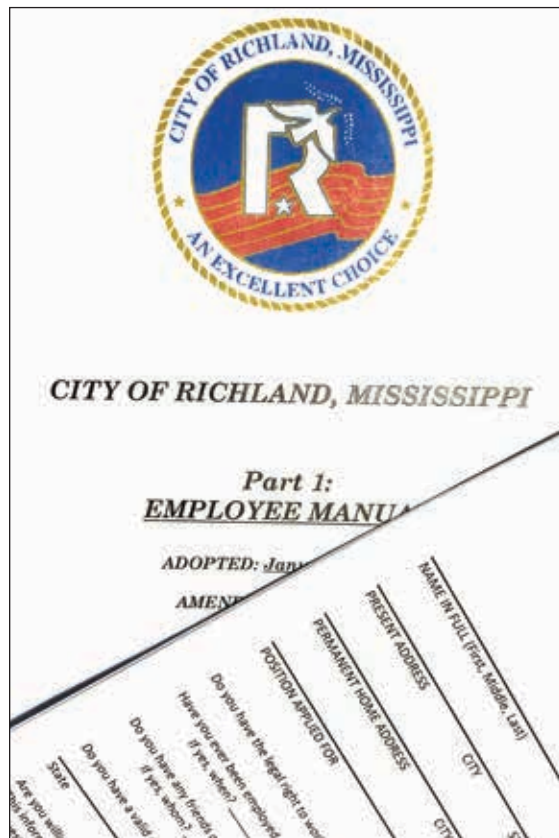
Answer: The City of Richland employs approximately 120 full time employees between all departments:

- Community Center
- Court Services
- Finance/Administration
- Fire Department
- Parks & Recreation
- Planning/Zoning

- Police Department
- Public Works
- Water Department

Question: Is the City an Equal Opportunity Employer?

Answer: The City of Richland is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age national origin, physical handicap, disability, or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws



Special to SW Rankin News

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Florence HS names 2018 Homecoming Maids



Special to SW Rankin News
Freshmen Maids pictured (l to r) are: Shaelynn Quick, Gracie McGowan, Kylee Smith, Jada McGee, and Katie Board



Special to SW Rankin News
Sophomore Maids pictured (l to r) are: Maggy Greer, Portia Smith, Sadie Woods, Farah Johnson, and Sara Grace Jackson



Special to SW Rankin News
Junior Maids pictured (l to r) are: Brooke Stogner, Jana Withrow, Anna Edwards, Katelin Chandler, and Bella Solano



Special to SW Rankin News
Senior Maids pictured (l to r) are: Lydia Edmonson, Taylor Young, Princess Smith, Macy Kate Greer, Emily Morris, Elonna Washington, and Cheyenne Fletcher.



Re-elect Judge Tom Broome Rankin County Judge

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JudgeTomBroome.com

Paid for by the Committee to Re-elect Rankin County Judge Tom Broome and Approved by Tom Broome

Northside Elementary learn all about germs



Special to SW Rankin News

Students in Mrs. Kim Sanders' second grade class at Northside Elementary have been learning about germs and how to stay safe by washing their hands properly. After using a special lotion on their hands, students got to see the germs glow under a black flashlight. They then washed the lotion off and checked again with the light to see if any germs remained. Pictured (l to r) front are: Janiyah Horton, Kynnedi Rankin, Teven Moore, and Eiza Espino-Perez; and pictured (l to r) back row are: Skarlet Pinto, Brooke Hewitt, Olivia Lewis, and Bradley McKee.

RHS students excel on Las Links



Special to SW Rankin News

Richland High School (RHS) held a celebration for their students who performed well enough on the LAS Links Assessment to exit the RCSD's EL program. Pictured (l to r) front row, are: Saonola Luu, Brianna Sanchez, and Emily Mariano; and back row: Principal, Dr. Scott Rimes, Aksel Alcazar, Victor Campusano, and Mrs. Janine David.



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-Military

Richland HS names Crown Trophy leadership winners



Special to SW Rankin News

Each month, Richland High School recognizes two students for exemplary performance in academics, leadership and service. The students are selected by teachers and announced to the student body. Pictured (l to r) are seniors Kamryn Shields (left) and Jacob Walter (right), who were chosen for the March award, and Principal Dr. Scott Rimes (center). Crown Trophy of Flowood donates plaques for this recognition.



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Richland HS names 2018 Homecoming Court

Special to SW Rankin News

Richland High School will be celebrating their 2018 Homecoming, Fri-

day, October 12. A homecoming parade is scheduled for Thursday, October 11

at 6. The RHS homecoming court will be presented during half time.



The 2018 seventh grade maids (left) pictured (l to r), are: Cierra Sheppard and Jordan Whittington; and the 2018 eighth grade maids (right) pictured (l to r), are: Alainah Alexander and Lola Crozier.



The 2018 sophomore maids pictured (l to r), front, are: Janeice Henderson and Ariana McCoy; and back row: Rylea Barrier and Mary Ellen Boyer.



The 2018 freshmen maids pictured (l to r), front, are: Mallory Chapman and Laila Anderson; and back: Sydney Ragsdale and Bayleigh Harris.



The 2018 junior maids pictured (l to r), front, are: Mosi Everett and Joely Miller; and back row: Janaya Spence and Chelsea Green.



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The 2018 senior maids pictured (l to r), front, are: Faith Dillion, Olivia Gilmore, and Kenzie Seward; and back row: Avary Vernon, Maddie Thomas, and Mariela Campusano.

