

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Local dance studio opens dance supply shop - pg. 4

Gus Black elected as District Exchange Club Officer - pg. 15

The Pearl News

Good News You Can Use

Vol. 4, No. 9 | September 2019

The Pearl News is a subsidiary of **SW RANKIN NEWS**

Mississippi Braves welcome three millionth fan at Trustmark Park

Special to SW Rankin News

The Mississippi Braves recently celebrated a milestone at Trustmark Park by welcoming the three millionth fan for Mississippi Braves baseball.

Matt Baker of Clinton was recognized as the lucky fan during Mississippi's four to zero win over the Birmingham Barons during the fifth inning. He and his young son Wyatt were awarded a prize pack that included two M-Braves season tickets for the 2020 season, four tickets to a 2020 Atlanta Braves game in the Infiniti Club, numerous restaurant gift cards and more.

"The M-Braves were thrilled to present Matt with the three millionth fan prize pack today," added Mississippi Braves vice president and general manager Pete Laven. "The fact that it was his young son Wyatt's first-ever game

at Trustmark Park made it even more special. We look forward to watching Matt try to keep up with Wyatt at many more games in the future."

More than nearly fifteen seasons, Trustmark Park has seen 146 M-Braves players move on to make their major league debut, and now three million fans have witnessed Atlanta Braves Double-A baseball in Pearl.

After more than twenty years in



Special to SW Rankin News

Matt Baker of Clinton, pictured with his son, Wyatt, was the M-Braves three millionth fan and was awarded a prize pack.

Greenville, South Carolina, the Braves moved to Pearl and opened the gates to Trustmark Park for the first time on April 18, 2005.

The M-Braves have steadily seen an attendance increase this season, averaging 2,296 fans per game in April; 2,423 fans in May; 2,685 fans in June and 3,009 fans in July. Entering the current homestand, the M-Braves were averaging 3,029 fans per game in the second half after drawing 15,407 fans during a homestand against the Tennessee Smokies in August.

Pearl Municipal TV, PMBTv, expands to Roku

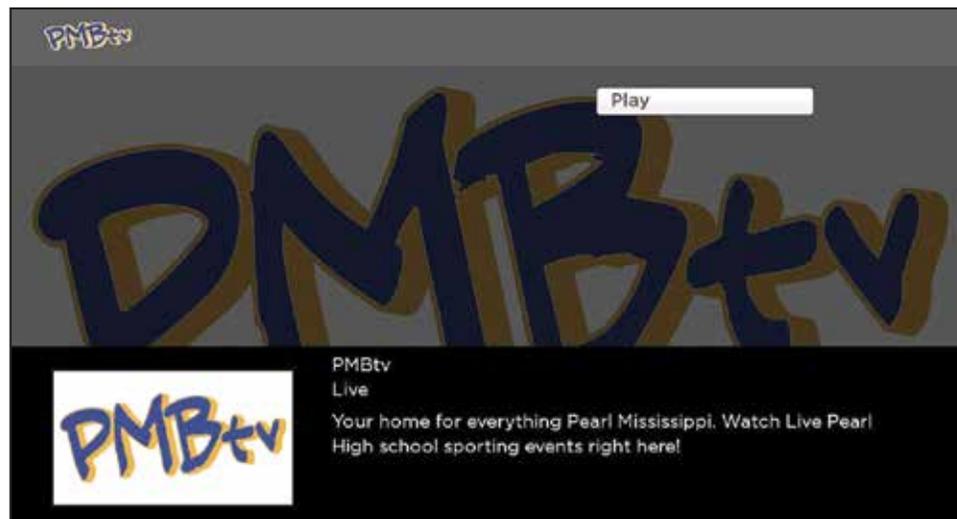
Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Municipal Broadcasting recently announced its television station, PMBTv-20, is now available free on the streaming service Roku.

Roku is a TV set-top video-streaming device and smart TV manufacturer with 29 million active accounts and 41 million devices in use.

Viewers will now be able to access all City of Pearl programming on-demand as well as watch live events anywhere and at any time. Once a "live" event airs, like a Pearl High School football game or a City Board of Aldermen meeting, it will be archived and available to view on demand. Roku users can use the Roku channel search and type PMBTv to find the channel.

PMB will have six categories from which viewers can choose on Roku:



Special to SW Rankin News

live events, Board of Aldermen meetings, sports, City events, Chamber of Commerce ribbon cuttings, and Pearl Public School District video minutes.

City of Pearl officials say they are committed to keeping Pearl citizens informed through a variety of no-cost platforms, including the City website at

SIDEBAR:

Pearl City information is available on a variety of mediums:

- City website: www.CityOfPearl.com
- City radio station: 104.5 FM, WPBP "The Pirate"
- City TV station: PMB-TV20 (Comcast Ch. 20 and U-Verse Ch.99)
- Facebook: Pearl Municipal Broadcasting and City of Pearl-Government pages
- PMBTv on Roku

www.CityOfPearl.com; the City radio station, 104.5 FM/WPBP "The Pirate;" the City TV station, PMB-TV20 (Comcast channel 20, U-Verse channel 99); Facebook at Pearl Municipal Broadcasting and City of Pearl-Government; and PMBTv on Roku.

For more information about Roku, visit www.roku.com.

