



MADISON

LIBERY PARK IN FOR UPGRADE

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WEST COUNTY LINE NEARS COMPLETION

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MADISON COUNTY JOURNAL

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58% APPROVED INITIATIVE

Special session urged for marijuana

By SCOTT HAWKINS scott@onlinemadison.com

State lawmakers are urging Gov. Tate Reeves to call a special session to revive a state medical marijuana program after the state Supreme Court invalidated Initiative 65 last week over process, not the merits of medical marijuana.

The calls come after the Supreme Court on Friday struck down the state's medical

marijuana initiative 65 that was approved by 766,478, or 58% of the 1.3 million votes cast in November, siding with Madison Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler in an appeal of the process by which the measure was placed on the ballot.

Taking into account the number of registered voters statewide, Initiative 65's approval drops to about 40%.

Still, the decision has sparked cries from voters and

some state legislators for Reeves to call a special session of the Legislature to address the state's flawed ballot initiative process and to discuss the fate of the state's medical marijuana program.

Reeves told Scott Simmons of WAPT on Tuesday that he has not ruled out calling a special session but the issue is still up in the air.

"(A special session) is something we are certainly willing to

consider," Reeves told WAPT. "We are a long way from being able to make that decision."

A special session has been estimated to cost \$35,000 per day and the process for reviving the state's ballot initiative process much less the state's medical marijuana program could be lengthy.

"...We have three branches of government, and it is the judicial branch's job to interpret the law. I don't know that I

would have ruled one way or another, but I respect the court and the roles they play, and so now, it is incumbent on the legislative branch to come back and fix this process," Reeves said. "The people have spoken. They made their voice heard and voted overwhelmingly to have a program and Mississippi should have that."

Lt. Gov. Delbert Hoseman said Tuesday that he is in favor of calling a special session.

"Citizen-driven ballot initiatives are an important part of policy-making, and I support reenacting the ballot initiative process," Hoseman said. "I also support a medical marijuana program, as evidenced by the Senate twice passing back-stop legislation which did not survive in the House. We are in the process of talking to Senators about the Supreme Court ruling as it relates to both issues and

See COURT, page A2



Hundreds of people look on as Madison motorcycle police officers ride by in the Madison County Parade of Honor Thursday evening on the Reunion Parkway in Madison.

First responders honored last week

Madison County honored first-responders with several events last week in association with National Law Enforcement Appreciation Month.

City and county boards issued proclamations declaring the week of May 9-14 as Madison County Law Enforcement Appreciation Week.

The week is sponsored annually by Canton Tourism, Madison the City Chamber of Commerce, Madison County Chamber of Commerce, Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce, Ridgeland Tourism, and the Madison County Business League & Foundation.

Churches, schools, organizations/clubs, and individuals participated in the event.

Below is a roundup of some of the event held last week:

Balloon Release

On Wednesday, May 12, the Madison County Business League and Foundation and the Madison County Chamber of Commerce hosted the seventh annual balloon release at the Madison County Sheriff's office.

The balloon release was held to honor fallen Madison County law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty.

Madison County Sheriff Randy Tucker and Jan Collins with the Madison County Business League and foundation both gave their remarks on the fallen first responders and appreciating law enforcement.

Jan Collins gave her remarks about the importance of law enforcement in the county.

"We are very blessed to have law enforcement not only here, but in Ridgeland, Canton, and Flora," Collins said. "They all work together to keep us safe and make us feel safe in our homes and businesses. Considering the climate we're in today, it's more important than ever to let them know just how much we appreciate their efforts and putting their lives on the line for us daily."

Sheriff Randy Tucker also spoke and thanked the community for the support.

"It's bittersweet for us," Tucker said. "We really appreciate the community we serve and we feel like we serve the best community out there. Each one of these men and women who get up in the morning and put the badge on are putting their

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\$385 MILLION

Business eyeing county's Megasite

By DUNCAN DENT duncan@onlinemadison.com

A yet to be named industry is looking to make a \$385 million investment at the Madison County Megasite per a resolution of intent approved by the Madison County Board of Supervisors during their Monday meeting.

Board President Karl Banks said he does not know what industry is looking to locate here but that the Madison County Economic Development Authority is currently in negotiations with someone looking to make a potential investment of \$385 million at the Megasite.

In the meeting, the unspecified industry was referred to as a "manufacturing processor." Banks said he will not know who is looking at the site unless they choose to come to the Megasite.

He said if they choose to come the board will then "negotiate how to handle the taxes."

Banks said he did not know how long the decision would take saying that those negotiations are happening at MCEDA. MCEDA Executive Director Joey Deason was unavailable for comment.

Last week a 100,000 square foot spec building built by the newly-formed Agron LLC, was announced and will be developed in partnership with Agracel and Ergon at the Madison County Megasite west of I-55 and Nissan Parkway off of Mississippi 22 near Canton.

The industrial shell building See BUSINESS, page A8

FULL SCHOLARSHIP

Madison senior Harvard bound

By SCOTT HAWKINS scott@onlinemadison.com

MADISON — Madison Central's Christian Gines is one of 15 students nationwide to receive a full scholarship to Harvard University.

"I don't know if I have ever in my 40 years been able to say, 'I'd like to introduce you to one of our students who has gone through the public school system here in Madison and excelled,'" Madison Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler said in presenting a recognition from the city to Gines during the Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting Tuesday evening. "We are so excited for you to announce that you have

received a four-year scholarship to Harvard University."

Hawkins-Butler said the recognition award commending Gines for his achievement was from the City of Madison and the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

"We are proud of you, and it is my understanding that there are only 15 in the nation that have received a full scholarship," Hawkins-Butler said. "You are a Madison Central product, a Madison product and I want to say to you, keep the faith. Never stop believing you can do anything you want to do. This is just the beginning. Don't leave our state. Come back here and make Mississippi even a better place.

