

THE VOICE OF PEARL RIVER COUNTY SINCE 1904

# PICAYUNE ITEM

\$1.25 IN NEWSSTANDS SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2017  WWW.PICAYUNEITEM.COM

## CONTENT UNFIT

### Students circumvent filters to view inappropriate content at school

By **Jeremy Pittari**  
*Picayune Item*

A recent cybersecurity audit review issued by the State Auditor's office found evidence that inappropriate material was viewed on school computers.

The audit was conducted within nine Mississippi school districts.

The report does not state which school

districts were audited, but did state that of the computers inspected, more than 80 percent contained evidence that students viewed inappropriate material on the device, such as pornography.

During the audit, 18 schools in those nine districts were reviewed, 11 were high schools while the rest were middle schools. The audit found 86 percent of the middle school computers and 82 percent

of the high school computers contained evidence of inappropriate material.

All nine districts tested stated that policies were in place to prevent such material from being viewed on the Internet while using school computers. It was the conclusion of the cybersecurity audit review that the policies and filters in place

See **FILTER**, Page 2A



Take Welch | *Picayune Item*

**BACK HOME:** Joanna Hale-McGill returned to Picayune to film her first music video at Snyder Park.

## Former resident films music video in Picayune

By **Taylor Welsh**  
*Picayune Item*

Before she won Walmart's Next Gospel Superstar in 2015, Joanna Hale-McGill found her musical inspiration while growing up in Picayune. Friday, she decided to give back to the city by performing live and shooting her first music video in Snyder Park, across the street from South Side Elementary where she went to school.

"Picayune opened my eyes to a lot of things. Being in New Orleans in the city life and then coming to the country and experiencing different cultures and people showed me how warm and welcoming people can be in a small town. As I go out in the world, I try to take that kindness and reciprocate it to others," McGill said, who moved to Picayune when she was 8-years-old.

McGill worked for years to get where she is

See **GOSPEL**, Page 2A

## PRCC could see tuition increase, staff cut

By **Julia Arenstam**  
*Picayune Item*

The Mississippi Legislature's reduction of funding for Pearl River Community College and other schools of higher education across the state could lead to tuition increases and cuts to staff and available programs.

PRCC is expected to see a 10.2 percent, or \$1.5 million, reduction in funding next year, in addition to other cuts that were made last year, bringing the total to about \$2.5 million.

PRCC President-Elect Dr. Adam Breenwood said the college is still finalizing the 2018 budget, so it's unclear what will be cut.

"Over the last many years, we have continued to have to deal with these cuts," Breenwood said.

Tuition and staffing changes

See **PRCC**, Page 2A



Jeremy Pittari | *Picayune Item*

**EASTY PICKINGS:** Younger kids were set loose on a field next to the McNeill walking track to make finding Easter eggs easier during the annual Easter egg hunt. See more photos on page 10 B.

## Early spring moves May programs to April at Arboretum

By **Julia Arenstam**  
*Picayune Item*

With the arrival of an early spring, the Crosby Arboretum staff moved up one of its educational events up to give visitors the chance to learn about one of Mississippi's most unique native plants while it's in bloom.

Glen Ladnier will present the program April 22 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. It will be about the native species of orchids found at the Arboretum.

As a member of the Gulf Coast Orchid Society, Ladnier is knowledgeable about the plant and will present information ranging from the structure to how to cultivate

this complex flower, Crosby Arboretum Director Pat Drackett said.

Some of the most common orchid species found at the Arboretum include rose pogonias, also called snake mouth, lady tresses, spreading pogonias and grass pink orchids, as well as one variety that grows in the trees called the green fly orchid. Their complexity lies in how each species has developed its color and shape to attract insects for pollination, Drackett said.

Because of the warm weather, she said staff moved the event from early May when they noticed many

See **SPRING**, Page 2A



Submitted Photo

**CLOSER LOOK:** Glen Ladnier leans down to show participants of last year's Orchid Walk at the Crosby Arboretum the uniqueness of each variety of the native flower.

## Leaders say reducing state budget meets GOP goal

By **Emily Wagstor Peltus**  
*Associated Press*

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — There has been plenty of hand-wringing about the Mississippi budget the past several months, with Republican Gov. Phil Bryant making multiple rounds of cuts because tax collections fell short of expectations.

