



PEOPLE

DAILY WALK TO LITTER CAMPAIGN

Claude Hewitt recognized — See page A2

MUSIC

'IDOL'S' EVERHART STARTING BAND

Hannah Everhart — See page A7



Madison County's leading newspaper.

Serving Madison, Ridgeland, Canton, Flora, Northeast

MADISON COUNTY JOURNAL

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 16 Copyright © 2021 Madison County Journal MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI www.madisoncountyjournal.com APRIL 22, 2021 ** \$1.00

\$500,000 IN COCAINE, PILLS, MARIJUANA

Interstate drug traffickers nabbed

By DUNCAN DENT duncan@onlinemadison.com

ALSO ■ Officer dragged by suspect, page A3.

MADISON — Two suspected interstate drug traffickers were arrested early Friday morning when police seized almost \$500,000 of cocaine, pills and marijuana in an I-55 traffic stop just north of here.

Cedric D. Jackson, 29, of Prairieville, Louisiana, and Nicole Danielle Martin, 31, of Addis, Louisiana, were arrested by a special Madison

Police interdiction unit. Both individuals were charged with trafficking a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana, said Madison Police Spokesman Maj. Robert Sanders.

Sanders said that at 2:34 a.m. Friday, April 16, a member of the MPD's Criminal Interdiction Unit conducted a



Cedric Jackson



Nicole Martin

traffic stop on a Chevrolet Malibu on Interstate 55 northbound near the 109 mile-marker for a traffic violation.

While speaking with the driver, the officer could smell the odor of marijuana, according to Sanders.

MPD seized 16 kilograms of cocaine said to have a street value of \$480,000.

Sanders said that in addition to the cocaine, they seized approximately 20 grams of marijuana, 14 Adderall pills

and 18 Ecstasy pills inside the vehicle.

Sanders said the suspects were transported to the Madison County Detention Center.

Both are still in jail on a \$300,000 bond each for the felony charge and \$1,000 each on the misdemeanor marijuana charge for a total bond amount of \$301,000 each.

The case will be forwarded to District Attorney John "Bubba" Bramlett for prosecution.



The 142 Madison Central students who scored a 30 or higher on the ACT were inducted into the school's 30+ Club last Thursday.

Madison Mayor Mary Hawkins Butler and Gov. Tate Reeves were on hand to congratulate and encourage the students.

142 students score 30 or more on ACT

By JOHN LEE john@onlinemadison.com

Madison Central High School junior Gabriel Freedman attributed the 32 he made on the ACT to his parents and math teacher, Kristen Cooley.

Freedman was one of 142 students recognized this year in a ceremony held last Thursday for Madison Central's "The 30+ Club," which recognized all of Madison Central's students who made a 30 or higher on the ACT.

Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler was present at the ceremony and spoke a few words before the students were recognized.

"To our administration, our teachers and to our parents, I want to say thank you for all that you've done to support this wonderful place and these students," Hawkins-Butler said. "Dream big. Never quit and reach for the skies. I am so

proud of all of you."

Gov. Tate Reeves was also at the ceremony and praised the students before they went on stage to receive their recognitions.

"The talent that is represented in this room is such that you can accomplish anything in life if you set your mind to it," Reeves said. "This is a very special group of young people here that represents not only this school district but also this state and this nation."

Freedman, son of Susanne and Jim Freedman, said his parents always pushed him to take every ACT that was offered so he could keep getting better and improve his chances of getting a 30 or higher.

"I excelled in the math portion of the ACT. My math teacher, Kristen Cooley, has a great way of teaching, and I learned the material very easily," Freedman said. "She is a big reason I was able to

get a good score in that department."

Freedman plans to major in sports management and is looking at colleges such as the University of Georgia and Rice University in Texas.

Eli Ragsdale, a senior at Madison Central who scored a 31 on the ACT, said he wouldn't have gotten such a great ACT score if not for the hard-working teachers at Madison Central, along with the Preliminary SAT instructors.

"The teachers here have done a lot of great work for us. They trained us a lot on the PSAT, and a lot of that work paid off with the ACT as well," he said. "The upbringing also played a big part in my work ethic, since my parents made sure I kept working hard."

He said being a well-rounded person helps with any career path. He is currently looking into majoring in the music field.

See ACT, page A5

LEGISLATURE

Car tags went up and here's the reason

By SCOTT HAWKINS scott@onlinemadison.com

Madison countians who have renewed a car tag since July have probably noticed a rate increase, but it's not permanent, officials say.

The 1.5% increase in tag prices is not due to any local tax increase or one passed by the Legislature, but rather is the result of a change in a state credit on car tags that fluctuates from year to year.

Clerk Lisa Duval at the Madison County Tax Collector's Office said the price change went into effect July 2020 as the result of a tag credit percentage drop from 6.5% to 5% in July 2020.

"Since it started last July, the questions began immediately," Duval said of people renewing their tags. "Every month when the notices go out, if somebody has not already renewed the tag since July, then they are kind of surprised that it is more this year."

The means of calculating the tag credit is explained on the Mississippi Department of Revenue's website.

"In order to provide a tax break to the registered owners of Mississippi motor vehicles, the 1994 Mississippi Legislature authorized a credit to the owners in the amount of 5% of the assessed value of the motor vehicle," the website states. "This credit eased the tax burden of the individual. However, it created a loss in revenue to the local governments."

To reimburse local governments for the loss of revenue, the Legislature created the Motor

See TAGS, page A2

DOWNTOWN MADISON

Work underway at Magnolia District

By STAFF REPORTS

MADISON — Work is underway on a new 9,000 square-foot, two-story, historically inspired brick building in The Magnolia District development situated on nine acres downtown.

Madison developer and contractor Greg Johnston's construction company, Old Town Construction of Madison, is serving as the general contractor on the Magnolia District project that is located near the intersection of Madison Avenue and Magnolia Street.

With an anticipated completion date of January 2022, the

new building will offer 4,500 square feet of retail space on the first floor and 4,500 square feet of office space on the second floor.

Land for the new building was recently opened up when Johnston moved two historic buildings to another part of the property, and is renovating them to serve as new offices for Elliot Law Firm and other tenants.

Rock's Barber and Style will move from its present location at the corner of Madison Avenue and Magnolia Street into the new building.

Rock's is currently housed in a cottage-style house that was built in the 1920s.

When Rock's vacates this building, Johnston said he plans to move the old house to the location where the other two historic buildings have already been moved.

The Magnolia District project began in 2004 through the efforts of Johnston, and his parents, Brent and Cynthia Johnston, to restore historic buildings in the area and recreate historically accurate new buildings to offer Class A professional office space, and bring high-quality local retailers and fine dining to the area.

When complete, the Magnolia District will include 10 See MAGNOLIA, page A5



The first building under construction at the Magnolia District in downtown Madison is a 9,000-square foot two-story brick office building.

OPINION

Patrick Buchanan Page A4

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES

Ligon Duncan Page A5

OPINION

Rich Lowry Page A4



Weight loss regimen shifted into litter cleanup

By SCOTT HAWKINS
scott@onlinemadison.com

MADISON — Claude Hewitt began walking along Mississippi 463 and Reunion Parkway to lose weight.

"I walked about six months and I walked for an hour," Hewitt said of the beginning of his walking. "Then I met a guy who was picking up garbage."

Hewitt said that meeting inspired him and his motivation for walking shifted from just losing weight to picking up litter.

Since then, his efforts have gone noticed by his fellow citizens and during Tuesday's Madison Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting, Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler presented a Volunteer Service Award to Hewitt for his efforts on behalf of Keep Madison the City Beautiful.

"Tonight we would like to recognize Mr. Hewitt for going beyond any call of duty," said Hawkins-Butler in making the

presentation. "We hear all the time, 'Oh, we have so much litter. This needs to be done. This needs to be done.' When I see Madison, I see every cup. I see every piece of paper ... Then I go to other cities and when I come home, Madison doesn't look so bad."

Hawkins-Butler's comment got laughs and applause from the assembled group.

"Mr. Hewitt, it is my understanding that no one asks you to do anything," Hawkins-Butler said. "You do this on your own. You walk and pick up the debris. You take care of this community. ... He is a hero. I wish we had a more like you."

Hawkins-Butler said she hopes when people learn of Hewitt's efforts that more people will join in to help with the cause of keeping Madison beautiful.

Hewitt said that after he began picking up litter on his walks, he increased his walking time each day.

"I increased it to two hours



Claude Hewitt, left, accepts a Volunteer Service Award presented by Madison Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler on behalf of Keep Madison the City Beautiful during Tuesday night's board of aldermen meeting.

and they had so much litter," Hewitt said. "All the walkers

and all the joggers would say every morning, 'Thank you for

what you are doing,' and then turn around and keep on walk-

ing."

Hewitt's comments got another laugh from the crowd.

In other matters at Tuesday's meeting, the board:

- Held a public hearing on cleaning private property at 119 Sunflower Road in Annandale.

After hearing from the property owner Kip Watkins, who apologized and said living in another city made it difficult, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic to keep up the property, city officials voted unanimously to clean the property if Watkins has not cleaned it before the city gets to it.

- Held a public hearing on the former Walgreens building property at 1089 U.S. 51 North. No one spoke in the hearing and the board unanimously voted to clean the property.

- Unanimously approved the final plat for the Whittington subdivision, Phase 3, which will add the 52 home sites to the subdivision off of Welch Farms Road.

MY ZANGEL BROTHERS HOMEHEALTH, LLC.
"Our Angels sharing light into all areas of life."

PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL SERVICE

In-Home Health Care • Daily Hygiene • Meals Preparation • Doctor Appointments
Light Housekeeping • Patient Supervision • Companionship • Hospital Sitting

LET ME TAKE CARE OF YOUR PRECIOUS
Loved Ones
Elderly and Disabled

Qualified • Caring • Accommodating • Honest • Christian

Charlotte Tanner
Chief Operational Officer
(601) 942-6891
myzangelbrothers@gmail.com

Tags

Continued from page A1

Vehicle Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund.

"The revenue generated from the sales tax on motor vehicles goes into the fund," the explainer states. "The tax loss created each month from vehicle registrations provides the figures used to reimburse the local governments each month. Every year the Department of Revenue must calcu-

late the credit percentage based on the balance in the fund, the estimated sales tax revenue and the estimated tax loss to the local governments for the coming year. The intent of the Legislature was to maintain a minimum balance in the fund and a maximum credit to the owners."

Therefore, the Legislative Tag Credit fluctuates from year-to-year.

The Mississippi Legislative Tag Credit was reduced from

6.5% in fiscal year 2020 to 5% in fiscal year 2021 which began last July, according to Jacob Manley, a communications specialist at the Mississippi Department of Revenue. For fiscal year 2019, the credit was 5.75%; for 2018 it was 5.5%; and for 2017 it was 6%.

County Tax Collector Kay Pace said the county's millage rates have not changed in the past year and the increased automobile tag prices are due

solely to the reduction in the Legislative Tag Credit.

"The state allows so much legislative credit toward the purchase price of each vehicle and that percentage may remain the same or it may not," Pace said.

"So, this year, it was lowered by the state which means that the amount of credit towards a purchase of a license plate is less and makes the license plate higher. There have been no millage changes."

THE LAW FIRM OF
HEIDELBERG PATTERSON
WELCH WRIGHT

ANNOUNCES THE ADDITION OF
WILLIAM R. WRIGHT

368 Highland Colony Parkway
Ridgeland, MS 39157
www.hpwlawgroup.com
601.790.1588

reveal your best smile...
discover your confidence.

Open Monday - Saturday!

Ask us about our "CLUB W" Plan
"CLUB W" is an insurance alternative designed to target patients who either do not have insurance, or have insurance and are not satisfied with their coverage.

