

# Gator Tales



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A newsletter for the citizens of the PRVWSD community

## The Pearl River Valley Water Supply District

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## Independence Celebration - July 1



The Barnett Reservoir Foundation is teaming with the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District to present its annual Independence Celebration and dueling fireworks show July 1 at Old Trace Park in Ridgeland and Lakeshore Park in Rankin County.

“The Independence Celebration is our biggest event, and it is a celebration of both our national spirit and Barnett Reservoir life,” said Foundation president Dale Shepherd. “No doubt, our unique firework show is the premier firework show in the Metro Jackson area.”



Both parks will be filled with live music, events for children and military displays, and Lakeshore Park will be home to the Fenders and Fireworks Classic Car show. Old Trace Park events kickoff at 8:30 a.m. with the Dash 'n Splash foot race sponsored by the Brain Injury Association of Mississippi ([www.msbia.org](http://www.msbia.org)).

The fireworks, best viewed from the two parks, will be launched from Red Dot Road that forms the levee for Main Harbor in Ridgeland, and from a barge in the lake out from Lakeshore Park. The approximately 15-minute show starts at 9:00 and will feature a simulcast of patriotic tunes broadcast on IHeartRadio's MISS103-FM.



Shepherd said the Foundation has increased the number of vendors at each park and that plenty of food and beverages will be available. No outside food and drink will be allowed.



Chris Gill

The music lineup at Lakeshore Park includes Josh Journeay from 4-6 p.m., followed by Burnham Road from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

At Old Trace Park, Ron Etheridge takes the stage from 4 to 6 p.m., followed by Chris Gill and the Sole Shakers from 6:30 to 9 p.m.



Burnham Road

# News Around the REZ

## Rebar creates boating hazard

Continued illegal placing of rebar in stumps in Barnett Reservoir is a major problem for boaters on the popular but shallow 33,000-acre lake. The rebar has become just as hazardous as the stumps they mark, as evidenced in complaints from Bassmaster Elite Series pros that suffered damage to their expensive boats during the April event.

Reservoir general manager John Sigman said part of the problem is caused by boaters thinking they are doing a good thing by marking stumps they see as obstacles. However, he said, they are simply creating as bad or an even worse situation with the strong metal bars. "When rebar gets put out in the fall when the water is low (drought the last two years), people need to realize that when the water rises again, some of the stumps are deep enough to no longer be an obstacle, but the rebar is."

PRVWSD crews have removed some rebar and will continue to do so as it is found. Officers seeing anyone putting rebar in the lake will issue citations.



## Spillway cleanup ramps up

The Pearl River Valley Water Supply District is serious about keeping clean the popular spillway fishing area below the dam, where volunteer groups have spearheaded cleanup efforts only to be out-

paced by thoughtless fishermen and other visitors. At its May meeting, the PRVWSD's Board of Directors voted to put teeth into its message by approving a plan that could lead to the suspension of all access to the spillway if the public doesn't clean up its act. Gates were constructed and signs placed warning that continued litter could lead to closing the area.

"It's not something we want to do, nor something we take lightly, but if it takes denying access and closing the area to fishing to get people to realize that littering won't be tolerated, then we're prepared to do it," said reservoir General Manager John Sigman. "We're hoping that peer pressure from ethical fishermen will help turn this situation around."

Early indications have led to hope: When volunteers checked and cleaned the area after a week of warnings, the resulting haul was one garbage bag, far less than a normal week's litter.



## Smokin' on The Rez goes KCBS

The fifth annual Smokin' on The Rez BBQ and Music Festival has changed months and affiliations, which the Barnett Reservoir Foundation hopes will help build the event. Smokin' is now affiliated with the Kansas City BBQ Society, the largest sanctioning body in contest BBQ.

The event has moved up a month and is scheduled for Sept. 15-17 at Old Trace Park in Ridgeland. It has also grown, with two full days of competition with Saturday and Sunday judging. With a full field of over 45 teams, the total payout will exceed \$22,000. For more information, visit [BarnettReservoirFoundation.org](http://BarnettReservoirFoundation.org)



**Main Harbor Store** is located on the water, next to Red Dot Road, inside Main Harbor Marina. We have a variety of products to offer at our store! From fuel and oil to snacks and boat accessories, Main Harbor Store is your one-stop shop! Our dockside fuel is **ethanol free**, and we have 87 and 93 grade. Sea Tow members receive a 10¢ per gallon discount on fuel. Main Harbor Store offers **pontoon boat rentals** ranging from 12 passengers to 16 passengers. We also offer **jet ski** and **kayak rentals**!

