

# Titan Talk

Issue 3 Volume 10

Ridgeland High School

December 2011



## In this issue...

The businesses featured throughout the newspaper donated prizes to our talent show winners. One of the grand prizes was a cash award of \$100 donated by Suppleyes. Thanks to all of these Madison County businesses for your continued support.

We would also like to thank the MADISON COUNTY JOURNAL for their continued support. Without them, this newspaper wouldn't be possible.

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## TITAN Talent

by Devin Lott



Winners left to right: Madison Walker and Rachel Harris (third place), Amari Moyo (second place) and Sam Roberson (first place)

The Tenth Annual TITAN Talent Show went off without a hitch. First up was Zach Gosnell, who played an original song on his guitar. Anna Howard dazzled the audience with a dance to "Come Unto Me." Kanasha Banks, Aniya Castilla, and Kaiza Davidson sang "Weak".

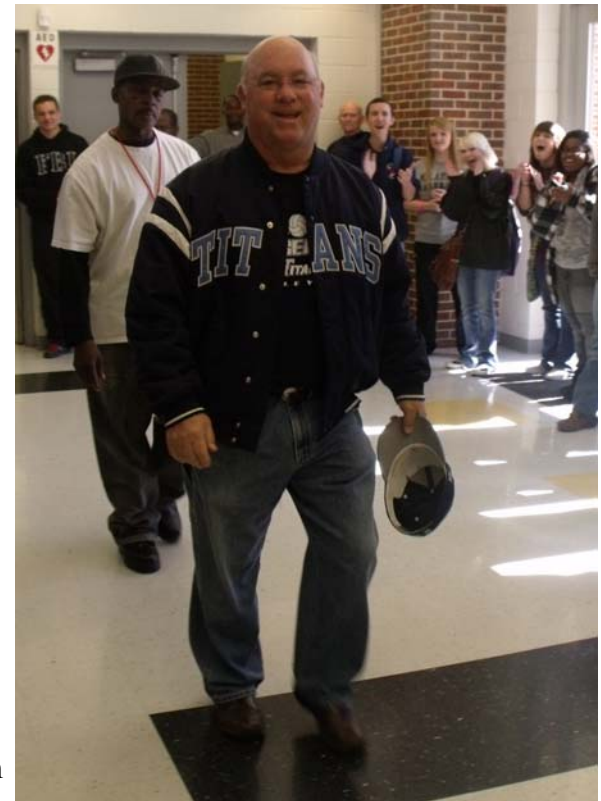
Next up were Sarah Blackwell and Holli Gill, who sang "Mighty to Save." Contestant #9, Sam Roberson, rapped his original song "Who You Bumpin'?" The last performer for Act I, Deon Fields, astonished the crowd by singing and dancing to "My Girl."

Rachel Harris and Madison Walker were the stars of Act II. They rapped and danced to "Bust a Move." After a microphone change, Lauren Shelby sang "Turning Tables" beautifully. The final act of the night was Amari Moyo performing a medley of love songs including: "How to Love," "Love," and "Let Me Love."

All throughout the show, TITAN yearbook staff members Cierra Bracey, Narlise Summers, Summer Wigley, and Tiree Wilson sang various songs to persuade people to buy the yearbook.

All in all, the performances were amazing. Madison Walker and Rachel Harris placed third, Amari Moyo placed second, and Sam Roberson placed first.

## Greatest Titan of All



Mr. Boozer surprised his staff by announcing an early retirement. He has been recovering from heart surgery, and after long consideration, decided to retire a few months earlier than expected.

What a journey he has taken in his nearly 40 years in education. Mr. Boozer opened this school in 2002 and has made a huge impact on the Ridgeland community during that time.

The Titan family will miss Mr. Boozer but support him in his decision. He has promised to continue visiting us. We are so proud to have had him as our leader. His legacy will live on throughout the halls of RHS. We will forever remember his famous slogan, "Do right."