Many programs face further reductions for the year that

See **BUDGET**, Page 2A

 **RISER Medical Associates**  
2274 Highway 91 South, Flowood, MS 39246  
(661) 798-5788

Welcomes **Jennifer Caccioppo, N.P.** and **Julie Bogdan, P.A.** to our staff!  
[www.RiserMedical.com](http://www.RiserMedical.com)

 **Jennifer Caccioppo, N.P.**  
Nurse Practitioner

**Moore Chiropractic Clinic**  
6602 Hwy 11 N Ste 103, Carriere  
[www.Moore-Chiro.com](http://www.Moore-Chiro.com)  
\$45 CPR, \$45 BLS  
\$45 First Aid, \$30 Skills Only  
**(601) 749-4939**



**TODAY'S ARTIST: CHILDREN'S WEATHER**  
Today's weather picture is by **Maddy Gachereau**, a student at West Side Elementary.  
**WEATHER:** Check out a full weather report inside on page 3A.



**GOOD MORNING**  
Good morning Hoyt! Hoyt is a liking reader of *Picayune*.  
He enjoys his work selling medical supplies because the equipment can improve a patient's quality of life.  
In his spare time he likes to help with the Picayune Junior High Baseball team and spend time at home.

# More News

## PRCC

Continued from 1A

are the top two places the school does not want to turn to, he said, but all options are on the table.

In the past, the administration was able to keep tuition steady and affordable for PRCC students, but with these new cuts, Breerwood said he's uncertain whether the school could continue that trend.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we were forced to," he said.

Last year, PRCC cut \$800,000 worth of positions, Breerwood said. "Now you're looking at a \$1.5 million cut this year...that changes the scope."

In spite of the cuts, PRCC's enrollment increased this year while other community colleges and universities remained stagnant or lost students, Breerwood said, adding that the news is encouraging.

"That speaks volumes to a lot of what we're doing over at the college, those are positives, and of course it does provide challenges for us to continue to serve larger groups," Breerwood said.

Yet, he wasn't optimistic that the funding would return in coming years.

"I do not see how. Where are we making ourselves more marketable by taking away from education? I don't understand the thinking quite honestly," Breerwood said.

For the past few years, state revenue was not received as projected, but slowly cutting educational resources that lead to highly skilled and high paying jobs in this state is not going to attract industry, he said.

"Either we pay for it now or we pay for it later," Breerwood said.

Employers are on the other side of the door ready to hire PRCC graduates, he said.

From dual enrollment for high school students to GED and career technical education, the state has asked the community college system to provide a lot for the state, Breerwood said.

"The community colleges have always been cooperative," he said, "but you can't be everything to all people."

Funding and defunding programs is not an easy task, Breerwood said.

Depending on the need for it in the community, enrollment varies. Some years class sizes are small, while the next will have twice as many students who want to take the class, he said.

"Slowly, as you start to dismantle those programs, it takes a lot to bring it back," Breerwood said.

New programs are even more difficult to start, he said. Buying equipment and hiring instructors creates a high upfront cost, and reimbursements are not received until over a year later, he said.

"If you don't have the cash to get started, you stay stagnant," Breerwood said. "We're working on it daily. We're somewhat frustrated but we're not going to quit trying to provide those services."

The community college system is still a good investment, he said.

"If you look at the average tuition of universities, PRCC, even if we did have an increase in tuition, is still substantially less than half of that tuition average," Breerwood said. "PRCC provides twice the education at half the cost."

The administration will present a proposed budget to the Board of Directors in June, Breerwood said, just before current President Dr. William Lewis' retirement on June 30.

"He's put us in so many situations to succeed and we will certainly lean on him in the next 90 days," Breerwood said. "We will continue to flourish and get through these tough times."

## BUDGET

Continued from 1A

begins July 1 under a spending plan set by legislators. Some agency directors are certain to develop heartburn while figuring out how many jobs to leave unfilled and how many services to trim.

Don't expect woe-is-me rhetoric from Republican leaders of the House and Senate.

After the legislative session ended in late March, House Speaker Philip Gunn of Clinton said the budget is tight, and said: "I don't apologize for that."

"We Republicans have campaigned for many, many years that we are for living within our means, we are for controlling spending, we are for reducing the size of government," Gunn told reporters. "We don't have a revenue problem; we have a spending problem. We are for reducing the tax burden."

Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves also said it's good that Mississippi is moving to a smaller state budget.

"That's what voters elected us to do. They elected us to live within our means," Reeves said near the session's end. "They believe they ought to send less money to the government. They believe that they are already overtaxed and overburdened."

The overall state budget for the coming year is just over \$6 billion. It will be about 2 percent smaller than the budget for the current year, after all of the current year's cuts.

The upcoming budget is still an unfinished product. Bryant will have to call lawmakers back into special session before July 1 to set spending levels for

the attorney general's office and the Mississippi Department of Transportation because disputes between the House and Senate torpedoed those budget proposals in the final days of the regular session.

Gunn's line — "We don't have a revenue problem. We have a spending problem" — is a variation on something Republican Haley Barbour said often during his two terms as governor, from 2004 to 2012.

