

The Pirate Speaks

Ladies and Gentlemen
February 2012



The Pearl High School Newspaper Since 1948

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Spann² by: Juliet Ferrell



“I am very happy knowing that I have a brother like Tyler.”
- Taylor Spann

Pearl High School NJROTC is known for many things, like push-ups, sit-ups, its “Military Ball”, and its core values of honor, courage, and commitment. However, this year, NJROTC cadets have come to know the phrase, “Twin Power.”

Taylor and Tyler Spann, the competitive twins of NJROTC, are sophomores at Pearl High School. They are also in their first year on the Drill Team.

Taylor, who is the older twin and a former “Dancing Doll,” loves to dance and compete in beauty competitions. She was a contestant in this year’s Beauty and Beau. On the Drill team, Spann is a member of the sit-up team. When asked about her rivalry with her twin brother, she said, “(Our rivalry) really just makes us work harder in ROTC. And I know I have somebody to compete against.”

Tyler is known to the drill team as the push-up king. He loves to exercise, to do Tae Kwon Do, to dream, to laugh, and to make people laugh. When asked what motivates him to give 110%, he responded, saying, “I hate letting myself and others down. I deserve my best and so does my team. It takes everyone doing their part, including me.”

This “twintastic” duo can be seen in action, sporting their competitive natures and showing that if you work hard and have a friend to push you to do your best, you can achieve anything.



“I love Taylor and if I ever lost her, I don’t know what I would do.”
- Tyler Spann

And The Award Goes To...

By: KATIE SIMS

“What award?” The 2012 National Association of Secondary School Principals/Virco National Assistant Principal of the Year Award, and it has been awarded to one of our own Pirate faculty members, Mr. John Craven. In April, Mr. Craven will attend the State Assistant Principals of the Year Forum and Awards Gala in Washington, DC. As assistant principal, he has been a part of lots of school events, but what does it take to win this award? The NASSP award recognizes qualities in leadership, curriculum, personalization, and personal excellence.

Mr. Craven has worked here for eighteen years, but he never saw himself becoming an assistant principal when he was younger. His original plan was to become “the greatest coach in the world,” and for awhile, he did coach. Mr. Craven coached baseball and/or basketball at some of the schools he worked at. He started out in 1972 at Marks Junior High, from there he went to Yalobusha in Coffeerville, Mississippi, Independence High School, Kirk Academy in Grenada, and Grenada High School. Then, in 1994 he came to Pearl High School and has been here ever since. When he found out about this job, he wasn’t looking for a job really, but one of his friends told him about it. He decided to check into it and thought this was a better environment for his family.

Since being here, he has made friends and supported both students and faculty. Mr. Craven comes to most school events to encourage not only the students but also the coaches. He tries to make the school safe and enjoyable. He also gets along with the other faculty members. Mr. Craven listens to the students, and he gives support and advice to the teachers. Coach Purnell, math teacher and softball coach, said, “He’s an advocate for the kids.”

Last fall, Mr. Craven learned that he had been nominated for the award, and completed the application process. In December, when he received an envelope from NASSP, he left it unopened on his desk for about a week. When he finally did open it, he was shocked, and he then told Principal Dr. Matthew Dillon, and others.

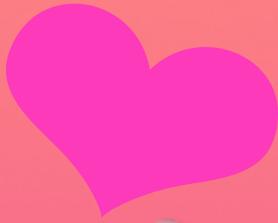
Mr. Craven is happy to have won the award, but he does not feel as if “he” won the award. When asked, he said, “This is not a ‘me’ award; this is an award for the whole Pearl community.” He says he was just in the right place at the right time; he rode on the “coat tails” of all the success of Pearl High School. Mr. Craven is proud of the award earned, not by him alone, but earned by the school as a whole. He has watched the school grow and has been here through good and bad. He is also a member of the Pearl Pirate Staff, and he always helps out.

Mr. Craven is the assistant principal of the year for the state of Mississippi because of everyone here and his personal excellence.

