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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

## First Lady of Mississippi headlines PSS summertime events

Special to The Pearl News

Pearl Senior Services (PSS) has scheduled a diverse lineup of activities and events for the month of July. Most notably, the First Lady of Mississippi, Elee Reeves, will be the guest speaker of the month on Thursday, July 15, at 11:30 a.m. The PSS July newsletter provided the following biographical synopsis:

"Reeves has enjoyed reading in schools, promoting the importance of literacy for students of all ages. After the historic flooding in our state in 2020, Reeves partnered with Keep Mississippi Beautiful to highlight the need of participating in community clean-up efforts to restore Mississippi's natural beauty. Reeves looks forward to discussing her initiatives and what she is hoping to accomplish during the upcoming year. Committed to giving back to her community and her fellow

Mississippians, Reeves volunteers her time to numerous charitable and civic organizations. Elee and Governor Tate Reeves are the proud parents of three daughters, Tyler, Emma and Maddie. They attend Gallaway Memorial United Methodist Church. The First Family enjoys sharing their home with their King Charles Cavalier dogs, Belle and Hazel."

Tickets are available to residents fifty-five years of age and older, \$5 a head. There will be no registrations holds, as space is limited.

On the following Tuesday, July 20, at 11:30 a.m., the **Brown Bag Lunch** will host Lori Matthews with Care & Care Senior Home Services, LLC. She will discuss providing care to loved ones while also giving a much needed break to other family members. Attendees are asked to bring lunch, and PSS will provide drinks.

Also of note is the monthly **Monday**



Photo courtesy of the Mississippi Governor's Office  
First Lady of Mississippi, Elee Reeves

**Movie Matinee** to be held July 26 at 1 p.m. The movie of the month is *Percy vs. Goliath*. Academy Award Winner Christopher Walken, Zach Braff and Christina Ricci star in the true story of a small-town farmer taking on one of the largest agricultural and food manufacturing corporations. Percy Schmeiser (Walken), a third-generation farmer, is sued by a corporate giant for allegedly using their patented seeds. With little resources to fight the giant legal battle, Percy joins forces with up-and-coming attorney Jack Weaver (Braff) and environmental activities Rebecca Salcau (Ricci) to fight the monumental case all the way up to the Supreme Court.

Those interested in registering for activities with PSS are encouraged to do so in advance, as space is limited.

To stay up-to-date on these activities and more, visit the PSS Facebook page or [www.cityofpearl.com](http://www.cityofpearl.com) for more information.

## Despite challenges, Pearl resident provides coveted equine therapy

Special to The Pearl News

Christy Henderson of Pearl gave up horseback riding after Parkinson's disease made it difficult to stay in the saddle.

"I get so stiff when I'm up there, it's not fun anymore," she said.

But Henderson still gets a kick out of helping people with special needs enjoy the sport at RideABILITY Therapeutic Riding Center in Brandon.

So, when a series of recent falls threatened that pastime, Henderson took action. She started doing LSVT Big, an intense therapy program for movement problems related to Parkinson's.

"I had an appointment with my neurologist, and he recommended I do it to work on my balance," she said.

Henderson worked with physical therapists Lisa Indest and Karen Klein, who are among five therapists certified to lead the program at Methodist Outpatient Therapy clinics in Flowood and Ridge-



Special to The Pearl News

Christy Henderson began RideABILITY, a therapeutic riding program for people with special needs, because of her love for horses like Lily. "I did not grow up riding horses, but I was very attracted to them," she said. "If I saw a horse, I had to touch it."

land. Methodist also offers LSVT Loud, which helps Parkinson's patients with

Indest said.

It's quickly evident why the therapy

speech and swallowing problems.

Neither program is meant to replace medications.

"But it does address a lot of impairments that can get progressively worse, such as a shuffling gait, slow movements, loss of trunk rotation, postural changes and muscle rigidity,"

is called big. Participants amplify every exercise, swinging their arms wide and taking giant steps. It's all designed to delay the movement constrictions that can come with Parkinson's.

"Sometimes people diagnosed with Parkinson's become slower and take really small steps," Indest explained. "Mrs. Henderson has not lost her mobility. So, we work on postural alignment and size of the movement."

It didn't take long for the therapy to deliver results. As she backed her car out of a parking space recently, Henderson noticed she could once again look over her shoulder. "I just realized I had turned my whole body, and I was like, 'Yay.'"

LSVT Big is custom-tailored to help patients achieve personal goals. For Henderson, that meant maintaining her involvement with RideABILITY.

See page 7 for full story,  
"The unique journey of RideABILITY's  
Christy Henderson."

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## Fire-rating upgrade, good news for Richland residents and businesses

Special to The Richland News

Every five years, the Mississippi State Ratings Bureau (MSRB) pays a visit to the City of Richland to conduct an on-site survey. The survey determines the classification (rating) of the City's fire protection resources. It not only determines the quality of fire protection the City's fire department provides to the community, it also affects the City's value – essentially, the lower the rating, the lower the property insurance costs. In this case, the City of Richland received a new rating Classification of 4 4/X as of June 2, 2021. Prior to this, Richland maintained a Class 5 rating for almost a decade.

All cities are required to have a fire rating, and all municipalities and established

legal fire districts are rated on a scale from one to ten, one being the best rating, and ten being the worst. Many factors are graded or assessed in determining the rate that a municipality or fire district receives. Some examples include firefighter response, the training of firefighters, apparatus and how fire apparatus is stored (protected from weather), the records, response distance, emergency communications, building codes and enforcements, water supply and water shuttle systems.



Photo special to The Richland News

On June 3, 2021, the MSRB made it official. Of significance to local residents and businesses is the following statement included in their formal report:

"An insurance contracts covering dwellings located in this City may be endorsed

from June 2, 2021, on a pro rata basis to take advantage of the current fire premiums indicated in our Mississippi Dwelling Manual. Comprehensive Dwelling Policies and Homeowner Policies also may be endorsed on a pro rata basis to take advantage of applicable rates or premiums."

Local homeowners and business-owners are encouraged to reach out to their insurance providers to inquire about adjustments and/or reductions in their fire insurance premiums.

To date, the only municipalities or fire districts in the State of Mississippi holding a lower fire rating than the City of Richland are located in coastal regions. For a land-locked community such as Richland, City officials say the lower rating is quite an achievement.

## Hwy 49 SummerFest, part one of bi-annual event

Special to The Richland News

2021 will be the first year the City of Richland will host the Highway 49 SummerFest. An off-shoot of the annual Highway 49 Festival typically held each September, the SummerFest will replace it as one of a two-part yearly event, with a second festival to be held in the fall. The cost for admission is \$10 per arm band, per person, and the fee covers admission to the Foam Party, as well as unlimited access to the inflatables and game activities.

The Foam Party is designed to entertain kids of all ages and includes micro-bubble foam with music. Swim suits and towels are required, as well as a change of clothing.

Inflatables to be featured this year include: the mega rainbow combo slide, purple crush slide, supersonic combo slide, yellow rush bounce house, eighteen-foot red wave slide, nineteen-foot rainbow marble slide and twenty-two-foot tsunami slide.

Also available on-site will be a few small-scale carnival games.

Food vendors will supply an assortment of southern cooking, including catfish, burgers, chicken on a stick, corn dogs, funnel cakes, nachos, sandwiches, burgers, crawfish etouffee, polish sausage, cowboy nachos and cheese fries, and for dessert, bread pudding.