God bless you!"

Gines, son of Tommy and Renee Gines of Madison, said he plans to study a concentration in either government or sociology with a joint concentration in African-American studies.

"Then I plan on attending, probably Harvard Law School and getting my Ph.D. in African American studies as well and then after that to practice law in Mississippi," Gines said.

Gines said graduating on Saturday will be bittersweet.

"I am really going to miss my Madison Central family and especially my parents as well, but also I am excited about this new journey that I will be going on," Gines said.



Madison Central's Christian Gines receives a resolution from Madison Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler. He is going to Harvard on a full scholarship.

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Madison applying for grant to upgrade park

By JOHN LEE
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MADISON — Liberty Village Playground at Liberty Park here could get an upgrade soon.

The city of Madison is applying for a 2021 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant through the Mississippi Department of Wildlife in Fisheries to fund the proposed upgrade at Liberty Village Playground at Liberty Park.

The 50-50 matching grant would total \$450,000, with the City of Madison paying \$225,000, and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife and Fisheries paying \$225,000.

Parks and Recreation Director for the city of Madison Nathan Hanson said it will be a few months before the city knows if the grant will be awarded.

"If we get the grant, the money will be used to upgrade the Liberty Village Playground at Liberty Park," Hanson said.

"We'll invest in more safety play surfacing such as new turf, and new playground equipment. We're hoping we can get equipment for ages 0-2 area, and the ages 2-5 area of the playground."

Hanson said the new equipment choices are not final, since it depends on the availability of supplies.

"If the grant is awarded, we'll file a request for proposal to see what supplies are available," he said. "We're very excited to apply for the grant and can't wait to start the project if we get it. We hope to expand the playing experience and quality of life for your children in Madison."

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Federal program supports the protection of federal public lands and waters, including national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and recreation areas, and voluntary conservation on private land.



Liberty Village Playground at Liberty Park in Madison could soon see an upgrade with a grant from MDWFP.

Court

Continued from page A1

how to proceed.

"If the Governor chooses to call the Legislature back into Special Session, the Senate will be ready. Because Special Sessions are expensive, my preference is to approach this situation in an organized fashion so when we do return we can minimize costs to taxpayers."

House Speaker Philip Gunn, R-District 56, which includes Hinds and Madison counties, also supports a special session

to address the initiative process.

"We 100% believe in the right of the people to use the initiative process to express their views on public policy," Gunn said Monday in a statement that did not mention medical marijuana, the AP reports. "If the Legislature does not act on an issue that the people of Mississippi want, then the people need a mechanism to change the law."

The governor is the only one who can reconvene the Legislature.

"At the heart of the ruling is the fact that initiatives need signatures from five congressional districts to get on the ballot, but

because of Mississippi's stagnant population, the state has only four districts," the AP reports.

Madison Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler has not responded to a request for comment on this story.

However, the mayor argued in the appeal that the Mississippi Constitution itself provides that a petition by voters proposing an amendment to the constitution must have no more than 20% of its required signatures from each of the state's congressional districts.

The state had five congressional districts some 20-plus years ago and that was the districting on which the initiative and referendum option was passed.

The mayor's appeal argued that because the state Constitution contains the 20-percent rule, it is a mathematical impossibility to have the required number of signatures as 20% times four Congressional districts equals 80, not 100.

"Pursuant to the duty imposed on us by article 15, section 273(9), of the Mississippi Constitution, we hold that the petition submitted to the Secretary of State seeking to place Initiative 65 on the ballot for the November 3, 2020, general election was sufficient," Justice Josiah D. Coleman writes in the 58-page Supreme

Court majority opinion issued Friday.

Hawkins-Butler had said Initiative 65 was put before voters unconstitutionally. Her appeal technically challenged the sufficiency of the petition itself, not the marijuana language.

"Because Initiative 65 was placed on the ballot without meeting the section 273(3) prerequisites for doing so, it was placed on the ballot in violation of the Mississippi Constitution," Coleman's decision states. "Whether with intent, by oversight, or for some other reason, the drafters of section 273(3) wrote a ballot-initiative process that cannot work in a world where Mississippi has fewer than five representatives in Congress. To work in today's reality, it will need amending — something that lies beyond the power of the Supreme Court. We grant the petition, reverse the Secretary of State's certification of Initiative 65, and hold that any subsequent proceedings on it are void."

Justice James D. Blackwell wrote the dissenting opinion Friday and was joined in part by Robert P. Chamberlain who dissented in a separate opinion joined by James W. Kitchens.

"With respect to the majority, this case involves a pure question of Mississippi law — interpretation of Mississippi's Constitution," Chamberlain wrote in the dissenting opinion. "And I strongly disagree that the Secretary of State acted in an unconstitutional manner by following Mississippi law. I am also hard pressed to see how a federal court's almost twenty-year-old injunction, aimed solely at federal congressional elections, has now somehow unintentionally destroyed Mississippi's 28 constitutional citizen-

based ballot-initiative process. But that is exactly what the majority is saying.

"...For the reasons addressed above, the Petitioners simply cannot show the Secretary of State acted unconstitutionally by relying on Mississippi law when he greenlighted Initiative 65's placement on the ballot. Therefore, I dissent."

The mayor has said she is not opposed to a well-regulated pure medical marijuana program for the truly suffering.

Hawkins-Butler has said amending the constitution is a solemn process and the solution is for the Legislature to amend Section 273(3) given the loss of a congressional district.