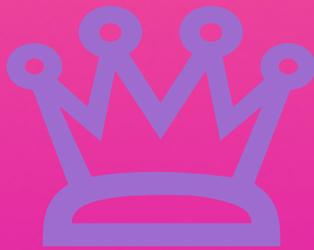
An autographed picture of Ronnie Aldy, women’s basketball coach at Holmes Community College, means a lot to Mr. Craven. Mr. Craven worked with Aldy, whom he describes as “my mentor and best friend,” for nine years. Mr. Craven said, “Coach Aldy taught me to never settle on being good when you can be great, and to always conduct yourself in a first class manner no matter what the circumstances... I strive to do that every day.”

MR. CRAVEN





Ladies....



By Haley Blair

Beasty is on the Field!

By: **Emily Waters**

Becca Brock, also affectionately known by her friends and teammates as BB, Becky, and Beasty, is a very busy freshman. She is most commonly recognized for her role on the Lady Pirate Soccer team as goal keeper.

Becca loves to play lots of different sports outside of school such as football, softball, and basketball, but of all these sports soccer is her favorite to play. Becca has won multiple trophies for soccer, football, basketball, and softball. She is also on the PHS tennis team.

Although sports are a big part of her life, she said that her family members aren't big sports fanatics. "I'm the odd one out!" she said. Becca's favorite team is the New England Patriots, "I'm the biggest fan ever! Promise!" Becca loves sports because of the competitiveness. No one really inspired her love for sports; she has just always enjoyed watching and participating in them.

There is more to Becca than just sports. She likes to fish; she can also play the guitar. When she isn't playing sports she's usually playing the drums. She is a drummer for the award-winning Pearl Pirate Band, and she is in choir.

She is enrolled in several honors classes and is a freshmen representative on the student council.

In addition to excelling in sports, music, academics, and Becca also has culinary skills. "I can make some very thick pancakes that are really good. My grandmother taught me. Now I'm the only that knows how to make them."

Becca plans to go to whatever college offers her the best scholarship, and intends to have a sports related career.

Pom Poms and More...

By *Mackenzie Bell*

Senior Ashley McWilliams describes herself as outgoing, active, and friendly. One thing people may not know about her is that she is terrified of heights. Although Ashley likes to dress up because it makes her feel good, she is more comfortable in a t-shirt and shorts.

Ashley is involved in many sports and activities here at PHS. Having cheered since 7th grade, she said she loves spending time with the other cheerleaders because they have become a second family. She has won the Spirit of Cheer award.

“Going out in front of crowds and knowing you’re going to be judged is the most difficult part about cheerleading,” she said. She has not had any major injuries in cheerleading, but she has pulled a muscle or two.

Her position on the PHS soccer team is left outside mid, and her jersey number is 10. She has played soccer since she was 6 years old. In soccer, they call her “A Mac” because it’s easier to yell. Ashley has won the Jane Foster and Ricky Blaylock awards for soccer.

Cheering for the Pirates and playing on the soccer field are two very different experiences. “The difference between me cheering on the sidelines Friday night and playing on the soccer fields is I have to cheer if the team is winning or losing; but when I’m on the field, I can *help* my team win.”

Having won the title of class beauty her 10th and 12th grade years, Ashley had this advice for future participants in Beauty and Beau: “You want to go out there wanting to have fun and not wanting to win.” When asked how she prepared for Beauty and Beau, she said, “I practiced my walking a little, but it wouldn’t matter, I can’t walk in heels anyways.”

In addition to participating in cheering and soccer, Ashley is also a homecoming maid, student council member, and Miss PHS. The fact that she was selected by her peers as “Friendliest” in Who’s Who elections affirms that she is outgoing, active, and friendly. All in all Ashley McWilliams is a true Pearl Pirate.



Photos by
Amanda
Rogers

Mission Minded Leader

Whatever it takes



By Hanna Lewis

“I am a mission-minded leader with many goals that benefit those around me, I strive to be the best disciple and Pirate possible,” said senior Bridgette Douglas. Douglas is involved in an array of extracurriculars ranging from being a Grid Iron Girl to singing in Madrigals to being Student Body President. She says it is

important to be involved because it helps her get the full benefits of PHS and enjoy the diverse group of people she is with everyday.

