



FLORA

HISTORIC DEPOT LANDSCAPED

Landscaping — See page A8

FUNDRAISER

SEERSUCKERS & SOMBREROS

Annual event returns — See page A10



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MADISON COUNTY JOURNAL

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NEAR THE RENAISSANCE

No arrest in R'land I-55 shooting

By DUNCAN DENT duncan@onlinemadison.com

RIDGELAND — A suspect in the fatal shooting death of a juvenile driving southbound on I-55 in front of the Renaissance Saturday afternoon is still being sought, the authorities said.

The victim was identified as Lakendric Cortez Francis, 16, a junior at Canton High School, according to Ridge-

land Police.

A Facebook post by the Canton Public School District on Monday offered condolences.

"The Canton Public School District mourns the heartbreaking, tragic loss of LaKendric Francis who was a junior at Canton High School. We send our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to his family and friends.

"Our thoughts and prayers

are with you during this difficult time. His beautiful spirit will forever live on in the hearts and minds of the countless lives he touched," their statement reads in part.

Ridgeland Police Lt. Brian Myers said Wednesday that authorities are still investigating the Saturday afternoon incident.

"Things are moving forward," Myers said. "I have watched our detectives work

extremely hard on this case and we hope to have more information we can release soon."

Myers said all the shooting occurred on I-55, and they do not currently know the origin of the incident.

He said that reports that the incident started in Canton are "all speculation" and that he did not believe the incident to be due to road rage.

The shooting incident hap-

pened when a vehicle, a black four-door Infiniti sedan traveling southbound, was shot into on I-55 as it passed through Ridgeland.

Myers said the driver, Francis, was deceased on the scene and that an adult passenger was sent to the hospital with minor injuries and released the same day.

The vehicle came to rest just in front of the Hyatt Place on I-55, Myers said. He said

the call came in at 1:47 p.m. Sunday.

Myers said no damage to other vehicles or injuries were reported.

RPD is not currently releasing any information on a potential suspect or suspect vehicle.

The CHS Facebook post included information for students touched by the incident to seek counseling through the school.



Madison the City officials, America in Bloom representatives and others stand in front of the historic Montgomery House after breaking ground for the new Madison Station Botanical Garden last week. Pictured, from left to right, are: Alderman Guy Bowering,

Alderman Tawanna Tatum, Alderman Sandra Strain, Miriam Ethridge, Marvin Miller, Alan Hoops, Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler, Laura Kunkle, Alderman Pat Peeler, and Alderman Paul Tankersley.

Madison's 'Central Park' in the works

By JOHN LEE john@onlinemadison.com

The grounds of the Montgomery House right off Main Street will be the future "Madison Central Park" once the Madison Station Botanical Garden is complete, Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler declared last week at a groundbreaking ceremony.

"These grounds are special. The original owners of the Montgomery House have owned this property for five generations, and when we heard there was a possibility it would be sold with the land, my heart skipped a beat," Hawkins-Butler said during a groundbreaking event last week.

"We bought the land with approval from the Board of Alderman, and we look forward to citizens being able to enjoy the garden."

Hawkins-Butler, aldermen, State Rep. Jill Ford, and project sponsor America in Bloom representatives Laura Kunkle and Marvin Miller were present for the ceremony on April 21. Representatives of the Canadian National Railway, also a sponsor of the project, could not be present due to a corporate travel ban.

Hawkins-Butler said the garden project was just the beginning for the Montgomery House, and she is looking forward to people walking the grounds and children learning about the many types of plants that will be featured there.

"There's something so special about the Montgomery House, and it's the perfect place for Madison's central park," Hawkins-Butler said.

Miriam Ethridge, code enforcement officer for the City of Madison, said the Montgomery House

grounds are perfect for a garden.

"I want to thank the Board of Alderman and the Mayor for letting me pursue this dream," Etheridge said. "I also thank Canadian National Railroad and America in Bloom for allowing a great jumpstart to this."

Ethridge applied for a \$25,000 grant from America in Bloom, and the City of Madison matched that with another \$25,000, jumpstarting the project with \$50,000.

America in Bloom Executive Director Laura Kunkle said she felt something special when she arrived in Madison.

"We encourage communities to use flowers, plants, trees and other environmental enhancements. That sounds a lot like what we're seeing in See PARK, page A5

RIDGELAND

Mother pleads to sex assault on 2 sons

By DUNCAN DENT duncan@onlinemadison.com

A Ridgeland woman faces a possible sentence of between 20 years and life after entering a guilty plea Monday in a sexual battery case.

Dacoda Amber Ray, 35, pleaded guilty to two counts of sexual battery in Madison County Circuit Court Monday, April 26 in front of Judge Steve Ratcliff.



Dacoda Ray

"She pled without a recommendation of the State to two counts sexual battery," said Ashley Allen Assistant District Attorney.

Allen said Ray's sentencing is set for next Monday, May 3.

Ray has been charged with two counts of sexual battery against her own children, one of whom has since died.

In the fall of last year, Ratcliff ordered Ray to undergo a mental evaluation at the Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield after her attorney's petitioned for the evaluation.

"She was found to be competent at a hearing this term," Allen said.

Ridgeland Police Lt. Brian Myers previously told the Journal that Ray was initially arrested for disturbing the peace in relation to an incident at her grandparents' home in Ridgeland

See RAY, page A5

WOMAN IN CRISIS FINDS HOPE

'Heartbeat on the monitor' spoke

By DUNCAN DENT duncan@onlinemadison.com

Last summer, in the middle of a global pandemic, Brenda Jackson found out she was pregnant and didn't think she was in a position to have another baby but found a ministry that lovingly offered help and encouragement.

"I already had a daughter and felt I was not in a position to have another baby," Jackson said. "I was upset."

Unmarried and unsure of her options, Jackson turned to the Center for Pregnancy Choices in Fondren, an organization that for three decades has worked

with women offering alternatives to abortion.

The CPC is ministerial in nature and not political, "offering help, hope and healing to women and families in a time of crisis in their lives, as well as in the following years," their mission states.

Betty Hodge works with clients at the CPC. She said that in 2020 they saw about 262 women for medical care and have served an estimated 23,000 women since their founding in 1988.

The center first saw Jackson in June or July 2020. That next January, Jaxon Griffin was born three weeks early at 5 pounds,

14 ounces. For Jackson, her son has brought joy into their life.

"He has been doing good," Jackson said. "He smiles a lot and is just my everything right now."

CPC's medical services include a variety of checkups, but the signature service is a free ultrasound showing women the life growing in their bellies.

"That is the biggest thing for me," Jackson said. "I had taken an at-home test but the sonogram put it to rest the first time I saw that heartbeat on the monitor."

In addition to their medical offerings, the CPC offers other

See CPC, page A5



Brenda Jackson, then-pregnant with son Jaxon walks to the CPC with daughter Alivia.



More Reunion Parkway work set to begin

By SCOTT HAWKINS
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Work could begin early next year on Reunion Parkway Phase II and Phase III and Bozeman Road, engineers on the projects told the Board of Supervisors last week.

The combined cost of the projects is \$59.7 million with Reunion Phase II estimated to be \$24.5 million, Bozeman Road to be \$24.5 million and Reunion Phase III to be \$10.7 million.

Reunion Parkway Phase II will extend 1.2 miles from Bozeman Road to Parkway East, including a bridge over Interstate 55 that also includes four travel lanes, bike lanes, sidewalk and fiber optic cable placement along the extent of the project.

Reunion Parkway Phase III will eventually connect Phase II to U.S. 51 when funded.

Phase I of the project, connecting Mississippi 463 to Bozeman Road, was opened to traffic in 2006 and cost \$14 million, which was funded entirely by Madison County.

The county currently has much of the funding secured, including more than \$10 million from the Mississippi Legislature appropriated in the past two legislative sessions and much of the money has already been spent on the projects.

Supervisors are still working to obtain more funding from federal and state funds and grants for the projects.

Reunion Parkway Phase II

Ninety percent of the design work on the project that will extend four lanes, bike lanes, sidewalk and fiber optic cable

for 1.2-miles from Bozeman Road to Parkway East, including a bridge over interstate-55, has been completed and submitted to the Mississippi Department of Transportation for review, comment and approval, said Darrin Warren, senior project manager for Mississippi Engineering Group, which is the design engineering firm on the Reunion Parkway Phase II.

Up next will be meeting with MDOT, acquiring more right-of-way, advertising for construction bids, awarding contracts and beginning construction, Warren said.

Design work on the bridge is 90% complete and has been submitted to the Mississippi Department of Transportation's bridge division on April 12 for review, comment and approval, Warren said.

"They are continuing with their review of those plans (and) will be back in contact with us once that review is complete," Warren said.

Warren said he hopes the meeting with MDOT can be held in the next few weeks and he hopes to be able to advertise for bids for construction on the project between June and August. Once the project is advertised it takes two or three months to award a bid, he said.

District 3 Supervisor Gerald Steen asked if the construction contract could be awarded by the end of the year.

"We don't see any issue or concern at this point that would prohibit us from by the year's end being able to have bids in hand," Warren said.

District 2 Supervisor Trey Baxter asked if construction could start by the beginning of next year.



This map shows future traffic projects and some in the works, including Reunion Phase II and Reunion Phase III.

"Yes, sir," Warren said.

Baxter then asked about the acquisition of right-of-way property and whether any court processes could delay the work.

Warren said approximately 12 right-of-way parcels had to be obtained and some of those could go through a legal process.

"The right of way process could potentially impact the remaining items to get us to construction," Warren said. "That could possibly push the schedule back."

At the end of last week's meeting, supervisors went into executive session and later emerged to say they had voted to condemn one of the rights of way properties for acquisition.

Reunion Parkway Phase III

Brad Engles, senior associate, Stantec Engineers, which is conducting environmental studies and land acquisition on Reunion Parkway Phase III that would connect Reunion Parkway East with U.S. 51, said the environmental phase is complete and the company is in the process of acquiring rights of way.