Beginning at 6 p.m., adult entertain-



Image special to The Richland News

ment will be live, and, in keeping with the "Back to the 80s" theme, will feature the band U.S. According to their official bio, U.S. the band "...is a rock band whose main mission seems to be keeping rock music alive and well in the southeast.

A good bit of their set is rock from the 80s, but don't let that fool you, just when you think you've got them pegged, they'll kick off with a country standard like 'Calling Baton Rouge' or 'Save A Horse,' and then turn it all around with their 'Summer Love/Greased Lightning' medley from *Grease*. They entertain and interact with the crowds constantly and keep them involved.

These fellows know how to show a crowd a good time."

U.S. the band includes Kelly Nagy on vocals, Jeff Manns on guitar, Richie Wright on drums and Corey Lessard on bass.

Their presentation includes an elaborate state set-up with giant video monitors, fog, and light display.

Following U.S. the band is another fan-favorite, The Molly Ringwalds, slated to hit the stage at 8 p.m. According to [www.themollyringwalds.com](http://www.themollyringwalds.com):

"Those who have seen them know

The Molly Ringwalds take every stage they step on with force. They dazzle and engage their audiences with energy and passion, while taking them on a musical journey filled with all the hits that transcended the 80s and defined a generation. The Molly Ringwalds' show is loaded with the visual enormity and glam that encompassed the essence of the decade's music scene. Music videos of the iconic songs are the backdrop to a stage that comes to life with a captivating light show and a movable set that draws every single person into the moment."

Barbara Adams, events coordinator for the City of Richland encourages residents to, "come out and enjoy the good food, kid's activities and good music."

General parking for the event will be available in Eastside Park, on Ranger Drive, and in the parking lot located behind First Baptist Church.

Handicapped parking will be available at the Community Center in a pre-designated area.

For more information, contact Adams at 601-420-3402.

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# Girl Scouts sew up Bronze Awards with NICU quilting project

Special to The Florence News

When the little brother of Girl Scout Nichole Johnson spent seventy-three days in neonatal intensive care at the Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower at Children's of Mississippi, her Junior Girl Scout Troop 3965 of Florence was inspired to make a difference.

Giraffes and bears, flowers and rainbows, squares and starbursts - all these prints and more were stitched together as quilts for babies in neonatal intensive care in the Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower at Children's of Mississippi. For more about the sweet story of how a Bronze Award project by the troop resulted in ninety-three handmade quilts donated to the state's only Level IV NICU, the highest level of care, see page 4 for full story.



Photo special to The Florence News

Girl Scouts from Troop 3965, including, clockwise from bottom left, Nichole Johnson, Katey Rae Quick, Ellie Kegley, Zoey Dowdy, Maggie Josey and Presleigh Stigler, were inspired to make quilts for babies in the NICU at Children's of Mississippi.

# Gilder's work to be featured in MMA exhibition

Special to The Florence News

The Mississippi Museum of Art (MMA) recently announced forty-two artists participating in the 2021 Mississippi Invitational exhibition, a survey of recent works created by contemporary visual artists living and working in the State. This is the largest number of artists represented since the Museum launched the biennial program in 1997. Among the forty-two artists selected, the exhibition will feature work by Florence native Karen Gilder.

As Publisher and Editor of Portico, a magazine dedicated to literary and visual stories, Karen Gilder (b. 1962) learned to recognize exceptional images. After closing the magazine at the end of 2019, the lure of photography returned.

From her first film camera, a Pentax

K1000, Gilder has always sought to find images to both enhance and disclose stories, images that in speaking to her might have greater reach, capturing the magic in moments and landscapes and faces.

Trained in photojournalism at the University of Southern Mississippi, Gilder's photographic style seeks to suspend specific time and certain place, to create the magic of a moment. Returning to photography, Gilder thought people and street scenes would capture her attention the most. But, as with most things, humans find comfort around themselves, they understand the places and grasp the lives around them; they recognize the slightest seconds of change in that world...and those are the stories they tell. Turns out, surrounded as she is by it here where she lives every day, Gilder discovered that ease of place in nature.

"I am fascinated by birds in flight - the poetic movement of wings, the delicate dances of life, the desperate challenge of nature. I am mesmerized by the ineffable power of lift and swoop and wind."

"My college mentor was a professor named John Frair. He had two mottos that I still use today: 'I'd rather be lucky than good any day.' and 'F 8 and be there.'"



Special to The Florence News

Karen Gilder

Wise words: pay attention and prepare."

"Today's mentor, Jared Lloyd, has encouraged me to find my way in wildlife photography," continues Gilder. "His guidance has helped me find the confidence and conviction I needed to turn my photography into art."

"The famous street photographer Bruce Gilden once said, 'I like to say that street photography is when you can smell the street and feel the dirt.' I believe the same can be said for wildlife photography. If you can hear the swoosh of wings, see the splash of water, discern the inimitable calls...and pay attention to the life of nature, that's wildlife photography."

See page 5 for "MMA announces details of 2021 Mississippi Invitational."

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# Girl Scouts sew up Bronze Awards with NICU quilting project

By Guest Columnist Annie Oeth

Giraffes and bears, flowers and rainbows, squares and starbursts. All these prints and more were stitched together as quilts for babies in neonatal intensive care in the Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower at Children's of Mississippi.

A Bronze Award project by Junior Girl Scout Troop 3965 of Florence resulted in ninety-three handmade quilts donated to the state's only Level IV NICU, the highest level of care.

After Evan Johnson, the youngest brother of troop member Nichole Johnson, started life there, the troop and their leader, Jessica Dowdy, knew their Bronze Award project should help neonatal intensive care.

"We're so happy that Evan's time in the NICU is resulting in a project that's meaningful for Nichole and her fellow Girl Scouts," said Ashley Johnson, a research scientist in pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Johnson's water broke at twenty-three weeks, bringing her to Wiser Hospital for Women and Infants, where she stayed for six weeks until Evan's birth. Topping two pounds, he stayed in the NICU seventy-three days.

"My hospital stay and his gave me a great appreciation for the clinical care



Pictured (l to r) are: Junior Girl Scout Zoey Dowdy, Presleigh Stigler, Katey Rae Quick, Nichole Johnson, Maggie Josey and Ellie Kegley.



Junior Girl Scout Zoey Dowdy carries a stack of handmade quilts to present to the neonatal intensive care floors at the Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower at Children's of Mississippi.



Girl Scout Troop 3965 leader Jessica Dowdy holds a baby quilt she made for Evan Johnson, who is pictured being held by his mother, Ashley Johnson, a research scientist at UMMC.

side of UMMC," Johnson said. Dowdy welcomed Evan to the world with a handmade quilt, which sparked the idea for Troop 3965's Bronze Award project.

"This is really a project that could be Gold level," Dowdy said, referring to the top award in Girl Scouting.

"They've all worked so hard on this and have learned about quilting, measurements, math and social media."

After months of planning, the project

book page Troop #3965 Quilt-Along in March.

"Every day during spring break, we were learning to quilt and making videos," Dowdy said. "After that, we were stitching whenever we'd get together."

Word got around about Troop 3965's project, and soon quilters from around the country were joining in, sending the troop quilts to add to their donation.