She said the sick and dying people of Mississippi deserve a controlled, well-regulated program overseen by universities, doctors and pharmacists — which is why she opposes Initiative 65.

The language in the Constitution decriminalizes the purchase, prescribing, sale and processing of medical marijuana, provides for annual cards — not prescriptions — and exempts the holder from criminal or civil sanctions. It also allows for the possession of up to 2.5 ounces per 14-day period or 250 marijuana pipes.

One of the most concerning aspects Hawkins-Butler has said is the restriction on a city's ability to zone "medical marijuana treatment centers" which includes growers and processors. She has said that such significant changes written into the Mississippi Constitution should be enacted lawfully and have not.

In support of the mayor, amicus briefs stacked up, including briefs from state Sens. Angela Hill and Kathy

Chism, State Rep. Jill Ford, the Mississippi Municipal League, the Mississippi Sheriff's Association, the Mississippi State Medical Association, and the American Medical Association.

"We are not against a well-regulated medical marijuana program for the suffering," Hawkins-Butler told the Journal previously. "We have grave concerns about what Initiative 65 contains, and more importantly to our suit, how it was passed."

Initiative 65 is not what voters in the Nov. 3 election thought they were voting for, the mayor has said.

Initiative 65 does not allow doctors to write specific prescriptions and the law grants an "identification card" that's good for a year, and allows five ounces of marijuana a month for smoking, which equals about 300 joints a month.

Initiative 65 puts no limits on edible marijuana or marijuana for vaping and it doesn't control the strength or content of the marijuana.

The law also prohibits limits on how many growers and dispensaries the state can have, and it bars any limits on the cost of the marijuana.

Furthermore, the mayor has said, it prevents cities from regulating who can grow or sell medical marijuana and where.

Under the new law, pot shops and other dispensaries cannot operate until they are licensed by the Mississippi Department of Health, which has not issued any regulations or licenses yet.

"If the amendment is struck down, then dispensaries can't operate unless the Mississippi Legislature enacts legislation to replace the amendment," Butler had said before Friday's ruling.

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West County Line road project nears completion

By SCOTT HAWKINS
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A straight shot down County Line Road to and from Tougaloo could bring development to the area as an \$8 million realignment of the Canadian National Railroad nears completion, officials are hoping.

While a large part of the land north of County Line in the area bounded by I-55 and I-220 around Tougaloo College is in Madison County, it is in the city of Jackson.

The project that has been in the works for decades is expected to be completed next month weather permitting, a city of Jackson spokesperson said.

"We are getting ready to open it up to traffic in early June," said Michelle Atoa, Jackson communications director.

The crossing at Tougaloo Village Road, the former West County Line Road, will eventually be closed.

The project realigned 6,300 feet of the Canadian National Railroad in order to create the roadway underpass.

Phase 1A, completed in 2009, made improvements to West County Line Road and Richmond Grove Road west of the CN railroad, including a roadway bridge over a realigned White Oak Creek and a traffic signal at Tougaloo College entrance.

The current project nearing

completion is Phase 1B that began in 2016 and includes relocating the railroad and three railroad bridges and connecting to U.S. 51 and East County Line Road.

"Once West County Line Road is open, we will close the old West County Line Road, now called Tougaloo Village Road, and remove the railroad crossing there," said Robert Lee, Jackson traffic engineer.

"We will close that up, pull the tracks up, regrade it to get rid of that hump over the tracks ... and then put the road back together where the railroad crossing was."

Lee said that portion of work should be completed within 30 days after beginning, weather permitting.

"It is only a little bit of road. It isn't a lot," Lee said.

Not only will opening the West County Line Road connection improve traffic flow in the area. It also will open the Tougaloo area up for better access, Lee said.

"The area west of the Canadian National Railroad did not enjoy the commercial growth similar to the 55 corridor in the last half of the 20th Century as the city moved," Lee said.

"By putting in four-lane, by getting rid of the railroad crossing, what we want longterm is to help better position the Tougaloo community for growth of both commercial, residential and the college from here on."

Also included in the project are sidewalks and shared-use trails, Lee said.

"We will be making the pedestrian connection across the tracks as well," Lee said. "We are going ahead and putting in a short section and trail while we have got all this work underway."

Lee said once the pedestrian portion of the project is complete, people can walk from Tougaloo to downtown Jackson on sidewalks.

"We will have continuously, either a sidewalk or a shared-use path from Tougaloo to downtown," Lee said.

"This project and then our other State Street job that we just wrapped up with the big construction through Fondren completed those missing pieces of the sidewalk. Some of it has still got some work to do, but that is something I like to tout is that you can walk about 7 miles and be on a sidewalk the whole time."

The project is funded in part by an \$8 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant program through the U.S. Department of Transportation for road, rail, transit and port projects.

A sliver of land along the interstates near Greater Richmond Grove Baptist Church on Richmond Grove Road is unincorporated.



An \$8 million realignment of the Canadian National Railroad is nearing completion. The project began in 2016.

Madison Farmers Market set to kickoff on June 1

By JOHN LEE
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The annual Downtown Madison Farmers Market is on this summer and is set to begin on Tuesday, June 1.

The market will happen weekly every Tuesday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and will run throughout the summer, weather permitting.

It will be located at 2103 Main Street in Madison.

The market will have live music, and vendors with a high

variety of products such as hand-made soaps, produce, seafood, bread, and more.

Another farmers market is planned for the fall sometime in October.

For more information about the market, visit the Downtown Madison Farmers Market Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DowntownMadisonFarmersMarket, email bmayerfield@madison-thecity.com, or call 601-853-0291.