ESTD 2020
WELCH DENTISTRY
of Madison, Mississippi

1 WOODGREEN PLACE, No. 100 | MADISON, MS 39110
601.707.7042 | WWW.WELCHOFMADISON.COM

(USPS 687-570)

The Madison County Journal is published every Thursday by the Madison County Publishing Co., Inc., 293 Commerce Park Drive, Ridgeland, MS 39157, James E. Prince III, president. Subscriptions are: \$42 per year in Madison and Hinds counties; \$46 in-state; \$52 out-of-state. Single copy price is \$1.00. Periodicals postage paid at Ridgeland, MS. The Madison County Journal reserves the right to edit or reject any or all advertising. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Madison County Journal, P.O. Box 219, Ridgeland, MS 39158.

Hello
great outdoors

Home Equity Line of Credit
Introductory Rate of
0% APR
for 3 Billing Cycles
and then Variable Rate
3.75% APR*
Thereafter

Turn your home's equity into a backyard oasis. Apply today!

Citizens National Bank
The Power of LocalSM
Member FDIC

LENDER 601.693.1331 | YourCNB.com

*Introductory rate of 0% Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is fixed for the first three (3) billing cycles. The number of days in your billing cycle may vary based on your account opening date. After the first three (3) billing cycles, the APR will vary based on the U.S. Prime Rate as published in the Wall Street Journal +/- a margin. The margin is based on your credit score and a maximum LTV of 80%. As of February 15, 2021, Prime Rate was 3.25% APR. The minimum line of credit to receive the introductory rate of 0% is \$10,000 with a draw of \$5,000 or more at closing. Your APR will never be higher than 21%. HELOC must be new money to CNB, or CNB HELOC must be within one year of maturity. Other HELOC options are available. Collateral cannot be classified as a manufactured or mobile home. If your loan payment is automatically debited from your CNB personal checking account, CNB will pay all bank required closing cost for approved credit lines of \$250,000 or less and up to \$500 in closing costs for approved credit lines exceeding \$250,000. Certain fees may apply from \$1 to \$1,500 when payment is not auto debited from a CNB personal checking account. Land survey, if required is not included in bank paid costs. \$500 closing cost recovery fee will be assessed if line is closed within 36 months of contract date. This loan consists of a 10-year draw period with interest only payments and a 15-year repayment period. Repayment period consists of variable rate monthly minimum payments including principal and interest. Repayment APR is based on U.S. Prime Rate as published in the Wall Street Journal +/- a margin but will not exceed 21% and will not fall below your base rate. Homeowners insurance is required. Your base rate is Prime +/- a margin determined by your loan to value and credit score. Rates and APRs are subject to change without notice. Consult your tax advisor regarding deductibility of interest. Subject to credit approval.

MSURANCE

Steele Dehmer, PLCS

Address: 160 E. Peace St.
Canton, MS 39046
Cell: 601-624-7833
Phone: 601-391-3271
Fax: 601-391-3498
email: steele@msurance.org

Home • Auto • Farm • Small Business

601.624.7833
steele@msurance.org

Officer dragged by suspect

By STAFF REPORTS

MADISON — A police officer was injured after being dragged by a suspect's car and the Jackson man was arrested after being pursued by other officers Tuesday.

Jerrell T. Staten, 21, of Jackson was arrested after the pursuit and charged with fleeing a law enforcement vehicle and aggravated assault of a law enforcement officer.

MPD Cap. Kevin Newman said that Staten was originally transported to Merit Health in Canton as a precaution to be checked after the incident that resulted in his arrest.

Jail records show that he was released from the hospital Tuesday evening and brought into custody at the Madison County Detention Center.

Other charges are pending as a felony shoplifting investigation in which Staten is a suspect continues, according to Newman.

Newman said an officer was injured while trying to apprehend Staten and has been sent

to University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson with non-life-threatening injuries.

Newman said that at 2:54 p.m. Tuesday, April 20 an officer of the Madison Police Department conducted a traffic stop on a 2009 Mazda Tribute van on Mississippi 463 eastbound between the Highland Colony Parkway and I-55.

The vehicle in question was suspected in a previous felony shoplifting incident reported at the Best Buy in Madison.

Newman said that as the officer was interacting with the driver of the vehicle at the driver's side window and door of the stopped vehicle, the driver drove off eastbound onto Mississippi 463 dragging the officer with the vehicle. As the vehicle turned south onto the Interstate 55 onramp, the officer was able to free himself from the outside of the fleeing vehicle.



Jerrell Staten

“Other officers arriving on the scene gave aid to the officer while other officers pursued the fleeing vehicle south onto Interstate 55,” Newman said.

As the vehicle reached the 105 mile-marker in Ridgeland it struck the left cement guardrail of the interstate causing two of the pursuing vehicles to interact with the fleeing vehicle, Newman said.

The fleeing vehicle came to a stop in the far-left lane of southbound I-55 at which time the driver was taken into custody.

“There were no other occupants of the fleeing vehicle and other than the two police vehicles, no other vehicles were involved in the traffic crash,” Newman said.

Officers of the Ridgeland Police Department as well as officers of the Madison County Sheriff's Office assisted with the accident scene.

COVID-19 cases remain idle

By SCOTT HAWKINS
scott@onlinemadison.com

Madison County reported 59 new COVID-19 cases and three new COVID-19 deaths over the past week as COVID-19 numbers are holding steady even as more vaccine doses are administered in the county.

As of Wednesday, Madison County had administered 78,720 doses of COVID-19 vaccines, up 3,241 doses since last week's report of 75,479 doses, according to the Mississippi Department of Health's Wednesday COVID-19 report.

Madison County has recorded 9,981 total COVID-19 cases and 213 deaths since the pandemic began in March 2020.

The MSDH vaccination report does not distinguish the county of residence of the people receiving the vaccines so all of those vaccines may not have been administered to people who are residents of Madison County.

Vaccines are currently avail-

able for all Mississippians ages 16 and older and are available at the Walmart locations in Canton and Madison. Go to <https://msdh.ms.gov/c19appointment#local> to check availability.

Vaccinations also are currently being administered by appointment in Madison County at Canton High School, 634 Finney Road in Canton on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Sign up online at covidvaccine.umc.edu or call 1-877-978-6453. The website is the best option, officials have said.

Madison County schools combined reported 43 students quarantined for the week of April 5-9, the latest date for which figures are available, according to the MSDH.

Mississippi's total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases now stands at 189,581 with another 120,237 probable cases for a total of 309,818 COVID-19 cases and 4,945 confirmed deaths and 2,218 probable for a

total of 7,163 COVID-19 deaths since the pandemic began in March 2020.

THE LORD'S DAY

Morning Worship
8:30 a.m.
11 a.m.

Sunday School
9:45 a.m.

Evening Worship
6 p.m.

Midweek Activities
Prayer Meeting 6 p.m. (Patterson)
Adult Electives, D Groups
Childrens Choirs, Youth Activities

Services Livestream
fpcjackson.org/livestream
WLBT-TV3
10 a.m.

First Presbyterian
Church of Jackson

"To glorify God, and enjoy Him forever."
1390 N. State Street
Jackson, Mississippi
601.353.8316
fpcjackson.org
Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

The news is out!

OUR NEW & EXPANDED
MEMORY CARE RESIDENCE

OPENS MAY 2021



THE ORCHARD

CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

601.856.2205 | Ridgeland, MS

orchardretirement.com

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL



[WWW.STJOEBRUINS.COM](https://www.stjoebruins.com)



NOW ENROLLING 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CONTACT
TRICIA HARRIS 601-898-4803 OR THARRIS@STJOEBRUINS.COM

Opinion & Editorials

Founded 1982

MADISON COUNTY JOURNAL

"To glorify God, and enjoy Him forever."

JAMES E. PRINCE III
President and Publisher

MICHAEL SIMMONS
Associate Publisher

SCOTT C. HAWKINS
Editor

EDITORIALS

Facing dangerous times

Novelists with their imaginative musings have a way of stamping their age with an unforgettable depiction. In "A Tale of Two Cities," Charles Dickens memorialized the French Revolution with "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." The real world is less fanciful, and regarding the current era, it may simply be said that these are dangerous times. If there was ever a moment — this is it — to remain mindful that beneath the rainbow of skin colors, we all bleed red.

Social media, of which Big News, sadly, is simply a subset, revels in the chaos, feeds on motion and emotion that swarms of impassioned protesters display. Civilized behavior has been rubbed raw during the past pandemic year as Americans have watched in horror as the China-sourced virus has claimed the lives of more than 566,000 of their fellow citizens and 3 million across the globe. Initially assured that no one was to blame but Mother Nature's Chinese twin, even the former director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention admits a mishap at a Wuhan virology lab is no conspiracy theory.

Still, with a 2020 Pew Research Center survey finding 31 percent of Asian-Americans have experienced discrimination during the pandemic, it's important to remember fault lies with individuals far away, not Asian neighbors who abandoned their native lands because they, too, cherish the American dream.

Americans are also making the mistake of watching the news in Black and White. Police body-cam footage shows a 20-year-old, Black Minnesota resident resist-

ing arrest during a traffic stop and fatally shot as he speeds away. A White female officer reportedly grabbed her service weapon rather than the intended Taser. Perpetually angry Democratic Rep. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan tweets the shooting "wasn't an accident," and an apparent tragic mistake is crammed into another "White cop hunts Black man" narrative. Crowds riot, responding cops are stoned, and local businesses are looted.

The Minnesota mayhem may be simply a warmup for the pending verdict in the Chauvin trial over George Floyd's death, which a Minneapolis jury could hand down any day. Americans demonstrated by the millions last summer when the ill-fated Black man died under the knee of a White police officer. At least 14 persons died in the violence and property damage reached \$2 billion. Black Lives Matter and Antifa activists have vowed a repeat performance if now-former Officer Derek Chauvin is not found guilty of second-degree murder.

James O'Keefe of Project Veritas sues Twitter for alleged defamation

Egged on by Big News playing on untethered emotions, the tragic events of the past year are pushing citizens toward a race-based brink. Obsession over skin color and ethnicity make these times dangerous, but wise Americans will swipe away from their "smart" devices the images of strife and lock their gaze on the hue of their shared humanity. As it is written, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

— *The Washington Times*

Dems poured fuel on fire

As the nation braces for another round of summer riots, fueled by the radical left's slogan of "no justice, no peace," lamenting our country's "systemic institutional racism," it's important to remember which political party has sought to bring down the collective temperature through bipartisan compromise.

Last summer, Republican Sen. Tim Scott, introduced a police reform bill that incorporated many of the Democrats' demands, like making lynching a federal hate crime, creating a commission to review the nation's criminal justice system, aggregating data on use of force by police, banning the use of choke holds by federal officers and punishing state and local law-enforcement agencies if they failed to do so, and similarly, when and if they failed to report to the Justice Department when no-knock warrants were used.

Mr. Scott's efforts were in good faith. He told his Democratic colleagues he was open to compromise and would support amendments to his bill. If it passed the Senate, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi could've crafted it more to her liking in negotiations before sending it to the president to sign.

It was the only shot of passing real, bipartisan police reform last year, and it never even made it to Senate floor for debate.

Democrats used the same filibuster they're now calling racist to block it. It was all political, Democrats didn't want to

give Republicans a win before the presidential election, and even more sinisterly, used the civil unrest to fire up their base.

Merrick Garland: Derek Chauvin federal probe open despite verdict

Sen. Richard Durbin called Mr. Scott's bill a "token, half-hearted approach," paying no heed to the fact Mr. Scott is Black and has personally experienced discrimination by law enforcement. Mrs. Pelosi went even further, describing Mr. Scott's bill as "trying to get away with murder, actually. The murder of George Floyd."