"Each girl in the troop made two quilts, so we had twelve quilts that we made,

began with the troop learning the art of quilting from Dowdy and creating videos of the experience for the Face

plus eighty-one quilts that were sent in," Dowdy said. "They're all beautifully done, and each one is different. One of them came with a label that read, 'Someone cares in Texas.'"

Dowdy, who has led Troop 3965 since they were at the Daisy level five years ago, plans to keep progressing with the girls through the Girl Scout ranks.

The troop members and their families met NICU nurses at the entrance of the state's only children's hospital to present the quilts, which filled a cart to overflowing. Each girl was presented with a plaque honoring Bronze Award achievements.

"It was hard, but I liked it," said Junior Girl Scout Ellie Kegley.

Her mother, Katie Kegley, said the project was a learning experience that was worth the effort.

"If a family receives one of these quilts and realizes that someone was thinking about them before their baby was even born, then this was worth all their hard work."

The NICU will put the colorful blankets to good use, said nurse educator Becky Harrison. "We always need Isolette covers, and these quilts will be a memory from the NICU that families can take home as a keepsake."

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Annie Oeth is a staff writer for the UMMC Office of Communications and Marketing.*

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# MMA announces details of 2021 Mississippi Invitational

*Special to SW Rankin News*

The Mississippi Museum of Art (MMA) recently announced forty-two artists participating in the 2021 Mississippi Invitational exhibition, a survey of recent works created by contemporary visual artists living and working in the state. This is the largest number of artists represented since the Museum launched the biennial program in 1997. Among the forty-two artists selected, the exhibition will feature work by Florence native, Karen Gilder.

On view August 14 through October 10, 2021, this year's Mississippi Invitational works were selected by guest curator Danielle Burns-Wilson.

"To be invited to serve as guest curator for the Mississippi Museum of Art's 2021 Invitational is already an honor, but to do so against the backdrop of all that is happening around us is even more meaningful," stated Burns-Wilson. "The world has reached an entropic state, seemingly never to return to its once ordered ways, and so I wanted the works in this year's Invitational to reflect the many voices and experiences of this particular moment. I selected works that create a balance - through materials, media, and processes, as well as perspectives. This exhibition conveys human needs, reimagines our future, and liberates thought."

Invitational artists will be eligible to apply for The Jane Crater Hiatt Artist Fellowship—a grant of up to \$20,000 awarded to one artist. The recipient will be announced during an opening reception on August 13.

MMA Director Betsy Bradley said,



*The Landing, 2020. pigment print, 25 x 7.5 in.*

*Photo by Karen Gilder*

"The might and fortitude of artists has always been an inspiration to me. In the face of all that is contrary, they summon the courage and strength to make something that speaks their truth to other people. And our communities are better for it. The 2021 Mississippi Invitational demonstrates that the power to make something beautiful, to survive, to connect with ideas and with others, can be stronger than the temptation to withdraw."

A publication accompanying the exhibition will be available in The Museum Store.

During the month of August 2021,

MMA will offer free admission as a way to welcome visitors back after the pandemic.

Danielle Burns-Wilson currently serves as Chief Curator at the Houston Public Library. With more than a decade of experience, she also serves as an adjunct

professor of art history and art appreciation at Lone Star College-North Harris Campus. Burns-Wilson received her B.A. in history and political science from Prairie View A&M University and her M.A. in art history from the City University of New York, Brooklyn College.

The Jane Crater Hiatt Artist Fellowship was created in 2005 by Jane Crater Hiatt and her late husband Wood (1930-2010) in response to the need to nurture and invigorate the arts within the state. The fellowship provides support to an individual artist in the development and creation of art over a two-year period. The funds may be used to purchase supplies and

equipment, conduct research, or travel, and may be used for study with an individual artist or in a studio, workshop, or residency setting. Following the conclusion of the grant period, the artist is required to donate one original work of art, chosen from at least five works created during the grant period, to the Museum. Only artists whose work is selected for inclusion in the Mississippi Invitational exhibition are eligible to apply for the Fellowship in the year that their work is chosen. The recipient's works should demonstrate the potential for significant artistic and cultural impact, as well as act as a catalyst for the development and realization of adventurous and imaginative ideas.

The Mississippi Museum of Art hours of operation are Thursdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays, noon until 5 p.m.

General admission is \$15 a person; \$13 for seniors and groups of 10 or more, and \$10 for college students with school ID. Admission is free to museum members, children ages five and under; and K-12 students on Thursdays.

The Mississippi Museum of Art requires that masks be worn at all times in the Museum and has several hand-sanitizing stations located throughout the building.

For further information visit [www.msmuseumart.org](http://www.msmuseumart.org).

# MISSISSIPPI ANGELS TAKE HOME FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

*Special to SW Rankin News*

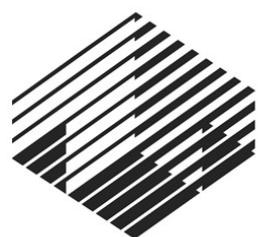
The Mississippi Angels were recently declared champions of the Down South Bragging Rights tournament, held June 12 through 13 in Jackson. This was the first championship win for the one-year program.

The tournament included competitions from third-grade through high school age boys and girls basketball teams. First and second place medals and trophies were awarded.



*Photos special to SW Rankin News*

*Pictured, (l to r) are, front row: Assistant Coach Thomas Bass, Star Amos, Amber Smith, Lakirah Alexander, Faith Quick, Taneja Bass, Zia Shields, Erika Russell and Head Coach Stanley Dixon Jr.; and back row: Hannah Mcdouggle, LaShante Payne and Sasha Williams.*



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### Old Truths for Today

#### Discussing Religious Differences

J.T. Morgan



Someone remarked, "But I think it's wrong to argue and get mad over some religious differences or question." This is quite true, one should not get into an argument or shouting match concerning religious differences. The apostle Peter stated that we must answer in "meekness and fear" (1 Pet. 3:15, while Paul declares that the mind of Christ must dwell in us (Phil. 2:5). That includes a mind of patience, service and love for all men.

To take any position in the midst of all the turmoil of today's religious differences without taking a stand on what the Bible teaches is futile. Our purpose in Bible study must be to learn the truth. (Jhn 8:32). It is by knowledge and obedience of the truth that we are saved from sin, (1 Pet. 1:22), but a knowledge of the will of God comes only after study and investigation. (Jhn 6:44-45).

The scriptures tell us of Jesus teaching those who wished to be taught. He was ready to discuss and defend the word of God and rebuke those who followed the doctrines of men. (Matt. 15:1-9). Certainly, the Lord was not wrong about the value of religious study.

Too many people today have a religion based upon the opinions of preachers or upon some popular idea and not on truth. This kind of religion leads to eternal ruin.

In Acts the writer said, "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica in that they received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11). Notice what John says, "Beloved, believe not every spirit but try the spirits whether they are of God..." (1 Jhn 4:1). God's word teaches us to examine that which is spoken with the aim of learning the way of truth and righteousness.

The apostle Paul said, "...I am set for the defense of the gospel." (Phil. 1:17). "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith." (2 Cor. 13:5). We should seek a "thus saith the Lord" for everything we do and teach.

Our eternal destiny is before us. How we handle the gospel of Christ will determine that eternal home. (Jhn 12:48). May we carefully examine our thinking to determine the road we are traveling lest we be found with minds of prejudice and contentment while serving Satan. The devil says, "One way is just as good as another" or "It makes no difference what we believe." God says, "Whosoever goeth onward, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." (2 John 9).