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Opinion & Editorials

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EDITORIALS

Initiative 65 and process

State lawmakers and others are urging Gov. Tate Reeves to call a special session to pass a clean medical marijuana bill and we support that call if that can be done safely, effectively and is medically sound.

Enacting a good medical marijuana law is the right thing, but do not slip up rushing legislation to make up for past failures.

The state Supreme Court's ruling last week overturning the medical marijuana initiative has caused much angst, but the decision was the right one on process.

The state's high court did not circumvent the will of the people or reverse the outcome of the November initiative that passed statewide with 58% of those voting. Justices followed the Constitution.

Considering the number of registered voters statewide, Initiative 65's approval actually drops to about 40%.

Madison Mayor Hawkins-Butler filed the challenge on the merits of the process used to put marijuana on the ballot.

There is a clear distinction that some voters are missing — or the pot lobby refuses to see because it's about millions and millions in profits for them.

Focus on better public policy rather than aligning with big money special interest groups. Do the right thing.

The merits of medical marijuana were not before the Court. That point was noted several times during oral arguments.

The issue before the Court was the initiative and referendum *process* and whether Initiative 65 should have been on the ballot based on the way that the *process* is currently written in the state Constitution.

The ruling is actually very straightforward. The Court simply ruled that the process was not constitutional because 1) Mississippi lost a Congressional district in 2000 2) the signature requirement for the petition part of the process is invalid

because it is based on a calculation with five Congressional districts instead of four and 3) The Legislature failed to update the language in the process to account for that change on numerous occasions when bills were introduced to fix the process. The Legislature failed, not Mayor Hawkins-Butler in filing her challenge.

So, we get back to the Legislature not doing its job in the first place and passing a bill that would negate the need for an initiative.

It is now, once again, up to the Legislature to first give us a bill and then fix the language in the state Constitution because the people deserve and want an initiative process.

The Legislature should establish a medical marijuana program by state statute in a special session Gov. Reeves calls sooner than later that is safe, effective and medically sound.

The Senate passed a medical marijuana bill last session but it failed in the House. Combined with the guidelines the state Department of Health has been writing, we feel certain the details can be worked out and the will of the people satisfied.

While it's unlikely last week's ruling will impact other initiatives such as Voter I.D. because much of that has been codified into law, the Legislature must fix the initiative language in the Constitution — as they should have already done.

Voters should know the process before misplacing blame. The Supreme Court was following the law as written. Their decision was not a ruling based on the merits of medical marijuana. This ruling was about process and process is important. Good for Mayor Hawkins-Butler!

The Legislature should pass a medical marijuana bill that is safe, effective and medically sound, and doing so in a special session seems to make the most sense.

Protect concealed carry

The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution consists of only 27 words, yet arguments over their meaning fill volumes that cause bookshelves to groan under their load of legal argle-bargle. A reinvigorated era of assault on firearms encouraged by President Biden is already worsening the weight. The outcomes of numerous legal challenges are likely to determine whether owning and carrying a gun remains an American right or is reclassified as a wrong.

In trendy times such as these, words the Framers used to spell out the right to firearms read like a foreign language. "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." It's really not that complicated.

Closest to a conclusive ruling is a challenge of states' authority to restrict a citizen's right to carry a concealed firearm, a case heard by the U.S. Supreme Court in late April. A pair of New Yorkers brought to the forefront a regulation that requires them to show "proper cause" of a special need for the personal protection that a concealed weapon would provide.

In addition to New York, states with similar "may issue" restrictions on eligibility for a concealed carry permit include New Jersey, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts and California. States employ a wide range of discretion for determining who gets a permit. Applicants in Delaware and Connecticut are generally successful, and those in New Jersey and Hawaii, like New Yorkers, are often out of luck.

Even states with "shall issue" rules frequently require applicants to pass concealed-carry classes, during which they must demonstrate competency in the safe handling of their firearm, including the ability to shoot accurately.

Gun-control groups cite data they interpret to imply the stronger the limits on concealed-carry permits, the better. The Giffords Law Center claims that violent crime rates are 13-15 percent higher in states with weaker concealed-carry rules than those with stronger ones. Correlation doesn't equate with causation, though, and it could be more logically argued that high crime is the cause of concealed-carry concentrations, rather than the result of it.

Indeed, it is not permit holders who wreak havoc on their communities, but those who carry with no permission but their own. Those authorized to carry a concealed weapon accounted for about 0.7 percent of all firearm-related homicides between 2007 and 2019, according to the Heritage Foundation.

With homicides rising 30 percent across the nation thus far in 2021, "proper cause" for requesting a concealed carry permit is simple. Some Americans need to defend self and family from those who would do them harm. The Framers believed the means to do so "shall not be infringed."

Law-abiding citizens have every reason to expect the Supreme Court to affirm the clear meaning of the Second Amendment and order states to issue concealed-carry permits on a "shall issue" basis.

— *The Washington Times*

PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

Netanyahu is the winner

"Israel is Winning Battles, Hamas is Winning the War."

So ran the headline in the Jerusalem Post atop an analysis of the Gaza war, which began, "The IDF is registering great achievements in Operation Guardian of the Walls, but meanwhile the house appears to be collapsing from within."

Hard to disagree. Consider this New York Times commentary about Israel's prime minister from the runner-up to the Democratic presidential nominee in the primaries of 2016 and 2020, Sen. Bernie Sanders:

"Mr. Netanyahu has cultivated an increasingly intolerant and authoritarian type of racist nationalism ... (and) legitimized these forces ... by bringing them into the government. ... Racist mobs that attack Palestinians on the streets of Jerusalem now have representation in its Knesset."

Sanders' wing of the party is moving toward the Palestinian side of the conflict. "Israeli air strikes killing civilians in Gaza is an act of terrorism," says Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota.