One party was seriously looking to harness the passion and energy of the American public into real reform, the other was only trying to further inflame and divide.

"We lost — I lost — a vote on a piece of legislation that would have led to systemic change in the relationship between the communities of color and the law enforcement community," Mr. Scott said last year after his bill was shot down.

In advance of the verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial, Democrats continued to pour fuel on the fire, with Rep. Maxine Waters calling on protesters to "get more confrontational" if they didn't like the outcome of the case.

The end result? More violence in the streets, less compromise in Washington. Democrats have proven they aren't serious about real police reform, and have embraced anarchy instead.

— *The Washington Times*

PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

Why are we still committed?

When President Joe Biden announced he would withdraw all U.S. troops from Afghanistan by the 20th anniversary of 9/11, GOP hawks like Sens. Mitch McConnell and Lindsey Graham responded predictably.

"Grave mistake," muttered McConnell.

"Insane," said Graham, "dumber than dirt and... dangerous."

Of more interest were the responses of conservative Republicans who commended the president. Among them were Sens. Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, Josh Hawley and ex-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, a group that contains several potential candidates for the GOP nomination in 2024.

Donald Trump himself weighed in Sunday, saying Biden's decision was "wonderful," but Joe should have stuck to Trump's May 1 deadline for withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Adding a veteran's voice to the broad consensus was the American Legion which called for an end to America's "forever war," and repeal of congressional authorizations to fight this war.

While many older Republican leaders remain wedded to a Bush foreign policy, some of the prospective leaders of the party seem to be adopting their own versions of "America First."

Opportunity may be at hand. The door may be open for a leader to articulate a new U.S. foreign policy vision, beginning with a review of our Cold War commitments that became irrelevant with the collapse of the Soviet Empire and breakup of the Soviet Union three decades ago.

Consider. NATO, which dates back to 1949, today contains 30 allied nations, while U.S. security treaties with South Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand all date back to the 1950s.

How do all these war guarantees to other nations secure our vital interests, when our first vital interest is to stay out of any great war?

Door may be open for a leader to articulate a new U.S. foreign policy vision.

According to The New York Times, a 2020 survey by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs found, "Republican voters preferred a more nationalist approach, valuing economic self-sufficiency, and taking a unilateral approach to diplomacy and global engagement."

Almost half of Republicans surveyed agreed that the "United States is rich and powerful enough to go it alone, without getting involved in the problems of the world."

A survey by pollster Tony Fabrizio found that "only 7 percent of Republicans prioritize national security and foreign policy issues."

The opportunity is transparent.

As domestic concerns are predominant — the COVID-19 pandemic, the invasion across our Southern border, soaring crime rates, race relations as raw as they have been in decades — it is time for U.S. statesman to look out for America and Americans first, and let the world look out for itself.

Biden is a perfect foil — a trans-nationalist and globalist committed to the whole panoply of old security treaties and war guarantees that had existed for a generation even before he came to Washington 50 years ago.

The favorable reaction to his pullout from Afghanistan should have told Biden that. And it should tell Republicans that now may be the time to seize the moment.

Let Republicans openly reject the Biden administration's unilateral commitments to fight China for tiny reefs claimed by the Philippines in the South China Sea and Japan in the East China Sea.

And, surely, it is time for that "agonizing reappraisal" of NATO promised by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles in the 1950s.

Why are we still committed,

under NATO, to go to war with Russia on behalf of Germany, when the Germans, with their Nord Stream 2 pipeline, are doubling their dependency on Russia's natural gas?

According to the Atlantic Council President Richard Haas, the U.S. should abandon its policy of "strategic ambiguity" as to what we would do if China attacks Taiwan — and make a commitment to defend Taiwan.

But why should the United States commit to a war with China for an island President Richard Nixon conceded in 1972 was part of China?

Among the reasons Trump won in 2016 is that he offered a foreign policy of easing tensions with Vladimir Putin's Russia, getting us out of the endless wars of the Middle East, and making free-riding allies pay the cost of their own defense.

Yet, though, currently, we have commitments to fight for 29 NATO nations, there is a push on among our foreign policy elites to add new nations, such as Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Finland and Sweden.

But, again, why surrender our freedom to decide whether to fight?

As for South Korea, Japan and Taiwan, each could build a nuclear deterrent, as Israel, Pakistan and India have done. If a war were to be fought with China that could go nuclear, why would we want to be a mandatory participant?

Among the reasons the U.S. emerged victorious in the 20th century was that we stayed out of the two world wars longer than any of the other great powers.

"Don't ever take a fence down until you know the reason it was put up," wrote G. K. Chesterton. Sound advice. But some of these fences were built before most Americans were born, and the world has changed.

Patrick J. Buchanan is the author of "Nixon's White House Wars: The Battles That Made and Broke a President and Divided America Forever."

RICH LOWRY

Establishment missing immigration

It's not 2007 again. But apparently no one has told George W. Bush.

To coincide with the release of a book of his paintings of immigrants, "Out of Many, One," the former Republican president wrote an op-ed in The Washington Post plugging the sort of immigration package that went down to defeat in both his administration and in the administration of his successor, Barack Obama.

Bush is an unusually sincere, earnest politician whose views on immigration are deeply felt and honestly come by — they are just anachronistic, or should be.

If there's any lesson that everyone should have learned from Donald Trump's takeover of the Republican Party, it's that the party's old consensus on immigration is no longer sustainable.

Yet there's still a reflex toward the lazy conventional wisdom that all that ails the country on immigration is lack of an agreement to give an amnesty to illegal immigrants already here and increase numbers of legal immigrants, in exchange for more bells and whistles at the border — what is commonly known as "comprehensive immigration reform."

Bush says not passing immigration reform is his biggest regret, and John Boehner, out with a score-settling memoir of his time as speaker of the house, says it is his second biggest regret (after not forging a big fiscal deal with President Obama).

Boehner spends a lot of time meditating on how the GOP became, in his telling, "Crazytown," a party of extremists and paranoiacs that

The Republican establishment still doesn't get it on immigration.

eventually threw itself into the arms of Donald Trump.

The former speaker spreads the blame widely, but it evidently doesn't occur to him that one major factor driving a wedge between the party's establishment and its grassroots was the elected leadership's insistence on repeatedly trying to pass immigration bills that Republican voters rejected.

For his part, Bush sounds as if he's learned nothing. In his Post piece, he cites all the usual measures at the border included in these sort of bills — "manpower, physical barriers, advanced technology, streamlined and efficient ports of entry."

That's all fine, but it is no substitute for rigorous enforcement in the interior of the country and can't counteract the open-borders message sent by welcoming illegal immigrants into the country.

In that regard, Bush professes, as all supporters of comprehensive immigration reform always do, to oppose amnesty as "fundamentally unfair to those who came legally or are still waiting their turn to become citizens."

He then calls for an amnesty couched as, in one of the laziest cliches in the immigration debate, bringing illegal immigrants "out of the shadows."

This will be achieved "through a gradual process in which legal residency and citizenship must be earned," by

requiring "proof of work history, payment of a fine and back taxes, English proficiency and knowledge of U.S. history and civics, and a clean background check."

Such requirements are always promised in comprehensive immigration bills and are always toothless, serving only as a way to deny that the amnesty for illegal immigrants is indeed an amnesty.

Bush says, as well, that both parties should be willing to get behind "increased legal immigration," a characteristic feature of these bills. In another tired talking point, Bush insists that a higher level of immigration is necessary to bringing more skilled immigrants — never considering that we could also reduce the number of low-skilled immigrants.

But supporters of the old consensus aren't especially keen on understanding the arguments of opponents. Boehner refers to the "far-right crazies" who never forgave John McCain for pushing immigration reform, and blames "demagogues" and sheer "stubbornness" for blocking a comprehensive bill in 2014.

So far this year, Republican senators have only talked of a narrower immigration bill focused on an amnesty for so-called Dreamers. Surely, though, the instinct toward comprehensive immigration hasn't gone away. It's up to Republican voters to constantly remind the party's officeholders that 2007 is, indeed, a very long time ago.

Rich Lowry is editor of National Review, a leading conservative magazine founded by William F. Buckley.

LETTERS

The Journal welcomes letters, comments or suggestions: President and Publisher Jim Prince
jprince@onlinemadison.com

Madison County Publishing Co. Inc.
293 Commerce Park DR, Ridgeland, MS 39157
onlinemadison.com
Telephone: 601.853.4222

BIBLE SELECTION

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. — **1 Corinthians 15:20-22**

Alleged trafficker arrested with 40 pounds of marijuana

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@onlinemadison.com

About 40 pounds of marijuana allegedly being trafficked by a Wyoming man were seized Monday by Madison County Sheriff's deputies patrolling I-55.

Charles Zach Fornes, 69, of Wyoming was arrested and charged with trafficking in controlled substances and careless driving.

Chief Deputy Jeremy Williams said a deputy saw Fornes driving on I-55 on Monday evening.

day evening.

Williams said that the deputy noted the vehicle with Wyoming plates driving in a manner he determined to be dangerous when he made the stop.

Madison County Sheriff Randy Tucker announced the seizure in a social media post accompanied by a picture of several packages of what appeared to be marijuana.

The authorities have not said



Charles Fornes

where on I-55 the stop was made.

"Madison County Sheriff's Department interdiction doing work on I-55," Tucker's post read. "I'm honored to work with the finest law enforcement anywhere in this country. These men and women put it on the line every day and the results speak for themselves! Bad guy headed to jail and good guys headed to their families."

Flatgard elected head of Archives board

By STAFF REPORTS

Ridgeland's Spence Flatgard has been elected president of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Board of Trustees.

The election came during a regular meeting of the MDAH Board of Trustees on Friday after Reuben Anderson announced his plans to retire.

"Mississippi has been uplifted by Justice Anderson's leadership, character and grace," said Flatgard. "We all stand on his shoulders and those of former board presidents Mayor Kane Ditto and Governor William Winter. We invite every Mississippian to visit our world-class museums and compelling sites throughout our state to reflect on our rich history and look ahead to our bright future together."

Anderson joined the board in 2007 and was elected president in 2020.

After becoming the first Black student to graduate from the University of Mississippi School of Law, Anderson began his career during the 1960s as a civil rights attorney with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Legal Defense Fund.

In 1977, Anderson became the first African American to be appointed a county court judge in Mississippi. In 1982, he became the state's first African

American circuit court judge, and he became the first African American to serve on the Mississippi Supreme Court in 1985.

Anderson was instrumental in the creation of the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, helping to raise \$20 million for its construction.

Most recently, Anderson served as chair of the Commission to Redesign the Mississippi State Flag, which recommended a new design to represent the state.

"Reuben Anderson has made history all his life, and he did no less at MDAH," said MDAH director Katie Blount.

"From the beginning, he shared Governor Winter's vision for the Two Mississippi Museums, and his strong public advocacy ensured the project's success. With strength and moral clarity, he led Mississippi in choosing a new flag that elevates our state and unites our people. I speak for all the staff as I say that we are honored by his leadership and proud of what we have accomplished together."

Anderson said, "I am proud to be succeeded by Spence Flatgard, who will be a strong leader for MDAH, drawing on his thorough understanding of the agency's work and his broad network of contacts both in the public and private sector."

"Like Kane Ditto and myself, Spence is a great admirer of Governor William Winter and shares his conviction that we cannot move forward together without a shared understanding of our history. Spence will lead this outstanding board with character and commitment, and I look forward to watching MDAH flourish in the coming years."

Flatgard began his career as Sen. Roger Wicker's first Legislative Director and has served as State Bond Attorney for both Govs. Barbour and Bryant.

He is now a government affairs attorney and partner at Watkins & Eager, PLLC, located two blocks from the Two Mississippi Museums.

Flatgard serves as attorney for the Madison County Election Commission.