Derek Havard
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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THE NEWS RICHLAND

**Good News
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Vol. 4, No. 9 | September 2019

The Richland News is a subsidiary of **SW RANKIN NEWS**

Highway 49 Fest set for September 28

Special to SW Rankin News

The Richland soccer fields will play host to the 2019 Highway 49 fest on Saturday, September 28. Gates will open at 9 a.m. for a day of family fun, filled with a car show, market, Kidszone, a petting zoo, and live musical entertainment.

Admission to the event is free, and food and craft vendors from around the state will be on site.

**FOR A FULL SPREAD
OF INFORMATION
ABOUT THE EVENT,
SEE PAGE 7.**



Special to SW Rankin News

A large crowd gathered for the Craig Morgan concert at the 2018 49 Festival.

RHS welcomes new faculty members



Special to SW Rankin News

Richland High School recently welcomed its new faculty members for the 2019-2020 school year. Pictured (l to r) with Principal Dr. Scott Rimes are, front row: Colby Williams, Matthew Rice, J.J. Plummer, Justin Cummins, Ashley Hinton, Ruby Jennings, Rebekah Whatley, Amanda Townsend, Christy Moudy and Todd Montgomery; and back row: Principal Dr. Scott Rimes, Michael Goodson, Blake Windham, Rod Oglesby, Chad Wooten, Shane Wingate, Pierre Lang and LaDarrius Smothers.

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THE FLORENCE NEWS

Good News You Can Use

Vol. 4, No. 9 | September 2019

The Florence News is a subsidiary of **SWRANKIN NEWS**

FHS TEAM Business Academy launches HatchIt Business Incubator program

Special to SW Rankin News

The Florence High School Talon Entrepreneurship and Marketing (TEAM) Academy recently initiated a new program aimed at the academy's eleventh grade entrepreneurship students. The HatchIt Business Incubator program is designed to support students in their entrepreneurial interests by providing financial support, technology resources, specialized instruction and introduction to project management concepts.

As part of HatchIt, business students utilize "pop up shops" at home football games. The plan is for the budding entrepreneurs to offer their products at FHS events, as well as local community events like Florence Day.

"This project allows students to examine skills that will help them personally, professionally - or both - when

they leave high school. Right now, we are exploring ventures that are more common, like food products, clothing or jewelry. The hope is that, by building confidence, students will pursue more innovative ventures as their entrepreneurial skills grow," said Dre' Helms, TEAM Academy lead instructor. "We want these students leaving us with skills that can help in a career after high school or, even better, provide an income source for them while they attend college."

The TEAM Business Academy, originally named the Talon Marketing and Design Academy, was implemented at FHS in the fall of 2012. Since



Special to SW Rankin News

The Florence High School Talon Entrepreneurship and Marketing (TEAM) Academy recently initiated a new program aimed at the academy's eleventh grade entrepreneurship students.

then, more than one hundred Academy completers have graduated and either continued their education or entered into business ventures as careers. The TEAM Academy is a four-year program that provides selected students intensive, hands-on instruction in various business disciplines over their high school academic career. The academy also operates The Sip of the South, a school store and coffee shop on campus.

For more information about the TEAM Academy, to mentor Academy students, or to donate unwanted items for repurposing by Entrepreneurship students, call Florence High School at 601-845-2205.

Florence High School JROTC hosts athletic meet



Cadets Cade Brantley, JJ McQueen, Andrew White, Judy Slay and Cannon Craft participate in the half-mile rope run.



Photos special to SW Rankin News

Cadets Skyler Barnes, Dylan Taylor, Jasmin Scoggins, McKynzie Nutt compete against Wes Smalley, Leidy Gonzalez, Cole Mangum, McKenzie Watson and another team from McLaurin.

Special to SW Rankin News

Florence High School's Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps

(JROTC) program recently hosted an athletic meet that was attended by forty-nine teams from thirteen schools from across Mississippi.

At the meet, each team competed in a half-mile rope run, a 250-yard ammo can relay, 500-yard shuttle relay, 250-yard stretcher relay, and a

250-yard bus tire relay.

Florence JROTC teams finished first and third in their respective division.



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Littlest Eagles enjoy kindergarten



Special to SW Rankin News

Mrs. Boteler's kindergarten class at Steen's Creek Elementary has been getting the hang of their center rotations.

RHS receives Trustmark Bank donation



Special to SW Rankin News

Richland High School recently received a donation from Trustmark Bank to support the PBIS program. Pictured (l to r) are Pam Ingram, Trustmark representative, and RHS Principal Dr. Scott Rimes.

WIN \$25!*

FROM SWRANKIN NEWS

In one advertisement in this issue, we've placed a newspaper image like this. Find it, write the advertiser's name and the page number where you found it below, and mail this form to the indicated address. A drawing will be held to determine our winner from all correct entries received by September 20, 2019. There will be one winner per each issue in which this contest entry form appears. One entry per household per issue, please.

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Volume 4 Issue 9
Circulation - 15,000

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Southwest Rankin News is published
on the second Tuesday of every month.

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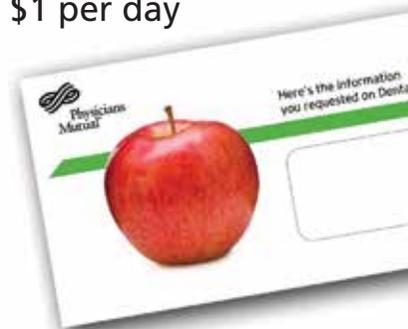
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Richland Community Center presents movie night

Special to SW Rankin News

The Richland Community Center is hosting its' bi-annual "Movies under the Stars" event Saturday, September 14.