Tweets Michigan's Rep. Rashida Tlaib: "Israel targeting media sources is so the world can't see Israel's war crimes led by the apartheid-in-chief Netanyahu. It's so the world can't see the killing of babies, children and their parents. It's so the world can't see Palestinians being massacred."

Wisconsin Rep. Mark Pocan concurs: "We cannot just condemn rockets fired by Hamas and ignore Israel's state-sanctioned police violence against Palestinians — including unlawful evictions, violent attacks on protestors & the murder of Palestinian children ... US aid should not be funding this violence."

While Israeli attacks are killing Hamas commanders and destroying the sites from which Hamas has fired 3,000 rockets, Israel is suffering serious and intangible losses.

Palestinians in Jerusalem and on the West Bank have risen in solidarity with Arabs and Muslims in Gaza. A dozen were slain last week.

Arab citizens of Israel are

A military truce may be at hand, but that is all it will be — a truce before the next round of fighting.

daily fighting Jews in cities like Jaffa, Acre and Lod. Writes the Post: "With riots shaking all parts of Israel," the country "is being torn apart from within."

Beyond Gaza, Jerusalem, the West Bank and Israel, Lebanese and Jordanians are protesting on the border. In U.S. and European cities like Berlin, London, Paris and Madrid, protesters numbering in the thousands and tens of thousands are marching in solidarity with the Palestinians and condemnation of Israel as a racist and an "apartheid" regime.

Saturday's morning attack that brought down Gaza's 12-story tower that housed the Associated Press and Al Jazeera caused a backlash in much of Western media against Israel, which claims the building contained a Hamas intelligence center and was a legitimate target.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and President Joe Biden have come out in defense of Israel's right to attack sites from which rockets are being fired into Israel. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, however, has been more muted in backing Israel's attacks on Gaza.

The GOP seems more solidly behind Israel. More than three dozen Senate Republicans last week urged Biden to "unequivocally" support Israel's right to defend itself and to "immediately" end negotiations with Iran on sanctions relief, charging Tehran with supporting terrorist activity by Hamas against Israel.

In a letter to Biden, 44 Republican senators wrote:

"Over the past couple days, Palestinian terrorists in Gaza, who are funded by Iran, have launched a series of rocket attacks into Israel. They are targeting Israeli civilians and cities, including Israel's capital Jerusalem."

Where Israel goes from here, however, is currently unclear.

President Donald Trump's Abraham Accords, in which the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan established relations with Israel, appear now to be on hold.

For, on Sunday, a statement by the 57-nation Organization of Islamic Cooperation called for an immediate halt to what it described as Israel's barbaric attacks on Gaza and blamed "systematic crimes" against the Palestinians for the fighting which has lasted for a week.

The OIC statement came after a virtual meeting in which Saudi Arabia condemned Israel's violation of the sanctity of Muslim holy sites and evictions of Palestinians from their homes in East Jerusalem.

Clearly, the principal winner from this conflict is Bibi Netanyahu, who was within days of being replaced as prime minister by an opposition coalition when fighting erupted. He is now seen by Israelis as a decisive war leader, defending the country from thousands of rockets and severely pushing the enemies firing those rockets.

As for the two-state solution to which the world has been committed for decades, that prospect seems further from reality than ever.

Having seen what Hamas is capable of and willing to do, what Israeli will be eager to enter a peace agreement with the Palestinians that would mean vacating much of the West Bank, sharing Jerusalem as the capital of both countries, and a Palestinian right of return to lands from which their families were driven in the 1948-1949 Israeli War of Independence, which Palestinians remember as the Nakba, or catastrophe.

A military truce may be at hand, but that is all it will be — a truce before the next round of fighting.

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

Trump's huge 2023 decision

Sometime in 2023, Donald Trump will presumably make the most momentous decision by a single person affecting the fate of the Republican Party in decades.

He will decide whether to run for president again, and that will determine who's the frontrunner (Trump, if he's a go) and the contours of the race.

If Trump runs, he will, one assumes, blot out the sun. Everything will be about him — his record, his pronouncements, his animosities. Much of the conservative mass media will get on board, while the mainstream media — inadvertently aiding him, yet again — will be even more intensely hostile.

The choice between this and a more "normal" nomination battle is Trump's alone.

Perhaps not since Dwight Eisenhower turned aside Harry Truman's entreaties to run for president as a Democrat and threw his hat in the ring as a Republican has someone had such "yea or nay" influence over the nation's politics.

Trump's continued sway has been a boon to his most hardcore cadre, but it is a problem for Trumpism, at least if that term is to mean anything more than personal loyalty to him. In particular, his staying power risks overshadowing and distorting the development of the populist wing of the party, which should be about more than "Stop the Steal" and adherence to one man, even if that man has defied political gravity.

Trump lost last November and contributed more than his share to the Georgia Senate losses that have added trillions

If Trump does decide to run, he'll squeeze out potential GOP candidates.

of dollars to what Joe Biden can plausibly spend.

He no longer has any formal power, whereas a few months ago he could move aircraft carrier groups.

He's off social media and is not nearly as omnipresent on traditional media as when he was holding impromptu press conferences on his way to Marine One.

And yet, his grip on the party has barely loosened, if at all.

Why?

Most important, he avoided the stigma of a loser by falsely claiming he really won.

He connected with his voters at a cultural level deeper than any of his policies, creating an enduring bond.

His voters still think he's the only one who truly gets the threat from the left, and the only one willing to fight with the requisite ferocity.

Finally, they think Trump is being persecuted by social media companies and worry they could be next.

The lesson of the defenestration of Liz Cheney is that you can't run headlong into these sentiments and expect to survive in leadership.