## The Truth of the Matter Is...

by Kristine Bishop

Everyone knows about the Initiative 26 which was on the ballot earlier in November. There was much confusion and gray space. I am not writing this to start an argument; I am simply just trying to clarify it so people can -hopefully- understand it a bit better.

Some Mississippi voters may have been quick to jump on the “Vote Yes on 26” movement and say that abortion should be illegal without even understanding all the small print that comes along with it. Other people may ask, “Wait, what about rape victims?”

Now when anyone brings up the subject of abortion or rape, it is indeed a very sensitive and touchy topic, but every part of this Initiative needs to be understood for both women AND men.

To start off, “What exactly is Initiative 26 trying to say?” It says that life or “Personhood” begins at conception, or once the egg is fertilized. It is true, scientifically, that an embryo does not have a heartbeat until week five after fertilization. (Keep this in mind when thinking about how “life begins at fertilization”.)

This brings back the question of special pregnancy cases. Through looking at various websites, articles, and interviews relating to Initiative 26, it is to my understanding that this *will* illegalize abortion in any case...rape or not. Also, it makes no exceptions to incest or if the mother has a life-threatening disease from her pregnancy. The mother would not be able to abort the baby to save her life.

Another subject regarding this is whether or not they plan to outlaw the use of birth control or an IUD(intrauterine device). This has-of course- caused many women to get pretty upset. But, from what I have seen, the Initiative only *could* outlaw birth control; no reports that I have seen said they absolutely would outlaw it...just that they could.

“Any form of birth control that ends the life of a human being will be impacted by this measure.” This statement was spoken in an interview with Walter Hoye, an activist of “Personhood”. From his statement, I do believe that they would strongly consider outlawing any form of birth control.

I am not saying that I am for abortion because I am not, but I also don’t believe in making someone carry a child from rape or having to carry a child that could potentially kill the mother.

\*This initiative was voted down in the November election.

## SOUTHERN EMPHASIS ON FAMILY

by Jamie Logan

When most people think of the holidays, they think of things like family, vacation from school, or presents. During the holidays, we celebrate everything good in life. But for some, this season isn’t a happy one. A single tragedy can make the holidays a time of remembrance and sadness.

Recently, Ole Miss freshmen Sam Clayton Kelly, Walker Kelly, and Mason Wilbanks lost their lives in a car accident. When the accident happened, they were returning to Oxford for a church service after a surprise visit home. All three were Madison Central graduates and members of Broadmoor Baptist Church. They were cheerful and outgoing with infectious smiles. In an interview, the Madison Central principal even referred to them as the Three Musketeers.

The loss of these three young men hit the community hard, and their deaths will not soon be forgotten. On the day of their funeral, hundreds of Madison Central students lined Highland Colony Parkway as they waited for the funeral procession to pass.

But out of the pain and loss comes something positive. In the last few weeks, the people of Madison, Ridgeland, and the surrounding area have become closer. The outpouring of generosity from the local people has led to an overwhelming sense of community. In this way, we are fortunate to live in the South. In large cities, like Boston or Washington D.C., people don’t feel the same sense of connection. It may be the Southern emphasis on family, or it may just be the fried chicken, but Southern people are inherently hospitable.

In this time of loss, Southern concern has taken hold. While this can never replace the devastation of losing a child, the families of these boys are blessed with the emotional support of hundreds. Hopefully, the support will help to ease their suffering.

### TITAN TALK STAFF

EDITORS

KRISTINE BISHOP AND  
JAMIE LOGAN

STAFF WRITERS

AUDREY HALL,  
DEVIN LOTT, HOLLI GILL, AND  
MARIAN CANCIO

## Jerusalem's Meanings

by Audrey Hall

I don't know about all of you, but Jerusalem has a lot of different meanings to me. There are all kinds of things that Israel itself stands for. It's pretty much a goal in my life to visit Jerusalem one day, hopefully when I won't have to worry about getting blown up on my way to the hotel. But Jerusalem marks a very important part in my history and my religion, and I think it's something that should be cherished by everyone. You'll see what I mean.