For the first time, the venue will be held at Westside Park, located at 160 Brandon Avenue in Richland.

Multiple food trucks will be on hand to provide a wide variety of freshly prepared foods and drink.

The movie for September is Disney's

live action film *Aladdin*, starring Will Smith.

The event starts at 6 p.m. and concludes at 10 p.m. Showtime will begin at dark.

All ages are welcome to attend the family-friendly event, and attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs.

For more information, contact the Richland Community Center at 601-420-3400.

September events planned for Florence Public Library

Special to SW Rankin News

The Florence Public Library will offer events for all ages during the month of September.

Adults ages eighteen through fifty-five years of age can participate in the Coffee Addicts Book Club, which meets the first Tuesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. The group will discuss a pre-selected book and vote on the next months' reading.

Preschool Story Time is held each Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. in the library meeting room. A special theme is selected each week. For the month of September, the weekly themes will be: trucks, construction, buses/school buses, and bikes/motorcycles.

Children ages three through five are invited to participate.

For details, contact Crystal Keene at 601-845-6032.

The library also offers ReFit with

Beth. The one-hour class begins each Monday evening at 5:50 p.m. and is located in the Florence Library conference room. Beth Ammons, a certified ReFit instructor, is the presenter for this group. Exercises are paired with inspiring music for a unique fitness experience. Adults, ages eighteen to fifty-five are eligible to participate, and newcomers are welcome. The cost for participation is \$5 per session, or ten sessions may be purchased for \$30. For more information, contact Jill Hodges at 601-845-6032.

On Saturday, September 14, the library will offer DIY Pop Sockets event from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., and Lego Mania will be held on Thursday, September 26. Scheduled from 4:30 p.m. to 5:20 p.m., the event is open to all Lego lovers.

The Florence Public Library is located at 115 West Main Street in Florence. For more information, call 601-845-6032.

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Car Show
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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Obituaries

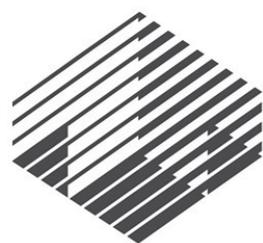
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Tommy Dale Walters	47	Harrisville, MS	8/4/19	Chancellor Funeral Home
Martha Sanders	66	Brandon, MS	8/4/19	Chancellor Funeral Home
Linda Frith	69	Florence, MS	8/04/19	Chancellor Funeral Home
CSM W.H. "Bill" Brown	80	Pearl, MS	8/10/19	Chancellor Funeral Home
Gibson Phillips	79	Florence, MS	8/11/19	Chancellor Funeral Home
Karei McDonald, Sr.	83	Florence, MS	8/14/19	Chancellor Funeral Home
Gerry Wade Shows	61	Florence, MS	8/15/19	Chancellor Funeral Home
Gwendolyn Compere Stewart	90	Florence, MS	8/21/19	Chancellor Funeral Home
Roy Withers	76	Florence, MS	8/21/19	Chancellor Funeral Home
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Pearl Library announces events for September

Special to SW Rankin News

The Pearl Public Library has a full slate of events planned for the month of September.

Pearl Pee Wees, for babies, is held every Monday at 10 a.m. Parents or caregivers are encouraged to bring their young charge for a lap sit story time with rhymes, songs, playtime and picture books. The program is designed for children aging from birth to twenty-four months.

On Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., the facility hosts Toddler Time, which includes lots of movement as children enjoy stories, rhymes, activities and songs. Younger babies are always welcome.

Preschool Story Time is held on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., and children can hear a story, make a craft and shake their sillies out.

Also on Wednesdays, at 4 p.m., is Peanuts After School, designed for children in kindergarten through sixth

grade. Children will read stories and make crafts. Snacks are served.

On Monday, September 9, at 5:30 p.m., the library will have Teens Night of 1,000 Slimes, a night of slimey fun that will involve the creation of three types of slime, including galaxy slime, fluffy unicorn slime and edible slime. Teens and tweens, ages ten through eighteen, are welcome.

Planned for Monday, September 16, at 5:30 p.m., is Teen String Art, when teens can make a new decoration for their space or a gift to give a loved one.

On Monday, September 23, the library will host Teen Night at 5:30 p.m., complete with coffee, donuts, board games, video games and card games; and, on Monday, September 30, at 5:30 p.m., teens can enjoy the beauty of autumn by learning how to paint a fall watercolor scene.

Adults and senior programs for September include computer tutorials on Mondays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

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

On Wednesday, September 11 and September 25, the Morning Book Club will meet at 10 a.m. Newcomers are always welcome, and books are chosen at the meetings.

On Thursday, September 12, patrons are invited to play a classic game of bingo for a chance to win their choice of a free book. The BINGO for Books fun will start at 6 p.m.

Saturday, September 14, will bring Falun Dafa, also called Falun Gong, to the library at 12:30 p.m. A peaceful spiritual practice rooted in traditional Chinese culture, Falun Dafa consists of meditation, five gentle sets of exercises, and a moral philosophy centered on the values of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance.

How-To Tuesday will be on September 17, at 6 p.m. Attendees can complete a

stenciling project using paper, paint, jar lids and a toothbrush.