Mitch McConnell, who has made his disdain for Trump clear, has taken the more prudent course of declining to elaborate on his well-known views, and isn't going anywhere.

But there's no doubt that what it means to be a populist in the Trump mode is overly determined by Trump himself.

Until recently, Elise Stefanik was a moderate Republican from New York state. She became the alternative to Cheney for the party's populists by toeing the line on Stop the Steal, an issue that isn't liberal, conservative or populist, but pure Trump.

The Trump effect is stark in Ohio Republican politics. One would think Rep. Anthony Gonzalez, a featured speaker last year at an event of the populist policy shop American Compass, would have more populist credibility than Senate primary candidate Josh Mandel, a run-of-the-mill establishment Republican. Yet Gonzalez voted to impeach Trump, so Mandel is earning populist points by calling him a "traitor."

On the other hand, another likely Senate candidate, J.D. Vance, who represents a sincere, thought-through populism, will have to answer for his lack of enthusiasm for Trump in 2016.

If Trump does decide to run, even if he's less dominant than advertised, he'll squeeze out potential candidates like Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley, who are most determined to run as his direct successors.

They, like most everyone else in the party, will have to hold their breath until Trump comes down one way or the other in 2023.

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

BIBLE SELECTION

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

— **Romans 11:33 (ESV)**

LETTERS

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

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— John 3:16 (NIV)

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Getting the Message/Rev. Chris Shelton

The Lord is full of mercy

Faithful Stephen is applying his sermon to the council of Jewish leaders who he is on trial before accused of blasphemy. Stephen implied that the Jewish leaders are of the same spirit as those who resisted prophets (such as Moses) sent by God to Israel.

He calls them a "stiff-necked people" (verse 51). This is a farming metaphor, used of a horse that will not respond to the directions of his owner. He resists the reins and commands. The spiritual application refers to one who will not submit to the Lord but is determined to go his own way.

Stephen also says they are "uncircumcised in heart and ears." In the Old Testament this expression referred to those who resisted making the Lord the object of their devotion and praise. They had the sign of the covenant (circumcision) but not the heart for it. In Jeremiah 9, God declares all men have uncircumcised hearts toward his will.

In saying this, Stephen makes a strong indictment of the council. They are in a doleful condition. They are destitute of any spiritual good and have woeful spiritual miseries upon them. But they are wholly incapable of applying this word. If you recognize your spiritual poverty, the Lord will help you. Pride, on the other hand, leads to destruction.

The Jewish leaders respond to Stephen's statements of judgement by becoming enraged and grinding their teeth at him (verse 54). They are so provoked that they rush upon him, take him out of the city, and stone him to death (verse 58). Nevertheless, we see Stephen as he dies praying the Lord would not count this sin against them (verse 60).

In doing this, Stephen follows the pattern and Spirit of the Lord Jesus. In Matthew 23, Jesus denounces the Jews sinful stubbornness, proclaiming woe after woe upon them, but also praying for them as he was dying on the cross at their hands (Luke 23).

The Lord speaks of his great patience and longing for the Jewish people despite their rebellious hearts: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often I would have gathered your children together as a hen gath-

ers her brood under her wings and you would not!" (Matthew 23:37).

The text implies that if the worst sinner would but run to Christ and put himself under his protection, he will obtain safety. God's fury will come against sinners, as Jesus made very plain, but not when he is inviting them to reconciliation, calling upon them to come and make peace. The Lord is full of mercy.

As Stephen is being stoned, a young man watches over it with approval (verse 58). His name is Saul. He will become Paul, the chosen instrument of Christ to take the gospel to the Gentiles. The Lord will answer Stephen's prayer in the conversion of Saul of Tarsus.

Paul writes to Timothy about himself: "Christ Jesus appointed me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief... I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life (1st Timothy 1:12-16).

What a change in the man Paul: from persecutor to servant of the Lord. The Spirit of grace changed and sanctified him. Paul came to know mercy and joy in Christ. He was delivered from the misery of a hard, impenitent heart. And all his sins, which were great, were forgiven in Christ.

We need to put a high value on such mercies as prayer and hearing the Word of God. God's word is of such worth because he reveals his eternal good in it. There is comfort in yielding to the Lord, and believing what he says. He is full of mercy.

Stephen's death also is noteworthy. His view of heaven before he died (verse 55) shows Christians how great the love of Christ is for his people. People on earth judge things differently than Christ. They celebrated his death, but God was against them and with Stephen. Stephen saw Christ in heaven.

Stephen was violently murdered, but the text says he "fell asleep" (verse 60). He had a peaceful end because he had peace with God in Christ. And still does.

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Thousands flock to Canton for Flea Market

From left, Deborah Martin, her granddaughter Mae, 3, grandson, William, and daughter-in-law Cameron Martin, far right, visit with Jessie Humble at her booth last Thursday at the Canton Flea Market.



Swing Into Summer ending tonight

By JOHN LEE
john@onlinemadison.com

Madison's Swing Into Summer will have its second and final event tonight (Thursday) to give Madison residents another night of food, fun and entertainment.

The event held at the Red Caboose on Main Street returned May 7 has some new festivities scheduled this week such as a dance party for the children, and characters walking around taking pictures with the children.

Nathan Hanson, parks and

recreation director for the city of Madison, said Swing Into Summer is usually held four times every year, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is only being held twice this year.

"We wanted to add a little more this year with the dance party and characters for the kids," Hanson said. "These characters will be two princesses and two heroes. It is undetermined who these heroes and princesses will be yet."

Hanson said there will be live music and food vendors such as Pizza Shack, Raising Cane's and

Sno Biz Snow Cones. Activities such as train rides and inflatables will also be available for children. He said people attending welcome to bring their own food.