Jerusalem is sacred. Not just to Christians, who owe it to Israel for their creation. Judaism is the primary religion in Jerusalem, and that's where the debate comes in. It's known

as the "Holy City", but not just because it's the birthplace of two religions. It's also the home of Islam. That's how special this city is. And right now, it's being torn up by war.

You see, in the Bible, Jerusalem was created for the Jews in Israel, a nation that God created in order to keep his people safe. In fact, during and after the Holocaust, many people of Jewish descent moved there in order to escape further persecution. In the Harry S Truman library, there's a tiny priceless artifact, a carved piano that survived the Holocaust. It was in the possession of a Jewish woman throughout her experiences at the hands of the Nazis and she sent it to Harry S Truman, her only possession left from her previous life, as her gratitude for his hand in the creation and recognition of Israel.

However, things aren't just that simple. This new Israel that was recently recognized as a country by many nations, including the United States, was created in the place where many Palestinians sought refuge as well. They were victims too and had made a home in the land that Israel was now being recognized as owning. These Muslim people were horrified to lose their new home and sacred city to a "new" group of people.

Both groups of people have equal claim to the lands of Israel, and to Jerusalem itself. It's part of the city's allure, that it has so much context and depth. There's so much history pouring out of it, so many different religions and peoples who have come together, and my hope is that this wonderful city will remain until the day when everyone can appreciate it for the marvelous wonder and treasure that it is.

## A Holiday Kaleidoscope

by Holli Gill

The holidays are a time when everyone looks forward to spending time with family, receiving presents, and being out of school. Around the world, there are many unique religions and customs. Everyone does something different for the holidays. We all have our favorite traditions.

Sam Palmer, for instance, celebrates "Chanukah", a mix of Christmas and Hanukkah. He lights a menorah, but he also gets presents for Christmas. The menorah is the symbol of Hanukkah which is lit on all eight days of this holiday. He eats latkes, which are potato pancakes.

...continued on page 7



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# Miscellaneous

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## THE LONG ROAD HOME

by Audrey Hall and Kristine Bishop



The RHS Titan marching band performed their show “The Long Road Home” Saturday, October 22, at the Pearl State Championship Marching Band Festival. Many 4A and 5A bands from around the state came to perform including Germantown (the newly built school in Gluckstadt) who came in third, which is extremely impressive for a first-year 4A band. This feat was first accomplished by Ridgeland in 2002.

We have been working very hard in the scorching heat of July through the frigid cold of October to deliver this chill-raising show. The show is based around the theme of star-crossed lovers separated by the horrors of war.

The road represents the distance people will go for each other and the dedication it takes to overcome obstacles in life such as war and going off to college. The girl’s tying the ribbon around the tree

represents remembrance.

The night performance on Saturday was in fact the most amazing and passionate run we’ve performed, and we came off the field satisfied and with smiling faces.

With our heads held high and our anxiety boiling in our blood, we walked onto the field prepared for the final results. After waiting through the 4A bands, the places were announced.

We placed first in music and second in percussion. The overall place was second in 5A. First place was awarded to Pearl, for their Russian-themed show and third place was given to Center Hill.

Although our placing was not exactly what we aimed for, we are proud to be a part of this wonderful band. We will walk away from this with amazing memories, knowing that we put our hearts out on the field and brought the audience to their feet.

## Creativity in Madison County

by Audrey Hall



Ridgeland High School has always done an excellent job of representing, and this year has been no exception. Mrs. Gremillion’s art students participated in *The Paint the Town Art Wall Competition* at the construction site on Township Boulevard and Highland Colony.