He and his wife Lou Ann cheer for their daughter Andie's basketball teams as their family pastime.

A new trustee will be elected to fill Anderson's seat in July.

Members serve six-year terms. Other members of the board of trustees of the Department of Archives and History are Hilda Cope Povall of Cleveland, vice president; Nancy Carpenter, Columbus; Betsey Hamilton, New Albany; Web Heidelberg, Hattiesburg; Edmond Hughes, Ocean Springs; Mark Keenum, Starkville; and Helen Moss Smith of Natchez.

ACT

Continued from page A1

"No matter what you're doing, whether it's the ACT, your job, or any type of class, it will pay off if you work hard," he said.

Deanna Wilbourn, a junior at Madison Central who made over a 30 on her ACT, thanked her parents, Victoria and Richard Wilbourn, for pushing her to be a better person and to strive for a good education.

"This took a lot of effort that I was willing to put in, and a lot of people around me pushed me to do it," Wilbourn said.

"I'm really glad they did."

Wilbourn is planning to major in pediatrics or pre-med and is thinking about majoring in business if those fields do not work out.

"I am so thrilled to be part of the ACT 30+ Club and I'm so happy and proud of all my fellow students for getting good scores as well," she said.

Magnolia

Continued from page A1

buildings with 71,000 square feet of space for restaurants, retail and professional offices.

Johnston's office is situated in the heart of The Magnolia District in a cottage-style house that was built in 1903 and has been in Johnston's family since 1972.

"I feel incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to express my passion for development and construction on a project

with which I have a lifelong, personal connection," Johnston said.

Johnston's development partner is Chuck Bell, a Madison pharmaceutical executive and entrepreneur.

"The rich history and beauty of The Magnolia District site in historic downtown Madison make this project unique," Bell said. "I love history and I think we have the opportunity to create an environment that offers modern amenities in a warm, historically inspired setting."

The developers are working closely with the city of Madison to ensure that the Magnolia Dis-

trict will blend seamlessly with the Madison at Main development that the City of Madison has planned for its adjacent property.

The developers said they hope The Magnolia District will continue to serve as a catalyst for the development of the City's property.

"I am glad to see all of the activity at The Magnolia District," said Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler. "I am also pleased that the historic buildings on the site were preserved. I know this will be a wonderful addition to downtown Madison."

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES/J. Ligon Duncan III

Christ: Our only hope in life and death

Please turn in your Bible to Colossians 1:21-23. Previously in this letter, Paul told us that Christ is the one who has reconciled us to God. Christ is the agent of reconciliation which the Father has appointed. Therefore, Paul wants to drive home one grand point which is that Christ is the sole and sufficient Savior of His people. And in this passage, Paul applies that truth in four different ways. First, Paul says that all people apart from Christ are out of fellowship with God. Secondly, he tells us that all people in Christ are fully reconciled to God. Thirdly, he says that God purposes to perfect all His people. Fourthly, and finally, he tells us that Christians must strive toward the hope of the gospel and rely on Christ.

I. All People Apart From Christ Are Out of Fellowship With God.

In verse 21, Paul tells the Colossians that they "once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds." In other words, he is describing the state of people who are not believing and trusting in Christ. What does it mean to be out of fellowship with God? To be alienated and estranged? It means to not be in a living relationship of blessing with the only Being in the universe who is able to bring blessing. If we are alienated from God, we are apart from hope of being blessed. The Apostle Paul says that unbelievers are estranged and hostile in mind, and he goes on to say that in light of that truth that they do wicked works. Apart from Christ, you cannot do things for the right motives, for the right reasons, for the right goal, and with a right interest in serving your neighbor, and serving God. As human beings, we are intrinsically self-centered. We are naturally disobedient to the law of God, and the Apostle Paul says, this is the state of a person apart from Christ. There are only two relationships in which human beings stand to God. Either we are alienated from God or we are reconciled to Him. There is no blessing outside of Christ. There is only blessing inside of Christ. Thus, Paul is saying to the Colossian Christians, "Remember what you were. You have seen your lives change. That is evidence that Christ is the sole and sufficient Savior." That is the first great truth that Paul teaches.

II. All People In Christ Are Fully Reconciled To God.

In verse 22, Paul says, "He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death." If you are in Christ, you have been, past tense, reconciled to God in His death. In other words, Paul is saying that the cost of God reconciling you was born by Christ. He bore the cost of our being brought out of alienation and into the family of God. Furthermore, Paul is pointing out that this blood reconciliation, at the cost of the price of the death of the Son of God's love, provided full reconciliation. What makes you right before God? Christ, Him crucified, and your having the benefits of Christ by faith is what stands you before God reconciled. As the hymn writer said, "In heaven, we will be more happy, but not more secure." Do you see what he is saying? When you are reconciled to God as you have embraced Christ by faith in your present experience, because God has reached out to you in love and grace and drawn you to Himself, God has finished His hostility with you and He has finished your alienation from Him. You may be one day more holy than you are now. You may one day be more happy than you are now, but you will never be more reconciled to God than you are now. In glory we will be without tears, but we are no more secure in glory than we are now, because of the perfection of the reconciling work of Jesus Christ.

III. God Purposes To Perfect All His People.

Thirdly, Paul says it's not just that Christ has reconciled us and saved us from the punishment that we deserve, it's that God is working His plan in us to make us perfect. Specifically, Paul says that God has reconciled you as a believer "in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach." What does Paul mean when he says that God is going to present you before Himself "holy"? He means being cleansed from sin. He means being separated from the world to God for His service. What does he mean when he says that God will present you before Himself "blameless"? He means you are without any blemish whatsoever. No imperfection remains. What does he mean

when he says God will present you before Himself "beyond reproach"? He means that there is absolutely nothing that anybody could find in your character which was less than perfection. Paul says that is what happens when you are reconciled with God through Christ because that is what God is working towards. One day God will present you to Himself, holy, blameless, and irreproachable.

IV. Christians Must Strive Toward The Hope Of The Gospel And Rely On Christ.

Fourthly, Paul says in verse 23 that Christians must "continue in the faith, firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel." Paul is telling the Colossian Christians and us that we are to have our eyes fixed upon no other hope than Christ. How does Paul mean that we continue in the faith in this passage? First, Paul says that we are to be established which is to be well founded in the truth. Next, he says that we are to be steadfast which means that we are to remain loyal to the truth. And finally, Paul says that we should not be moved. In other words, he is saying, "Don't let someone come in with a message which tickles your ear and leads you away from that hope." Thus, Paul provides these three reasons why Christians shouldn't be dissuaded from the hope of the gospel.

We also face this temptation today. There are people who still peddle the teaching that we must add something else to Christ. In response, the Apostle Paul is saying, "If you have Christ, you have all the blessings that go with Christ. So do not look for Christ plus something else. Don't change the focus of your original hope." Paul is reminding us to only look to Christ for our assurance. Your good works provide a beautiful evidence of your being in Christ, but ultimately Christ is the ground of your assurance. He is solely sufficient. Rest on Him for your assurance of salvation. May God, by His Holy Spirit, enable us to believe in Christ alone as He is offered in the gospel.

The Rev. Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III is Chancellor and CEO of Reformed Theological Seminary. He can be reached at 601-923-1600 or by email at jhyde@rts.edu.

2021-2022 Schoolwide Planning Meetings Madison County Schools

School administrators of Title 1 schoolwide projects in Madison County Schools invite parents and community stakeholders to become involved in the educational process for children in Madison County.

Schoolwide planning teams will engage in comprehensive needs assessments (CNA) and program planning for school year 2021-2022 from April 19 through May 31, 2021. The purpose of a comprehensive needs assessment is to examine multiple sources of school data and prioritize needs. The data collected will help schools to assess the impact of instruction on student achievement, overall school success, school-home relations, and school-community relations. Analysis of data points will guide refinements to current instructional practices within schools for excellence in student achievement. Each school's comprehensive needs assessment will target data in five dimensions: student achievement, curriculum and instruction, professional development, parent and family engagement, and school context and organization.

Parents and community stakeholders may call school principals for details about program planning meetings and the CNA process. For information about the FY 2022 Consolidated Federal Programs Application (Titles I, II, III, and IV) for federal funds, contact Dr. Brenda Thompson, Federal Programs Director at 601.499.0800 or contact the principal at each school.

- Ann Smith Elementary School, 601-856-6621
- Camden Elementary School, 662-468-2833
- East Flora Elementary School, 601-879-8724
- Highland Elementary School, 601-853-8103
- Luther Branson Elementary School, 601-859-2743
- Shirley D. Simmons Middle School, 601-855-2406
- Velma Jackson High School, 662-468-2531

Submitted by:

Brenda Thompson, Ed.D., Federal Programs Director, Office of Federal Programs – Madison County Schools



Run Foster Run

in honor of
Foster Care Awareness Month

5K Run/Walk with a 1-mile kids fun run (ages 12 and under)

Thursday, May 6th @ The Township

Start times: 5:30 fun run and 6:00 for 5K

Start location: The Club

Proceeds benefit the foster care programs of Catholic Charities

To register visit: <https://raceroster.com/47030>





Providing Insurance and Financial Services

601-790-2600
www.Jdorsa.com



John Dorsa, CPCU

SPENCER
601-981-6080
CONCRETE
READY-MIX

Canton **Animal Hospital** Danny S. Prestel, D.V.M.
601-859-2703

3114 South Liberty (Old Hwy 51 S), Canton

FLORA
102 Jackson Street • Flora, MS 39071
www.fbclflora.org
601-879-8022

230 Hwy 51 North
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-206-8880
gotgear.com



CAPITOL BUILDING PRODUCTS COMPANY

OFFICE: 601.977.9990 112 Business Park Dr.
FAX: 601-977-8838 Ridgeland, MS

LARRY STACY SALES REPRESENTATIVE SPECIAL MILLWORK

MHC
SINCE 1927
MATERIALS, INC.
601-973-2093

First United Methodist Church
Corner of Liberty St. & Academy St. - Canton

9:30 Sunday School Wednesday Night Supper 5:30
10:30 Worship Service Worship 6:15

601-859-4621
www.fumccanton.com

The Nichols Center
Compassionate and Professional Care with Dignity and Sensitivity

1308 Hwy 51 N. Madison, MS 39110
Office 601.853.4343 / Fax 601.853.9691

Tico's Steakhouse
Thomas "Tico" Hoffman

1536 E. County Line Road • 956-1030

Mop Haik
5395 I-55N Jackson, MS
601-500-5555

Breeland
Funeral Home
And Crematory Service
Quiet Service With Dignity

3304 S. Liberty St. Phone: (601)-859-366
Canton, Ms 39046 Breelandfuneralhome.com

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
— John 3:16 (NIV)

Culpepper Funeral Home

P.O. Box 1310 11748 HWY 35 Kosciusko, MS 39090 662-289-4111
P.O. Box 71 3434 North Liberty St. Canton, MS 39046 601-859-2031

www.culpepperfuneralhome.com

Getting the Message/Rev. Chris Shelton

God's Word will prevail

This passage teaches us that God's Word will prevail over all opposition to it. The apostles had been warned previously by the Jewish leaders not to teach in the name of Jesus. Nevertheless, they continued to proclaim the gospel of Christ in the temple, and were doing mighty works (verse 16).

This provoked the authorities to arrest them, but God sent an angel to break them out with instruction to go right back into the temple and proclaim the way of life in Christ. Thus we are reminded the chief mandate of the church is to proclaim the gospel of Christ. The apostles obey the command. The guards eventually find them and bring them before the court for another trial (22-27).

In the trial the authorities accuse the apostles of disobeying orders, as well as making them to be responsible for Jesus' death. The apostles admit to both charges. However, their response is that we must obey God rather than men; and the Jewish leaders did in fact put Jesus to death (29-30).