Let us not be deceived. People who love the truth have nothing to fear in an open and honest discussion of religious differences. Truth will be victorious. Error cannot stand. Study, learn and stand for the pure gospel of Jesus Christ. (Gal. 1:6-9).

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

Visitors are always welcome!

## Moore, Anderson named Employees of the Month at MSH



Kevin Moore



Photo special to SW Rankin News  
Laquanda Anderson

Special to SW Rankin News

Kevin Moore has been named Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) May Employee of the Month for Clinical Service. Moore, who lives in Pearl, is a Recreation Therapist I working at Jaquith Inn. A Jackson State University graduate, Moore has been employed at MSH for twenty years.

Laquanda Anderson, also from Pearl, has been named Mississippi State Hospital May Employee of the Month for Direct Care. Anderson is a Mental Health Technician working on Female Receiving. A Pearl High School grad-

uate, Anderson has worked at MSH since 2017.

The MSH Employee of the Month award recognizes employees who have made outstanding contributions to the hospital through their work. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc.

MSH, a program of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and helps the individuals it serves achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promoting safety, and supporting recovery. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

## Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Funeral Home
Ragan Pettigrew Jordan	5/31/2021	46	Braxton, MS	Chancellor Funeral Home
Willard "Burt" Case, Jr	6/6/2021	71	Richland, MS	Chancellor Funeral Home
Gary Lee Rice	6/8/2021	80	Harrisville, MS	Chancellor Funeral Home
Thomas Edward McGaha	6/8/2021	94	Arkabutla, MS	Chancellor Funeral Home
Jayden Lee Shoemaker	6/12/2021	18	Florence, MS	Chancellor Funeral Home
Bonnie Johnson Roberts	6/13/2021	84	Florence, MS	Chancellor Funeral Home
Charles Arnold Cook	6/15/2021	85	Star, MS	Chancellor Funeral Home
Gilbert Ray Sutton	6/19/2021	82	Florence, MS	Chancellor Funeral Home
Glenn Roy Myers	6/21/2021	91	Star, MS	Chancellor Funeral Home
Kenneth "Buddy" Kelley	6/21/2021	69	Florence, MS	Chancellor Funeral Home
Donna Sue Smith	6/22/2021	74	Florence, MS	Chancellor Funeral Home
Richard Wayne Phillips	6/23/2021	57	Richland, MS	Chancellor Funeral Home
Mary "Faye" Ellis	6/22/2021	80	Florence, MS	Chancellor Funeral Home
Mary Louise Brantley	6/24/2021	91	Pearl, MS	Chancellor Funeral Home
Felix Pena Rivera, Jr	6/27/2021	71	Richland, MS	Chancellor Funeral Home
Anita Hardee May	6/28/2021	88	Florence, MS	Chancellor Funeral Home

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# The unique journey of RideABILITY's Christy Henderson



Although the symptoms of Parkinson's prevent her from doing strenuous chores, Christy Henderson still enjoys grooming RideABILITY'S horses.



Physical therapist Lisa Indest, left, leads Parkinson's patient Christy Henderson through a series of exercises at Methodist Outpatient Therapy in Flowood. Methodist has five therapists certified in LSVT Big, a program to address movement problems related to the Parkinson's.



Christy Henderson practices exaggerated marching movements as physical therapist Lisa Indest monitors her form. Such amplified movements are at the core of LSVT Big, a therapy program for Parkinson's patients.



Special to SW Rankin News  
Parkinson's patient Christy Henderson works on her balance and reaching ability under the watchful eye of Lisa Indest, a physical therapist at Methodist Outpatient Therapy.

## Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl resident Christy Henderson is a long-time horse lover.

"I did not grow up riding horses, but I was very attracted to them," she said. "If I saw a horse, I had to touch it."

After a trip to a Colorado guest ranch intensified her interest, Henderson took riding lessons and bought a horse. RideABILITY came to be after she saw a photo of a boy with Down syndrome happily sitting on a horse and holding a Special Olympics blue ribbon.

Henderson researched therapeutic riding with hopes of volunteering for a program. When she couldn't find one nearby, she and her late husband, Dr. Harold Henderson, launched RideABILITY in 2007.

That same year, Henderson's coworkers at Rankin Medical Center began noticing what turned out to be her first Parkinson's symptom.

"People would say, 'What's wrong with your shoulder?'" remembers Henderson, then chief nursing officer for Rankin Medical Center in Brandon. "I wasn't swinging my right arm. It was just staying in a flexed position."

As a physician, her husband knew the connection between Parkinson's and the loss of a natural arm swing. And a neurologist soon confirmed his suspicions.

"At first, I just cried," Henderson said. "I didn't like the thought of a future like this. But, once they put me on Sinemet, it was very dramatic."

The go-to Parkinson's medicine kept Henderson physically active for many years - and she needed to be. As RideABILITY grew into a six-horse center serving a variety of students with spe-

cial needs, Henderson and a crew of faithful volunteers stayed busy.

"Back then, I was picking up 50-pound bags of horse feed and doing a lot of walking and shoveling horse manure," she said. "And my doctor said keep on doing it as long as you can. But, over time, I was not coordinated enough."

Today, Henderson has stepped away from the center's executive duties and left the heavy lifting to others. But she's grateful that LSVT Big therapy is helping her maintain her connection to the students, who mostly have mental or physical development problems such as autism or cerebral palsy.

"They run the gamut," she said. "We've even had a couple of men in their 60s who are post-stroke."

Like her students, Henderson has learned to live with her disability. But she also embraces programs designed to limit Parkinson's symptoms.

LSVT-Big proved to be intense, requiring therapy four days a week for four weeks, plus daily homework. And Henderson will have to keep at it long-term. But she's enjoying the fruits of her hard work.

"I am definitely less stiff," she said. "I feel stronger and have improved stamina. And my balance is better. I would highly recommend the program. My therapists have helped me and done a really good job of working on my problems."

For information on LSVT Big and Loud therapy, call Methodist Outpatient Therapy at 601-936-8888.

To learn more about RideABILITY, a therapeutic riding program for people with special needs, call 601-808-2287 or go to rideabilityms.com.

# Zarazua, Bartolome-Nicholas awarded Richland's Character Trait Award



Maria Bartolome-Nicholas is Richland High School's (RHS) March Character Trait Student of the Month. The character trait for the month was patience.



Orlando Zarazua is RHS's April Character Trait Student of the Month. The character trait for the month was peace.

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# Updates from the Richland-Florence Garden Club

Special to SW Rankin News

Richland-Florence Garden Club (RFGC) recently announced the installation of officers for the 2021-2022 season. The newest officers and assistant are: First Vice President Minetta Veazy, Birthday Card Assistant Rowan Craft, Recording Secretary Shirley Wilson, President Gaynell Ainsworth, Treasurer Susan Harrison, Corresponding Secretary Beverly Hemphill and Second Vice President Shannon Laseter.

The RFGC also held a plant swap at the Westside Park, and all members were able to take home several varieties of plants and flowers.

Also, in the Month of May, RFGC held its monthly member meeting at the Richland Westside Park pavilion.

Stephanie Ward from the City of Richland spoke about the upcoming Traveling Viet Nam Wall Memorial that is coming to the Richland Town Square. The dates for the memorial are September 15 through 20, 2021. This will be a twenty-four-hour, six-day

event, and the RFGC has been asked to help with floral decorations. The RFGC will be selling patriotic mail box bows and flower arrangements.