"We don't have this financial crisis in Mississippi because we tax too little. It's because we spend too much," Barbour said, starting his campaign in 2003.

Republicans have controlled both chambers of the Mississippi Legislature since 2012, and cutting taxes has long been a campaign theme.

A 2016 package that was passed with bipartisan support of lawmakers will phase out Mississippi's \$260-million-a-year corporate franchise tax and cut \$145 million in income taxes, raising the threshold for paying state income taxes to \$10,000. Those reductions begin in 2018. The package will also lower self-employment taxes, cutting \$10.2 million over three years beginning this year.

During an end-of-session debate, Democratic Sen. David Blount of Jackson sharply criticized budget cuts that have affected the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

"This is not Hurricane Katrina. This is deliberate wreckage we have brought on ourselves," Blount said.

Aiming at Republican colleagues, Blount said: "You ran on cutting government. Why aren't you jumping up and down to cut the government? Why aren't you out there telling people, 'I just cut UMMC, and I hope I can cut it more next year'?"

## GOSPEL

Continued from 1A

today, and is adventuring into a new type of Gospel music, called Gospel second line songs, a genre in which she believes to be a pioneer.

"It's not your traditional Gospel music. It is contemporary, but every song has a meaning to it. If people were to really listen to the lyrics I promise it will bless their lives," she said.

Since leaving Picayune, which McGill said was not an easy move to make, she said she is determined to get "Picayune on the map."

Her first music video, for the song "Cast Your Cares Away," was filmed at Snyder Park.

"I wanted to come back to Picayune to bring a little bit of New Orleans Jazz back to the city. They've never experienced anything like this so I just wanted to bring a little bit of flavor to this little town, which everyone is going to know a lot about really soon once the video hits," McGill said.

From Stellar to Grammy Awards, McGill has her eyes set on visiting every city and town that positively affected her life and led her down the path she is on today.

"The Lord has called upon me to give back to those communities and so that's what I am doing right now," she said.

McGill is currently working on her first project that should be released soon. She said it has been an awesome experience going through this journey with her crew and is excited to visit and show love to the city that helped her become who she is today.

## SPRING

Continued from 1A

of the orchids were already in bloom.

With bright pink colors and tall stalks, the blooms were easy to spot within the pitcher plant field and other native areas in the Arboretum, Drackett said.

The lady tresses can also be spotted around town where the grass has grown taller, she said. Atop a tall stalk, the flowers spiral out in a spike pattern.

Following the brief presentation, Ladnier will lead the group through a short field walk to see native orchids in bloom around the Arboretum, Drackett said.

Earlier that morning, Jim Sommes, a certified yoga instructor, will hold a class

and short meditation session under the Pinecone Pavilion from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Sommess holds the class a few times every year during the warmer months, Drackett said.

As an owner of a beautiful garden full of native plants, Drackett said Sommes loves nature and the Pinecone Pavilion is the perfect place for a peaceful outdoor yoga session.

Yoga mats will be provided, but the class size is limited to 16 so interested parties are asked to register by April 21.

Summer programs and events will be announced on the website and Facebook page soon, Drackett said.

Anyone interested in the native orchid field walk or attending the yoga class is asked to register by calling 601-799-2311. The non-member fee is \$5.


## FILTER

Continued from 1A

were not effective. The report does not state if the computers tested were taken home by students or solely used on campus.


Pearl River County School District Superintendent Alan Lumpkin said that while the district does employ filters on the school's network, the technology staff continually has to plug holes students find to circumvent them. One of the loopholes students previously exploited entailed utilizing the cloud to access previously blocked content, but that exploit has been addressed.

The audit states that the Office of the State Auditor will continue to monitor compliance of policies to restrict access to inappropriate content, but said the policies currently in place are ineffective.



**LUMBERTON FAMILY MEDICINE  
HATTIESBURG CLINIC**

welcomes the association of **Mary Sue Watkins, CNP**



**Education:**  
Master of Science in Nursing, The University of Southern Mississippi  
Hattiesburg, Miss.

**Board Certification:**  
American Nurses Credentialing Center


**Affiliations:**  
American Nurses Credentialing Center  
Mississippi Nurses Association

Watkins provides services, along with Katie O'Neal Royals, MD, at Lumberton Family Medicine.

202 West Main Ave.  
Lumberton, MS 39455  
Phone: 601.796.7030  
[www.hattiesburgclinic.com](http://www.hattiesburgclinic.com)

### why christians celebrate

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. — JOHN 3:16-17



The Easter Story sponsored by

## Picayune Funeral Home

• Crematory • Cemetery • Mausoleum  
• Preneed • Insurance

**601-798-5238**

We accept most insurance • [www.picayunefuneral.com](http://www.picayunefuneral.com) • 815 S. Haugh Ave. • Picayune, MS