Douglas’ one true love that exceeds all except her relationship with Christ is singing. Since third grade, when she joined Northside Singers, she dreamed of being a Chamber Singer here at PHS. Douglas said “When I read my name on the list, a great sense of accomplishment overwhelmed me.”

Coach Perry’s Driver Education class became the start of Douglas’ Grid Iron Girl career. Coach Perry asked her if she would be a football manager. She said “Knowing absolutely nothing about football, I was nervous but took it up and loved every second of it.” Today Douglas lives by the football motto “Whatever it Takes.”

Now Student Body President, Douglas has always been involved in student government; while sticking with it through the years, she never guessed that she would one day be President. Looking back she said, “If you would have told me that I would have this role as a freshman I would have never believed you!”

When Douglas is not cleaning the field, hydrating football players, working on Student council committees, singing with Madrigals, or studying, she is just being a regular person. She enjoys going to church and spending time with her family including younger brother Lane and younger sister Tori. She also enjoys playing her guitar and running when she has the time.

Photo’s taken by “Pirate Speaks” newspaper staff members. Background: Douglas pushes her cart to keep the Pearl “Pirates” football team hydrated. Top: Douglas gets the new music she begins to learn during her Madrigal Choir class. Bottom: Douglas and Josh Zebert begin the cleanup process after their senior run through the first day of school.



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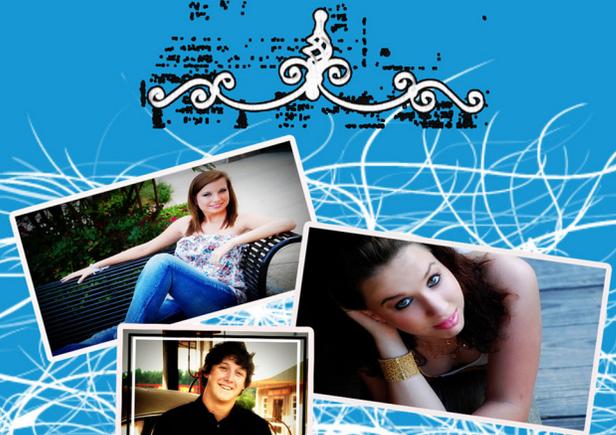
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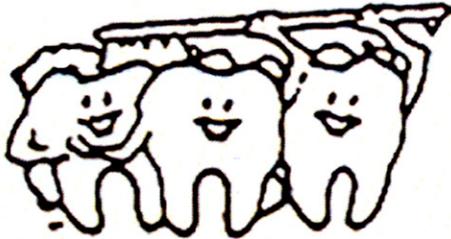


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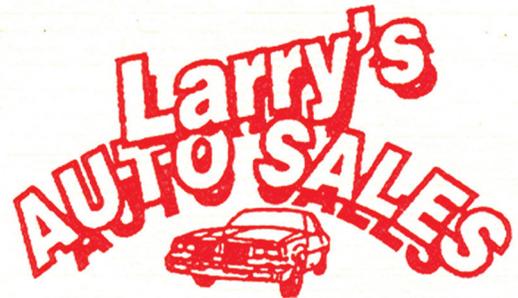
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It's been said by many teens today that our generation couldn't live without music. There are all different genres of music, and with every song there is a different meaning to each person.