The city anticipates thousands of visitors and is in need of volunteers. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Ward at the Richland City Hall for more information.

Members present at the RFGC monthly meeting were President Gaynell Ainsworth, Carol Azzone, Teeni Boone, Scottie Boyanton, Sandra Hales-Boyd, Rowan Craft, Susie Gullede, Susan Harrison, Elizabeth Hawthorne, Debbie Knight, Beverly Hemphill, Glenda Scoggins, Linda Stringer, Minetta Veazy and Shirley Wilson.

RFGC is a member of Natchez Trace District, The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, and federated with the National Garden Club, Inc.



Pictured (l to r) are Gaynell Ainsworth, Stephanie Ward and Debbie Knight.



Pictured at the Richland-Florence Garden Club Plant Swap are Rowan Craft, Susie Gullede and Teeni Boone.



Photos special to SW Rankin News

Pictured (l to r) are new Richland-Florence Garden Club officers: First Vice President Minetta Veazy, Birthday Card Assistant Rowan Craft, Recording Secretary Shirley Wilson, President Gaynell Ainsworth, Treasurer Susan Harrison and Corresponding Secretary Beverly Hemphill. Not pictured is Second Vice President Shannon Laseter.

# eWIC benefit cards now available statewide

Special to SW Rankin News

Through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) at the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), participants statewide are now able to use eWIC benefit cards to get healthy food more easily.

eWIC benefit cards work like debit cards: simply swipe and enter the PIN. The cards are accepted at 275 authorized locations, including 160 grocery stores, 103 grocery stores with pharmacies, and twelve independent pharmacies across Mississippi.

Because WIC's emphasis is on healthy eating for mothers, infants and chil-

dren, eWIC cards can be used to buy milk, cereal, yogurt, juice, eggs, cheese, peanut butter, beans, whole wheat bread, brown rice, whole wheat pasta, whole wheat and corn tortillas, fresh, frozen or canned fruits and vegetables, baby formula and baby food. Each participant has a unique food package and may not be eligible to get all food



Special to SW Rankin News

items.

"This is a dramatic increase in access from the 95 WIC food distribution centers we were operating. This change gives our clients more variety of food options and

more flexibility in when and where they shop," said Diane W. Hargrove, Director of the WIC program.

WIC is a supplemental food pro-

gram for pregnant, breastfeeding, and post-partum women, infants, and children under 5. The program helps mothers and babies get healthy foods and healthy advice in the first years of life. Each eWIC card will have a unique account number. WIC will use that number to send benefits to the account each month. Any WIC benefits that are not used during the monthly cycle do not roll over. WIC will reload the card when the next benefit period begins.

For additional information about WIC and an updated list of authorized vendors, visit [www.HealthyMS.com/WIC](http://www.HealthyMS.com/WIC), or call 601-991-6000 or toll-free 1-800-545-6747.

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# The Big Thrift: Latest news, customer incentives

Special to SW Rankin News

**Latest News:**

The Big Thrift originally opened its doors in Florence in 2014 as a fundraiser for Mississippi Spay and Neuter - The Big Fix Clinic (MS SPAN) and Mississippi Animal Rescue League (MARL). In late 2018, MS SPAN purchased a building that would be able to contain both the Big Thrift store and the Big Fix Clinic. The Big Thrift officially moved to Richland in the summer of 2020, and, although COVID-19 shut their doors for a month, they remained open throughout the pandemic.

Unfortunately, due in part to these challenges, more than half of the store space has yet to be renovated, and is currently serving as donation storage. In June of this year, The Big Thrift also received the unfortunate news that their air conditioner is beyond repair. Without air-conditioning, the store will be unable to continue to operate as needed, which is serving in its critical fundraising role for animals in Central Mississippi.

Efforts are currently ongoing to defray the costs of purchasing and installing a new air conditioner. To date, Big Thrift supporters have contributed \$8,140 toward the goal of \$10,272, which will cover the total cost of the purchase and installation of a new unit. To those

who have already made donations, the non-profit expresses their thanks:

"Our generous supporters rose to the occasion...[and] we can't thank [them] enough for helping us get there."

Any future donations made to this special fundraiser will be matched. Supporters can also assist with the ongoing renovations by shopping with Big Thrift, donating items, or making monetary contributions.

**Customer Incentives:**

The Big Thrift offers many customer incentives throughout the summer months, including twenty-percent off Discount Days for Seniors (Tuesdays), First Responders (Thursdays), and Teachers and Healthcare Workers (Fridays). All first responders (i.e., police, firefighters and paramedics), teachers and healthcare workers must provide identification to receive the discount.

There are weekly sales items, as well, and a seventy-five percent off clearance section that rotates monthly. Clothing is priced at \$1.99 per piece for adult clothing and 99 cents per children's clothing item.

In addition to the brick-and-mortar store, an online shopping option is now available at [www.bigthrift.org](http://www.bigthrift.org).

The online store features collectibles, antique items, vintage, designer clothing, as well as new clothing. Shipping is

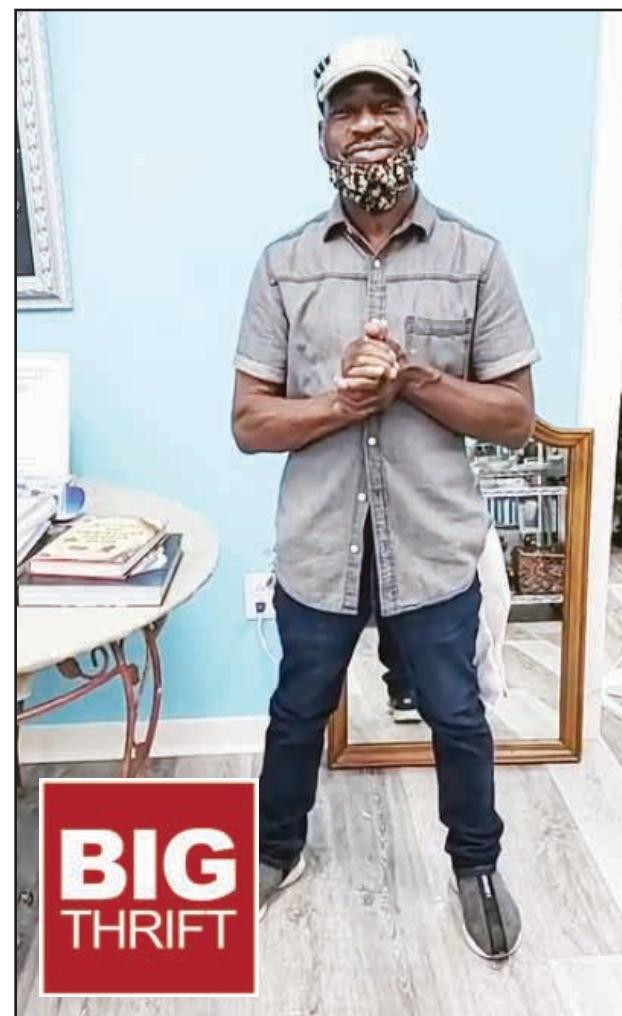
offered nationwide, along with in-store and curbside pickup. For the month of July, all online items are fifteen percent off, excluding clearance items.