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## SCHEDULED EVENTS AT REZ

July 1	Independence Celebration at The REZ	OT/LS	Family event / fireworks
July 29	Disc Golf Tournament	PSP	Disc golf
August 26	Dog Days of Summer Event	PSP	C.A.R.A event
Sept. 15-17	Smokin' on The REZ	OT	KCBS BBQ competition
Oct. 7	Gator Bait Race	PSP	Kayak race
Oct. 8	Ryan Man	LS	Iron man competition

OT- Old Trace Park / LS - Lakeshore Park / PSP – Pelahatchie Shore Park  
 SP - Spillway Road / FL - Fannin Landing / ML - Madison Landing / RR - Rankin Ramp



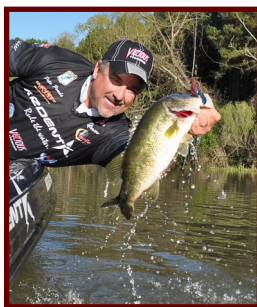
### Sunset Concert Series concludes

The Barnett Reservoir Foundation's first Sunset Concert Series was a success, with five shows held at Lakeshore Park between March and June. Only one of the six scheduled events was postponed due to rain and that musician was able to play at a later day to provide a two-act final concert on June 1. The Foundation wishes to thank the PRVWSD staff and series sponsor, The Crawfish King of Flowood, for their help.

Proceeds from the event will help fund the Independence Celebration fireworks show on July 1.

### Florida bass stocked in lake

A group of 15 avid Barnett Reservoir bass fishermen volunteered to ferry nearly 100,000 Florida bass fingerlings raised by state wildlife officials to fish habitat in the lake on June 1, in a continuing effort to improve fishing and fish genetics in the popular fishing hole. Raised at the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks' Turcotte Fish Hatchery on Mississippi Highway 43 near The Rez, the fish could help in several ways.



"Obviously, we hope they grow to reach desired catch rates not only to be caught, but also to pass on the Florida-bass gene into the population," said MDWFP biologist Ryan Jones. "We appreciate the fishermen helping because they take the fish out and put them in proper habitat, vegetation, and that improves the survival rate."

This was the fourth straight year that the program has taken place.

### Watch your summer water usage

Mississippi summers mean high heat and humidity, and, unfortunately, higher water bills. The Pearl River Valley Water Supply District urges its water customers to monitor their usage to avoid surprise bills. Each summer, the PRVWSD hears from users complaining about a spike in their water bill despite the user claiming to have done nothing to cause an increase. Watering a lawn, spraying flowers, filling swimming pools and such can cause water bills to go up, sometimes dramatically.

\* A leaking toilet can use up to 1,000 gallons per day.

\* Watering the lawn for 20 minutes three times a week can use up to 4,800 gallons per month.

\* Filling a pool can take anywhere from 25,000 to 40,000 gallons.

After minimum usage, PRVWSD charges \$4.94 per thousand gallons.



### One dog park opens, another planned

Two years in the planning and building, the Dog Park at The Rez at Old Trace Park in Ridgeland has opened and is enjoying good usage. There could be a second within the year, after the PRVWSD Board of Directors gave conceptual approval in May to a group led by the Rankin County Animal Adoption Foundation to build a similar facility in Lakeshore Park. The group said it has already secured complete funding through donations, and plans to move quickly to design, build and open the park.



## VOLUNTEERS are needed for Barnett Foundation events!

The Barnett Reservoir Foundation is host to several events at The REZ, including the upcoming Independence Celebration. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. Get involved and help the Foundation celebrate life in the reservoir community. Visit [www.BarnettReservoirFoundation.org](http://www.BarnettReservoirFoundation.org) for more information on volunteering.



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## Meet PRVWSD Jerry Bounds, Director of Building and Permits

Jerry Bounds comes to work each day at Barnett Reservoir with one goal: Help somebody.

“My favorite part of the job is helping people; I enjoy that,” said Bounds, who joined PRVWSD in 2012. “I like to talk to people, and if I can help them work out a problem, that makes my day.”

As PRVWSD’s Director of Building and Permits, Bounds has the opportunity to help reservoir residents daily. Residents may not realize it, but just about any major renovation on a home or property requires a permit.

“Anytime construction takes place, you need to acquire a permit before the work begins,” said Bounds, 65, a native of Jackson who now lives on reservoir property. “That includes any major plumbing, electrical, mechanical (air conditioning), roofing or structural work. Some exceptions include sheetrock and painting.”

Bounds said permit prices range from \$100 for changing electrical service and up, with most depending on the value (cost) of the project. A roofing permit, for example, starts at \$150 and varies on size of the house or the roof.

“The key thing to remember is to get the permit up front, before the work begins, because if you don’t, and you have to get one later, the price doubles,” Bounds said.

Bounds is also over property maintenance and compliance, and heads a staff of four housed at the Reservoir office at 1864 Spillway Road.



Angela Carpenter serves up a Grand Slam appetizer

### GOOD NEWS:

The much-anticipated opening of the newest restaurant at The Rez, **The Feathered Cow** on Spillway Road at Northshore Crossing shopping center, happened June 19, and it was full for their first lunch serving. The restaurant has a sports bar feel with scores of TVs, a full bar, and a menu full of appetizers, burgers, sandwiches, chicken, salads, and lots more. It is open daily for lunch and dinner and will soon add a brunch menu on weekends. Hours are 10:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. (maybe 9:30) and 10 a.m. to 9:30 on Sundays. The phone number is (601) 605-0414