"We have acquired all but three parcels and these parcels are currently in the domain process working their way through that," Engles said.

"We hope to have that resolved within the next two months at which time we will look at holding an office review and moving these plans forward. We have acquired all the right of way for the intersection of Green Oak and 51 improvements and those utilities are being relocated in that area. If all goes well with that,

we hope to have that portion under construction by the end of the year."

The construction on Phase III would take approximately a year, Engles said.

Steen asked about signalization efforts by MDOT on U.S. 51 to accommodate the project and Engles said it was on target to begin in September.

"Utilities are going fairly smooth, I believe," Engles said. "Hopefully, that will continue."

Then, Engles asked supervisors to sign off on a resolution in support of obtaining federal funds for the project.

"This resolution basically states that the Madison County Board of Supervisors supports requesting a member-directed project in the amount of \$4 million for the completion of the Reunion Phase III project," Engles said. "This is an important project for the growth and development of Madison County and we wholeheartedly support federal funding for this project."

The supervisors unanimously approved the resolution.

Bozeman Road project

Stan Wright of Neel-Schaffer Engineers told supervisors he is hopeful that a project to four-lane Bozeman Road from Mississippi 463 to Reunion Parkway with a raised median in the center and a multi-use trail could be advertised for bids by early next year.

"It is going to look basically like Highland Colony Parkway," Wright said. "We are also going to improve the intersection of Gluckstadt and Catlett starting basically at Belle Terre and going roughly 400-to-500 feet north onto Catlett. We will be adding a turn lane."

The project, Wright said, contains 55 parcels of land for

rights of way.

"That is a lot of parcels for a project of this size," Wright said. "Right now we have three in condemnation, and y'all have voted on those. I think you are aware of them. There are, roughly, 17 parcels still open."

Wright said owners of 12 of the 17 properties have verbally agreed to provide the right of way.

The complex part of the project, Wright said, is the utilities relocation.

"If anybody has driven down this road, you know how many utilities companies there are," Wright said.

The utility companies are working to relocate their infrastructure.

"We are still looking at about a year for those guys to be through," Wright said, "maybe a little less than a year for those guys to be through."

Wright said the county cannot advertise for bids on construction until the utility companies are through relocating.

"What we will do to expedite it quickly is instead of waiting until they are completely through to move on to that next phase, we are going to start the advertising and bidding phase, and that way the day they are through, we hopefully can put our contractor who wins the low bid out there as soon as possible," Wright said.

Steen asked how much it would cost to get design work done to carry the Bozeman Road work from Reunion Parkway north to Gluckstadt Road.

"I think we are looking at half a million dollars," Wright said. "Give or take. I would have to get some specific budgets. ... I'm basing that off of what we originally thought we were going to do and we ended up doing another scope."

Fine Arts Festival this weekend

By JOHN LEE
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RIDGELAND — The Ridgeland Fine Arts Festival is back in full swing this year and is Friday through Sunday at the Renaissance.

The festival is part of Ridgeland's 2021 Art Wine & Wheels Weekend and will feature juried artists from throughout the nation displaying and selling their work that includes clay, drawing/pastels, fiber, glass, jewelry, mixed media 2D and 3D, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and wood.

Admission to the festival is free and will include live music on two stages, a children's creative craft corner, a student art gallery, food trucks and more.

The children's craft corner will also be available from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The festival kickoff party

will be from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, April 30, with live music by Doctor Zarr's Amazing Funk Monster Band. Festival booths will be open from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The main festival begins from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 1 and activities continue from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 2 showcasing some of the finest artists in the U.S. while featuring live music, wine tastings and local food vendors.

The "wheels" portion of the weekend refers to the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks annual Natchez Trace Century Ride bike race that will take place on the Natchez Trace Parkway starting at 6 a.m. Saturday, May 1.

Live music at the Renaissance on May 1 will include:

Plaza Fountain Stage
• Anse Rigby (10 a.m. - 11 a.m.)

- Maliya Gorman-Carter (11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)
- Jesse Robinson (1 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.)
- The Jackson Gypsies (2:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.)
- Bill and Temperance (4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.)

Clock Tower Stage

- Zach Day (12 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.)
- Gena Steele (1:15 p.m. - 2 p.m.)
- Ralph Miller (2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.)
- Chris Gill (4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.)

Live music May 2 will include:

Plaza Fountain Stage

- The Hustlers (11:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.)
- Dem Bones (12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.)
- Shannon McNally (2 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.)
- Raphael Semmes Quarter feat. Barry Leach (3:45 p.m. - 5 p.m.)

Clock Tower Stage

- Maliya Gorman-Carter (11 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.)
- Cole Hill (12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.)
- Stace & Cassie (1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.)
- Jason Turner (3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

For more information about the festival, visit www.artwineandwheels.com.

(USPS 687-570)

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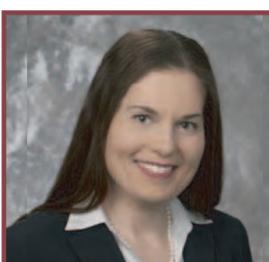
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Sheriff finally getting rid of vehicles seized decades ago

By DUNCAN DENT
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Madison County Sheriff Randy Tucker would like to get rid of eight vehicles that have been collecting weeds behind the jail but has to get them declared abandoned first.

Sheriff's Department spokesmen and command staff have said that the vehicles have been long forgotten and no institutional knowledge seems to exist as to their origin or where they belong.

"I don't have the foggiest clue," is about all Chief Deputy Jeremy Williams can say on the subject.

Descriptions of the vehicles include a 1988 Gray Ford Van seized from an unknown individual more than 15 years ago and a green and white Sea-Doo Bombardier last registered to a Leigh A. Avara of 128 Spindlewood Drive in Madison and was seized more than 15 years ago.

ago. "We really don't know anything about any of these items. They have been impounded behind the jail for some time and were seized two if not three sheriffs ago," Williams said. "We have no reports or paperwork that I can find on these vehicles. I wish there was."

As of April 15, members of the public have 120 days to file a written claim to any of the vehicles. After 120 days the Sheriff's Office may dispose of the vehicles at auction on Aug. 16 at 10 a.m., according to the notice. The notice was published through Madison County Chancery Clerk Ronny Lott's office.

Other subject vehicles are:
• A brown and cream colored Chevrolet Van seized from an unknown individual more than 15 years ago.
• 1988 blue Oldsmobile Delta seized from an unknown individual more than 15 years ago.

ago. • A white Ford Crown Victoria seized from an unknown individual more than 15 years ago.

• A Chevrolet Tan Step Van seized from an unknown individual more than 15 years ago.

• A 1971 or 1972 red and white Ford 100 seized from an unknown individual more than 15 years ago. Last known registration listed to a T.C. Snell of 240 Cotton Wood Drive in Jackson.

• A red Ford Tempo seized from an unknown individual more than 15 years ago.

Tucker received unanimous approval from the Board of Supervisors at their April 5 meeting to put up a notice for the vehicles and hold an auction on Aug. 16.

"We have dug them out of the weeds, traced VIN numbers and been able to locate two names," Tucker said.

Man pleads to killing Domino's driver

By DUNCAN DENT
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CANTON — A Canton man received a life prison sentence April 21 after he pleaded guilty earlier this month to a pair of shootings that left one woman dead and a man with a gunshot wound to his face in the winter of 2019.

Terrence J. Caldwell, 27, of Canton pleaded guilty on Monday, April 5 in Madison County Circuit Court to the December 2019 murder of Domino's Pizza driver Helerica "Latrice" Dortch and the attempted murder of gas station attendant Ranjit Singh.

Assistant District Attorney Ashley Allen said Caldwell received a life sentence on the capital murder charge plus 10 years on the attempted murder charge in Madison County Circuit Court.

Madison County Sheriff's deputies arrested Caldwell, then 25 years old, on Dec. 19, 2019, in connection with the two incidents in December

2019. Caldwell was arrested on charges of capital murder, attempted murder, two counts of armed robbery, felon carrying a concealed weapon, taking a motor vehicle and sexual battery.

Madison County Sheriff Randy Tucker said in a press release at the time that Caldwell was the only suspect in the shooting of Singh and the murder of Dortch.

Tucker said the arrest came as a result of an investigation conducted by his office, the United States Marshal Service, the Lexington Police Department, the Holmes County Sheriff's Department, the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation and the Canton Police Department.

Singh was shot in the face at approximately 4 a.m. Dec. 19, 2019, when he was working at the JASCO on Peace Street in Canton.

Dortch, a Domino's Pizza delivery driver, was found dead Dec. 17, 2019, near the site of her abandoned car in a rural

part of Madison County west of Canton. Dortch had first been reported missing on Friday, Dec. 13, 2019.

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.

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EDITORIALS

Court-packing is partisan

In the most memorable — albeit apocryphal — quote of the Vietnam War, it was said of U.S. troops in the 1968 Battle of Ben Tre against the Viet Cong, "We had to destroy the village in order to save it."

The same could be said of radical Democrats' equally apocalyptic intent to pack the Supreme Court with four liberal activist judges: "We had to destroy the Supreme Court in order to save it."

On April 15, Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts and Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York announced the newest iteration of the judicial "nuclear option." They're demanding the addition of four more judges to a court whose membership has stood at nine for 152 years.

Mr. Markey and Mr. Nadler unpersuasively dispute the accusation that they're out to pack the court. To the contrary, Mr. Nadler risibly insisted, they're actually seeking to "unpack" the court — "unpack" it, that is, of its current 6-to-3 majority of constitutional conservative justices appointed by Republican presidents.

That's because the left views the current court as standing athwart a utopia to be imposed by unelected left-wing judges.

James O'Keefe, Project Veritas sues CNN, Ana Cabrera for defamation

Those four new justices would be chosen by President Biden, who would surely nominate not just left-wing activist judges who disregard the Constitution, but jurists who would send a Chris Matthews-style thrill up the legs of affirmative-action racial, ethnic and gender bean counters.