*"I can't help you fix yourself, but at least I can say I tried, sorry but I gotta move on with my own life" Noelle Arender, 12
Song: Scars by Papa Roach*

Music always puts me in a better mood- Sara Hardin, 10

*"Oh but you're welcome here, and you'll be ok."
Hannah Kanengiser, 9
Song: Everything will be ok by Bethany Weeks*

I like Alternative Christian Rock, because it's different. There's no cursing, and it's appealing to your ears.- Katie Regions, 12

shoos

Arrrgghs

*I like Gospel because it's very inspirational.
Josh Griffin, 12*

*"Don't you ever interrupt me while I'm reading a
book" Austin Eitel, 10*

Song: I'm Reading a Book by Julian Smith

&

*My favorite song is "Amazing Horse" by Mr. Weeble.
-Sim Stingley, 9*

*Music alters your mood and
talks to you. - Jarvis Gatlin, 11*

*My favorite song is "I should have kissed you" by
Chris Brown. -Wesley Jackson, 11*

By **Ayanna Bloom**



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...AND GENTLEMEN

Ole Miss



By Haley Blair



Ready... Ok!

By *Ayanna Bloom*

2, 4, 6, 8, who do we appreciate? A lot of guys around PHS might say they appreciate 14 year old freshman, Zack Alleman for being the first and only guy cheerleader. "Oh yeah, definitely" was his reaction after being asked if he enjoyed cheering.

This may only be his first year on the high school squad, but Zack has been cheering for seven years, thanks to his mom. When asked how people reacted to him being on the cheerleading squad, he said "I guess they were surprised."

To Zack it is not weird being the only guy and he pretty much does everything the girls do. "I guess it's kind of the same thing. They do more dances and I do more tumbling," said Zack.

He first learned to tumble in the second grade; and outside of school he cheers for MCA, Mississippi Cheerleading Academy, in Flowood.

Besides cheering, Zack likes to play football. "I guessed it would be fun so I got in it," said Zack. He started playing football in the seventh grade.

Even though Zack says there is a lot of expectation put on him, he plans to continue cheering throughout high school.



The Multitasker

Article by
Hanna Lewis
Photos by
Amanda Rogers
Background
Picture
provided by
Mrs. Rawls

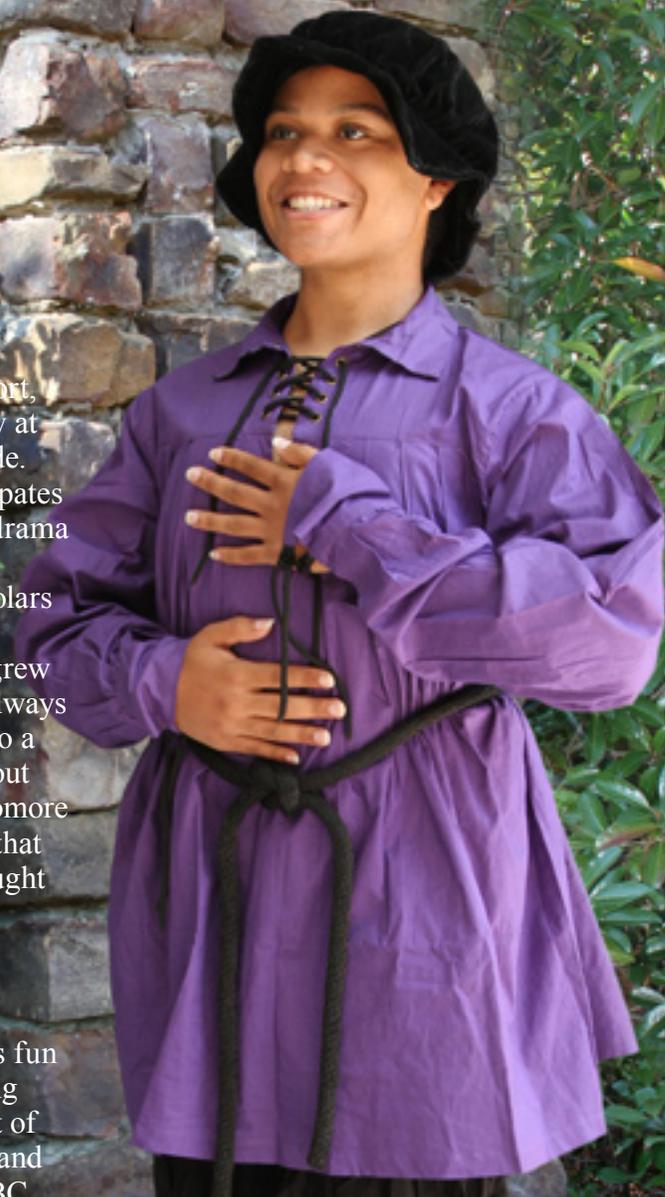


Junior Kevin Frazier, commonly known as Kevo, moved here from Gulfport, where he played on the soccer team. Now at PHS Kevin has embraced his fine arts side. Frazier is in the choir, drama, and participates in musicals and plays produced by PHS drama and choir departments.