Last, but not least, are the weekly broadcasts via the Big Thrift Facebook page. Lead Sales Associate Edward Carr goes live to showcase new items and sales. Carr has generously given, and continues to give, his time and energy to the cause.

Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Wearing masks is encouraged, but no longer required, to shop.

Donations are accepted during business hours. Accepted donations include: clothing, household items, furniture, linens, tools, and jewelry. Large appliances, mattresses and books will not be accepted.

Sign up for the email list at [www.bigthrift.org](http://www.bigthrift.org) to get updates on weekly sales and promotions.



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Edward Carr, Big Thrift lead sales associate

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## Bunkley to represent Rankin County in Mississippi Miss Hospitality 2021

*Special to SW Rankin News*

Mallory Jordan Bunkley will represent Rankin County in the Seventy-Second Mississippi Miss Hospitality Competition at the Historic Hattiesburg Saenger Theater in Downtown Hattiesburg July 15 through 17, at 8 p.m. each evening.

Mallory Bunkley attends The University of Southern Mississippi, where she majors in Sports Management and Hospitality & Tourism Management. She's a dancer and goodwill ambassador with the Dixie Darlings, the undergraduate representative for the Sports Management Club, and an employee with CBS Sports. She's interested in bringing high profile events and athletics into Mississippi.

In its twenty-fourth year as host city, Hattiesburg will showcase this year's best and brightest young women as they compete for the title of Mississippi's Miss Hospitality. Thirty-seven women, who represent all regions of the state, will participate in this year's program, with the winner serving for a full year as the state's official ambassador for economic development and tourism.

In 2020, the Mississippi Miss Hospitality state competition was one of many organizations to feel the business disruption effects of COVID-19. Pivoting, the program hosted a virtual preliminary competition before welcoming the top

ten contestants to Hattiesburg for the one-night-only in-person competition.

"We are eager to welcome all of the local title holders and their Little Misses to an in-person state competition this year.

Tourism and economic development ambassadorship are key to our state's future, and we are looking forward to a week of showcasing their achievements and service to community and state," Kristen Brock, Mississippi Miss Hospitality program director, said.

In 2021, the program is returning to an in-person format for all stages of the competition. New this year will be two nights of on-stage preliminary competition on Thursday and Friday, followed by the final on-stage competition with the top ten contestants on Saturday.

Arriving on Sunday, July 11, the contestants will be welcomed to The University of Southern Mississippi before beginning their week-long journey to the crowning ceremony on July 17.

Throughout competition week in Hattiesburg, contestants will attend social events, participate in community service projects, and attend rehearsals and competitions. The public is invited to meet

the contestants at the Miss Hospitality autograph party at Turtle Creek Mall on Friday, July 16 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Four years ago, the Mississippi Miss Hospitality Competition added a Little Miss Hospitality component, which encourages local representatives to serve as a mentor to a young girl from her hometown between the ages of six and ten.

If crowned the next Mississippi Miss Hospitality, the contestant's Little Miss will serve alongside her as she fulfills her duties and responsibilities as Mississippi's Goodwill Ambassador.

Representing Rankin County as a Little Miss Hospitality is Eliza Jane Roberts.

A program of VisitHATTIESBURG,

the Mississippi Miss Hospitality Competition is presented by the Mississippi Development Authority, The University of Southern Mississippi, the City of Hattiesburg, Hattiesburg Saenger Theater and Forrest General Hospital. Sponsorships and patrons allow the program to annually award more than \$100,000 in scholarships and prizes to participants.

"We are delighted to be hosting these talented women and their Little Misses in Hattiesburg for this year's competition," Marlo Dorsey, executive director of VisitHATTIESBURG, said.

"Their love of community and state has been tremendously inspiring, and we look forward to seeing their continued growth and leadership development for years to come."

Guests will enjoy entertaining productions on all three nights of competition, with vocal and dance performances by contestants and local groups. The finale is set for Saturday evening at 8 p.m., where the top 10 contestants will be announced at the top of the show and continue to compete for the title.

Tickets are expected to sell out, so pre-purchases are encouraged. Tickets are available online at Hattiesburg-Saenger.com or by calling the Saenger Theater Box Office at 601-584-4888.

Tickets can also be purchased at the Saenger in advance or at the door if any remain.



*Special to SW Rankin News*

Mallory Jordan Bunkley

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# Pearl Public Library: Summer fun scheduled in July

Special to SW Rankin News

Pearl Public Library (PPL) is offering an assortment of engaging in-person summer activities for patrons of all ages.

Beginning on Wednesday, July 14, and continuing every other Wednesday at 10 a.m., the **Adult Book Club** will meet at PPL to discuss the latest recommended reading.

Also on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., PPL offers **Preschool Story Time**. Story Time includes a story reading, take-home craft projects, and a "shake your sillies out" session. The themes for July are Animals in the Jungle, Shark Tales, Farm Animals, Frogs, and Zoo Animals. Registration may be made online or by phone.

Monday, July 19, at 5:30 p.m. patrons are invited to practice their dance skills using a Wii video game console for **Just Dance**.

Following on Tuesday, July 20, at 6



Pearl Public Library

Special to SW Rankin News

p.m., PPL will host **Simply Crafts**, where patrons participate in the latest craft project.

Bibliophiles may also continue to log

their summer reading progress on [www.cmrls.Beanstack.org](http://www.cmrls.Beanstack.org) until Friday, July 16, with a chance to win a \$25 gift card from PPL. Rankin County will

also offer five age group prizes, including: Preschool Prize Basket KiDS (K through fourth grade) at \$25; Tweens (fifth through eighth grade) at \$25; Teens (ninth through twelfth grade) at \$25; and Adult at \$25.

**Tails and Tales** continues virtually for the remainder of the summer season. **Preschool Story Time** videos will post weekly on Mondays at 9 a.m.; **Kindergarten through Fourth-Grade Story Time** videos will be posted weekly on Tuesdays at 12 p.m.; **Tweens and Teen Programs** will post on the first Thursday of the month; **Adult Programs** will post on the first Thursday of the month; and **Family Programs** will post on Fridays at 9 a.m.

The online offerings will be posted to the CMRLS Facebook page, or group pages, to the CMRLS YouTube channel and the CMRLS website. All events and links may be found at [www.cmrls.lib.ms.us](http://www.cmrls.lib.ms.us).

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# Hinds CC grads ready for the next step



Special to SW Rankin News

Bayleigh Morgan of Florence, left, April Skaggs of Brandon, Bethany Martin of Brandon and Ashlyn Martin of Brandon were classmates on the Rankin Campus of Hinds Community College (Hinds CC). They graduated from Hinds CC on May 13.

# Richland's Bowers, Taylor sign with MSU



Griffin Bowers signed his letter of intent to play in the famous maroon band drum line and be in the concert band at Mississippi State University (MSU) for the 2021-2022 school year. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Douglas Bowers (dad), Griffin Bowers, Dorothy Bowers (mom) and Janie Bowers (sister); and back row: Assistant Principal Corey Yates, Assistant Principal Dr. Terrance McEwen, Principal Dr. Marcus Stewart, and Band Director Jordan Salvant.