Messrs. Markey and Nadler are undaunted by then-Sen. Joe Biden in 1983 having correctly characterized President Franklin D. Roosevelt's misbegotten 1937 bid to pack

the court as a "bonehead idea" and "a terrible, terrible mistake."

FDR sought to add not four, but six, new justices to the high court, which had been ruling much of his New Deal agenda unconstitutional. He expected his six-pack would supply the votes to crash through that roadblock.

Curiously, the Markey-Nadler court-packing scheme came just six days after Mr. Biden on April 9 empaneled a 36-member commission to "study" the issue of court "reform" for the next six months. The president did so despite reaffirming, as recently as October, that he was "not a fan of court-packing."

It's unclear why Messrs. Markey and Nadler couldn't wait for the commission's (preordained?) findings, when its report might give them cover smoke for their subversion of the judiciary.

Their move also comes despite the fact that now-deceased liberal icon Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Justice Stephen Breyer, the court's senior liberal, both spoke out against court-packing.

In a July 2019 interview with NPR, Justice Ginsburg said court-packing "[i]f anything, would make the court look partisan." Justice Breyer on April 7 said it would erode the public's confidence in the legitimacy of the court's decisions and the belief that its rulings are driven by legal principles and not politics.

FDR's court-packing ploy was rightly rejected by Congress, including by his fellow Democrats. The Markey-Nadler end-justifies-the-means scheme should meet that same fate.

— *The Washington Times*

Dear, Earth Day

Earth Day arrives annually on April 22, the height of the Northern Hemisphere's spring season when nature rejuvenates and the environment looks its best. The occasion is no celebration of life, though. Rather, it comes with an alarming screech that the planet is doomed without extraordinary government rescue. Fortunately, it is not, since officialdom is more adept at spending than saving.

Earth Day 2021 carries a rather innocuous theme of "Restore Our Earth," but it also features a panicky, pandemic-era call to action: "As the world returns to normal, we can't go back to business-as-usual." Two days of environmental advocacy, including a youth-focused "Earth Uprising" and a "We Shall Breathe" hip-hop caucus prefaced the actual occasion. Presentations featured such topics as "climate and environmental literacy," "climate restoration technologies" and "reforestation efforts" — all attended virtually, of course.

Coinciding with Earth Day is President Biden's own online climate change summit, designed to signal the nation's recommitment to global activism. His predecessor had parked the U.S. climate bandwagon owing to its detrimental impact on an economy already leading the world in greenhouse gas reduction. If the Biden policy prescribes an ambitious 50% emissions cut below 2005 levels by 2030, then Americans may be looking at life under a "green" regime. Abundant and affordable fossil fuels would be squeezed out in favor of renewable solar, wind and biofuel power costing trillions of dollars.

Few complaints would emanate from activists who regard the man-made threat to Mother Earth so dire that use of the

term "climate change" must be cancelled in favor of "climate emergency." Prominent publications that include Scientific American, Columbia Journalism Review and The Guardian have vowed to censor their pages accordingly.

Additionally, CNN is doing its part to boost the environmental extremism agenda, according to the channel's technical director: "Climate change is going to be the next COVID thing for CNN." Fear sells," admits one Charlie Chester on a recent Project Veritas candid-camera appearance.

His comments may be embarrassingly unguarded, but they are not untrue. Fear is profitable, and a recent CBS News poll is proof that decades of global-warming warnings have achieved their intended effect. The survey found that 56% of respondents believe climate change must be addressed "right now." Only 21% said climate is not an issue requiring action.

A question about those frozen with fear: What planet are they on? There is no "control knob" on Earth with the power to regulate the climate, write Richard Lindzen and William Happer, professors at MIT and Princeton, respectively, in National Review. Human-generated carbon dioxide, treated as if it were as frightfully deadly as the invisible coronavirus, has rendered the planet a deeper shade of green reminiscent of historical eras when humanity experienced prosperity, not scarcity.

If the Biden blueprint for a "green" nation is adopted, Americans can only hope that Earth Day isn't renamed Dearth Day.

— *The Washington Times*

PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

D.C. statehood power grab

"How many legs does a dog have if you call his tail a leg?" asked President Abraham Lincoln, who answered his own question:

"Four. Saying that a tail is a leg doesn't make it a leg."

And Congress' saying that D.C. is a state would equally contradict truth and reality, as our nation's capital lacks all of the attributes of a 51st state of the Union.

Whence came our capital of Washington, D.C.?

The city was carved out of Maryland and Virginia in 1790, which voted to cede 100 square miles on the Potomac for a capital city of the United States to become the domicile of the federal government.

In 1846, Virginia's share of the land, some 32 square miles, was ceded back. What was left was today's Washington, D.C., of 68 square miles.

Is that sufficient for a state of the Union? Only if one wishes to change the character and composition of that Union.

Consider. The smallest state for 230 years has been Rhode Island. At 1,214 square miles, it is still 18 times as large as D.C. If D.C. were to become a state, it would be a microstate, smaller than every one of the 24 remaining counties of the state, Maryland, from which it was carved.

The Maryland counties that border D.C., Montgomery and Prince George's, are eight times the size of Washington, D.C., and each has a million people, dwarfing the 700,000 residents of D.C.

Directly across the Potomac in Virginia is Fairfax County, also eight times as large as D.C., and with hundreds of thousands more people.

Supporters of statehood say D.C. has more people than Wyoming.

True, but Wyoming is also roughly the size of the United Kingdom, and more than 1,000 times the size of Washington, D.C.

Even by the standards of American cities, Washington

Making D.C. a state would send two Democrats to the Senate indefinitely.

ranks no higher than 20th in population.

Texas — with Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and Fort Worth — and California — with Los Angeles, San Jose, San Diego and San Francisco — both have four cities larger and more populous than our aspiring city-state of D.C.

By the terms of its admission to the United States as a state, the Republic of Texas was ceded a right to split into as many as five states of the Union, which it was joining, FDR's future vice president, the Texan John Nance "Cactus Jack" Garner, was all for it.

"An area twice as large and rapidly becoming as populous as New England should have at least ten Senators," Garner told The New York Times in April 1921, "and the only way we can get them is to make five States, not five small States, mind you, but five great States."

Statehood for little D.C. could start a trend where mega-cities like Chicago and New York, with five and 10 times the size and population of D.C., secede from their respective states and seek full statehood as well.

What is at the root of this drive to make D.C. a state?

The answer may be found in the political character of our capital city.

Since the 23rd Amendment was ratified, 60 years ago, D.C. residents have voted in 15 presidential elections. In all 15 elections, D.C.'s three electoral votes have gone to the Democratic nominee.

Even in the 49-state Nixon and Reagan landslides of 1972 and 1984, D.C. went four- and five-to-one Democratic. In eight presidential elections since 1990, the GOP nominee has failed to win 10% of the

D.C. vote.

Since the mid-1970s, D.C. has had home rule and, in every election since, has chosen a Democratic mayor and a Democratic city council.

How irredeemably Democratic is D.C.?

Voter registration statistics in the city as of last December was 403,000 Democrats and 30,000 Republicans, a ratio of 13-1.

Which brings the question: What is D.C.'s grievance that America must somehow rectify by making it a state?

Answer: Democrats want D.C. to have two senators to cement their control of the U.S. Senate, as they pack the Supreme Court by expanding the number of justices from nine to 13.

This is a naked national power grab — pure and simple.

If the real concern were the inability of the D.C. electorate to vote for members of Congress, that could be remedied — by returning the residential portions of D.C. to Maryland, whence they came, or by allowing D.C. residents to vote in Maryland's congressional elections.

Making D.C. a state would send two Democrats to the Senate indefinitely. But it would violate the constitution and compact under which the nation was founded. And it would start a stampede for other disfiguring alterations, like packing the Supreme Court by adding four new justices.

Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and American Samoa could soon follow and enter claims to become states of the American Union.

And a second unraveling of the republic would begin.

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

Joe Biden's radical gambit

There's believing your own press releases. And then, there's believing your own delusions of grandeur.

Joe Biden should look at the mirror every day and see a president elected on the basis of the unpopularity of his predecessor at a time when the country was slammed by a once-in-100-years pandemic.

Instead, by every account, he sees a transformative leader with a mandate to change America as rapidly and irreversibly as possible.

As the news site Axios noted, Biden wants his next 100 days to be "more audacious" than his first 100, as he seeks "to re-engineer the very fundamentals of America — inequality, voting rights and government's role in directing economic growth."

Oh, is that all? Biden's drive to make himself the next FDR and erect a massive progressive edifice on the slightest of political foundations is monumentally arrogant and almost certainly bound to fail.

Biden is contemplating the sort of the bait-and-switch that rarely goes over well. Yes, the policy plans he ran on last year were further to the left of Barack Obama's and of Biden's own lengthy record as a U.S. senator. But Biden described himself as a moderate who wanted to work with Republicans and restore a sense of normality to Washington.

He said, as he put it when urging Republicans not to fill the Ruth Bader Ginsberg seat on the Supreme Court, "We need to de-escalate, not escalate."

No one listening to that or a thousand other things Biden

With his legislative margin of error so thin, it's unlikely that Biden will get his way on much besides spending and taxes.

said during the campaign would have had him pegged as the guy who'd immediately set about making wrenching changes in the American way of life.

For a would-be FDR, Biden doesn't seem to understand that a fundamental source of the New Dealer's power was enormous congressional majorities.

FDR came into office in 1932 with almost a 200-seat majority in the House, 313-117, after Republicans lost more than 100 seats.

Biden came into office in 2020 with a bare 9-seat majority in the House after Democrats surprisingly lost ground all over the country. It's the narrowest Democratic House majority since the last two years of the administration of Rutherford B. Hayes.

In the Senate, FDR had 58 Democrats, as Republicans lost 12 seats in 1932 in one of the worst senatorial drubbings in history.