"If the event is rained out, it will be moved to next Thursday," he said. "We hope to see you all at the Red Caboose for another night of fun in Madison."

For more information about Swing Into Summer, contact the City of Madison at 601-856-7116 or visit their website at www.madisonthecity.com.

Business

Continued from page A1

will have the ability to expand to 300,000 square feet.

This shovel-ready Megasite has full water, sewer and gas, including a 300-megawatt triple redundancy substation on site.

These buildings will join an Amazon fulfillment facility set to be substantially complete in

August.

Amazon has 69.02 acres at the megasite and expects to have about 1,000 jobs.

Deason said in April that while anyone is waiting for the jobs to come available they can sign up for text notifications by texting MISS-NOW to 77088.

Amazon fits within MCEDA's vision to build a comprehensive marketing plan to help promote Madison County to key target markets like Amazon since the metro is

sort of a crossroads between Dallas and Atlanta, Deason has said.

Late last October, MCEDA and county officials announced the purchase of 520 acres within the Megasite.

This purchase brought the total acreage under Madison County's control to 900 acres.

MCEDA has been working closely with Entergy Mississippi to put in a \$60 million substation that could provide upwards of 80 megawatts to service the Megasite.

Events

Continued from page A1

lives on the line."

Everyone attending the event let go of their balloons in honor of the fallen first responders.

Bugler Staff Sergeant Joseph Handy played taps following the balloon release.

Ridgeland Memorial

The Ridgeland Police Department held a memorial ceremony at the Police Station on Thursday, May 13, at 4 p.m. to honor fallen officers

The roughly 30 people in attendance heard remarks from Mayor Gene McGee, Police Chief John Neal, past president of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce Randy King and a closing benediction from Kileyham of Colonial Heights Baptist Church.

"No one asked these selfless men and women to put their life on the line," King said in his opening remarks. "Being a police officer is not a job, it is a calling."

The Ridgeland High School AFJROTC Color Guard presented the American flag and the State of Mississippi flag and Public Works Director and retired Army Reserve Colonel Mike McCollum played "Flowers of the Forest" on bagpipes. Marine Corps League member Billy Henderson played taps before the closing prayer.

Neal read the names of the eight officers in Mississippi who had lost their lives over the past year. Those names are:

- Deputy Sheriff James Blair, Simpson County Sheriff's Office
- Sgt. Kelvin Mixon, Edwards Police Department
- Capt. Glenn Green, Pike County Sheriff's Office
- Deputy Sheriff William Nichols, Desoto County Sheriff's Office.
- Lt. Marzell Brooks, Brookhaven Police Department
- Lt. Michael Bout, Hancock County Sheriff's Office
- Deputy Sheriff Thomas Barnes, Jefferson Davis County Sheriff's Office

Neal said that four officers had lost their lives in the span of 48 hours in Texas and Cali-



Madison County Sheriff Randy Tucker speaks at the seventh annual balloon release to honor fallen first responders as part of Madison County Law Enforcement Appreciation Week.

fornia earlier that week. As of the time of the memorial 124 officers had lost their lives in the line of duty nationwide.

Neal said that half were medical-related while 38 were due to stabbings or gunshot wounds. Another 14 had lost their lives in traffic-related incidents. He said they had lost a total of six police canines.

Neal went on to say that Texas, Georgia and Florida had seen the most deaths of officers and that Jan. 11, was the deadliest day for law enforcement so far this year.

"Even in a peaceful society evil will always exist and police officers are warriors against evil," Neal said.

McGee said that he knew

that every officer's death hit members of the Ridgeland Police Department particularly hard. He went on to say that the police in Ridgeland were among the best.

"We appreciate and support our officers and their department," McGee said. "I can say with confidence that we have the best police department any-

where in the nation."

Madison County Parade of Honor

Hundreds of people turned out to Reunion Parkway on Thursday evening for a Madison County Parade of Honor to show support for the county's first responders.

Volunteers gave out American flags to spectators and collected money to support the county's first responders.

Representatives from every law enforcement and fire department in the county were on hand to parade along the parkway as spectators cheered and waved flags in support.

"First Annual Madison County Parade of Honor was a big hit," said organizer Julene Taylor Stewart in a social media post after the event. "Thank you, everyone, who attended, participated, and helped me pull this off!"

Natunya Johnson and Moniekia Chambers, members of the Junior Auxiliary of Madison County, stood on the parade route handing out American Flags to spectators.

"We are here to support our first responders," Chambers said.



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MADISON CENTRAL SENIOR CLASS DAY



Madison Central High School had Class Day for its seniors Thursday, May 13. Left to right are the winners of the Madison Central PTO Scholarships: Kellen Fairburn, Sydney Ellis, Lana Evans, Adeline Walters, Payton Abner, Mary Addison Gregory and not pictured is Seth Holton.



Madison Central High School had Class Day for its seniors Thursday, May 13. Left to right are Dr. Kim Brewer (current principal at MAUE), Jamel Simes, Mary Boyd Parker and Rick Ross (retired principal at MAUE). Simes and Parker were recipients of the Rick Ross Madison Avenue Upper Elementary Honorary Scholarship.



Madison Central High School had Class Day for its seniors May 13. Sydney Ellis was selected as one of the Goodwill Salute Youth Honorees.



Madison Central High School had Class Day for its seniors May 13. Katherine Delaney (right) was presented the DAR Award by Kathy Laurent.



Madison Central High School had Class Day for its seniors Thursday, May 13. Left to right are Creek Robertson and Rob Thames. Robertson is the recipient of the Shelter Insurance Scholarship presented by Thames.