Photos special to SW Rankin News

Matt Taylor, a recently graduating senior from Richland High School (RHS), has signed a letter of intent to attend Mississippi State University (MSU) this fall and sing with the Mississippi State Choir. Taylor is being placed in the men of state choir and the concert choir. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Sam Taylor (father), Matt Taylor and Emily Taylor (sister); and back row: Assistant Principal Dr. Thomas Dudley, Assistant Principal Corey Yates, Assistant Principal Dr. Marcus Stewart, Athletic Director Todd Montgomery, and Choir Director Rachel Dennis.

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# Multiple academic scholarships awarded at PHS



Mississippi State University scholarship recipients pictured (l to r) are, front row: Alyssa Kate Morgigno, Teresa Rodriguez, Gracie Lyons, Kariah Evans, Angel Marks and Hannah Mayo; and back row: Andrei Gregory, Aden Jenkins, Asher Roe and Chase Smith.



University of Southern Mississippi scholarship recipients pictured (l to r) are: Emma Leighton Jones, Amari Reginal, Akiyah Brandon, Janai Hood and Garrett Bush.



University of Mississippi scholarship recipients pictured (l to r) are: Anthony Miner, Lynleigh Jolly, Hayden Gangwer, Tori Douglas, and Akimmie Terry.



Mississippi College scholarship recipients pictured (l to r) are: Rebekah Whitten, Isabelle Garcia and Kaitlyn Dozier.



Millsaps College scholarship recipients pictured (l to r) are: Aiden Lewis, Millsaps College Director of Admission Rhett Sapough and Amrit Kaur.



Pictured (l to r) are: Connor McHenry, Southwest Community College scholarship recipient, and Austin Green, East Central Community College scholarship recipient.



Hinds Community College scholarship recipients pictured (l to r) are, front row: Alyssa Bryant, Lauren Palmer, Madison McCauley, Maci Smith and Ashton Spell; middle row: Amanda Dooley, Taya Stratton, Rachel Patterson, Millianna Peoples, Fenny Patel, Claire Farrar and Sarah Patterson; and back row: Conner Welch, Dean Patrick and Cooper Giles.



Mississippi State University scholarship recipients pictured (l to r) are, front row: Alyssa Kate Morgigno, Teresa Rodriguez, Gracie Lyons, Kariah Evans, Angel Marks and Hannah Mayo; and back row: Andrei Gregory, Aden Jenkins, Asher Roe and Chase Smith.



Jones College scholarship recipients pictured (l to r) are, front row: Amy Thornton, Elizabeth Burkes, Taylor Channell, Lily Taylor, Hanna Broadwater, Keri Coulter, Rebekah Sudduth and Madison Temple; and back row: Landon Moore, Collin Love and Micheal Arevalo.



Photos special to SW Rankin News  
Holmes Community College scholarship recipients pictured (l to r) are, front row: Miya Giordano, Dakota Chance, Nicholas Castiglione, Darrell Lazo, and Anna Passons; and back row: Ziember Powell, Jennifer Cedeno and Holmes Community College recruiter Amanda Lindsey.

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# Florentine Club late spring activities



Recently, members of the GFWC-MFWC Florentine Club of Florence met at the Florence Community Center where the mayor of Florence, Bob Morris, was the guest speaker. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Mary Alice Hydrick and Mayor Bob Morris; and back row: Betty Harpe, C.J. Applewhite, Judy Webb, Dee Payne, Debi Gibson, Jessie Buckley and Jeannie Pittman.



Photos special to SW Rankin News

Following the monthly meeting, Florentine Club member Jeannie Pittman spoke at the Rotary Club meeting about the club as well as the bingo fund raising event. Pictured are GFWC-MFWC Florentine Club members with members of the local Rotary Club.

## FMS students' work to be published nationally



Special to SW Rankin News

Artwork recently submitted by Florence Middle School (FMS) art students will be published in a national art contest, "Celebrating Art." Pictured (l to r) are: Hailey Burnett, Tak Toyota, Seth Armstrong, Noah Walker and Jamie Dearman. Not pictured is River Cannon.

## RHS's Porter 2021 ACT growth winner



Special to SW Rankin News

Richland High School's (RHS) Christopher Porter is the Rankin County School District's ACT growth winner for 2021. He grew in each sub-section of the test. As the ACT growth winner, Porter will be recognized by Rankin County School District (RCSD) at an upcoming board meeting.

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# STOWAWAY

## SELF-STORAGE

# Southwest Rankin well represented at Hinds CC awards ceremony

*Special to SW Rankin News*

Departmental awards at Hinds Community College were given to thirty-seven students and others in academic, technical and career programs present for a ceremony April 23 at Cain-Cochran Hall on the Raymond Campus. Recipients present at the event were photographed with department heads and others who presented plaques.



Sociology instructor Talmechia Griffin, left, with Jonathan Morgigno, of Pearl, who was presented with the Outstanding Student Award for SGA Leadership at the Rankin Campus.



English instructor Kellie Herrington, left, with April Skaggs, of Pearl, who was presented with the Outstanding Student Award for geography.



Music Industry program director Andrew Lewis, left, with Matthew Gross, of Pearl, who was presented with the Outstanding Student Award for Music Industry.



Director of Student Recreation Rod Jones, left, with Faith Dillon, of Richland, who was presented with the Outstanding Student Award for SGA Leadership at the Raymond Campus.



Counselor Cooper McCachren, left, with Mary Vernon, of Richland, who was presented with the Outstanding Student Award for SGA Leadership at the Jackson Campus-Nursing/Allied Health Center.

*Photos special to SW Rankin News*

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## A book report: *The Mouse that Roared*, by Leonard Wibberley

By Beth Woodmansee for *The Friends of the Richland Library*

When big countries stockpiled doomsday weapons, and little countries were helpless to change the situation which only worsened with the passage of time, Irish author and literary satirist Leonard Wibberley penned one fictional (and funny) solution to the problem.

His tiniest country is the Duchy of Grand Fenwick, nestled in the Alps, consisting of parts of three valleys, a river, one complete mountain and a castle. Here find 400 acres of the finest soil producing a world-famous wine. The Duchy of Grand Fenwick, fifteen square miles in area, has been ruled by direct descendants of Sir Roger Fenwick, an Englishman who successfully attacked the castle in 1370, declaring himself Duke of Grand Fenwick. Its 6,000 citizens live as they lived since Sir Roger's time; as farmers, wine growers, and shepherds.

In 1955, it is ruled by Grand Duchess Gloriana XII, a blond, blue-eyed girl of twenty-two. Her Prime Minister is the distinguished elder statesman, the Count of Mountjoy and Tully Bascomb is the Chief Ranger, taking care of the National Forest of Fenwick, and its fifty different varieties of trees, located on 500 acres.

The Duchy of Grand Fenwick supports its financial needs from sales of their excellent wine, Pinot Grand Fenwick. Producing 2,000 bottles yearly, it is highly esteemed by bon vivants the world over. Recently, wine sales had been dropping.

At the Privy Council meeting on this serious issue, a bottle was displayed, and all were stunned that this bottle, an exact duplicate of their very own bottle, was a cheap knock-off. The label on the fake bottle read, "Pinot Grand Enwick." Not Fenwick! Printed in minute letters along the bottom of the label was, "Product of San Rafael, Calif., U.S.A."

What can a tiny country do when a BIG one takes advantage with such audacity?

Declare war! Tully Bascomb convinced his 6,000 countrymen the only honorable way a country could receive money from another country was to declare war and win.

Grand Duchess Gloriana, however, said it would be better to LOSE the war. She knew Americans were an unusual people. When they won a war, they poured money, machinery, clothes, food and whatever else was needed into the defeated country.