Biden has a 50-50 tie after Democrats eked out two special election victories in Georgia earlier this year, with Vice President Kamala Harris on standby to break ties.

The fate of Biden's legislative agenda hangs by a thread, depending on whether Sens. Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema, relatively moderate Democrats, support his pro-

posals. If FDR had been equally dependent on a couple of ideologically unsympathetic Democrats from the outset of his administration, he wouldn't be FDR.

If Biden feels emboldened by his first 100 days, he's defining achievement downward. FDR signed into law more than a dozen major measures addressing the Great Depression during his first 100 days, while Biden got a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill — a huge amount of spending, yes, but much of it is temporary.

Pro-Biden pundits are currently exulting that he has about a 53% approval rating, a respectable showing, if hardly a position of overwhelming strength from which to try to revolutionize the country. Importantly, FDR initially got even more powerful after 1932. Republicans dropped down to only 17 senators and 89 congressmen in 1936, whereas Biden will be lucky to hold on to his slender congressional majorities next year.

With his legislative margin of error so thin, it's unlikely that Biden will get his way on much besides spending and taxes. Almost all of his sweeping proposals, from federalizing elections to making D.C. a state, will fall by the wayside.

More to the point, it's wrong for Biden to attempt force through such radical measures when his mandate for them exists only in his ridiculously inflated self-image.

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

LETTERS

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BIBLE SELECTION

for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

— **Romans 14:11 (ESV)**



Mills sworn in as Circuit Judge

Rankin County Court Judge Kent McDaniel, at left, administers the oath of office to 20th Circuit Court Judge Brad Mills on April 23 in Brandon. Judge Mills' wife Adrian Westbrook Mills holds the Bible as their children stand close. Mills was sworn in as a circuit judge for Madison and Rankin counties last week after being appointed by Gov. Tate Reeves to fill a vacancy. Gov. Reeves appointed Mills to the 20th District Circuit Court vacancy created when he appointed Judge John Emfinger to the Mississippi Court of Appeals District 3 Place 2 in March. Mills' term is through Jan. 2, 2023.

Blount appears to unseat Sims in runoff

By SCOTT HAWKINS
scott@onlinemadison.com

CANTON — According to unofficial early returns from Tuesday's Canton municipal Democrat Party primary runoff, Markee Blount is the apparent winner over incumbent Daphne Sims for the Ward 4 alderman seat.

Blount got 97 votes to Sims' 56 votes, according to early unofficial vote counts, said Debra Brown, city clerk of Canton.

The early results do not include affidavit ballots that remained to be counted Wednesday before the results could be certified, Brown said.

The winner of the Demo-

cratic Party primary will be the winner since no Republican candidates ran for the seat.

Blount and Sims emerged the top vote-getters in the April 6 primary with Blount getting 67 votes, or 35.6% of the 188 total votes in that race, and Sims getting 51 votes or 27% of the votes in the race.

CPC

Continued from page A1

services that include counseling for the mothers and connecting them to support groups.

"When I went into the center the first thing they told me was that my feelings were valid, I was right to be scared but everything would be OK," Jackson said.

She said that her 6-year-old daughter, Alivia Christian, has gotten involved as well.

"She loves to hold him," Jackson said. "She wants to help out however she can and she is currently learning how to change his diaper."

Current numbers collected by the Centers for Disease Control say that 3,005 abortions were recorded in Mississippi in 2018.

Since Jackson has the lone abortion center in the state, all of those abortions occurred in Jackson.

Hodge said that their review of the best data suggests that roughly 60 babies are aborted every week in Jackson.

She said they believe about one in seven pregnancies in the

Jackson Tri-County area end in an abortion.

Of all the services the center offers their clients, Jackson said the most enduring resource has been the support group she built up along the way specifically through Embrace Grace.

Embrace Grace is a weekly Bible study that ministers to women while they are pregnant. It is roughly a 12-week class with a baby shower at the end where they receive gifts such as diapers and strollers for their soon-to-be newborn.

Hodge said they work with about eight churches in the area and Jackson would drive to Pearl every week to meet with her group.

Drew Baum, minister of Local and Congregational Care at Colonial Heights Baptist Church in Ridgeland, said they recently finished an Embrace Grace class of three women.

Baum said they have several church members who volunteer with the center and that he knew Hodge through a sports team their children were on. He said the church was happy to host the women and are considering hosting another round.

Jackson still keeps in touch with some of the ladies in her group who have formed a

weekly prayer group.

"God is still here and he loves me and my kids, and he will bless you even when a situation seems so terrible," Jackson said.

Jackson remains unmarried, though she said the father remains in her son's life.

She lives in Flora and has lived in Madison County for most of her life.

She is a 2010 graduate of Madison Central High School. Previously she worked at Mannsdale Elementary cafeteria but now spends all her effort on raising her children.

She is looking into a career in cosmetology, which Hodge said the CPC would work on getting her some scholarship funds for classes.

The Center for Pregnancy Choices offers a variety of ways to volunteer and get involved.

This weekend Saturday, May 1 they will host their annual Life Walk at the Flowood Nature Park.

Registration is the day of from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

For more information about CPC or how your church or group can get involved visit cpcmetrofriends.org or call (601) 487-1063.

Park

Continued from page A1

Madison," Kunkle said. "America in Bloom envisioned communities across the country as welcoming and vibrant places to live, work and play, which we also see in Madison."

Kunkle said the power and spirit of community involvement are both represented in Madison, and the city is doing things right.

"Everything that is being worked on here shows the residents and visitors that this city cares," she said. "Turning the Montgomery House into an oasis encourages the people in this city and visitors to stroll through here and take in the scenery."

Marvin Miller, former president and current treasurer of

America in Bloom, said the garden is not only going to be a benefit to the community but will also be an environmental benefit.

"Everyone knows plants are pretty, but they have a lot more to offer than that," Miller said. "One of the biggest benefits is that they create oxygen."

They're doing that job, whether you know they're around or not."

The Madison Station Botanical Garden is estimated to reach completion within the next two or three years. Contact the City of Madison for more information at 601-856-7116.

Ray

Continued from page A1

on Aug. 13, 2020.

Myers said Ray was then picked up by the Madison County Sheriff's Department from RPD custody in order to serve an indictment warrant for the sexual battery charges filed on Aug. 5, 2020.

According to a grand jury indictment, Ray is alleged to have committed sexual acts on her two sons between Aug. 1, 2017, and June 1, 2018. The children were between the ages of 6 and 9 at the time of the alleged interactions.

Ray's youngest son, Drake, died in 2019 by asphyxiation, choking to death on popcorn.

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES/J. Ligon Duncan III

Christ in you: The hope of glory

Please turn in your Bible to Colossians 1:24-28. Paul has been speaking about the sufficiency of Christ in his letter to the Christians at Colossae. And in this part of the letter, he transitions to tell the Colossians something about his ministry so that they will be confident that the message that they have heard is the fullness of the truth. He is emphasizing that he has not secretly kept something back from them that they needed in order to grow in their spiritual lives. Thus, there are three truths in particular which Paul addresses in this passage.

First, we see that by virtue of our union with Christ, we share in His sufferings. Secondly, we see that the gospel plan is an open secret, a revealed truth, made known by God. Thirdly and finally, we see that our hope is in our union with Christ.

I. By Virtue Of Our Union With Christ, We Share In His Sufferings.

In verse 24, Paul says, "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church." In other words, Paul is asserting in that phrase that he is suffering for the sake of the Colossians and, by extension, for all believers and that he is supplementing Christ's sufferings. By his use of the phrase, "filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions," Paul does not mean that Christ's sacrifice was insufficient. What Paul means is that the sufferings endured by the body of Christ while Christ is at the right hand of God are not done yet, and therefore all believers participate in those sufferings in this world where there is affliction and where there is persecution. And so when he speaks of what is lacking in Christ's affliction, he is speaking of the sufferings which we endure as the body of Christ while our head, the Lord Jesus Christ, is at the right hand of God. Paul's words remind us that no suffering or no affliction endured by a Christian is meaningless. We must never forget that our affliction is precious in the sight of the Lord because our affliction — as those who believe in Christ — is now part of the fellowship of His suffer-

ing. Furthermore, we must take care to minister to those who are afflicted and especially those

who are persecuted for the sake of Christ. When we see a brother or sister in Christ persecuted for the sake of the gospel, we are seeing with our own eyes the sufferings of

II. The Gospel Plan is a Revealed Truth Made Known by God.

In verses 26 and 27 Paul speaks of the mystery that has been hidden from the past ages and generations but which has now been made known among the Gentiles. Paul is contrasting two ideas of mystery. Paul knew that there were some of these new teachers at Colossae who were teaching the Colossians that they had a mystery, a secret knowledge, that they needed to know if they were going to have a deeper knowledge of God. In response Paul says, "Well I have a mystery, but this mystery is an open secret." For Paul, a mystery is not a secret code. It is something that we could not have known unless God revealed it to us. Specifically, Paul says that a mystery is something that has been hidden in past ages but which has now been revealed. Furthermore, he says, "I have been given a stewardship to preach that mystery to the Gentiles. It is a proclaimed truth that would not have been known unless God had willed to reveal it." And the Apostle Paul says in verse 28 that the goal of his preaching of that mystery is that we would be complete in Christ. Again, he says to the Colossians, "If my job and my goal is to make sure you are complete in Christ, why would I have held something back that you needed to know in order to be complete in Christ? That makes no sense." The Apostle Paul reminds us that we are complete in Christ and He has given us the fullness of the gospel we need in order to walk in Christ. It is a special thing that the Apostle Paul was appointed to preach this word. Paul, the one who hated Gentiles, who hated Christians, who hated those Jews who were not committed to their

faith, is the one who was appointed to be the apostle to the Gentiles. God works in such ironic ways that Paul, the Jew of Jews, becomes the preacher of grace to the Gentiles. It is something that ought to cause us to praise God.