Families are invited to Third Thursday Flicks on Thursday, September 19, at 5:45 p.m. Everyone can kick back, relax, and enjoy a screening of *Harold and Maude*, a comedy about a disturbed young man fascinated with death and funerals.

On Saturday, September 21, at 10 a.m., the Central Mississippi Polymer Clay Guild will be on hand at the library to teach patrons how to make their own jewelry and decorative knick-knacks. The group meets every third Saturday at 10 a.m.

The Friends of the Pearl Library will hold their meeting on Tuesday, September 24, at 6 p.m. Residents are invited to attend to find out how to join the Friends Group and learn about upcoming library events.

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

Local dance studio opens dance supply shop



Special to SW Rankin News

Florence's Studio Sole owners have opened a new dance supply shop, Sole to Sole, on Highway 49 South in Richland.

By Kabee Vance

A Florence dance studio has recently opened a new store to better serve the needs of dancers in the Southwest Rankin region. Studio Sole, a dance company teaching students in Florence for over six years, has decided that the need for accessible dance equipment is important for parents and students alike, and has opened up their new shop, Sole to Sole Danceware, on Highway 49 South in Richland.

"The next closest shop is thirty minutes away," said Whitney Sasser, owner and founder of Sole to Sole Danceware.

The new shop can be found in Richland, and this location was chosen in the triangle between Florence, Brandon, Pearl and Byram. Sasser's hope is that this will help parents who struggle to travel the distance to get to their nearest dance supply shop to order the required outfits and accessories needed for dance routines. The shop is expected to serve all types of dance classes from around the county, and anyone

who may need specific dance outfits can come place orders in the shop.

Sasser saw the need for a shop through her time as a dancer in college, to now as a dance instructor. After some time helping with other local dance studios in Florence, Sasser had her troupe grow and grow over the years, and she formed a strong bond between herself and the students she taught. Many of these students were the same students she sees every day at her job at Steens Creek Elementary, where she is the librarian of the school.

Sasser says that the trust she shares with both students and parents has allowed her to stand out in the community and exceed expectations. Her troupe has begun to go to several competitions, exceed goals, and shine in the dance community.

Sole to Sole Dancewear began as an idea between Sasser and her mother, Tracie Sasser, and grew into reality this summer. Tracie Sasser took over the storefront and is now leading the business, while Whitney Sasser focuses on her dance students.

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Halbert recognized with award



Special to SW Rankin News

Officer Ryan Halbert of the Richland Police Department was recently named Richland's Exchange Club Officer of the quarter. The Exchange Club is a volunteer group with chapters all over the United States. Halbert was chosen for excelling in his job as a patrol officer and for working hard at keeping the citizens of Richland safe with a focus on removing narcotics from the streets of Richland. Halbert has been in law enforcement for five years and joined the Richland Police Department in February of this year. Pictured (l to r) are Jessica Halbert, Halbert's daughter, Officer Ryan Halbert and RPD Assistant Chief Dalton McDonald.

2019 PEARL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SEPT 13 AT MADISON CENTRAL	SEPT 27 AT PETAL	OCT 4 VS MERIDIAN	OCT 11 AT TERRY
OCT 18 AT GEORGE COUNTY	OCT 25 VS NORTHWEST RANKIN	NOV 1 VS OAK GROVE	NOV 8 AT BRANDON

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Highway 49 Festival set for September 28

Special to SW Rankin News

On Saturday, September 28, the City of Richland will hold its annual Hwy 49 Fest. The event is held at the Richland soccer fields beside the Richland Community Center.

Organizers have released the music line up for this year's event, and included are three country music artists.

Capitol Records Nashville's Adam Hambrick grew up in Corinth, Mississ-

his own music and has an old country sound.

Critics and fans from across the musical spectrum found much to fall in love with this past fall when Carmichael unleashed his debut, *Hell On An Angel*. Produced by Dave Cobb, the studio guru behind country radio powerhouses like Chris Stapleton and Zac Brown Band, the album merged a sonically progressive palette with a tasteful reverence for the past and wrapped it

After finishing high school, Carmichael relocated to Nashville, where he earned a publishing deal at the age of 18. It was his first experience living in a city, and the discovery of a whole universe of like-minded artists whose lives revolved around making music thrilled him.

Hell On An Angel is a celebration of roots, those earthly tethers that both bind and sustain humans. The songs capture vivid snapshots of the kind of

a big door for the band when he spotted producer Jay Joyce at a concert in 2014. A fan of Joyce's work as producer of such acts as Little Big Town and Eric Church, Lancaster recalls with a smile, "I closed down my hot dog stand and walked up to Jay and just introduced myself."

The conversation brought an invitation from Joyce for Lancaster to share some songs that he'd written, and shortly thereafter, for a band audition.

SIDEBAR:

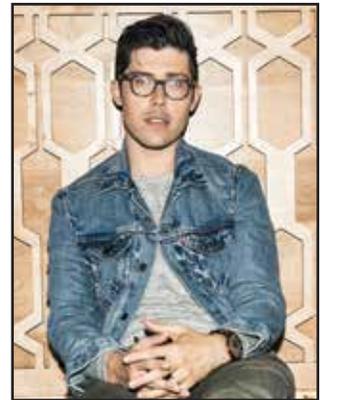
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Car show
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Market in the Park
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Kidszone
3:00 p.m.	Muddy Waters
4:30 p.m.	Adam Hambrick
6:00 p.m.	Dillon Carmichael
7:30 p.m.	LANCO



Dillon Carmichael will play at the Highway 49 Fest.



