

Gator Tales



Volume 4, Issue 15

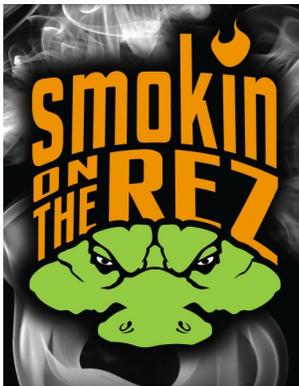
Newsletter Date: Fall 2016

A newsletter for the citizens of the PRVWSD community

The Pearl River Valley Water Supply District

Please help us reduce costs by taking the time to **register now** for the **digital edition** of the newsletter at: Response@TheRez.MS

Smokin' on The REZ: Good meat, great music



The best pit masters from the Southeast and popular local musicians will gather Oct. 21-22 at Old Trace Park for the 4th annual Smokin' on The Rez BBQ and Music Festival.

You should be there, too, for the event sponsored by the Barnett Reservoir Foundation and the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District.

For the \$10 price of admission on Saturday, each visitor will get a plate of professionally cooked pulled pork BBQ. The meal will be served beginning at noon and ending when the supply of delicious smoked pork is gone. Side dishes include slaw, potato salad and great Mississippi music.

The stage will feature Travelin' Jane at noon and Chris Gill and the Soul Shakers at 3 p.m.

On Friday night, when admission is free and the BBQ teams easiest to approach for cooking advice, the Barnett Reservoir community's own Jay Herrington - the guy behind the counter at Pelahatchie Bay Trading Post - will be on the stage from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

The event will also feature the Smokin' on The Rez Corn Hole Contest on Saturday, a kid's zone and beer gardens. No outside coolers will be allowed. Gates open at 5 p.m. on Friday and at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Children 12 and under get free admission, but there is a \$5 charge for their BBQ plate.

Smokin' on The Rez sponsors include Visit Mississippi, Ergon, and I Heart Radio.

For more information, visit BarnettReservoirFoundation.org.



Jay Herrington



Travelin' Jane



Chris Gill



PELICAN COVE GRILL

601-605-1865 3999 Harbor Walk Dr, Ridgeland MS 39157

Pelican Cove has the best view of the Reservoir & sunsets on the water from our new 3500 SF deck. Come enjoy our famous Sunday Piano Brunch from 11 to 2 and dueling pianos from 5 to 9. Live music Wednesday thru Sunday. Visit www.PelicanCoveGrill.net or download the free app for menus & specials.

Monday: Monday Night Football - \$12 beer buckets during game. (17 TVs to choose from)

Tuesday: Therapy Tuesday - come wearing your scrubs and get 20% off your tab.

Thursday: Ladies Night - Ladies drink free "pony" beers from 7-10pm. \$4 frozen drinks.

October 22: 1st Annual Pelican Cove Halloween Pirate Party - drink specials, live music, best pirate or wench costume prizes - 1st place: \$400, 2nd: \$150, 3rd: \$75 gift card. Featuring Jam Haus 7-11pm

News Around the REZ

BASS Elite coming in April

Golf has the PGA Tour. Baseball has the Major Leagues. Football has the NFL and college football has the SEC.

For bass fishing, the equivalent is the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (BASS) Elite Series, and in 2017 it is coming to Barnett Reservoir.

The City of Ridgeland and the Barnett Reservoir Foundation are host sponsors for the event, which will be staged out of Madison Landing April 27-30 with an expected field of 120 pro fishermen competing for a \$100,000 top prize.

The format will have all anglers competing on Thursday and Friday, then the top 50 on Saturday, and only the top 12 on Sunday.

“We are very excited about bringing an Elite to Ridgeland and to Barnett Reservoir,” said Mina Thorgeson, director of sales for Visit Ridgeland. “This will showcase our city and The Rez at the top level of competitive bass fishing. The exposure will be great.”

It will be the 12th time BASS has brought an event to Barnett Reservoir, extending its long history with BASS. In 1966, when the lake was just a year old, Montgomery, Ala., businessman Ray Scott came to fish The Rez with some friends, got rained out, and, while resting at a Jackson Ramada Inn, had his first vision of a grass roots fishing organization.

BASS formed in 1967, and after holding its first event at Arkansas’ Beaver Lake, Scott made sure Barnett Reservoir was put on the schedule and had events here every year for six years beginning in 1968. Bill Dance and Roland Martin, two of the biggest names in fishing, each won twice on Barnett, and those victories helped launch their successful television careers and helped BASS get established.