Frazier is one of PHS' Super Scholars and wants to go to MSU for veterinary medicine. "I want to be a vet because I grew up watching *Animal Planet* and I have always cared about them," said Frazier. He is also a PHS Chamber Singer; he decided to try out when he was put into the class as a sophomore because of scheduling conflicts. He said that he decided to just try out because he thought the class was interesting.

Frazier also sings in a band; each Wednesday Frazier sings in First Baptist Pearl's youth praise band as part of the midweek youth service. Frazier said, "It's fun and interesting because I learn a new song every week and then I get to sing in front of a bunch of people." Frazier got into the band when his friend introduced him to the FBC youth group. While on his way home from the coast this past summer, Frazier got a text saying the band was looking for a singer. He came to the church as soon as he got home and tried out.

When not at school or band practice, Frazier is still singing. He said "in my free time I just listen to music and sing some more. I also hang out with my friends."



Who's Got Spirit?

By **Emily Waters** and KATIE SIMS

Photos By **Amanda Rogers**

Cody McWilliams gave the Pirate Speaks the inside scoop on being Pete the Pirate. Here are some interesting facts.



How bad does it smell in there?
Cody: I think I'm immuned to the smell.

What is the craziest thing you have ever done while in the suit?

Cody: I do a lot of crazier stuff outside of the suit.



What is your mascot motto?

Cody: Go out there and act crazy!

How did you become the mascot?

Cody: God chose me.

January - March....

Sports Zone

By Amanda Rogers



Representing Pearl High School sports are the following students, starting from top right clockwise:

- Senior **Kerri Palmer**, represents the Lady Pirates powerlifting team.

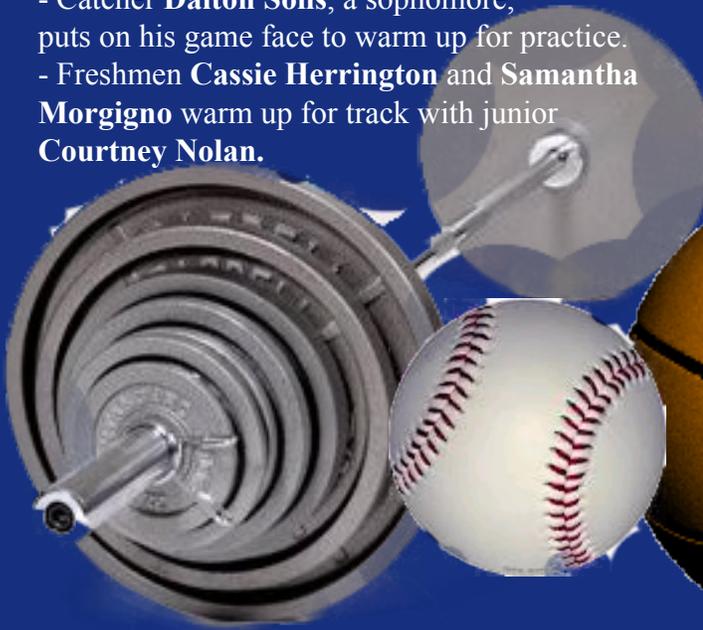
- **Taylor Deese**, also a senior, is a member of the Pirates Boys Soccer team.

- Pole vaulter **Josh Wilson**, also known as **Catfish Wilson**, a junior, aims high.

- **Jamarius Johnson (J.J.)**, a sophomore powerlifter, wears his powerlifting medal with pride.