Award-winning country group LANCO! will headline the Highway 49 Fest on Saturday, September 28.



Photos special to SW Rankin News
Adam Hambrick, from Corinth, will open the Highway 49 Fest this year.

ippi, influenced by artists such as Alan Jackson, Garth Brooks, John Mayer and The Foo Fighters. Growing up, Hambrick's musical roots were grounded in the church singing hymns with his family, where his dad was a Baptist pastor and his mom played piano. After graduating from the University of Central Arkansas, the singer-songwriter made an appearance on *Good Morning Arkansas*, where fellow Arkansas-native and country star Justin Moore happened to be watching and was impressed by Hambrick's unique voice and distinctive songs. Soon after, Moore's producer Jeremy Stover reached out, opening the door for Hambrick to move to Nashville and pursue music full-time.

Since then, Hambrick has written a multitude of songs and had numerous cuts for other artists including Miranda Lambert and Eli Young Band, as well as No. 1 hits for Dan + Shay ("How Not To") and Justin Moore ("Somebody Else Will."). Hambrick is currently working on his debut album with producers Andrew DeRoberts (James Blunt, Miley Cyrus) and Paul DiGiovanni (Blake Shelton, Jordan Davis). His first single, "Rockin' All Night Long," is resonating with country music fans everywhere as it recalls the nostalgic late-night memories made throughout life.

Hambrick has been touring with some of Nashville's top country artists. He will play from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. Playing from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. will be Dillon Carmichael, who writes most of

all up with a director's eye for detail, creating a stunning collection that was at once old-school and modern, traditional and contemporary, timeless and timely.

Carmichael landed on Artist To Watch lists from *Billboard*, *Rolling Stone*, *Taste of Country*, Pandora, and more, reached #2 at Country radio's Most Added chart with his debut radio single, "Dancing Away With My Heart," electrified festival crowds from CMA Fest to Dierks Bentley's Seven Peaks, and has earned tour dates with Aaron Lewis, Dwight Yoakam, Trace Adkins, The Cadillac Three, and A Thousand Horses, among others.

It's been a whirlwind ride for Carmichael, but the 25-year-old was born for this stuff. Growing up in the small town of Burgin, Kentucky, he absorbed the musical life through osmosis: his father and uncles performed in a Southern Gospel Quartet, his mother sang all over the eastern part of the state, and her brothers (John Michael and Eddie Montgomery) both enjoyed massive chart success. Carmichael fell in love with country legends like Waylon Jennings and Vern Gosdin alongside the rock and roll he heard on the radio as a kid, and, by the time he hit his teens, he was writing his own songs and performing live.

"I didn't at any point consciously decide I was going to be a musician," says Carmichael. "It just happened naturally. I found a kind of truth in country music that I couldn't get anywhere else."

men and women Carmichael grew up around: hardworking, bighearted folks taking life one day at a time, sticking together through the good times and the bad with honesty, dignity, and faith.

The main event, which will take the stage at 7:30 p.m., will be LANCO!, winners of the 2019 American Country Music Award for New Vocal Group of the Year. LANCO! will bring their chart topping hits, such as "Greatest Love Story" and "Born to Love You," to the free family-friendly event.

Formed in 2012, LANCO was born of a chance meeting between Tripp Howell (drums) and Nashville native Brandon Lancaster (lead vocals) – each performing in bands at the same festival – just as Howell was readying a move to Music City the same week that Lancaster was returning from college. Once in Nashville, Lancaster met Eric Steedly (lead guitar) through mutual friends, while Jared Hampton (keyboards, banjo) and Chandler Baldwin (bass) followed shortly thereafter, with the young band gigging at every opportunity.

Mining a catalog of songs written by Lancaster, the group began to develop its sound. Making the most of Howell's day job in a carpet warehouse, the guys would slip in at night to rehearse on the little-traveled second level, loading their gear up and down with a forklift until they realized they could safely hide it with carpet between rehearsals.

But it was Lancaster's side job – working a concession stand at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena – that opened

"One week we're playing in a carpet warehouse, and a few weeks later, we're playing live in Jay Joyce's studio," marvels Lancaster, "and he's like, 'Okay, we've gotta make a record; let's do this.'"

The first result of their collaboration is LANCO's four-song self-titled EP, which offers first-time LANCO listeners a taste of the distinctive style that defines the band's music, from production to songwriting.

The band's live performance energy is becoming one of their undeniable calling cards – and a big part of that is being able to engage the audience.

"I want people to not just hear the music, but be a part of the music. All the songs that we're playing and singing, they're really talking about people's lives, and they're talking about situations that every person's familiar with, and we're doing it with a lot of energy and a lot of crowd participation," said Lancaster.

LANCO will play until 8:45 p.m.

Highway 49 Fest will also include a petting zoo, car show, local entertainment, kids' area and much more. Food and craft vendors from around the state will be on site, as well.

General parking for the event will be in the First Baptist Church parking lot, along Ranger Drive and at Richland High School. Handicap parking will be at the Community Center.

For more information, visit the Highway 49 Fest Facebook page, visit richlandms.org/highway-49-fest-2019/ or call 601-420-3400.