So, Tully Bascomb trained and led his army of twenty-four longbow men across the Atlantic and into empty New York City streets. Along the way, he

grabbed the front page of the *New York Times*, with headlines about a Professor Kokintz, of Columbia University, who had created the first Qadium Bomb - the Q-Bomb - with the capability of destroying all life on the planet.

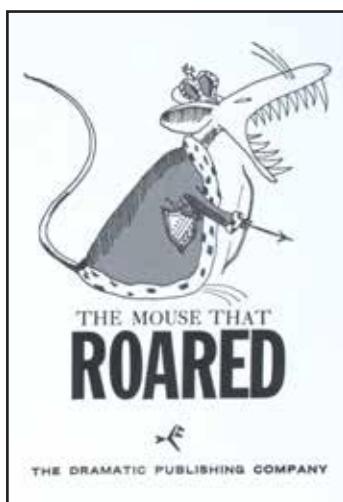
Bascomb captured Kokintz, his Q-Bomb, a U.S. Army general with three soldiers and managed to return safely to Grand Fenwick, by which time, the United States realized it had lost

a war it didn't even know had been declared.

Overnight, Grand Fenwick became the most powerful nation on Earth. The big countries tried to take over; but Grand Fenwick is the "Mouse that Roared," and roar she did.

Representatives of the small nations met in the castle to form a United Nations of Tiny Nations, the, "Tiny Twenty." Gloriana XII was elected Chairman. Day Two of the meeting, all agreed to keep the Q-Bomb in Grand Fenwick and set up six steps to achieve that aim. Then they all went home.

The Big Countries reluctantly agreed to destroy their atomic and other bombs. Thus, Grand Fenwick brought about the safety of the entire world. Of course, some other interesting things happened; you can get a copy of the book for yourself at your local library.



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# Notes from Florence: Mayor and Board of Alderman meeting



Special to SW Rankin News

Florence Mayor and Board, pictured (l to r) are: Alderman John Banks, Alderman Brian Grantham, Alderman Todd "Sarge" Norris, Mayor Robert "Billy Bob" Morris, Alderman Trey Gunn and Alderman/Mayor Pro Tem John Helms.

By Kerri Roberts

The Florence aldermen meeting of the mayor and board was held on Tuesday, June 15, at 6:30 p.m. Board meetings are held inside Florence City Hall every first and third Tuesday of the month. Before the official meeting began, they discussed allowing transit vendors, such as Bougie Coffee, to be allowed to set up in parking lots inside the city of Florence with approval of the business parking lot owners. As the City attorney is looking over the current standards for vendors, the Board decided to take the discussion up in a future meeting.

When the official meeting began, they first heard from Brennan Miller with the youth scout project. He wanted approval to build a tennis return board for use at the tennis courts at Hemphill Park. This board would allow kids to practice tennis without the accompaniment of a second player; it would have wheels and be able to move around the court without tearing up the existing ground covering. Miller's request was approved, so Florence residents can be on the lookout for his scout group to begin construction of this project soon.

Next, a small discussion about part-time security at Berry's Fish House on the weekends was approved. The board then moved their attention to the street department, where they approved the repair of certain streets in the city. The first approval was for the ditch at Eastwood Subdivision. The washout that has occurred here has been approved to be repaired, and JMT Construction will begin repair in the near future. Also approved is the repair of two streets in the Southern Oaks subdivision. These streets are the entrance for the neighborhood and East Southern Oaks Drive. Crews will begin with the overlay repair of these streets soon.

Finally, the City engineer requested the authorization to advertise and accept bids for the sewer rehab project for the City. This sanitation project was advertised at the end of last month, with the final bids set to be opened on July 23 at 10 a.m. Electronic bidding was denied, so only paper bids in sealed envelopes will be accepted. There will be more details about this project by the end of the summer.

The meeting came to an end just before 7 p.m., and the next meeting will be held on July 6.

# 2021 Jingle Bell Market accepting applications

Special to SW Rankin News

The Pearl Chamber of Commerce is currently accepting vendor application for their annual Jingle Bell Market, slated for Saturday, December 4, at The Clyde Muse Center in Pearl.

Vendor applicants must provide a list of all items that will be sold at the event, as placement of vendor booths is based on the type of merchandise on display. In addition to the list, a print photo or link to an electronic image of all items is also required for registration. No home party merchandise will be accepted, such as Avon, Mary Key, Lu-LaRoe, Color Street Nails, Tupperware, etc.

Potential vendors are encouraged to submit applications for merchandise that is unique and special. Items that have proved to be popular in the past include handmade Christmas ornaments, decorations and yard art, as well as a variety of locally made edibles. Anything that showcases a personal touch is a potential candidate for the market.

Applicants are asked to specify the number of booths they will need, not to exceed two booth spaces per merchandiser.

Vendors may use racks, pegboards and/or shelving units to display merchandise, but no tents or tent frames are allowed inside the Muse Center.

The cost for each booth is \$125, with a \$25 discount for returning vendors and current Pearl Chamber of Commerce members. Vendors fees cover the cost of a red-skirted six-foot table with two chairs and an eight-by-ten booth.

There will be an additional cost of \$50 for any vendor requiring access to electricity. Applications should be mailed to the Pearl Chamber of

Commerce, P.O. Box 54125 Pearl, Mississippi, 39288. The Chamber will contact each applicant directly via email if their vendor application has been approved.

Participants can begin merchandise set-up on Friday, December 3, after lunchtime until 6 p.m. that evening.

Saturday, December 4, the doors will open at 9 a.m., with activities winding down around 4 p.m.

The Muse Center is located on the Rankin Campus of Hinds Community College at 515 Country Place Pkwy, Pearl, Mississippi 39208.

For more information, contact the Pearl Chamber of Commerce at 601-939-3338.



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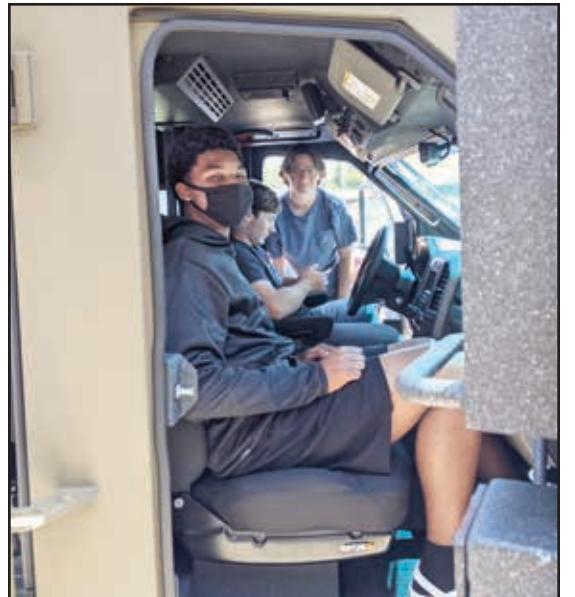
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# FHS receives a special visit from the FBI



Special to SW Rankin News

Students in Jack Phillips' Law-Related Education class at Florence High School (FHS) recently met with agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Jackson field office. They listened to stories from a Crimes Against Children Task Force member and were also provided an opportunity to view and explore a Bearcat (armored assault vehicle) provided by a SWAT Team Member.



Photos special to SW Rankin News

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