In 1973, in the final Rebel Invitational held on Barnett, Martin posted an 11-pound victory over Bobby Murray but it was obvious that the initial bass production that the lake enjoyed had passed its peak.

Five years passed before BASS returned to Barnett, and it brought the big one - the 1978 Bassmaster Classic. Murray, who had finished second and fourth in his two previous trips to Barnett, won with a three-day catch of 37.9 pounds. It was a victory achieved without a single 7-fish daily limit; Murray caught just 14 fish in three days.

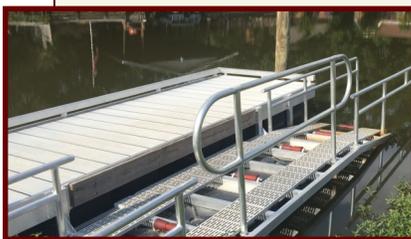
After the pitiful catch, BASS wouldn’t come back for almost two decades, 18 years to be exact, for Mike McClelland’s win in 1996, and Pete Daniels’ win in 1998 in two BASS Invitationals. In deplorable weather, the winning weights averaged less than 10 pounds per day each year.

After another 18-year absence, BASS returned to Barnett in 2013 and 2015 for Central Opens. Florida’s Randal Tharp won in October of 2013 and Gene Bishop of Ridgeland won in the spring of 2015, both with very respectable catches.

BASS and its Bassmaster Magazine recently named Barnett among its top 25 lakes in the Southeast, with The Rez ranking No. 9.



BASS Elite star, Greg Hacking was 2015 Angler of the Year



Kayak launch at Turtle Point Nature Trail

Three new kayak launches coming

The PRVWSD Board of Directors, at its September meeting, approved a bid for three new kayak launches on Barnett Reservoir to meet the demands of the fastest-growing user group on the lake. The design is similar to that of the only existing launch that opened in 2015 at Turtle Point Park off Scenic Drive between the Turtle Creek and Forest Point subdivisions.

Coal Bluff Water Park on the upper river area, Brown’s Landing near the Highway 43-Natchez Trace interchange and Pelahatchie Shore Park should have launches installed by the end of spring in 2017, and give kayakers access to most areas of the 33,000-acre lake.



The newest RAPID OIL CHANGE is open for business

Regular oil changes significantly increase the life of your vehicle, reduce repair costs and improve gas mileage. **RAPID OIL CHANGE** has been helping Mississippians with this task for 30 years, and now we’ve made it convenient for residents of Barnett Reservoir. Our new location just off Spillway Road at **309 Village Square Drive** is open to serve your needs.

****Bring this ad by the new reservoir location and receive \$5.00 off of your first service.****

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Oct 21/22	Smokin on The REZ	OT	BBQ competition and music festival
Nov 12	Barnett Arts & Crafts Fair	LS	Community fair
Apr 21-22	MS Cajun Fest	OT	Community Festival
Apr 27-30	BASS Elite Series	ML/OT	Fishing Tourney and Community Festival

OT- Old Trace Park / LS—Lakeshore Park / PSP—Pelahatchie Shore Park
SP - Spillway Road / FL— Fannin Landing / ML—Madison Landing

Project updates

Pearl River Valley Water Supply District crews have been busy with several projects:

Goshen Springs Landing - A metal floating pier was installed this summer on the east side of the harbor, completing the four sides of this popular boat launch on Mississippi Highway 43 next to Tommy's Trading Post. A grant from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, arranged through the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks helped fund the project. In addition, the parking lots were restriped.

Timberlake Campground - The reservoir's busiest campground will have 28 new nightly pads including six pull-through sites that will accommodate the largest RVs on the road when this construction project is completed. A new comfort station with air conditioning and showers is being built. Plans also include new streetlights in half the campground and overlaying the streets.

Dredging - The second phase of a long-term dredging project in Pelahatchie Bay has begun and will include the east side of Forest Point to the west side of Arrowhead Point. The work is scheduled to be completed in October. The spoils are being pumped by pipeline to Pelahatchie Shore Park to expand the popular day-use facility.

Trading Post: A Rez blessing

Maybe it's a cup of coffee, two eggs over easy with grits and the in-store made sausage, or maybe a fried chicken lunch.

Perhaps it's a tank of 100 percent gasoline to feed the boat or truck, or minnows or crickets to feed the fish.