Pearl students head back for new school year



Pearl Upper Elementary students and parents had an opportunity to use a photo booth for their first day of school photos. Pictured is Julie Thornton with her son, Brady Thornton.



Pearl Upper Elementary teachers celebrate the first day of school. Pictured (l to r) are fourth-grade teachers Britnee Barnett, Alyson Newbaker, Rebecca Bracknell and Lori Jeffcoat.



Pearl Upper Elementary welcomed students back to school from the summer break with Meet the Teacher Night. Pictured (l to r) are Emily Brewer, fourth-grade math teacher; Lucas Lugo; and Jackie Dowdy.



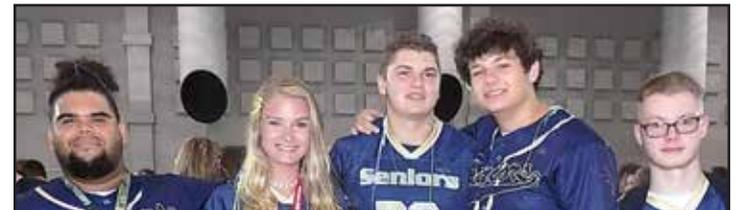
After reading First Day Jitters by Julie Danneberg, students in Jennifer McInnis' first-grade class at Pearl Lower Elementary designed a craft showing "How I Felt on the First Day of School." Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Dhara Patel and Jayden Woods; and back: Dustin Marbury, Bryleigh Milow, Lilli Guest and Scout Barnette.



Pearl Public School District Early Childhood Education Center students in Melissa Brower's class pose for a photo on the first day of school. Pictured (l to r) are Brower, Carrigan Hennes, Hughes Graham, Jayce James, Myles Dayton, Neely Ainsworth, Jordan Hernandez and Evelyn Bradshaw.



Pearl Junior High School held an orientation for incoming sixth-grade and new-to-the-district seventh- and eighth-grade students. Students and parents were invited to tour the PJHS campus and visit classrooms. Pictured are sixth-grader Emma Nelson, Lynn Bearden, and Chris Lee, PJHS assistant principal.



Photos special to SW Rankin News

Seniors at Pearl High School enjoy the tradition of beginning their senior year with lots of fanfare. Pearl High School seniors are treated to a parent-sponsored breakfast at the Pearl Community Center. After the breakfast, students get a police escort by the Pearl Police Department from the Muse Center at Hinds Community College to Pearl High School, where they enter the school with silly string and confetti. Pictured (l to r) are seniors Jaylon Webb, Brooklyn Massey, Landon Carpenter, Austin Jones and Austin VanDevender.

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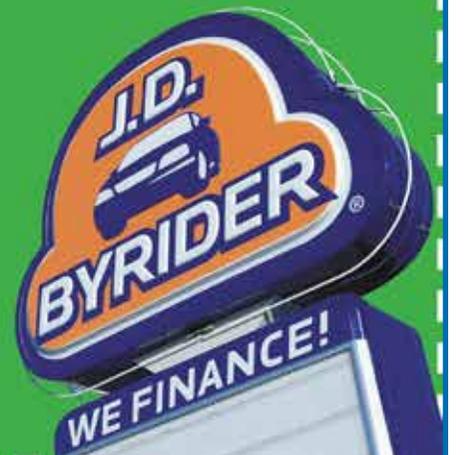
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Foundation for Rankin County Public Schools to host golf tournament

Special to SW Rankin News

The eleventh annual Foundation for Rankin County Public Schools, Inc. Golf Tournament will be held Wednesday, October 16, and Tuesday, October 17, at Castlewoods Country Club in Brandon. Registration and driving range opening will be held at 7 a.m. and 12 p.m., with lunch at the clubhouse. Tournament final instructions will be given at 7:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m., with shotgun starts at 1 p.m. on Wednesday and 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Thursday.

Castlewoods Country Club requires proper golf attire (no denim, collared shirts required, soft spike course). Entry fee includes eighteen holes of golf, lunch buffet, cart and prizes.

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

There will also be a prize for closest to the pin and longest drive.

The event will be a shotgun tournament, so space is limited. Golfers will be accepted on a first paid and received basis. Cost for teams is \$500 with a hole sponsorship, or \$400 without a hole sponsorship.

The Foundation is a way for businesses and individuals to support the work of Rankin County Schools and to encourage academic excellence. As the charitable organization of the Rankin County School District, the Foundation hopes to help students become community leaders by encouraging involvement, enriching schools, and expanding supporters and business partners. The Foundation continually plans for the future of Rankin County children and wants to assist student success by helping students prepare for their future and to become productive members of our community.

For more information on sponsorship opportunities, contact Ashley Moss at 601-825-5590.

Hinds CC selects SW Rankin Hi-Steppers



Special to SW Rankin News

Hinds Community College has selected the Hi-Steppers for 2019-20, including one from Pearl and one from Florence. Pictured (l to r) are front row: veteran members Laura Duncan of Florence, Mysheaira Taylor of Canton, Myriah Boyd of Pearl (lieutenant); Brandon residents Jaya Brown (captain), Jaide Seals (lieutenant) and Katie Burns (lieutenant), and Allennia Shelby of Natchez; and back row: new members Kylee Cunningham, Naomi Edwards and April Lee, all of Raymond, Courtney Cummins of Brandon, Meagan Ross of Carthage, Merritt Bynum of Brandon, Allyson Hartling of Clinton, Jada Todd of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Anna Claire Buchanan, Emily Gray and Natalie Clanton, all of Vicksburg, and Cheyanne Wynn, Rahael Robinson and Aaliyah Ross, all of Clinton. The Hinds Hi-Steppers are one of the oldest precision dance lines in the nation and perform at football games, exhibitions, parades, and community and charitable events. The Hi-Steppers are under the direction of Angela Hite of Raymond.