III. Our Hope is in Our Union with Christ.

In verse 27, Paul tells us that he has been given this mystery to preach, this open secret, the thing that God has revealed. The mystery that Paul has been given teaches us that our hope is in union with Christ. Paul expresses this truth in the phrase, "Christ in you, the hope of glory." In other words, Paul is saying, "the revealed secret that I have been given a commission to preach is that Christ in you is the hope of glory. You who are apart from the promises, apart from the covenant, and who have no part of the preaching of the prophets or the hearing of the law of Moses, Christ in you is the hope of glory. Christ has been revealed to you." This is the message that the Apostle Paul has for us as well. Union with Christ is the only hope of glory. There is no other place where we can go to find our satisfaction. Christ is the hope and Christ is the way. Christians find their enjoyment, their satisfaction, in Him. If you find your satisfaction in Him, it is a sign that the Spirit has united you to Christ. He has brought all Christ's benefits to bear for you. If you have never trusted in Him, the only hope you have, Paul says, is "Christ in you." The only hope you have is to cast yourself upon the Lord, to go to Him, to rest in Him, and to receive Him as the only way of salvation. As we do this, we find that Christ has worked faith and repentance in us because we have been united to Him and our faith and our repentance is only a reflection of the fact that we have been united with Him. May God enable us to live in light of our union with Christ, our hope of glory.

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.

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— John 3:16 (NIV)

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Getting the Message/Rev. Chris Shelton

Conflict gave the church deacons to aid

Chapter 6 begins with the church establishing the office of deacon. The growing church was experiencing conflict over the distribution of help to widows. Organizing this mercy ministry threatened to take the apostles away from prayer and the ministry of the Word (verse 4). So the office of deacon was created. Seven men, "full of the Spirit and wisdom," were selected. One of them was Stephen.

Stephen was a man "full of faith" (verse 5). He was also "full of grace and power, and was doing great wonders and signs among the people" (verse 8). That he was full does not mean he was perfect. It refers to his maturity in the faith. He was emptied of self and full of Christ, reflecting the image of Christ (See John 1:14).

The sanctification of Christians means to be set apart from the rest of the world for God's use and service. God has sealed his people for himself and distinguished them from the rest of men. Stephen had prepared himself for every good work in the Master's use. He will be the first martyr.

In Christ, we are purged from the guilt and the power of sin that pollutes the soul. All Christians have the Spirit of God, but Stephen was adorned with sanctifying graces in fullness to prepare him for what God was going to use him for.

Whatever gifts we are given by the Lord, we are to be ready to use them in his service. Stephen valued Christ highly, unlike the world, which lays a low value on Christ. Judas valued him at 30 pieces of silver. Stephen valued the Lord to the extent that he lost his life for him. He gained life in the end (verse 59). Stephen was zealous for the glory of Christ, who saved him from his sin.

In verse 9, we see that Jews from many different countries rose up to dispute with Stephen over his teaching about Christ. The confrontation began with an objection to Stephen's teaching, but when the opposition couldn't withstand Stephen's wisdom (verse 10); they resorted to digging up false witnesses. They accused Stephen of blasphemy, a charge that carried the threat of the death penalty.

Stephen is charged with speaking against the Law of Moses and the temple. He is brought before the council to stand trial (vers-

es 11-12). The apostles taught that Jesus fulfilled the symbols of the temple and the law. The sacrifices and the presence of God among his people in the Old Testament represented the work Christ would do to save sinners and give them peace in the presence of God. Stephen was teaching the same: the good news of salvation in Christ as prophesied in God's word.

The Jews who objected to the gospel believed they could attain a righteousness of their own before God. In doing so, they were rejecting the true teaching of Moses and the Law of God. Ironically, they are the ones speaking blasphemy against God.

We need to learn from this that Christ came to save sinners. We are in great need of salvation. We cannot attain it of our own doing. It was man's guilt that rendered the cross necessary. If that guilt is not removed, all else is in vain. God is holy and just; he does not overlook sin. We have to account for our sin. And only in Christ can it be blotted out.

We may think God is like us, but he is not. He is angry with sin every day. He is angry with the sinners who commit it. He shows no partiality, and he will not compromise his holy nature. The men opposed to Stephen believed they were righteous before God. They didn't understand the Scriptures.

God's standard, however, is not that of man. God will indeed judge men according to his law, but no one has the righteousness to meet that demand. The Jews judging Stephen were the men God was most angry with among all men. They thought God was pleased with them. They were wrong, blind to their own sinful hearts and God's disposition toward that sin.

We may have a tendency to look at our decadent culture and the perverseness in it, and think a holy God surely is offended. And God's wrath is coming because of it. But none of us have any standing before God without Christ's death on the cross. If we aren't truly united to Christ by faith, we will perish.

God's mercy and justice are united. Christ was given for sinners because he alone can meet the justice of God. Stephen's wisdom was from God's Spirit. He points us to Christ and the grace of God.

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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.
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363 John Day Rd., Canton 859-5237
OLD RICE ROAD BAPTIST
82 Old Rice Rd., Madison 853-7500
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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

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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
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BAPTIST
468 Kearney Park Rd., Flora 879-83470



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LEGALS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ALABAMA - DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION ANFERNEE BROWN, PLAINTIFF v. CHIQUITA CLARK, DEFENDANT. CASE NO.:DR-2020-000600.00ORDER 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 CLERKCarolyn W. Jefferson (MSB #103213) Attorney for Petitioner 5760 Norland Avenue New Orleans, LA 70131504-430-2524

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

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID FOR AGRICULTURAL LEASE SIXTEENTH SECTION LAND

To all persons interested in the following described Agricultural Land in Madison County, Mississippi, to wit: **Section 16, Township 9 North, Range 3 East** All that part of the NE ¼ of NE ¼ lying North of Tilda Bogue Creek and east of Hwy 43al being in Section 16, Township 9 North, Range 3 East, containing 9.00 acres, m/l, Madison County, Mississippi. You are hereby notified that sealed bids to lease the lands described above for the Agricultural rights only for a period of 5 years may be filed with the Superintendent of Education of Canton Public School District or send by mail to 403 E. Lincoln Street, Canton, Mississippi 39046, on or before 3:00 p.m. on the 11th day of May 2021. Thesealed bids shall be submitted for the ENTIRE PARCEL and must include 100% of the amount bid for that parcel. This amount will be refunded if not the highest bid. Thesealed bids submitted will be opened at 5:30 p.m. on the 11th day of May 2021, or as soon as possible thereafter. The Board reserves the right to reduce the term or reject all bids. The Board reserves the right to hold a public auction if more than one bid is received as required by statute. Canton Public School District Gary P. Hannah, Superintendent Publish Two Times 04/29/2021; 05/06/2021

Public School District or send by mail to 403 E. Lincoln Street, Canton, Mississippi 39046, on or before 3:00 p.m. on the 11th day of May 2021. Thesealed bids shall be submitted for the ENTIRE PARCEL and must include 100% of the amount bid for that parcel. This amount will be refunded if not the highest bid. Thesealed bids submitted will be opened at 5:30 p.m. on the 11th day of May 2021, or as soon as possible thereafter. The Board reserves the right to reduce the term or reject all bids. The Board reserves the right to hold a public auction if more than one bid is received as required by statute. Canton Public School District Gary P. Hannah, Superintendent Publish Two Times 04/29/2021; 05/06/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID FOR AGRICULTURAL LEASE SIXTEENTH SECTION LAND

To all persons interested in the following described Agricultural Land in Madison County, Mississippi, to wit: **Section 16, Township 9 North, Range 3 East** 116.00 acres m/l located in the part of N ½ of NW ¼; part of SE ¼ of NW ¼; part of W ½ of NE ¼, being Tax Plat Map 093E-16A-003.00 of the land records of Madison County, Mississippi. You are hereby notified that sealed bids to lease the lands described above for the Agricultural rights only for a period of 5 years may be filed with the Superintendent of Education of Canton Public School District or send by mail to 403 E. Lincoln Street, Canton, Mississippi 39046, on or before 3:00 p.m. on the 11th day of May 2021. Thesealed bids shall be submitted for the ENTIRE PARCEL and must include 100% of the amount bid for that parcel. This amount will be refunded if not the highest bid. Thesealed bids submitted will be opened at 5:30 p.m. on the 11th day of May 2021, or as soon as possible thereafter. The Board reserves the right to reduce the term or reject all bids. The Board reserves the right to hold a public auction if more than one bid is received as required by statute. Canton Public School District Gary P. Hannah, Superintendent Publish Two Times 04/29/2021; 05/06/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID FOR AGRICULTURAL LEASE SIXTEENTH SECTION LAND

To all persons interested in the following described Agricultural Land in Madison County, Mississippi, to wit: **Section 16, Township 9 North, Range 3 East** A tract of land in Section 16, Township 9 North, Range 3 East, Madison County, Mississippi described as beginning at the northwest corner of the intersection of Finney Road and Highway 43; thence run northwesterly along the north margin of Finney Road to the old abandoned Canton-Sharon Road; thence run northeasterly along said abandoned to a fence line; thence run southeasterly along said fence line to the west right of way line of Highway 43; thence run southwesterly along said highway right of way to the Point of Beginning, containing 20.00 acres, m/l, Madison County, Mississippi. You are hereby notified that sealed bids to lease the lands described above for the Agricultural rights only for a period of 5 years may be filed with the Superintendent of Education of Canton Public School District or send by mail to 403 E. Lincoln Street, Canton, Mississippi 39046, on or before 3:00 p.m. on the 11th day of May 2021. Thesealed bids shall be submitted for the ENTIRE PARCEL and must include 100% of the amount bid for that parcel. This amount will be refunded if not the highest bid. Thesealed bids submitted will be opened at 5:30 p.m. on the 11th day of May 2021, or as soon as possible thereafter. The Board reserves the right to reduce the term or reject all bids. The Board reserves the right to hold a public auction if more than one bid is received as required by statute. Canton Public School District Gary P. Hannah, Superintendent Publish Two Times 04/29/2021; 05/06/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID FOR AGRICULTURAL LEASE SIXTEENTH SECTION LAND