Seven schools in Madison County were challenged to paint a panel using the theme “community”. Prizes of \$500, \$300, and \$200 were given to the top three schools for their panels and the winner’s panel will be facing Township Boule-

vard on the Metropolitan Bank. There was also a People’s Choice competition on Facebook, where the local communities could decide which school’s panel is the best.

Ours, of course, is something special, but we have a lot of competition. Madison Central, Jackson Prep, Germantown High School, St. Joseph, Jackson Academy, and Canton High School are all competing to win.

Ridgeland High School placed second in the competition, winning \$300.

## 15+1 Most Amusing Christmas Gifts

1. A glowing ferret
  2. A ceramic cookie
  3. A horse with an ice cream cone taped to its forehead
  4. A pair of day-of-the-week socks
  5. A pirate pinata
  6. A fake roach
  7. A Criss Angel Magic Set
  8. A self portrait
  9. Some leftover Halloween candy
  10. A minion from *Despicable Me*
  11. A package of bubble wrap
  12. A "Pooping Moose" candy dispenser
  13. A copy of 2011 November/December Titan Talk Newspaper
  14. A video of the band doing the wobble
  15. A Flash mob wrapped in Christmas paper
- +1 Common sense



# Horoscopes

by Kylee

**Libra(September 23~October 22):** Stop cheating off of that guy next to you. In case you haven't noticed, he's wrong. Every. Single. Time.

**Scorpio(October 23~November 21):** Get a life, please. I'm already tired about having to write about your lack of one.

**Sagittarius(November 22~December 21):** Success is coming your way. Blink and you'll miss it.

**Capricorn(December 22~January 19):** Better safe than sorry. Unless we're talking about Mr. Windham. Because you know you're so sorry.

**Aquarius(January 20~February 18):** Every day above ground is a good one...

**Pisces(February 19~March 20):** Practice makes perfect, but no one's perfect. Except me. And I was born this awesome.

**Aries(March 21~April 19):** Talk to someone you've never talked to before. You never know, maybe you'll make a new friend.

**Taurus(April 20~May 20):** Now that you've put Belk out of business, stop worrying. You're gorgeous.

**Gemini(May 21~June 20):** You aren't a match made in Heaven just because you can "feel the same pain". In fact, it's likely that you're the cause of each other's headaches.

**Cancer(June 21~July 22):** When Aries comes up to talk to you, humor them. They have no friends.

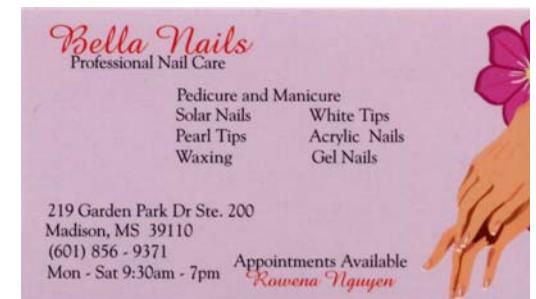
**Leo(July 23~August 22):** Keep your eye out for your significant other. Things are about to get really interesting.

**Virgo(August 23~September 22):** Just because you surround yourself with smart people does not make you brilliant. It actually makes your "unique" mind stand out.



## Exam schedule

Tuesday, December 13: 1st and 2nd  
Wednesday, December 14: 5th and 6th  
Thursday, December 15: 3rd and 7th  
Friday, December 16: 4th and 8th  
Saturday, December 17: Relax



## Cross Country Greatness

By Marian Cancio



It was a great season for the Ridgeland Cross Country team who finished off the season with Regional winnings on both the girls' and boys' teams. We give great thanks to Martin Cobb, Alexis Gaytan, Alex Sterling, Tre' Taliaferro, Sean Callahan, and Chris Smith for representing our school so well. We cannot forget the ladies who placed top ten: Jamie Logan, Molly Harris, Katie Tackitt, Erin Tackitt, Alicia Kirwin, Madison Walker, and Rachel Harris.