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Chamber awards scholarships for Hinds study

Special to SW Rankin News

The Pearl Chamber of Commerce awards two \$2,500 scholarships each year to local high school seniors who plan to attend the Rankin campus of Hinds Community College in the fall. This year's recipients are Bailey Lowery and Dillon Eaton. Lowery is entering the nursing program at Hinds and is the daughter of Bridget Presley Lowery and Lynn Lowery. Eaton plans to pursue a degree in welding and afterwards

join the Navy and specialize in underwater welding. He is the son of Betty Eaton and Andy Eaton. The students are pictured with the Pearl Chamber of Commerce Education Committee Chair Theresia McAlpin.



Pearl Chamber of Commerce Education Committee Chair Theresia McAlpin presents a \$2,500 scholarship to Dillon Eaton.



Pearl Chamber of Commerce Education Committee Chair Theresia McAlpin presents a \$2,500 scholarship to Bailey Lowery.

Goins named Officer of the Month

Special to SW Rankin News

The Pearl Police Department Officer of the Month for June was Officer Zack Goins. Goins served in the U.S. Army and was active in several deployments. He is currently serving in the U.S. Air Force and attending Hinds Community College to further his education. He graduated from MLEOTA in 2014 and worked at other local agencies before coming to the Pearl Police Department in 2017.

Goins was selected for the honor due to the number of citations that he has written in relation to an Occupant Safety and



Pearl police officer Zack Goins (fifth from left) was named the Pearl Police Department Officer of the Month for June.

DUI Grant that the Pearl Police Department received last year from the Department of Public Safety. The grants were awarded to bring awareness to driver safety and driving under the influence. Goins performed all of the control measures that were required, therefore making the grants a huge success. He has issued more than 1,300 citations, twenty DUI arrests, countless field citations, fugitive arrests and drug arrests while working these grants. He and his wife, Lexi, live in Pearl.

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Florence student honored as Who's Who at UM



Special to SW Rankin News

The University of Mississippi selected 198 students to be honored among the 2018-19 class of Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. The honorees were recognized for their achievements at the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts. Amber Blair Cain of Florence, majoring in psychology, was among the honorees. Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges is a respected honor program for college students in the U.S. Students who excel academically and demonstrate leadership and community service on and off campus are recognized for this exclusive honor.

Florence Lady Eagles start season with winning record

Special to SW Rankin News

The Florence Lady Eagles slow pitch softball team finished the first two weeks of the season with a three to two record. The Lady Eagles defeated Franklin County eight to zero. Anna Marie Vaughn, Paige Berry, and Mattie Granberry all had two hits each.

The Lady Eagles beat Franklin County in another game nine to one. Brooklyn Fant and Anna Marie Vaughn led

the offense with three hits each.

The third win came against Warren Central, one to zero. Peyton Campbell pitched a great game for that win.

The Lady Eagles dropped games against Wesson and Vicksburg for the two losses on the season's start.

The slow pitch season runs until early October, and the Lady Eagles will host numerous home games during the month of September.

For game dates, times and locations, see the FHS website at fhs.rcsd.ms.



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Old Truths for Today

By J.T. Morgan



Do We Need a New Gospel?

Progress in our world has brought about many changes. We can look at the advanced technologies and startling events that have taken place since the last century. Truly we are living in an advanced age. Because of our progress many denominations have concluded that the gospel as preached and practiced by the Christians of the first century is outdated and insufficient for this ever-changing age. The concept of seeking newer and better ways to keep up with the changing times and ignoring the ancient gospel as taught and practiced by the early Christians. The general idea is that we need a new gospel for this modern world.

Has man really changed? Man has not changed physically with the passing of time. The physical needs of man have not changed and remain the same as it has been since man was created. Neither has man changed morally or spiritually. He still has the same desires, impulses and inclinations as in the first century. Since the ancient gospel was able to meet those needs the same gospel will meet the needs today.

The world may have changed in some respects, but man is surrounded by the same enticing attractions and temptations that have always confronted humanity. (1 John 2:15-17). Man today is still faced in the same way that primitive man was, "lust of the flesh"; "lust of the eye", and "the pride of life". (Gen.3; Matt.4). Since the basic things of the world has not changed and since the ancient gospel tells us how to meet the temptations, why have a new gospel?

Has man's adversary changed? Man's greatest and most dangerous enemy is still alive and well. Peter warned, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (1 Pet. 5:8). This warning us just as timely as if were written just yesterday. The devil has not changed his nature and tactics. He is still deceiving the masses of people. He still operates through those who carry false teachings. (2 Cor. 11:1-14; 1 Tim.4:1-3; 2 Tim.3:1-9;13).

The devil fears the power of the pure gospel. It put him to flight in the first century and can do the same today. If the gospel, the sword of the Spirit (Eph.6:17), is sufficient to win the battle against Satan, why should we change weapons?