The apostles remained steadfast by holding to the truths they confessed. First, as they prayed in chapter four after their first arrest, God is the maker of heaven and earth, who is sovereign over all. God is the Almighty, perfectly holy and good God, the Maker, Preserver, and Governor of all, who deserves our whole trust, love, and obedience. He sent the Lord Jesus for salvation of sinners.

Secondly, God raised Jesus from the dead, and has exalted him to his right hand as Prince and Savior (verse 31). The apostles had been sent by this Jesus for the task they were doing in the temple. We are entrusted with our Master's talents for his service, to do our best in our places, to promote his Name, to propagate his gospel, to serve his church. He is the Lord.

Third, Christ is the only name under heaven whereby men must be saved. The apostles are proclaiming repentance and forgiveness of sins to people who are under the sentence of death. This free, reconciling grace is being offered from heaven. The apostles know very well the depths of love and grace they have received. They long to see their fellow Israelites know the same Lord and life.

The reaction of the Jewish leaders to the apostles' response is fierce anger. They wanted

to kill them, but a respected leader named Gamaliel stood up and appealed to them. We will learn later in Acts that Saul of Tarsus was one of his students.

Gamaliel was aware of the disposition of the people in the temple. Most had not joined the apostles, but were witnessing great miracles. He knew that putting the apostles to death could cause a great disturbance.

Therefore he urges caution. He speaks to angry religious people in a way they will listen. He tells them of examples of movements that seemed to take off well at first, but then the leader died and the followers dispersed. The movements came to nothing. In the case of the apostles, he says do nothing now. If it is of God we can't stop it, but if it is not, it will fizzle out. He reasons like a fallen man.

The Lord undoubtedly used Gamaliel to preserve the apostles, but Gamaliel's reasoning wasn't wise. He didn't consider the fact that the apostles asserted their leader was alive forevermore. Jesus had risen; he wasn't going to die again. Nor did he acknowledge that Jesus was at the right hand of God, and apart from him men will perish. Gamaliel ignored the plain teaching of the apostles.

Peter had said, "We are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." Gamaliel placed his own reason above that of God. To distrust ourselves is highly reasonable, but to distrust God is heinous sin and folly.

Gamaliel refused to obey the gospel, that is, the command to come to Christ. He would have had to leave his position to do so. Preserving his position motivated his speech (and denial of Christ). He will be ashamed of his love of position when he sees the Lord, but the apostles will not be ashamed of their fidelity. We must commit body and soul to the Lord Jesus Christ without reservation or equivocation.

The apostles suffered a beating from the council and were let go. They rejoiced they were worthy to suffer for the Name (verses 40-41). It is the will of our heavenly Father that we love and obey Christ and it is our honor to uphold his name in this world.



Providing Insurance and Financial Services

601-790-2600
www.Jdorsa.com



John Dorsa, CPCU

Natchez Trace
Funeral Home
MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY & CREMATORY

Funeral Home, Cemetery, Crematory
Mausoleum, Pet Columbarium,
Memorials & Cremation Benches

All in ONE location

Stop by anytime for a tour!
Pre-Need Financing Available!
Locally owned and Operated!
601-898-8565

AMS
MORTGAGE
License # 46249

DAN D'AMICO License #46776
VICKIE GRAVES License #46774
601-607-4750 office
601-607-4727 fax
www.amsmort.com

Mississippi Licensed Mortgage Company
7738A Old Canton Road, Madison, MS 39110

Ozborn Communications, LLC

"Wireless Communications & Public Safety Equipment Since 1975"

www.ozborncommunications.com

201 N. Hargon Street PO Box 307 Canton, MS 39046 24 Hr. Phone 601-859-3433 sales@ozborncommunications.com

Preserve the Trees
Thru Greater Depths
853-8700
Supertalk 97.3 FM
Saturday 10 a.m.
Atlas Foundation Repair

www.allcreaturesacc.vetsuite.com

All Creatures ANIMAL CARE CENTER
262 New Mansdale Road • Madison, MS 39110

Telephone (601) 856-5333 Fax 856-1979

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
9:00am & 10:30am
WORSHIP 9:00am, 10:30am & 6:00pm

First Baptist MADISON

Dr. Ronnie Falvey, Senior Pastor
2100 Main Street • FBCCMadison.org • 601.856.6177

CARSHOP INC.
HONDA • ACURA • LEXUS • TOYOTA

114 Centre Street • Ridgeland, MS 39157 Maintenance & Repair
www.HondaCarShop.net 601-991-9663 We do it all.

Barnett's BODY SHOP

5 locations to serve and 24 Hour Towing Service
Ridgeland 601-856-0700 Richtland 601-664-9770
Lakeland 601-939-9700 South 601-372-0042
Shil9328@gmail.com Gluckstadt 601-499-1700

Mississippi's leading resource for office products and business communications solutions.

ABS Copier and Printing Mailing and Shipping

5442 Executive Plaza Jackson, MS 39206 601-362-9192 www.ABSMS.com

HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE
Compassus
Serving with Heartful Compassion

Tammy Foster Executive Director tammy.foster@compassus.com 3010 Lakeland Cove Suite Z-1 Flowood, MS 39232 601-996-0492 601-956-9755 601-981-9354

Prime Care Nursing
CAREGIVERS/NURSES
ALL AGES • 2-24 HOURS a Day
pcnursing.com 601.977.8484

SCOTT PETROLEUM CORPORATION
www.scottpetroleuminc.com

2494 South Liberty Canton, MS 39046
Office: 601-859-3601 Fax: 601-859-3602 Call: 662-571-9960 vmartin@scottpetroleuminc.com

Area Churches

- BAPTIST**
BROADMOOR BAPTIST
1531 Highland Colony Pkwy., Madison 601-898-2345
BUCK HORN BAPTIST
2193 N. Old Canton Rd. Canton 859-7039
CALVARY BAPTIST
441 Washington St., Canton 859-7431
CANTON BIBLE BAPTIST
815 Dr Martin Luther King Dr. N. Canton 859-2003
CENTER TERRACE BAPTIST
605 E. Peace St., Canton 859-4186
CHURCH OF THE HIGHLANDS
670 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland
COLONIAL HEIGHTS BAPTIST North-park Dr., Ridgeland
COUNTY LINE MISSIONARY BAPTIST
109 Lula Baptist Church Rd. Flora 879-8404
DAMASCUS BAPTIST
3964 Hwy. 22, Flora 662-746-5938.
FAIRVIEW MISSIONARY BAPTIST
1278 N. Old Canton Rd. Madison 605-2090
FARMHAVEN BAPTIST
420 Pat Luckett, Canton 859-7238
FEARNS CHAPEL
FREEWILL BAPTIST
Old Pocahontas Rd., Flora 879-3525
FIRST BAPTIST
3316 S. Liberty St., Canton 859-3172
FIRST BAPTIST OF FLORA
102 Jackson St., Flora 879-8022
FIRST BAPTIST OF MADISON
2100 Main St., Madison 856-6177
FIRST BAPTIST OF RIDGELAND
302 W. Jackson St., 856-8724
FIRST STOKES CHAPEL BAPTIST
459 Third Ave., Canton 859-7911
FRANKLIN BAPTIST
Hwy. 22 W., Flora 879-3415
GOOD HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST
1828 Cox Ferry Rd., Flora 879-3913
GRACE CROSSING BAPTIST CHURCH
598 Yandell Road, 601-427-0163
GREATER RICHMOND GROVE BAPTIST
Complex Rd., 856-2209
GREATER ROSS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST
Gluckstadt Rd., Madison 856-8778
GREATER ST. MATTHEW MISSIONARY BAPTIST
3796 N. Liberty St., Canton 855-0240
HARVEY CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST
242 Ragsdale Rd., Canton 859-8811
HIGHLAND COLONY BAPTIST
Jay Richardson, Pastor
1200 Highland Colony Pkwy. 856-4031
HUMBLE JERUSALEM BAPTIST
420 Hwy. 16 W., Canton 859-0654
JONES CHAPEL BAPTIST
Pocahontas Rd., Flora 879-3447

- LIBERTY BAPTIST**
815 W. Fulton St., Canton 859-6407
LIVINGSTON MISSIONARY BAPTIST
Livingston Church Rd., Flora 879-3400
MADISON COUNTY BAPTIST FAMILY LIFE CENTER
349 N. Canal St., Canton 859-9132
MAGNOLIA HEIGHTS BAPTIST
206 Pine St., Flora 879-8122
MARY GROVE BAPTIST
Rankin Rd., Canton 859-5771
MARY MAGDALENE BAPTIST
1457 Loring Rd., Canton 859-2448
MOUNT ABLE BAPTIST
Hwy. 43 S., Canton 859-3511
MOUNT LEVI BAPTIST
1008 W. Fulton St., Canton 859-8720
MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST
Gluckstadt Rd., Madison 856-5862
MOUNT ZION BAPTIST
514 W. North St., Canton 859-2453
MOUNT ZION COBBVILLE BAPTIST
4206 Hwy. 51, Canton 859-5692
MT. CENTER MISSIONARY BAPTIST
468 Robinson Springs Rd. Flora 879-3117
MT. ELAM MISSIONARY BAPTIST
306 Mt. Elam Rd., Flora 879-9094
MT. HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST
201 Patrick Rd., Canton 855-0052
MT. LEVI BAPTIST
Hwy. 22, Canton 859-8720
MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST
1397 Way Rd., Canton 859-1133
MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST
111 Mt. Olive Church Rd., Madison 853-3100
MT. PISGAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST
793 Pisgah Bottom Rd. Canton 859-4329
NEW BETHEL BAPTIST
101 James Ave., Canton 859-2829
NEW BIRTH FELLOWSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST
837 Old Agency Rd., Madison 856-5279
NEW LIFE BAPTIST
385 N. Old Canton Rd. Madison 856-8722
NEW TRULIGHT BAPTIST
363 John Day Rd., Canton 859-5237
OLD RICE ROAD BAPTIST
82 Old Rice Rd., Madison 853-7500
OLD TRULIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST
128 Summerlin Rd., Canton 859-3555
PILGRIM REST BAPTIST
239 Crawford St., Madison 856-2609
PILGRIM REST MISSIONARY BAPTIST
701 Hwy. 43, Canton 859-6716
PILGRIM REST MISSIONARY BAPTIST
852 Madison Ave. #A, Madison 856-2609
PILGRIM REST MISSIONARY BAPTIST
409 Main, Madison 856-2609
PINE GROVE MISSIONARY

- BAPTIST**
249 Pine Grove Rd., Canton 855-2060
PLEASANT GIFT MISSIONARY BAPTIST
2055 Pleasant Gift Rd., Canton 859-3004
PLEASANT GREEN BAPTIST
3920 Hwy. 43 N., Canton 859-5186
PLEASANT GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST
2184 Hwy. 22, Canton 859-5101
PRIESTLEY CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST
Virilia Rd., Canton 859-8449
RIDGECREST BAPTIST
7469 Old Canton Rd., Madison 853-1090
RIDLEY HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST
1034 N. Livingston Rd., Madison 853-1068
RISING CHAPEL BAPTIST
127 Rising Chapel Rd., Canton 859-4393
ROCKY HILL BAPTIST
390 County Barn Rd., Madison 856-0759
SHADY GROVE BAPTIST
168 Shady Grove Rd., Flora 879-3380
SHARON COMMUNITY BAPTIST
114 Church St., Canton 859-5656
SIMMONS MEMORIAL BAPTIST
118 Memorial Rd., Flora 879-8105
SIMON HILL BAPTIST
139 W. Ridgeland Ave., 853-2669
SMITH CHAPEL BAPTIST
323 Livingston Vernon Rd. Flora 879-9110
SMITH CHAPEL BAPTIST
Hwy. 49 S., Flora 879-8185
SOUTH LIBERTY BAPTIST
531 S. Liberty St., Canton 859-1279
SOUTHERN HILLS MISSIONARY BAPTIST
1419 Hwy. 16 W., Canton 859-3523
ST. JAMES MISSIONARY BAPTIST
814 Old Yazoo City Rd. Canton 859-3001
ST. PETER MISSIONARY BAPTIST
2300 Stump Bridge Road Camden, MS
STOKES CHAPEL BAPTIST
902 Stokes Rd., Flora 879-3826
TRACE RIDGE BAPTIST
238 Lake Harbour Dr. 898-2003
TWIN LAKES BAPTIST
673 Lake Cavalier Rd. Madison 856-2305
UNION HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST
4549 Hwy. 22, Flora 879-9060
VICTORY BAPTIST
420 Hoy Rd., Madison 856-4260
WILSON GROVE BAPTIST
Cox Ferry Rd. NE, Flora 879-8602
WOODMAN HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST
468 Kearney Park Rd., Flora 879-83470

MADISON COUNTY JOURNAL Your Hometown Newspaper
Subscribe online today at mymcj.com

'Idol's' Everhart starting band

By JOHN LEE

john@onlinemadison.com

Gluckstadt's Hannah Everhart, who was recently eliminated from "American Idol" after reaching the Top 24, said her musical journey has only just begun.