The team had a great season and it showed on November 5 when they left for the state meet. The team did great with wins in both the girls' and the boys' competitions. In eighth place, came the boys who were led by Martin Cobb. Throughout the whole season, he proved to us the great passion and potential he has for the sport. The girls also did well. They were led by Rachel Harris, whose great leadership and perseverance brought the girls in eighth place. These great finishes made the team and coaches proud; however, Cobb and Harris will be graduating so there are great shoes to fill. It's back to the drawing board for the cross country team who has great raw potential. We are predicting a great season for the 2012-2013 team. Good luck Titans!

## Once in a Lifetime Team

By Marian Cancio

The winning streak lived on as the RHS Titans football team went head to head with Neshoba Central's Rockets on October 21. Although it was a fairly close call, we managed to come out on top with a 27-21 win. But this wasn't the end for our season. The next Friday we had another very close call, but we pulled through with a win of 21-20.

On November 4, we gained another win by beating Provine 24-16 with numerous great plays. "It was a good win for us," said Coach Burton to the Madison County Journal. "How many times can you get tested at the goal line at the end of the game? It's good to know our guys can make the play when they need to."

The win against Provine was sealed by Aundra Moore who led the team on defense with 14 tackles and a sack and was able to hit the Provine quarterback on a bootleg from the one yard line. By winning this game, the Titans secured their spot for the first round of playoffs against Clarksdale. Burton expressed his concerns going into the playoffs; however, he believed in his defensive and offensive coordinators (Coach Weems and Coach Stensaas) and his team.

On November 11, the Titans walked into the stadium with only one thought - winning. They achieved it as they came out victorious with a whopping 52-20 win over Clarksdale. They fought hard and although they were far away from home, they still managed to make us proud with a 10-9 win over Center Hill. However, our luck ended there as we went head to head November 25 with Starkville. Although the love for the team and the sport circulated and the support of the crowd was intense, we came out of the game 28-7 losing to the Starkville Yellow Jackets.

The boys had a great season and the twenty-two seniors leave as one of the most successful classes in the school's short history. "It's a special group," said Burton. "You come across a group like this once in a lifetime."

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## STRANGE BUT TRUE: RANDOM FACTS

by Kristine Bishop

1. Odontophobia is the fear of teeth.
2. The 57 on Heinz ketchup bottles represents the number of varieties of pickles the company once had.
3. It would take 11 Empire State Buildings, stacked one on top of the other, to measure the Gulf of Mexico at its deepest point.
4. The most money ever paid for a cow in an auction was \$1.3 million.
5. Bullet proof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers, and laser printers were all invented by women.
6. Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.
7. 8 out of 10 people think that their first kiss indicates how the rest of their relationship will be.
8. On average, people fear spiders more than they do death.



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### Holiday Kaleidoscope (continued from page 3)

On the first night, his family comes over to light the candles. This and eating pancakes are two of Sam's favorite things about this holiday.

Khalid Manzoul celebrates Ramadan. They celebrate by fasting every day, taking a deeper look into the Islamic religion, and ending the holiday with a celebration. They don't have a specific symbol for this holiday. Ramadan lasts for about a month, until the moon makes its full cycle. His family usually gathers and prays together, and his favorite tradition is getting presents on the last day.

Dani Niskanen, Manon Robert, and Rodney Kipchumba all celebrate Christmas. Dani's family comes over on Christmas Eve, and they give gifts to "Santa" so the kids think that Santa brings them. Dani doesn't have just one favorite tradition. He enjoys Christmas in general. Rodney's family puts up a tree and exchanges presents. His favorite part of Christmas is the Christmas spirit. Manon's family comes over on Christmas Eve and has a big meal. They buy a tree for this event, and on Christmas morning, they open presents.

Everyone does something different for the holidays. Just by a simple visit, you could learn about a different cultures from our friends. Ridgeland is blessed with different ideas, but we all come together as one family.



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