To all persons interested in the following described Agricultural Land in Madison County, Mississippi, to wit: **Section 16, Township 9 North, Range 3 East** Beginning at a point where the old abandoned Canton-Sharon Road intersects the South margin of Finney Road right-of-way; thence run northwesterly along the southern right of way of Finney Road a distance of 1116.00 feet, more or less, to a point on the West right of way of the Entergy electrical transmission line to a point which is the point of beginning of the tract herein described. From said point of beginning continue northwesterly along the southern right of way line of Finney Road a distance of 446.00 feet to a point; thence run southwesterly parallel to the Entergy powerline right-of-way a distance of 1180.00 feet to a point; thence run southeasterly parallel to the right of way of Finney Road a distance of 615.00 feet, more or less to a point on the west right of way of the Entergy electrical transmission line; thence run northeasterly along the west right of way line to the Entergy electrical transmission line 1292.00 feet, more or less, to a point on the south right of way line of Finney Road and the point of beginning, containing 14.00 acres, more or less and being identified as Parcel Number 93E-16B-004/00.00. You are hereby notified that sealed bids to lease the lands described above for the Agricultural rights only for a period of 5 years may be filed with the Superintendent of Education of Canton Public School District or send by mail to 403 E. Lincoln Street, Canton, Mississippi 39046, on or before 3:00 p.m. on the 11th day of May 2021. Thesealed bids shall be submitted for the ENTIRE PARCEL and must include 100% of the amount bid for that parcel. This amount will be refunded if not the highest bid. Thesealed bids submitted will be opened at 5:30 p.m. on the 11th day of May 2021, or as soon as possible thereafter. The Board reserves the right to reduce the term or reject all bids. The Board reserves the right to hold a public auction if more than one bid is received as required by statute. Canton Public School District Gary P. Hannah, Superintendent Publish Two Times 04/29/2021; 05/06/2021

Notice of this is hereby given in

accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles for the following: 2007 NISSAN SENTRA, VIN # 3N1CB61E5L725310, \$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.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY STATE OF MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PEGGY MONTGOMERY HARVEY, DECEASED CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 2021-0 (C) NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary upon the estate of the above named decedent having been granted to the undersigned on the 11th day of February, 2021, by the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi, in Civil Action File No. 2021-20 (C) on the Chancery Docket, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to have said claims probated and registered by the Chancery Clerk of Madison County, Mississippi, within ninety (90) days from the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. EXECUTED this 26th day of March, 2021. /s/ Wendy Lynn Perry WENDY LYNN PERRY, EXECUTRIX OF THE ESTATE OF PEGGY MONTGOMERY HARVEY, DECEASED JAMES H. HERRING, ESQ. (MSB #2380) HERRING, LONG & CREWS, P.C.P.O. BOX 344129 E. PEACE STREET CANTON, MS 39046 PHONE: (601) 859-2573 FAX: (601) 859-3955 EMAIL: jh38@bellsouth.net

AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to construct a 185-foot overall height monopole telecommunication structure off Distribution Drive, Madison, Madison County, Mississippi (N32° 30' 40.7"; 90° 06' 25.9"). This tower is anticipated to utilize FAA Style-E lighting. AT&T Mobility, LLC invites comments from any interested party on the impact the proposed undertaking may have on any districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering, or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under National Historic Preservation Act Section 106. Comments may be sent to Environmental Corporation of America, ATTN: Annamarie Howell, 1375 Union Hill Industrial Court, Suite A, Alpharetta, GA 30004 or via email to publicnotice@eca-usa.com. Ms. Howell can be reached at (770) 667-2040 x 136 during normal business hours. Comments must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice. In addition, any interested party may also request further environmental review of the proposed action under the FCC's National Environmental Policy Act rules, 47 CFR §1.1307, by notifying the FCC of the specific reasons that the action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. This request must only raise environmental concerns and can be filed online using the FCC pleading system at www.fcc.gov or mailed to FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554 within 30 days of the date that notice of this proposed action published on the FCC's website. Refer to File No. A1182543 when submitting the request and to view the specific information about the proposed action. W4389 EEC

NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING

Notice is hereby given to those parties in interest that there will be a hearing on Thursday, May 20, 2021, at 6:00 o'clock P.M. before the Zoning Board at the City Hall, 100 W. School Street, Ridgeland, Mississippi, for the purpose of determining whether or not a **Petition and Application for Conditional Use Permit** shall be granted to the owners of the described property in the City of Ridgeland, Madison County, Mississippi, as described in the Records of the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Madison County, at Canton, Mississippi, being a part of the Mary/Mallie Harrel property as described in Deed Book 2781 at Page 377 of the Records of said Madison County, Mississippi and being more particularly described as follows: **COMMENCING** at an iron pin lying at the NW corner of Lot 21 of Block "A" of said Baldwin Farm; thence South 65 degrees 31 minutes 43 seconds East along the Northerly boundary of Lot 21 of Block "A" of said Baldwin Farm for a distance of 350.00 feet to an iron pin lying at the NE corner of a tract of land described as "350 feet off the west end of Lots 20 & 21, Block "A" of Baldwin Farm" and **POINT OF BEGINNING** of the herein described property; thence Continue South 65 degrees 31 minutes 43 seconds East along the Northerly boundary of Lot 21 of Block "A" of said Baldwin Farm, run along the Northerly boundary of said City of Ridgeland property to points at each of the following calls: South 24 degrees 27 minute 57 seconds West (South 24 degrees 27 minutes 26 seconds West-Grid Bearing, State Plane, Mississippi West Zone) for a distance of 43.62 feet to an iron pin with a brass right-of-way cap; thence South 59 degrees 50 minutes 15 seconds West (South 59 degrees 43 minutes 44 seconds West-Grid Bearing, State Plane, Mississippi West Zone) for a distance of 282.24 feet (282.22'-Grid) to an iron pin; thence 262.77 feet (262.75'-Grid) along the arc of a 834.98 foot (834.93'-Grid) radius curve to the right, said arc having a 261.69 (261.67'-Grid) foot chord which bears North 56 degrees 31 minutes 06 seconds West (North 56 degrees 37 minutes 37 seconds West-Grid Bearing, State Plane, Mississippi West Zone) to an iron pin with a brass right-of-way cap; thence 75.01 feet along the arc of a 834.98 foot (834.93'-Grid) radius curve to the right, said arc having a 261.69 (261.67'-Grid) foot chord which bears North 56 degrees 31 minutes 06 seconds West (North 56 degrees 37 minutes 37 seconds West-Grid Bearing, State Plane, Mississippi West Zone) to an iron pin with a brass right-of-way cap; thence 75.01 feet along the arc of a 834.98 foot (834.93'-Grid) radius curve to the right, said arc having a 74.98 foot chord which

bears North 44 degrees 55 minutes 46 seconds West (North 45 degrees 02 minutes 17 seconds West-Grid Bearing, State Plane, Mississippi West Zone) to an iron pin with a brass right-of-way cap; thence North 42 degrees 21 minutes 21 seconds West (North 42 degrees 27 minutes 52 seconds West-Grid Bearing, State Plane, Mississippi West Zone) for a distance of 16.30 feet to an iron pin lying on the Southerly boundary of Lot 20 of Block "A" of said Baldwin Farm; thence Leaving the Northerly boundary of said City of Ridgeland property, run South 65 degrees 31 minutes 43 seconds East along the Southerly boundary of Lot 20 of Block "A" of said Baldwin Farm, for a distance of 24.56 feet to an iron pin lying at the SE corner of the above referenced tract of land described as "350 feet off the west end of Lots 20 & 21, Block "A" of Baldwin Farm"; thence Leaving the Southerly boundary of Lot 20 of Block "A" of said Baldwin Farm, run North 23 degrees 31 minutes 34 seconds East along the Easterly boundary of said tract of land described as "350 feet off the west end of Lots 20 & 21, Block "A" of Baldwin Farm", for a distance of 200.03 feet to the **POINT OF BEGINNING** of the above described parcel or tract of land. APPROVED: ATTEST: /s/ Paula Tierce Paula Tierce, City Clerk April 23, 2021 Publish: April 29, 2021

NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING

Notice is hereby given to those parties in interest that there will be a hearing on Thursday, May 20, 2021, at 6:00 o'clock P.M. before the Zoning Board at the City Hall, 100 W. School Street, Ridgeland, Mississippi, for the purpose of determining whether or not a **Petition and Application for Conditional Use Permit** shall be granted to the owners of the described property in the City of Ridgeland, Madison County, Mississippi, as described in the Records of the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Madison County, at Canton, Mississippi, being a part of the Mary/Mallie Harrel property as described in Deed Book 2781 at Page 377 of the Records of said Madison County, Mississippi and being more particularly described as follows: **COMMENCING** at an iron pin lying at the NW corner of Lot 21 of Block "A" of said Baldwin Farm; thence South 65 degrees 31 minutes 43 seconds East along the Northerly boundary of Lot 21 of Block "A" of said Baldwin Farm for a distance of 350.00 feet to an iron pin lying at the NE corner of a tract of land described as "350 feet off the west end of Lots 20 & 21, Block "A" of Baldwin Farm" and **POINT OF BEGINNING** of the herein described property; thence Continue South 65 degrees 31 minutes 43 seconds East along the Northerly boundary of Lot 21 of Block "A" of said Baldwin Farm for a distance of 350.00 feet to an iron pin lying at the NE corner of a tract of land described as "350 feet off the west end of Lots 20 & 21, Block "A" of Baldwin Farm" and **POINT OF BEGINNING** of the herein described property; thence Continue South 65 degrees 31 minutes 43 seconds East along the Northerly boundary of Lot 21 of Block "A" of said Baldwin Farm, run along the Northerly boundary of said City of Ridgeland property to points at each of the following calls: South 24 degrees 27 minute 57 seconds West (South 24 degrees 27 minutes 26 seconds West-Grid Bearing, State Plane, Mississippi West Zone) for a distance of 43.62 feet to an iron pin with a brass right-of-way cap; thence South 59 degrees 50 minutes 15 seconds West (South 59 degrees 43 minutes 44 seconds West-Grid Bearing, State Plane, Mississippi West Zone) for a distance of 282.24 feet (282.22'-Grid) to an iron pin; thence 262.77 feet (262.75'-Grid) along the arc of a 834.98 foot (834.93'-Grid) radius curve to the right, said arc having a 261.69 (261.67'-Grid) foot chord which bears North 56 degrees 31 minutes 06 seconds West (North 56 degrees 37 minutes 37 seconds West-Grid Bearing, State Plane, Mississippi West Zone) to an iron pin with a brass right-of-way cap; thence 75.01 feet along the arc of a 834.98 foot (834.93'-Grid) radius curve to the right, said arc having a 261.69 (261.67'-Grid) foot chord which bears North 56 degrees 31 minutes 06 seconds West (North 56 degrees 37 minutes 37 seconds West-Grid Bearing, State Plane, Mississippi West Zone) to an iron pin with a brass right-of-way cap; thence 75.01 feet along the arc of a 834.98 foot (834.93'-Grid) radius curve to the right, said arc having a 74.98 foot chord which