The young singer is already putting together a band and she also hopes to do studio recordings and get her music produced in the near future.

"American Idol" gave me a huge platform," Everhart said. "Even though I'm still getting a band together and just starting with my gigs, I'm not starting entirely from ground zero. After seeing me on the show, people know to look for my name and see when I'm putting new music out."

Everhart said being on "American Idol" was a learning experience.

"I learned something new each round," she said. "Now I've hit the ground running and plan to keep singing and writing music. I hope to inspire people from small towns like where I am from."

On the night she was eliminated, Everhart recalled Katy Perry commenting on one of her recent Instagram posts. The comment read, "Just the beginning." Everhart said that let her know that Perry believed in her and still does.

"If you want to do things like pursuing a career in music, the first thing to do is believe in yourself," Everhart said. "If you don't, no one else will believe in you. Confidence is always key, and even if you're scared to do something at that moment, do it. You will inspire so many people, as I have."

Everhart plans to travel to



Hannah Everhart, who is coming off a recent appearance as a Top 24 finalist on this season's "American Idol," has landed

Panama City, Florida, this week to sit in for a song or two with The Lil'skinny Band.

A musician's definition of "sitting in" is to participate in

the group as a guest, usually to play a couple of songs. This usually occurs at the invitation of someone in the band.

Everhart said she also

back home and is preparing for the next phase of her music career. In the meantime, she enjoys time on her farm.

played a gig April 17 at the Bird Dog Cafe in Laurel, and she said she wants to travel around the country, do gigs in other states and eventually

move to Nashville.

"American Idol" really was a learning experience. My voice is 10 times better than it has ever been just from going

on the show," she said. "My performance skills have gotten a lot better as well, and I want to use those skills to make a name for myself."

Everhart's mother, Nekia Everhart, said her daughter has a bright future ahead of her, and she has a lot of support from the rest of her family to keep moving forward in her music career.

"Hannah has learned so much from being on 'American Idol,' and she is blessed to have a huge platform from there to work off of for her career," Everhart said. "We are so proud of her and thankful for this wonderful opportunity God has given her. Hannah will always have our love and support."

Her father, David Everhart, said he also supports his daughter pursuing music as a career.

"Parents always want their children to chase their dreams and make a living doing what they love to do," he said. "We were in awe that Hannah made it as far as she did on 'Idol' and it showed her raw talent and great personality considering she had little experience going in."

David Everhart said that being authentic is the best thing anyone can do.

"Be yourself and that authenticity will shine," he said.

To stay updated on Everhart's music and where she will be performing in the future, follow her on Instagram @thehannahjevehart, and follow her Facebook page at www.facebook.com/thehannahjevehart.

LEGALS

LEGALS

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI-CHARLES PLUMPP PLAINTIFF VS. BETTY GRAHAM, HEIRS AT LAW OF MARY BRACEY, HEIRS AT LAW OF MARY GIBSON, HEIRS AT LAW OF BLANCE HINES, WILLIE B. THURMAN, LEROY THURMAN, and EARNESTINE RAMSEY DEFENDANTS NO.: 2018-1136CS U M M O N STO: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF BLANCE HINES NOTICE TO RESPONDENTS

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Charles Plump seeking to Quiet Title on the Property described in the heading of this lawsuit. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO MAIL OR HAND-DELIVER A COPY OF WRITTEN RESPONSE EITHER ADMITTING OR DENYING EACH ALLEGATION IN THE COMPLAINT TO: Cody W. Gibson and Wm. Scott Mullennix, 405 Tombigbee Street, Jackson, MS 39201. THIS RESPONSE MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF DELIVERY OF THIS SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT OR ADJUDGMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY OROTHER THINGS DEMANDED IN THIS COMPLAINT. YOU MUST ALSO FILE THE ORIGINAL OF YOUR RESPONSE WITH THE CLERK OF THIS COURT AS PROVIDED BY LAW. WITNESS MY SIGNATURE AND OFFICIAL SEAL, this the 1st day of April, 2021. RONNY LOTT CHANCERY CLERK, MADISON COUNTY BY: Ivy Stephens, D.C.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI CHARLES PLUMPP PLAINTIFF VS. BETTY GRAHAM, HEIRS AT LAW OF MARY BRACEY, HEIRS AT LAW OF MARY GIBSON, HEIRS AT LAW OF BLANCE HINES, WILLIE B. THURMAN, LEROY THURMAN, and EARNESTINE RAMSEY DEFENDANTS NO.: 2018-1136C SUMMONS TO: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF MARY GIBSON NOTICE TO RESPONDENTS

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Charles Plump seeking to Quiet Title on the Property described in the heading of this lawsuit. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO MAIL OR HAND-DELIVER A COPY OF WRITTEN RESPONSE EITHER ADMITTING OR DENYING EACH ALLEGATION IN THE COMPLAINT TO: Cody W. Gibson and Wm. Scott Mullennix, 405 Tombigbee Street, Jackson, MS 39201. THIS RESPONSE MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF DELIVERY OF THIS SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT OR ADJUDGMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY OROTHER THINGS DEMANDED IN THIS COMPLAINT. YOU MUST ALSO FILE THE ORIGINAL OF YOUR RESPONSE WITH THE CLERK OF THIS COURT AS PROVIDED BY LAW. WITNESS MY SIGNATURE AND OFFICIAL SEAL, this the 1st day of April, 2021. RONNY LOTT CHANCERY CLERK, MADISON COUNTY BY: Ivy Stephens, D.C.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI CHARLES PLUMPP PLAINTIFFS. BETTY GRAHAM, HEIRS AT LAW OF MARY BRACEY, HEIRS AT LAW OF MARY GIBSON, HEIRS AT LAW OF BLANCE HINES, WILLIE B. THURMAN, LEROY THURMAN, and EARNESTINE RAMSEY DEFENDANTS NO.: 2018-1136C SUMMONS

TO: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF MARY BRACY NOTICE TO RESPONDENTS

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Charles Plump seeking to Quiet Title on the Property described in the heading of this lawsuit. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO MAIL OR HAND-DELIVER A COPY OF WRITTEN RESPONSE EITHER ADMITTING OR DENYING EACH ALLEGATION IN THE COMPLAINT TO: Cody W. Gibson and Wm. Scott Mullennix, 405 Tombigbee Street, Jackson, MS 39201. THIS RESPONSE MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF DELIVERY OF THIS SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT OR ADJUDGMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY OROTHER THINGS DEMANDED IN THIS COMPLAINT. YOU MUST ALSO FILE THE ORIGINAL OF YOUR RESPONSE WITH THE CLERK OF THIS COURT AS PROVIDED BY LAW. WITNESS MY SIGNATURE AND OFFICIAL SEAL, this the 1st day of April, 2021. RONNY LOTT CHANCERY CLERK, MADISON COUNTY BY: Ivy Stephens, D.C.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ALABAMA - DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION ANFERNEE BROWN, PLAINTIFF. v. CHIQUITA CLARK, DEFENDANT CASE NO.-DR-2020-00600.00 ORDER OF PUBLICATION

CHIQUITA CLARK, whose whereabouts are unknown, is required by the 30th day following the last date of publication of this Order to answer: the Petition for Divorce and or other relief requested by ANFERNEE BROWN, or thereafter, default judgment may be rendered against KASEY CHIQUITA CLARK in case DR 202-603, in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Alabama. DONE this 19th day of January, 2021. S/ ANITA KELLY CIRCUIT JUDGE

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EDWARD CHARLES EVANS, DECEASED JESSICA EVANS, ADMINISTRATOR PETITIONER VS. JAVARIUS EVANS, LAKEISHA HOLLAND, STEPHANIE WALES and ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING A LEGAL OR EQUITABLE INTEREST IN AND TO THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN RESPONDENTS CIVIL ACTION NO. 20-cv-954(W) SUMMONS By Publication THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: All Unknown Heirs - At-Law of EDWARD CHARLES EVANS deceased. You have been made Respondent in the petition filed in this Court by JESSICA EVANS, Administrator for the Estate of EDWARD CHARLES EVANS, Deceased, Petitioner, seeking an adjudication pursuant to Sec. 91-1-27, et. seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, of an adjudication of the heirs-at-law of EDWARD CHARLES EVANS Deceased, and as such to be placed in possession of his Estate, and seeking related relief, as more particularly set forth in the Petition to Determine and confirm Heirs-At-Law on file in this civil action. The interest of the decedent in certain real property as more particularly described in the said Petition are included in the assets of the Estate. You are summoned to appear and defend against the Petition filed against you in this action at 8:45 a.m. on the 10th day of May, 2021 in the Chancery Courtroom of the Madison County Courthouse at 146 West Center Street, Canton, Mississippi, before Judge

James Walker, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for themoney or other things demanded in the Petition. You are not required to file an answer or other pleading by you may do so if you desire. Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this 30th day of March, 2021. RONNY LOTT, CLERK OF THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI 146 West Center Street, Canton, MS 39046 (S E A L) BY: Ivy Stephens DEPUTY CLERK Carolyn W. Jefferson (MSB #103213) Attorney for Petitioner 5760 Norland Avenue New Orleans, LA 70131504-430-2524

TOWN OF FLORA, MISSISSIPPI 2021 STREET OVERLAY PROJECT

Sealed bids for the **2021 Street Overlay Project** will be received until 10 A.M. Friday, May 14, 2021 at the office of the Town Clerk, Town of Flora, 168 Carter Street, Flora, MS 39071. All bids so received will be publicly opened and read aloud. All sealed bids shall be marked on the outside face of the envelope "**2021 Street Overlay Project**," and shall have the bidder's Certificate of Responsibility Number written on the outside of the envelope. If any envelope is not so marked, said bid shall not be opened and considered. The project generally consists of milling, base repair and overlay of various roadways in the Town of Flora. Contract documents are on file and can be viewed at Town of Flora, 168 Carter Street, Flora, MS 39071. Questions regarding plans and specifications should be sent to Tim Bryan, P.E. with the Madison County Engineer's Office at tim.bryan@madison-co.com or 901-790-2520. The Town of Flora reserves the right to waive any irregularities, to accept any bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town or reject any and all bids. Leslie Childress, Mayor Publication Dates: April 15, 2021 April 22, 2021 Madison County Journal