Photos special to SW Rankin News

Library events at Pearl, Florence and Richland CMRLS

By Susie A. Wolfe

National Friends of the Library Week is October 21-27.

Libraries are so thankful for FRIENDS; and CMRLS Libraries have a lot of FRIENDS for which to be thankful. The FRIENDS make

equipment, books, holiday decorating, refreshments, programs, and more possible in all of the CMRLS Libraries.

For individuals interested in working with a group that supports the Library and betters the community, a *FRIEND to Your Library* is a group

to join. Annual membership begins as low as \$2 for students. Ask the staff at a CMRLS Library for information and become a *FRIEND to YOUR Library*.

Looking for a safe place to celebrate Halloween or Harvest Time with little ones? Visit cmrls.lib.ms.us and

view the events on the right, and then take a look at the Events Calendar for even more holiday events in each area. Also, check out the Halloween music and sounds or the Halloween stories on FREEGAL Music. Log on with your CMRLS Library card and get spooky!

Pearl Public Library

Birth to 12 years

Pearl Pee Wees - Saturdays, 10 a.m. Birth to 24 months.

Register at cmrls.evanced.info/signup/Calendar.

Toddler Time - Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Story Time - Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Peanuts After School - Wednesdays, 4 p.m.

Teens

Would You Rather game - October 15, 5:30 p.m.

Mutant Toys - October 22, 5:30 p.m.

Zombie Apocalypse Party - October 22, 5:30 p.m.

Movie Night

Hocus Pocus (PG), October 18, 5:30 p.m. - Popcorn, candy, and drinks will be provided.

Fall Festival

October 9, 5 p.m. - Bounce houses, face painting, games, and candy and popcorn while supplies last. Bring the kids and have a fun night of FREE family fun. Halloween costumes are permitted and encouraged.

For more information, visit: cmrls.lib.ms.us/about-us.

Florence Public Library

Birth to 12 years

Preschool Story Time - Every Wednesday at 10 a.m. October 10, We're Batty for Bats; October 17, Creepy Crawly Bugs; October 24, Whooo's Ready for Halloween?; and October 31, Have faBOOlous Halloween!

Teens

In celebration of Teen Read Week, we are having two fun programs just for our teenager - October 11, 5:30 p.m., Open Mic Night; and Paint a Pumpkin Party, October 13, 11 p.m.

Adult & Senior Adult

The Coffee Addicts Book Club - Thursday, October 18, 10 a.m. Newcomers are always welcome!

For more information, visit: cmrls.lib.ms.us/about-us.

Central Mississippi Regional Library System (CMRLS) which serves 20 public libraries and the 216,000 citizens of Rankin, Scott, Simpson, and Smith Counties.

<http://cmrls.lib.ms.us/about-us>

Richland Public Library

Preschool Story Time

Preschool Story Time - for children ages birth to preschool age, every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. The following is a schedule of programs for this month.

October 3, 1, 2, 3...Fun with Numbers!; October 10, All About the Letter C; October 17, Wish Upon a Tree; October 24, It's Fantastic Fall; October 31, Smelly Tricks and Treats

Richland Writers

Monday, October 15, 6 p.m. Richland Writers is for anyone who is interested in meeting with other people to discuss the craft of writing. All skill levels are welcome.

Color and Conversation

Thursday, October 11, 6 p.m., fun informal coloring. Bring your own coloring sheet or choose from one of our own patterns.

Coffee and Books

Tuesday, October 23, 10:30 p.m.

For more information, visit: cmrls.lib.ms.us/about-us.

RHS names the August Students of the Month



Special to SW Rankin News

Richland High School recently named the August 2018 Students of the Month. These students are nominated and selected by their teachers for such qualities as dependability, attitude, leadership, attendance, and class work. Students are awarded a certificate from the Exchange Club, a book donated to the library in honor of the senior from the Exchange Club, a gift card from BancorpSouth, and Mazzio's. The students pictured (seated, l to r) are: Joshua Dunson, Ben Bates, and Courtney Rester; (standing) Nathan Rambo, Jaycee Pilcher, Avary Vernon, and Principal Dr. Scott Rimes, principal.

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COXWELL

Rankin County Chancery Court Judge - Place 2

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Richland Junior High names Top Rangers



Special to SW Rankin News

The Top Ranger Award is given to students who have shown exemplary behavior in and out of the classroom. Students receiving this award have been standout students and have continually worked hard at their coursework. Students awarded this accolade receive free lunch at Mazzio's in Richland. Pictured Top Rangers are, front row: Makayla Thompson, Jordan Washington, Rainy Broome, Briana Tew, Cloe Elkins, and Yareli Castillo; and second row: Javian Bailey, Roy Goodrich, Alexis Yarbrough, Chance Harvey, Tianasias Holmes, Micah Lane, Corren Redd, Brysten McGriggs, and Jayden Goode.

Farm Bureau names Players of the Week



DJ McElroy was the Farm Bureau Player of the Week for week five for his performance against Wesson High School. McElroy, a senior, had 163 yards of total offense in the contest. Pictured (l to r) are: Coach Trey Bailey; Adam Richardson, Farm Bureau Agent; DJ McElroy; and Philip Dunn, Farm Bureau Agent.



Photos special to SW Rankin News

Josh Sayles was named Farm Bureau Player of the Week for his week six performance against Lake High School. Sayles, a senior, recorded nine total tackles and one tackle for loss in the contest. Pictured (l to r) are: Coach Trey Bailey; Adam Richardson, Farm Bureau Agent; Josh Sayles; and Philip Dunn, Farm Bureau Agent.

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