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bobby Elmore Trax LLC has filed a petition with the Board of Supervisors of Madison County, MS, to request a Conditional Use for surfacing on certain property located at the Northeast corner of Hwy 22 and Richton Road, pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of Madison County, Mississippi, by Conditional Use to operate a dirt mining pit to-wit: **EXHIBIT "A"** NW ¼ of Section 1, Township 8 North, Range 1 East; NW ¼ and NE ¼ of Section 35 and the NW ¼ and SW ¼ of Section 36, being in Township 9 North, Range 1 East, Madison County, Mississippi. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Madison County, MS, will meet at 9 a.m. on May 20, 2021, at the Madison County Complex Building, in the Board Room, located at 125 West North Street, Canton, Madison County, MS to consider and act upon the petition, and will at such time, date and place, hold and conduct a public hearing at which all parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard on the matter of the petition, either in person, by petition, or by attorney. BY ORDER OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, on this 8th day of April 2021. /s/ Scott Weeks, Zoning Administrator

Testament of Meshelle Ray Garner, deceased PUBLISHED: 4/29/21, 5/6/21 & 5/13/21 SAMUEL H. WILLIFORD, MSB #100095 WILLIFORD, McALLISTER, JACOBUS & WHITE, LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW 303 Highland Park Cove, Suite A Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157 (601) 991-2000 SOLICITOR

SLEDGE'S, INC. P. O. BOX 1694 MADISON, MS 39130 TELE (601) 856-8220 FAX (601) 790-7844 NOTICE OF SALE is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles, that the following vehicles, bearing their respective serial numbers and registration will be sold along with all contents of said vehicles for towing and storing charges and costs of this sale as follows: 2005 FORD F450V1N# 1FDXW46PX5EB73880 Date of Sale: May 30, 2021 Time: 9:30 am Place: 308 N Wheatley Street, Ridgeland, MS 39157

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JOHNNY JAMES, JR., DECEASED CIVIL ACTION NO. 2021-322 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 26th day of April, 2021, by the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi to Tamara James, Administrator of the Estate of Johnny James, Jr., deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present the same to the Clerk of said Court for probate and registration according to law in writing within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this Notice or they will be forever barred. /s/ Tamara James TAMARA JAMES Administrator Prepared by: John R. Elliott, Jr. (MBN 100372) ELLIOTT LAW FIRM, P.L.L.C.P. O. Box 2605 Madison, Mississippi 39130 Telephone: 601-499-0460 Facsimile: 601-499-0461

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN RE: VALIDATION OF CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2021, ISSUED IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED TWELVE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$12,450,000) (THE "BONDS") NO: 2021-337 NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS TO: THE TAXPAYERS OF CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

You are hereby notified that the matter of the validation of the above-described obligation will be heard on the 14 day of MAY, 2021, at 8:45 o'clock am, in the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi, at the Madison County Courthouse in the City of Canton, Mississippi, at or before which time and date written objections to the validation of the issuance of said obligation, if any, must be filed. By order of the Chancellor, this the 23rd day of April, 2021. RONNY LOTT CHANCERY CLERK MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI Kim Seivers, D.C.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bobby Elmore Trax LLC has filed a petition with the Board of Supervisors of Madison County, MS, to request a Conditional Use for surfacing on certain property located at the Northeast corner of Hwy 22 and Richton Road, pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of Madison County, Mississippi, by Conditional Use to operate a dirt mining pit to-wit: **EXHIBIT "A"** NW ¼ of Section 1, Township 8 North, Range 1 East; NW ¼ and NE ¼ of Section 35 and the NW ¼ and SW ¼ of Section 36, being in Township 9 North, Range 1 East, Madison County, Mississippi. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Madison County, MS, will meet at 9 a.m. on May 20, 2021, at the Madison County Complex Building, in the Board Room, located at 125 West North Street, Canton, Madison County, MS to consider and act upon the petition, and will at such time, date and place, hold and conduct a public hearing at which all parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard on the matter of the petition, either in person, by petition, or by attorney. BY ORDER OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, on this 8th day of April 2021. /s/ Scott Weeks, Zoning Administrator

Publish: Aril 29, 2021

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bobby Elmore Trax LLC has filed a petition with the Board of Supervisors of Madison County, MS, to request a Conditional Use for 4 acre or less exempt surface mining certain property located at the Northeast corner of Hwy 22 and Richton Road, pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of Madison County, Mississippi, by Conditional Use to operate a dirt mining pit to-wit: **EXHIBIT "A"** Commencing at the Northeast corner of Section 2, Township 8 North, Range 1 East, Madison County, Mississippi, said point being occupied by a found 2 inch x 2 inch angle iron, as described in deed book 2495, page 402, proceed North 00 degrees 00 minutes East 2061.29 feet to a point; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes East 1829.53 feet to a set ½ inch diameter iron rebar with yellow plastic cap stamped "TAF PS 3100" and the POINT OF BEGINNING of the parcel herein described. From the described POINT OF BEGINNING, proceed North 90 degrees 00 minutes East 548.36 feet to a set ½ inch diameter iron rebar with yellow plastic cap stamped "TAF PS 3100"; thence South 00 degrees 00 minutes East 374.20 feet to a set ½ inch diameter iron rebar with yellow plastic cap stamped "TAF PS 3100"; thence North 00 degrees 00 minutes East 261.29 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Said parcel contains 4.00 acres and is located in the Northeast quarter of the Southwest quarter, Section 36, Township 9 North, Range 1 East, Madison County, Mississippi. Bearings established by GPS and referenced to Grid North, Mississippi State Plane Coordinate System, West Zone. Above description based on survey plat by

Thomas Aaron Fitzhugh, PS 3100, Dated 03-30-21. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Madison County, MS, will meet at 9 a.m. on May 20, 2021, at the Madison County Complex Building, in the Board Room, located at 125 West North Street, Canton, Madison County, MS to consider and act upon the petition, and will at such time, date and place, hold and conduct a public hearing at which all parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard on the matter of the petition, either in person, by petition, or by attorney. BY ORDER OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, on this 8th day of April 2021. /s/ Scott Weeks, Zoning Administrator Publish: April 29, 2021

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Earl and Lottie Scales have filed a petition with the Board of Supervisors of Madison County, MS, to request Dimensional Variance on corner lot setback certain property, pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of Madison County, Mississippi, to-wit: Legal Description Lot 6 in New Castle Part 2 Filed February 25, 1993 a Platted Subdivision in Madison County, MS. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Madison County, MS, will meet at 9 a.m. on May 20, 2021, at the Madison County Complex Building, in the Board Room, located at 125 West North Street, Canton, Madison County, MS to consider and act upon the petition, and will at such time, date and place, hold and conduct a public hearing at which all parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard on the matter of the petition, either in person, by petition, or by attorney. BY ORDER OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, on this 8th day of April 2021. /s/ Scott Weeks, Zoning Administrator Publish: April 29, 2021

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that MS H and L 2 LLC has filed a petition with the Board of Supervisors of Madison County, MS, to request a Conditional Use for surface mining on certain property located Old Canton Road, pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of Madison County, Mississippi, by Conditional Use to operate a dirt mining pit to-wit: **EXHIBIT "A"** Parcel Nos. 083C06-004/00.00: 082A-01-017/00.00 and 082A-01-016/00.00 SW ¼ of NE 1/4 and SE 1/4 of NE 1/4, Section 1, Township 8 North, Range 2 East; ALSOW1/4 NW 1/4 and N1/2 of NW 1/4, Section 6, Township 8 North, Range 3 East, LESS AND EXCEPT: 3 Acre- Parcel No. 083C-05-002/00.00; PPIN: 24176 being Pt. West 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4, Section 5, Township 8 North-Range 3 East, Madison County, MS, further described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4, Section 5, Township 8 North-Range 3 East, Madison County, Mississippi; from said point run North, along the west line of said Section 5, 198', more or less to the Point of Beginning (also the northwest corner of that certain John Fields Estate tract, PPIN: 24175, Parcel 083C-05-001/00.00); from said Point of Beginning continue North, along said Section, 198.0' to a point being the southwest corner of that certain Walker Investments, LP parcel, PPIN: 24177; Parcel 083C-05-003/00.00; thence leave said Section line and run East, 660.0' to a point in the west line of that certain E.H. Fortbenry parcel; PPIN: 24178, Parcel 083C-05-004/00.00; thence run South along the Fortbenry line, 198.0' to a Point at the corner common to Fortbenry and that aforementioned John Field Estate parcel; thence run along said John Fields Estate line, West, 660.0' to the Point of Beginning, containing 3.0 acres, more or less. ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT: 11.72 Acre- Parcel No. 083C-05-004/00.00; PPIN: 24178 6 acres in the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4; and, 2 6/7 acres (2.86 acres) in the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4, described as Lot 1 of the division of the Richard Jackson Estate; and, 2 6/7 acre (2.86) in the West 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4, described as Lot 5 of the division of the Richard Jackson Estate; all in Section 5, Township 8 North, Range 3 East, Madison County, Mississippi; further described, as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 5, Township 8 North-Range 3 East, Madison County, MS; from said point run East, 660.0 ft. to the northeast corner of the herein described; thence turn and run South, 773.5' to a point common to that certain Walker Investments, LP parcel, PPIN: 24177; Parcel 083C-05-003/00.00; thence run along the north line of said Walker Investments parcel, West, 660.0' to a point in the west line of said Section 5; thence run with said Section line, North, 773.5' to the Point of Beginning, in all containing 11.72 acres, more or less. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Madison County, MS, will meet at 9 a.m. on May 20, 2021, at the Madison County Complex Building, in the Board Room, located at 125 West North Street, Canton, Madison County, MS to consider and act upon the petition, and will at such time, date and place, hold and conduct a public hearing at which all parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard on the matter of the petition, either in person, by petition, or by attorney. BY ORDER OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, on this 8th day of April 2021. /s/ Scott Weeks, Zoning Administrator Publish: April 29, 2021