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROBERT GERALD BLAYLOCK, DECEASED CAUSE NO. 20-961 W STEVEN MICHAEL BLAYLOCK PETITIONER NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 5th day of April, 2021, by the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi, to the undersigned Executor of the Estate of Steven Michael Blaylock, Deceased, being probated in Cause No. 20-961 (W) on the docket of said Court, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this Notice, or they will be forever barred. THIS the 12th day of April, 2021. /s/ Steven Michael Blaylock Steven Michael Blaylock, Executor of the Estate of Robert Gerald Blaylock, Deceased PREPARED BY: Pamela L. Hancock, MSB #10676 Jeffrey B. McGuire, MSB # 104622 Jeanine M. Carafello, MSB # 10487 Attorneys for the Estate of Robert Gerald Blaylock HANCOCK LAW FIRM, PLLC P. O. Box 1078, Ridgeland, MS 39158 Telephone: (601) 853-2223 Facsimile: (601) 853-9693 Publish on: 4/15/21, 4/22/21, 4/29/21.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI-ESTATE OF WILLIAM K. PYRON, JR., DECEASED NO. 2021-302 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 12th day of April, 2021, by the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi to the undersigned Executor of the ESTATE OF WILLIAM K. PYRON, JR., DECEASED, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this Notice, or they will be forever barred. THIS the 12th day of April, 2021. /s/ Beverly B. Pyron Beverly B. Pyron, Executor of the Estate of William K. Pyron, Jr., Deceased /s/ Leonard C. Martin Leonard C. Martin BAKER, DONELSON, BEARMAN, CALDWELL & BERKOWITZ Post Office Box 14167 Jackson, Mississippi 39236 Telephone: (601) 351-2400 State Bar #1897 ATTORNEY

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DISPOSE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY TO:

Any and All Unknown Owners You are hereby notified that the property listed and described below was recovered and being held by the Madison County Sheriff's Department. **DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: 1988 Gray Ford Van VIN#1FMEE11W8HHB99850 seized from an unknown individual more than 15 years ago. Brown and Cream colored Chevrolet Van tag number HW1660 VIN number unknown seized from an unknown individual more than 15 years ago. 1995 Blue Oldsmobile Delta VIN#1G3AW69X2BX10397 seized from an unknown individual more than 15 years ago. White Ford Crown Victoria VIN#2FABP74F8JX126983 seized from an unknown individual more than 15 years ago. Chevrolet Tan Step Van tag number 8AVH902 VIN number unknown seized from an unknown individual more than 15 years ago. 1971 or 1972 Red and White Ford 100 VIN#F10YLN04049 seized from an unknown individual more than 15 years ago. Last known registration listed to T C Snell 240 Cotton Wood Dr. Jackson, MS 39213. Red Ford Tempo VIN#2FAPP3600PB151201 seized from an unknown individual more than 15 years ago. Green and White Sea-Doo Bombardier watercraft registration number M17144B seized more than 15 years ago. Last known registration listed to Leigh A. Avara 128 Spindlewood Dr. Madison, MS 39110. Said vehicles and or property being subject to disposition under the provisions of Section 21-39-21 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended having been the receipt or recovery of lost, stolen, abandoned, or misplaced personal property. **TO RECOVER SAID PROPERTY** If you claim an interest in the above described property which is subject of notice under Mississippi Code Ann. § 21-39-21 and wish to contest the disposition, you must within One Hundred and Twenty (120) days after receipt of this Notice or of the date of the first publication of this Notice, file a written claim signed by you contesting the disposition. If you file such a Notice, a copy of the said Notice must be served upon the attorney or representative providing this Notice by service of process in the same manner as any other civil cases. Said agent for process for the agency can be served at the following address: **Madison County Chancery Clerk's Office 125 West North Street Canton, MS 39046 Attention: Chancery Clerk Ronny Lott** If you do not file a claim stating an interest in the property within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date of the first posting of this notice, the above described property will be declared**

abandoned and the Madison County Sheriff's Department shall distribute or dispose of said property in accordance with the provisions of Mississippi Code Ann. § 21-39-21, to include public auction conducted by Sheriff Randy Tucker on the 16th day of August 2021, at 10:00 a.m., at the Madison County Sheriff's Department located at 2941 Hwy 51 Canton, MS 39046. Dated this 5th day of April 2021. Notice provided by: Ronny Lott Madison County Chancery Clerk Publish dates: April 15 and 22, 2021.

Notice of sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles for the following: 2007 NISSAN SENTRA, VIN # 3N1CB61E57L725310, \$2707.10, 1995 FORD MUSTANG, VIN # 1FALP42T4SF184310, \$2760.60, 1966 FORD F100, VIN # F10AK866193, \$2760.60. Public sale of these abandoned/unclaimed vehicles will be held on Friday May 7, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. at Gilmore Towing & Recovery, 124 E. State Street, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to all persons interested in or is anyway affected thereby, that owners Veracity, LLC have filed with the City Clerk/Administrative Director of the City of Madison, Mississippi, an application for rezoning a property from **A-1 (Agricultural District) to C-3 (Major Thoroughfare Commercial District)** as provided by the Official Zoning Ordinance of the City of Madison, Mississippi and has subsequently filed a request for amendment of the City's adopted Land Use Plan to conform to the rezoning application on the 1.56 acre property located at 1103 Highway 51 North, Madison County, Madison, Mississippi. Notice is further given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Madison, Madison County, Mississippi, will have a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 10, 2021, in the Municipal Courtroom of the Madison Justice Complex, at 2001 Main Street in Madison, Mississippi, and at such time, date and place hold and conduct a public hearing at which time all parties in interest and citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard thereon, either in person, by petition, or by counsel. For additional information, contact Madison City Hall, Planning Department at 601.856.7116. By: s/ Susan B. Crandall Susan B. Crandall, City Clerk Director of Finance and Administration Publication: April 22, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to all persons interested in or is anyway affected thereby, that owners Veracity, LLC have filed with the City Clerk/Administrative Director of the City of Madison, Madison County, Mississippi, an application for a **special exception to allow for a car wash in a C-3 (Major Thoroughfare Commercial District)** as provided by the Official Zoning Ordinance of the City of Madison, Madison County, Mississippi on the 1.56 acre property located at 1103 Highway 51 North, Madison County, Madison, Mississippi. Notice is further given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Madison, Madison County, Mississippi, will have a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 10, 2021, in the Municipal Courtroom of the

Madison Justice Complex, at 2001 Main Street in Madison, Mississippi, and at such time, date and place hold and conduct a public hearing at which time all parties in interest and citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard thereon, either in person, by petition, or by counsel. For additional information, contact Madison City Hall, Planning Department at 601.856.7116. By: s/ Susan B. Crandall Susan B. Crandall, City Clerk Director of Finance and Administration Publication: April 22, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to all persons interested in or is anyway affected thereby, that owners Veracity, LLC have filed with the City Clerk/Administrative Director of the City of Madison, Madison County, Mississippi, an application for a **variance for a side yard (south side) setback decrease from 100 feet to 15 feet which is required where abutting an A-1 (Agricultural District) in a C-3 (Major Thoroughfare Commercial District)** as provided by the Official Zoning Ordinance of the City of Madison, Mississippi and has subsequently filed a request for amendment of the City's adopted Land Use Plan to conform to the rezoning application on the 1.56 acre property located at 1103 Highway 51 North, Madison County, Madison, Mississippi. Notice is further given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Madison, Madison County, Mississippi, will have a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 10, 2021, in the Municipal Courtroom of the Madison Justice Complex, at 2001 Main Street in Madison, Mississippi, and at such time, date and place hold and conduct a public hearing at which time all parties in interest and citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard thereon, either in person, by petition, or by counsel. For additional information, contact Madison City Hall, Planning Department at 601.856.7116. By: s/ Susan B. Crandall Susan B. Crandall, City Clerk Director of Finance and Administration Publication: April 22, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the owner of the property located at 234 Clark Farm Rd., specifically parcel number, 072B-09A-048/00.00 within the City limits of Madison, Mississippi, that a public hearing will be held May 4th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the City of Madison Justice Complex, located at 2001 Main Street entrance off Crawford Street), to determine whether or not the property identified above is in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public health, safety and welfare of the community. If such a finding is made, the governing authorities may proceed to utilize the remedies and procedures established in Miss. Code Section 21-19-11, and may thereafter by resolution adjudicate the actual cost of cleaning the property and may also impose a penalty not to exceed One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) or fifty percent (50%) of the actual cost, whichever is more. An adjudication at the hearing that the property or parcel of land is in need of cleaning will authorize the municipality to reenter the property or parcel of land for a period of one (1) year after the hearing without any further hearing if notice is posted on the property or parcel of land and at the Madison Police Department at least seven (7) days before the property or parcel of land is reentered for cleaning. Miriam Ethridge, Director Code Enforcement Madison The City (601) 856-7116 methridge@madisonthecity.com

Registration still available for New Stage camps

By JOHN LEE
john@onlinemadison.com

for New Stage Theatre's 2021 summer camps.

Early Bird registration is underway now through May 1

This summer's camps will be in person with two age-appropriate camps are avail-

able. Students currently enrolled in first through sixth grades in the 2020-2021 school year can participate in the First Stages Camp, Monday through Friday from June 7 through June 18.

There will be two sessions to choose from, morning and afternoon.

Students also will have two sessions to choose from, morning and afternoon.

The Early Bird cost of the First Stages Camp is \$250, and the Early Bird cost of the Broadway Jr. Summer Camp Intensive is \$400.

After May 1, registration is \$300 for the First Stages and \$450 for the Broadway Jr. Camp.

Safety precautions will be in place. Masks will be required, temperatures will be taken upon arrival, and social distancing will be maintained, among other important requirements set forth by the CDC.

Graduating seniors will be able to register for the Broadway Jr. Summer Camp since in-person camps were not able to take place last summer.

"We are thrilled to open our doors and welcome students back to New Stage Theatre for in-person summer camps!" said Sharon Miles, education director at New Stage. "Students will work beside their peers to develop skills in acting, singing and dance and have a great time in the process."

The First Stages Camp will include games and structured improvisations. It will culminate in a showcase performance for invited friends and family. Camp participants will receive instruction in acting, improvisation, stage movement, musical theatre, dance, voice and diction, and auditioning.

The camp will conclude with a showcase performance open to family and friends. Titles under consideration are "Magic Tree House: The Knights at Dawn Kids," and "Seussical Kids."

The Broadway Jr. Camp Intensive includes an introduction to all elements of theatre production in daily classes. The end of the camp will be a fully-produced production presented for on New Stage's main stage. Titles under consideration are "Into the Woods, Jr.," "Hairspray, Jr.," and "The

Lion King, Jr.," Camp participants will receive instruction in acting, improvisation, stage movement, musical theatre, dance, voice and diction, and auditioning.

"We will be unpacking the lessons from this season for years to come, but we know that theatre enhances our quality of life," Miles said. "We hope to see you this summer!"

The camps incorporate more than 100 hours of instruction by theatre professionals with a combined 100 years of professional theatre experience.

For more information about the New Stage Theatre Summer Camps, camp registration, and ways to sign up for the scholarship auditions, visit www.newstagetheatre.com/educate/summer-camps.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Ridgeland hereby gives notice that its annual audited financial report for the year ended September 30, 2020 has been completed. Copies are available to the public at Ridgeland City Hall, 100 West School Street, Ridgeland, MS. The report is also available for viewing online at www.ridgelandms.org.