No matter what one gets at Pelahatchie Trading Post, it comes with a blessing from owner Roy Herrington or a smile from his wife Brenda.

It's been that way for 34 years, since the Herringtons took over the "Post" from original owner Tom Freeney of Carthage, and it's why it has become a fixture of the reservoir community.



Brenda & Roy Herrington

"The one constant has been maintaining that true country store feeling," said Brenda. "It's what people like; it's what we like."

Changes have been plentiful as one might expect in developing a bait shop into a full service restaurant, gas station and local gathering spot.

"I think the biggest difference between now and 34 years ago came when the Northshore Causeway was built, opening up more subdivisions and bringing more people around the Bay," Roy said. "That was truly a blessing for us."

The Post has dockside fuel with ethanol free gas, and does so at the same price as the pumps in the parking lot: "I never thought it was fair to charge someone more for coming in a boat," said Roy.

Pelahatchie Bay Trading Post is located at 2363 Highway 471. Store hours are usually daylight to dark, though food service ends at 6 p.m. Call 601-829-1703.

KRB plans E-Recycle Day

Keep the Reservoir Beautiful and Magnolia Data Solutions are teaming to hold an E-Recycle Day from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 5, when residents will have an opportunity to get rid of outdated and unwanted electronics.

The event, which is part of Keep America Beautiful's Recycle Day, will be held in front of Revell Ace Hardware at Reservoir Square Shopping Center at 1919 Spillway Road. The public can drop off computers and components, as well as TVs, copiers, fax machines, radios, cell phones, desk phones, VCRs, DVD players, electronic games, monitors, keyboards, printers, laptops, scanners and stereos. There is a \$5 charge for each monitor and \$15 for each TV to help cover the cost of recycling at Magnolia Data Solutions, Mississippi's only certified electronic recycler.

For more information, contact Barrett White at Magnolia Data Solutions at (601) 919-0062, or visit www.keeptherezbeautiful.org.



PRVWSD Board welcomes new member

Fisheries biologist John Skains, Conservation Coordinator for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, is that agency's newest appointee to the Board of Directors of the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District.

As required by legislation, Skains is a leaseholder and resident of the PRVWSD community. He replaces MDWFP's Larry Castle, who is no longer a leaseholder.

Mule Jail Trail closed through Feb. 1

The Mule Jail Trail, located just southwest of the spillway below the dam, is closed from Oct. 1 through Jan. 31, while the special archery deer hunts are conducted. The 3-mile walking and mountain bike trail will reopen Feb. 1.

VOLUNTEERS are needed for Barnett Foundation events!

The Barnett Reservoir Foundation is host to several events at The REZ, including the upcoming 4th annual *Smokin' on The REZ BBQ and Music Festival* and next year's *Bassmaster Elite Series* tournament in April. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. Get involved and help the Foundation celebrate life in the reservoir community. Visit www.BarnettReservoirFoundation.org for more information on volunteering.



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Meet PRVWSD Pat McLin, Water Superintendent

Needing Pat McLin is never a good thing for residents of Barnett Reservoir, but knowing he's around sure is comforting. As water superintendent, McLin's job is to keep clean fresh water flowing to leaseholders. He and his crews are the ones who get the call when a water main breaks, and, regardless of the elements, they are quick to dig a hole, jump in and fix a leaky or broken pipe, or a busted meter.

"Hot or cold, we have to do it, and that's part of what I like most about the job," said the shy McLin, 40, of Carthage. "I like everything about it, especially the challenges it can present, and I like knowing that I am helping people."

McLin's talents include dowsing, a type of divination employed to locate underground water. "Been doing that for about 20 years," he said, "and I've used it here on the job in the past to find pipes, and I've helped find an underground stream for a friend to dig a well."

McLin, who is married with six children aged 8 to 24, has been with PRVWSD for 21 years.



PRVWSD board Oks new billing policy

The Board of Directors for the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District recently approved a new water/sewer billing policy for leaseholders of Barnett Reservoir. The policy brings clarity to many aspects, including rental homes, delinquent accounts, penalties and payment plans. It will be effective January 1st, 2017.

Highlights include changes to notify the leaseholder/landlord of any delinquent account on rental property, establishing a firm cutoff date as the second notification of delinquency, establishing partial payment plans and changes to NSF check policy.

To view the entire policy, visit www.TheRez.ms.