Historic Flora depot receives landscaping upgrade

By JOE DERA
Special to the Journal

The charming and picturesque town of Flora continues to live up to its name thanks in no small way to a recent landscaping grant for tree planting and town beautification.

Spearheaded by the Mississippi Urban Forest Council (MUFC) through a partnership with America In Bloom and the Canadian National (CN) Railway, the project made it possible for the beautification of the town's historic train station. Local volunteers through the non-profit Friends of Flora recently completed the work. The project landscaped the Flora Train Depot and is adding additional species of trees to the Flora city park so it can be designated as an arbore-



Pictured, left to right, are Mayor Leslie Childress, Donna Yowell, Executive Director Mississippi Urban Forest Council; Nathan Thomas, President of Friends Of Flora; Laura Kunkle, America In Bloom; Marvin Miller, Canadian National Railway.

um and listed on the MS Arboretum Trail.

On April 20, Friends Of Flora hosted the installation of a special sign of recognition at the historic Train Depot on

Main Street.

"Over the last 10 years Flora has experienced an eco-

nomie renaissance that will now be complimented by these esthetic enhancements," said Flora Mayor Leslie Childress. "The results will no doubt further attract people to the town's thriving commercial Main Street district, further distinguishing Flora as a small town oasis in an ever expanding urban environment."

"These types of activities are significant improvements to the community," Donna Yowell, executive director of the Mississippi Urban Forest Council (MUFC), said. "The social impact of green space, trees and gardens can be particularly pronounced when public spaces are transformed into places of beauty that foster safe places for neighborhood interaction, economic and property value enhancement,

and improves the lives of those that live in or visit the community. This partnership is a good example of how collaboration between private, municipal and nonprofit can accomplish improvements for all Mississippi communities."

The MUFC is Mississippi's only statewide nonprofit that works with communities and local groups to improve quality of life and support strong communities for economic success on a local level.

"We are thrilled to work so very closely with the Town of Flora and provide this opportunity for more enhancement in our state. These projects will be part of a series of Arboretums in the state and these cities will become part of the Mississippi Arboretum Trail," said Yowell.

Flora Butcher starts Open Mic Night

By JOE DERA
Special to the Journal

FLORA — Chef David Raines, owner/operator of Dave's Triple B Restaurant here, will launch a May Open Mic Night beginning this Saturday at 6 p.m. Performances will take place under the stars on the Triple B deck. Beer specials & BBQ on the menu.

The Triple B is located at 4822 Main St (Rt.22) in Flora. Bring the family and your guitar.

The inaugural performance this week will feature Singer/Songwriter Johnny Deddens a Madison native and veteran of the Jackson Metro area entertainment scene as half of the duo Deddens & Magee. He spent some time in Nashville, playing in some of Music City's most prestigious venues such as Tootsie's World



Madison's Johnny Deddens, a singer/songwriter, will kick off a new Open Mic Night at Dave's Triple B in Flora.

Famous Orchid Lounge, Robert's Western World on Broadway, and The Grand Ole Opry House to name a few.

Anyone interested in performing future open mic nights should contact Joe Dera at joederapr@gmail.com. The Triple B is located at 4822 Main St (Rt.22) in Flora. Bring the family and your guitar.

National Day of Prayer May 6 in Jackson

The 2021 National Day of Prayer is planned for Thursday, May 6 at the Mississippi Coliseum beginning at 11 a.m. This year's theme is "Love,

Life and Liberty" from II Corinthians 3:17, which reads, "Now the Lord is Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty."

This is a time for the body of Christ to come together and pray for our state and nation! Please mark your calendars and join us.

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 mills 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 mills 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.

COME SEE MISSISSIPPI'S

Snappy Sync Fireflies



Experience the magic of synchronous "snappy sync" fireflies along the historic Natchez Trace

Reserve your tickets by visiting <https://msfireflies.eventbrite.com>

May 14-16
MISSISSIPPI CRAFT CENTER



Madison Central STAR Students and Teachers announced

Madison Central High School STAR Students and Teachers are pictured. Back row left to right are STAR Students Matthew Yin, Patricia Bethea, Albert Xu, Grant Darling, Matthew Li, Arshbir Banipal, Rob Embry, and Phillip Wright. Front row left to right are STAR Teachers Kristin Cooley, Tam Yowell, Susan Shivers, Amy Bennett and not pictured Rebecca Temple.



Colonial Dames officers installed

Honorary State President Cindy Phillips conducted the 2021-2023 new officer installation for the Reverend Samuel Swayze Chapter Colonial Dames XVII Century. Pictured, left to right, are Cindy Phillips Honorary State President, Kathy Henry President, Pat Anderson First Vice President, Sue Patterson Second Vice President, Kay Ewing Recording Secretary, and Sue Sautemeister Treasurer. Not pictured are Luran Buchanan Chaplain, Mary Sue Douglas Corresponding Secretary, Barbara McLaughlin Registrar, and Linda Young Historian.



Shelton wins VFW Award

Kamryn Shelton, right, a 6th grader at Old Towne Middle School, received an award from VFW Post 6809 for her Patriot's Pen Essay on this year's theme, "What is Patriotism to Me?" VFW Trace Ridgeland Post Quartermaster Steve Haller, left, presented the award.



Brownlee receives VFW Award

Michael Matthew Brownlee, left, an 11th grader at Madison-Ridgeland Academy, received an award from VFW Post 6809 for his Voice of Democracy Audio Essay on this year's theme, "Is this the country the founders envisioned?" VFW Trace Ridgeland Post Quartermaster Steve Haller, right, presented the award.



Bolden presents check to Canton Ninth Grade Academy

State Farm Agent Arnel Bolden presented the Canton Ninth Grade Academy a check for \$2,910 for being awarded the State Farm "Pay it Forward" grant. The grant will provide incentives to the teachers and students to help encourage them to stay motivated during the school year. Pictured, left to right, are Arnel Bolden, Marsha Warfield, Adrian Travis, Yotunga Grant, Principal Kari Johnson and Tungala Hardy.



Canton High students receive scholarships

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and the Madison County Community Trust awarded scholarships to Canton High School students Ana Gonzalez and Dwayne Nelson, Jr. for their participation in 2020-21 MCYL program. Pictured, left to right, are Dwayne Nelson, Jr., MCYL Committee Member Dr. Mary Sims Johnson, and Ana Gonzalez.

**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

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

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The Phoenix Club of Jackson's annual Seersuckers & Sombreros party raises money each year for the Boys & Girls Club of Central Mississippi.

Annual Seersucker & Sombreros returns

By JOHN LEE
john@onlinemadison.com

The 13th Annual Seersucker & Sombreros fundraiser in support of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Mississippi returns this Saturday hosted by the Phoenix Club of Jackson.

The fundraiser party will take place at The District at Eastover outside on the green from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, at 1250 Eastover Drive blending the Kentucky Derby and Cinco de Mayo into one large celebration.

The Seersucker & Sombreros has become one of the most anticipated parties in town, organizers say.

Bud Sheppard, co-events director of the Phoenix Club of Jackson, said he and the rest of the club are excited to bring back the party after not being able to host it in 2020 due to COVID-19.

"Our whole mission is to raise funds and awareness for the Boys & Girls Club, so having this event again helps that mission," Sheppard said. "We'll still be conscious about the COVID guidelines and will keep everything washed and sanitized. We want to be safe and responsibly raise money."

This event will feature live music entertainment, such as the Jason Miller Band, the 147th running of the Kentucky Derby, and some of the best food and drink the Jackson area has to offer, as well as a special Cinco de Mayo Fiesta.

It will include a silent auction and a top-shelf open bar (open to those aged 21 and up, IDs will be checked), along with a specialty cocktail bar serving Mint Juleps and Margaritas. A live auction will also take place sometime during the party with a special item, which cannot be revealed at

this time, Sheppard said.

Guests are encouraged to come early for the Kentucky Derby races and to stay late for the fiesta celebration.

"We hope to see everyone out there," Sheppard said. "Come out and support the Boys and Girls Club. I think a lot of people will be excited to be out here after being cooped up in their houses for so long."

All proceeds will benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Mississippi. Tickets purchased this week will be \$60, and tickets purchased at the door will be \$65. The exclusive VIP section add-on is \$25 per person, which grants access to the Fine & Dandy patio seating, bathroom and food.

To learn more about the Phoenix Club of Jackson, the Boys and Girls Club of Mississippi, and other fundraisers by the club, visit www.phoenixclubjxn.com.

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