Do we need a new gospel? The answer is NO! Our greatest need is for more and more preaching of the ancient gospel of the first century. We need people that have courage and convictions who will cast aside the shackles of denominationalism with its dogmas and human creeds, and proclaim to the world the pure, unadulterated gospel, the only cure for the sin sick world today! "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek". (Rom.1:16).

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Eagles players and cheerleaders visit FES



Photos special to SW Rankin News

Florence Elementary School students were recently paid a visit by the Eagles high school football players and cheerleaders, who helped the younger students start their morning with a friendly hello and a high five.

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PPSD board of trustees recognizes Staff of the Month



Special to SW Rankin News

The Pearl Public School District Board of Trustees recently recognized the PPSD Spring 2019 Certified Staff of the Month. The PPSD Employees of the Month Program is sponsored by the Pearl Educational Foundation for Excellence. Pictured (l to r) are Dr. Raymond Morgigno, PPSD superintendent; Brittany Massey, January; Mandy Durham, February; Andrea Mozee, March; Susan Boyd, April; Missy Jones, May; and Susan Alexander, PEFPE board member.

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McLaurin HS teachers hold "book tasting"



Special to SW Rankin News

McLaurin High School teachers Mrs. Fewell and Ms. Nichols conducted a "book tasting" to assist students in choosing a book for their Independent Reading Project. Using menus at different stations, students got to "taste" a variety of book options before making their final selection.

Gus Black elected as District Exchange Club officer

Special to SW Rankin News

Gus Black, the 2018/19 Club President for the Exchange Club of Richland, was recently chosen as president-elect for the Mississippi District Exchange Club. Black has been active in the Richland club for many years and has served as president and event chairmen on many events.

Black will serve as President of the District for the 2020/21 year. The Mississippi District Exchange Club is made up of 34 clubs and 600+ members in communities across the state. Established in March 1911, The National Exchange Club has more than 18,000 members and more than 630 local-level Exchange Clubs throughout the United

States and Puerto Rico.

The organization's vision, "A strong America, safe communities and unified people," and mission statement, "Inspiring communities to become better places to live," are carried out through its programs of service, which include Americanism, youth programs and community service, with their national project being the prevention of child abuse.



Special to SW Rankin News

Gus Black has been chosen as president-elect for the Mississippi District Exchange Club.

Katherine Jordan of Pearl honored for service at Mississippi State Hospital



Special to SW Rankin News

Mississippi State Hospital recently honored employees with June anniversaries for their years of service to the hospital. Katherine Jordan of Pearl was among them. Employees receive a certificate of appreciation and a service award pin. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Jennie Miner (Jackson, thirty-five years), Sarah Blackmon (Brandon, five years) and Kina Woods (Byram, ten years); and back row: Katherine Jordan (Pearl, one year), Amy Womble (Brandon, one year), Reader Skaggs (Crystal Springs, five years), Anna Case (Brandon, one year) and Rushell Reid (Ridgeland, five years).

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Pearl Upper Elementary students recently begin chocolate sales



Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Upper Elementary students recently began the World's Finest Chocolate sale. Pictured (l to r) are Peter Pham, Ryker Barnette, Adauris Hill, Trinity Barber, Amanda Bilbro, Hollis Ward and Pedro Sebastian.

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 ¹ If you are age 50 or older, once you're insured through this Program for at least 60 days, you cannot be refused renewal as long as applicable premiums are paid when due. Also, you and other customary drivers of your vehicles must retain valid licenses, remain physically and mentally capable of operating an automobile (not applicable in MA), have no convictions for driving while intoxicated and must not have obtained your policy through material misrepresentation. Benefit currently not available in HI, MI, NH, NC and TX.
 \$§ Limitations apply.
 AARP and its affiliates are not insurers. Paid endorsement. The Hartford pays royalty fees to AARP for the use of its intellectual property. These fees are used for the general purposes of AARP. AARP membership is required for Program eligibility in most states. The AARP Automobile Insurance Program from The Hartford is underwritten by Hartford Fire Insurance Company and its affiliates, One Hartford Plaza, Hartford, CT 06155. It is underwritten in CA by Hartford Underwriters Insurance Company, in WA, by Hartford Casualty Insurance Company, in MN, by Sentinel Insurance Company, and in MA, MI and PA, by Trumbull Insurance Company. Specific features, credits, and discounts may vary and may not be available in all states in accordance with state laws and applicable law. Applicants are individually underwritten and some may not qualify. The program is currently unavailable in Canada and U.S. Territories or possessions.
 In Texas, the Auto Program is underwritten by Southern County Mutual Insurance Company, through Hartford Fire General Agency. Hartford Fire Insurance Company and its affiliates are not financially responsible for insurance products underwritten and issued by Southern County Mutual Insurance Company.
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PEARL LOCATION

Facebook.com/Stowawaypearl
 4195 Highway 80 E.
 Pearl, MS 39208
601-939-3255

10% Discount For The Following:

- Oak Lake and Grove Acres Residents
- Multi-Unit (3 or more units)
- First Responder
- Military

STOWAWAY

SELF-STORAGE

RICHLAND LOCATION

Facebook.com/Stowawayrichland
 133 Center Street
 Richland, MS 39218
601-939-5007

10% Discount For The Following:

- Stoney Creek Residents
- Multi-Unit (3 or more units)
- First Responder
- Military