The following notice's form and content is controlled by Miss. Code Ann. Section 27-39-207. This section is to clarify the impact. Due to reduction in state funding, programs required by the legislature, increases in local operating costs and growth in enrollment, the District is requesting more local funding dollars for the 2022 school year than the District requested for the 2021 school year. Although the District will request more dollars for local funding, the total mils levied for school taxes are NOT anticipated to increase. Because the District is requesting more local funding for the 2022 school year, the law requires the District to publish the following notice verbatim, even though the total max mils for school purposes are NOT expected to increase.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AD VALOREM TAX EFFORT

MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
The Madison County School District will hold a public hearing on its proposed school district budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022 on May 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Madison County Schools Central Office, 476 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland, Mississippi. At this meeting, a proposed ad valorem tax effort increase will be considered.

The Madison County School District is now operating with a projected total budget revenue of \$133,944,424. Of that amount, 49 percent or \$66,086,402 of such revenue is obtained through ad valorem taxes. For the next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$135,481,510. Of that amount, (50 percent) or \$68,240,006 is proposed to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

For the next fiscal year, the proposed increase in ad valorem tax effort by Madison County School District may result in an increase in the ad valorem tax millage rate. Ad valorem taxes paid on homes, automobile tags, business fixtures and equipment, and rental real property.

Any citizen of the Madison County School District is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed ad valorem tax effort, and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.

Dallas man sentenced in DUI death

By STAFF REPORTS

MADISON — A Dallas man will serve 20 years after pleading guilty on Tuesday in the June 2020 DUI death of a Jackson grandmother on her way to work here.

Harrison Neal Little, 29, pleaded guilty in front of Judge Dewey Arthur on Tuesday to one count of driving under the influence resulting in death and

one count of leaving the scene of an accident resulting in the death of Betty Simmons.

Arthur sentenced Little to 20 years for each count with those sentences running concurrently.

At the sentencing hearing, Simmons' family spoke of what



Harrison Little

a kind and caring mother and grandmother she was.

Little apologized to the family and took complete responsibility for his actions in court.

"This man made an awful and reckless decision to drive drunk," said District Attorney Bubba

Bramlett Jr.

"That decision took the life of an innocent woman trying to go to work and forever changed the lives of Ms. Simmons' entire family. We are thankful for the Madison Police Department for their investigation. We continue to pray for Ms. Simmons' family."

The charges stem from an incident on June 10, 2020, at 4:43 a.m. At the time, officers with the Madison Police Department responded to a crash at the intersection of U.S. 51 and Hoy Road.

Betty Simmons was on her way to work at the Kroger on U.S. 51 in Madison when Little rear-ended her in the southbound lane and fled the scene. He was spotted headed west on Mississippi 463, thanks to witnesses at the scene.

MPD determined that Little was both speeding and over the legal limit for alcohol at the time of the accident.

Simmons died from her injuries later at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS

1, 2 & Bedroom Apartments

Crestview, L.P.

1119 Highway 49 N
Flora, MS 39071
601-879-8663
TTY: 711

Office Hours
Monday & Wednesday
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Appliances Furnished
Central Heat/Air
Laundry Facility Provided
Utility Allowance

For Information or to place an application call the office number above or come by the office

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

J&A Management
Corinth, MS
662-287-6158



GREEN OAK

FLORAL • GARDEN • HOME

NEW SHIPMENT OF HANGING BASKETS, COLOR BOWLS, ROSE BUSHES, TROPICAL PLANTS



MOTHER'S DAY
Sunday, May 9
Brighten her day
Order Early

HUGE SELECTIONS OF TREES AND SHRUBS
WE HAVE THE USUAL AND UNUSUAL

601-956-5017 | 5009 OLD CANTON RD, JACKSON
601-707-9440 | 1067 HIGHLAND COLONY PKWY, RIDGELAND

MON-SAT: 8:00 TO 5:30
SUN: 12:30 TO 4:30

greenoakms.com



Madison Middle wins Little Six Tournament

The Madison Middle School Girls Basketball Team defeated Clinton Jr. High to become the 2020-2021 Little Six Tournament Champions. Team members back row from L to R: Head Coach Rachel Earnheart, Doty Malouf, Virginia Phillips, Kamyryn Lucas, Ayonia Winters, Cameren Ward, Farrah Fulcher, Jasleen Rice, Shamiah Kidd, Asst. Coach Becky Morgan. Front row L to R: Kate Simpson, Lilly Callum, Haley Boyd, Avarie Cheeks, Lana Nabulsi, Carrington Burke, and Kambris Keys.

51st Annual Natchez Trace Festival

KOSCIUSKO, MISSISSIPPI

**SATURDAY APRIL 24
8 - 4**

Arts, Crafts, Music, Food,
Antiques, Kids Zone, Car Show,
Petting Zoo, & So Much More!



DOWNTOWN FUN FOR ALL



City of Ridgeland
Sanitation Fund
Statement of Revenue and Expenses
Year Ended September 30, 2020

	2019
OPERATING REVENUES:	
Garbage collection charges	\$1,173,425
Recycling collection charges	401,666
Interest	8,381
Total operating revenues	1,583,472
OPERATING EXPENSES:	
Contracted services – Garbage collection	1,037,693
Contracted services – Recycling collection	454,189
Total operating expenses	1,491,882
Net income	\$91,590

Note 1 – Contracted garbage and recycling collection services is composed of payments to Waste Management of Jackson Hauling, P.O. Box 55558, Boston, MA 02205.

Getting

YOU

Started Safely



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

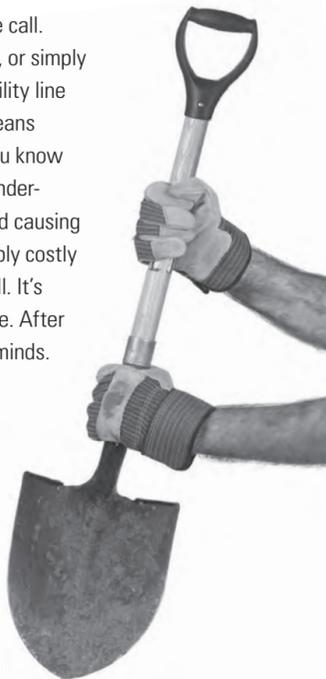
Call 811 before you dig.

When it comes to digging safely, you make the call. Whether you're working on a large excavation, or simply planting a tree in your yard, natural gas and utility line safety should always be job one – and that means calling 811 before you dig. Calling 811 helps you know where natural gas, electric, water and other underground lines are located. It also helps you avoid causing serious injuries, service interruptions, or possibly costly fines for damaged infrastructure. Make the call. It's easy. It's FREE. Respect the lines. Dig with care. After all, safety is in your hands, but always on our minds.

We're investing in infrastructure, technology and services that help keep you safe.

More information on natural gas safety is available at:

CenterPointEnergy.com/Safety.



ALWAYS THERE.®



Is there unclaimed money listed in your name? Maybe it was a refund sent to an old address or an inheritance you didn't know you had. About 1 in 10 people will find something! Discover your unclaimed money at Treasury.MS.gov/UnclaimedMoney

MADISON

PROPERTY ID#	NAME	ADDRESS	TOWN	AMOUNT
4974253	TURNER KELLY D	600 PEAR ORCHARD DR NO 327	RIDGELAND	OVER \$100
4116367	SUSAN L FLOWERS ULRICH ESTATE	109 GERMANTOWN RD	MADISON	OVER \$100
4823478	TYSON NADINE K	404 OLD RICE RD	MADISON	OVER \$100
4963583	HILL CHARLEY JR ESTATE	340 ARBOR DRIVE	RIDGELAND	OVER \$100
4529404	RUBLE MARGUERITE	206 DOMINICAN DR 4309	MADISON	OVER \$100
4240518	PARKWAY PROPERTIES LP	800 WOODLANDS PKWY STE 1	RIDGELAND	OVER \$100
4262478	SPECTRUM WIRELESS	103 SOUTH VALLEY COMMON	MADISON	OVER \$100
4963623	HILL CHARLEY JR ESTATE	340 ARBOR DRIVE	RIDGELAND	OVER \$100
4870038	WELLS JENNIFER	1014 N AZALEA DR	MADISON	OVER \$100
5073992	FOX EVERETT INC ATTN: GLENDA ALFORD	300 CONCOURSE BLVD STE 300	RIDGELAND	OVER \$100
5108756	ADVANTAGE RENT A CAR HERTZ	1052 HIGHLAND COLONY PKWY	RIDGELAND	OVER \$100
4888265	BROWN DAVID JR	309 COWAN STREET	CANTON	OVER \$100

More Madison County names at www.treasury.ms.gov



State Treasurer David McRae returns unclaimed money to the Mississippi State Department of Health.

Bassett competing for DYW title

By JOHN LEE
john@onlinemadison.com

Madison's Ashley Grace "Gracie" Bassett said she is proud and honored to compete as the Mississippi representative in the national Distinguished Young Woman of America competition this summer.

Distinguished Young Woman, formerly known as "America's Junior Miss," is a national nonprofit organization founded in 1958 that provides scholarship opportunities to high school senior girls.

Bassett, 17, is a home-schooled high school senior. She is the daughter William and Barbie Bassett, who is a meteorologist, traffic reporter and host of "Today at 11" at WLBT 3 in Jackson.

"When I was around 13 years old, I saw my mom, who used to be a pageant coach, helping girls participate in things like Miss Mississippi and Distinguished Young Woman," Bassett said.

"I asked her for help and advice, and I ultimately decided when I became a junior, I wanted to take part in Distinguished Young Woman and see what all the fuss was about."

She did just that and entered the local Madison County Distinguished Young Woman program, where she went on to win the local and state titles and became Mississippi's Distinguished Young Woman for 2021.

Bassett participated in the local program in person in January 2020 and competed virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the state program in September 2020.

In the programs, candidates are required to excel in five different categories: Scholastics, Interview, Self-Expression, Talent and Fitness.

Bassett said she was shocked to win the local and state titles.

"Even though it was a small program, I'd never done anything like Distinguished Young Woman or any type of pageant before, so it was way outside of my comfort zone," she said. "I have no regrets, though. It was overwhelming to win the local title and the same holds for the state competition."

The national Distinguished Young Woman competition will be held virtually on June 24, 25 and 26. Bassett said she will do her interviews with the judges over Zoom, and she will film herself for the fitness and talent portions, where she plans to perform a piano arrangement of "Whitewater Chopsticks" by Calvin Jones as her talent.

"I am incredibly proud and honored to be representing Mississippi in the Distinguished Young Woman of America program," she said.



Ashley Grace Bassett

"The people of Madison County have done a wonderful job of helping me with my journey. I am well aware of the wonderful community I have and I know they have my back."

Barbie Bassett said it has been a lot of fun from the very beginning watching her daughter start her journey with the local Distinguished Young Woman competition and that it is getting more and more fun every day as she prepares for nationals.

"This program has been priceless for Gracie's growth as she continues to approach adulthood," Bassett said. "I urge parents to encourage their children and support them along the way. Encourage them to step outside their comfort zone and challenge them in different areas."

William Bassett said it has been nothing short of amazing to see Gracie achieve her goals and see the fruits of her labor rewarded with success when she achieved those goals.

"This program pushed Gracie outside of her comfort zone in several aspects, and it motivated her to improve so that her dreams could be realized," Bassett said. "I am so proud of her."

To learn more visit www.distinguisheddyw.org.

IN YOUR CORNER, RIDGELAND!

You deserve a banking relationship you can rely on today and for all the years ahead. Stop by and visit Daniel and his team today!



The Citizens BankSM

320 Highway 51 North
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601.519.4020



Daniel Webb
AVP & Loan Officer

www.thecitizensbankphila.com



JACKSON'S BESPOKE JEWELLER

No Regrets

DIAMOND & RING DESIGN PROPOSAL PLANNING FINANCING & PAYMENT OPTIONS

THE DISTRICT AT EASTOVER | STE. D110 | 601.665.4642 | INFO@BECKHAMJEWELRY.COM