- Catcher **Dalton Solis**, a sophomore, puts on his game face to warm up for practice.

- Freshmen **Cassie Herrington** and **Samantha Morgigno** warm up for track with junior **Courtney Nolan**.



Popular Baby Names of the 1990s!

“What’s in a name?” Shakespeare penned this question in the mid-1590s in the well-known play, Romeo and Juliet. For centuries, parents have selected names for their children that they feel will suit their child. Listed below are the top five popular baby names of boys and girls born during the 1990s and the meanings of those names. The charts at the bottom of the page show the number of PHS students and teachers who have these names.

Boys!

1. **Michael: Gift from God**
2. **Christopher: He who holds Christ in his Heart**
3. **Matthew: God’s gift**
4. **Joshua: Jehovah saves.**
5. **Jacob: He grasps the heel. Supplanter**

Girls!

1. *Jessica: Rich; God is Watching.*
2. *Ashley: From the ash tree*
3. *Emily: Admiring*
4. *Sarah: Princess*
5. *Samantha: Listener of God*

Number of babies given this name in 1990s	Male Name	Number of PHS students and teachers with this name
462,220	Michael	23
360,133	Christopher	13
351,541	Matthew	11
329,034	Joshua	12
298,128	Jacob	14

Number of babies given this name in 1990s	Female Name	Number of PHS students and teachers with this name
303,008	Jessica	10
301,749	Ashley	15
237,189	Emily	7
224,091	Sarah	7
223,963	Samantha	4

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

by Hanna Lewis

You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown was performed February 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th in Pearl High School's Performing Arts Center. The play was presented by PHS's Choral and Drama departments; the cast was made up of PHS students from ninth to twelfth grade. In this musical comedy the audience joined Charlie, Snoopy, Lucy, and the rest of the Peanuts Gang as they went through favorite Charlie Brown moments.

The cast was decided in early December and January was a month full of after school rehearsals for the cast, as well as directors Mrs. Angie Rawls, Mrs. Harriet Mathews, Ms. Sarah Hankins, Mr. Tommy Creel and student director Deana Prest.

On show nights, the audience saw Charlie Brown (both Matt McNair and Seth Romines) as his friends saw him hearing faults and praises in the song, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." Audience members also heard Charlie's thoughts as he mused over his lunch while watching his crush, the Little Red Headed Girl (Megan Adams). Lucy (played by both Tiffany Johnson and Trish Thorton) tried her luck at capturing her true love Schroeder's (Michael Spears) heart as well as playing psychologist for Charlie Brown for a nickel.

Lucy's brother Linus (Nate Womack) also had his spotlight in the song, "My Blanket and Me," while the audience learned that Linus was actually very thoughtful yet fanatical about his blanket. Peppermint Patty's (Madison Brown) true sweet and innocent nature and Charlie's dog, Snoopy (Drew Lafontaine), spends most of his time dreaming of being anything else other than a dog but realizes that he is will never be anything else.



Synopsis facts from www.themusicalbroadway.com.
Title graphic from www.indianriverfestival.wordpress.com.
Charlie Brown drawing from www.hmstheatre.com



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If you keep Jesus in your heart,
he will always give you the courage
to do what is right.

Boys

Girls

Gender Wars:

Test your knowledge to see how much you know about the interests of the opposite gender!

1) KAVU is a name brand of a popular purse. For what does KAVU stand?

2) Name some movies based on books written by Nicholas Sparks?

3) Who is the male lead in new movie, "The Vow"?

Answers:
1) Klear Above Visibility Unlimited
2) A) message in a bottle
B) A Walk to Remember
C) The Notebook
D) Nights in Rodanthe
E) Dear John
F) The Last Song
G) The Vow
3) Channing Tatum as Leo

1) Who is the quarterback who broke Dan Marino's single-season passing record this year?

2) How many cylinders are in a 350 cubic engine?

3) What are the colors hunters wear while hunting?

Answers:
1) Drew Brees
2) 8
3) Camouflage and fluorescent orange

By Haley Blair



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