Madison Central High School had Class Day for its seniors Thursday, May 13. Lana Evans (left) was presented the Mayor's Youth Council Scholarship by Brittany Mayfield from the mayor's office.



Madison Central High School had Class Day for its seniors May 13. Parker Watts (right) was recognized by Mississippi Children's Museum for outstanding volunteer service. Sheri Bradford of Mississippi Children's Museum presented the award.



Madison Central High School had Class Day for its seniors Thursday, May 13. Keitan Bradford (left) was honored with the community service scholarship named in memory of former PTO member Shaheen Patel. Presenting the scholarship was PTO President Marcy Scoggins.



Madison Central High School had Class Day for its seniors Thursday, May 13. Chandler Welgos (left) was presented one of the Kelly, Kelly, Wilbanks Scholarships, in memory of Sam Clayton Kelly, Walker Kelly, and Mason Wilbanks. Pictured with Welgos are Lynn and Ken Wilbanks.



Madison Central High School had Class Day for its seniors Thursday, May 13. Elizabeth Bourne (center) was presented one of the Kelly, Kelly, Wilbanks Scholarships, in memory of Sam Clayton Kelly, Walker Kelly, and Mason Wilbanks. Pictured with Bourne are Chris and Christine Kelly.



Madison Central High School had Class Day for its seniors Thursday, May 13. Chloe Gramling (right) was presented the Trustmark Scholarship by Barney Daley (left).



Madison Central High School had Class Day for its seniors Thursday, May 13. Creek Robertson (center) was presented one of the Kelly, Kelly, Wilbanks Scholarships, in memory of Sam Clayton Kelly, Walker Kelly, and Mason Wilbanks. Pictured with Robertson are Sam and Kim Kelly.



Madison Central High School had Class Day for its seniors Thursday, May 13. Anna Kay Bumgarner (left) and Rob Embry (right) were presented the Pat Gordon Wann Class Loyalty Awards by Vicki Jefcoat.

Engagements

Shelby Griffin McKee to wed Austin Lee Partridge Aug. 21

Mr. and Mrs. David Curtiss McKee of Madison, proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Shelby Griffin McKee, to Austin Lee Partridge, son of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Partridge of Terry.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mrs. Terre L. Schriver of Madison, and Mr. Henry E. Krone, Jr of Summit, Mr. and Mrs. M. Curtiss McKee, and Ms. Mary G. McKee all of Madison. The prospective bridegroom is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Welch of Centreville and the late Mr. and Mrs. Jack Partridge of Jackson.

Miss McKee is a 2017 graduate of Germantown High School. She received her Associate Degree in Nursing from Holmes Community College, as well as her Registered Nurse certification in 2020. She will receive her Bachelor's Degree in July of 2021 from the University of Mississippi School of Nursing, and is currently employed with a local hospital.

The prospective bridegroom is a 2015 graduate of Terry High School. He graduated from the Mississippi State Fire Academy and received his Emergency Medical Technician designation in



Austin Lee Partridge and Shelby Griffin McKee

2018. He also received his certification to participate in the National Fire Rescue program, and is employed as a firefighter in Hinds County.

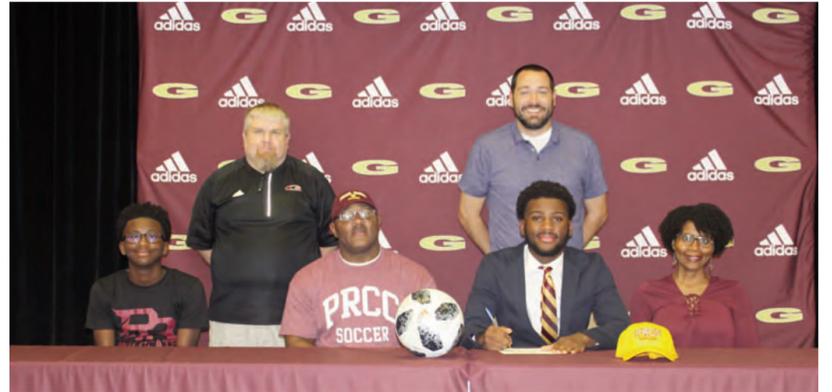
Austin proposed to Shelby in July of 2020, on the beach at sunset, with family in atten-

dance. The couple will exchange vows on August 21, 2021, at Bridlewood of Madison, with a reception to follow. After the wedding, they will make their home in Raymond.



St. Joe students receive scholarships

St. Joseph Catholic School seniors Trinity Johnson, Clincea White and Kalyn O'Quinn will receive a \$1,000 scholarship each from the Central Mississippi chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women. They were awarded these during a virtual program.



Naylor signs with Pearl River Community College

Solomon Naylor, senior at Germantown High School, signed to play soccer with Pearl River Community College. Pictured with Solomon are his parents, Stacey and Reginald Naylor, and brother, Simon Naylor. Coaches pictured are Assistant Coach Sid Lambert and Head Coach Steve Taylor.

LEGALS

LEGALS

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF Fread D. Otto, Jr. CIVIL ACTION NO. 2020-969 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Fread D. Otto, Jr., deceased, having on the 27th day of April, 2021, been granted to the undersigned by the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi, in Cause Number 2020-969, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to have the same probated and registered by the Clerk of said Court within ninety (90) days from the first day of this publication, or the same will be forever barred. Dated this 28th day of April, 2021. /s/ Gregory D. Otto Gregory D. Otto, Executor BENTLEY E. CONNER Attorney at Law 164 East Center Street Post Office Box 563 Canton, Mississippi 39046 (601) 859-6306 (601) 859-6307 fax Bar No. 6465bentleyconner@gmail.com

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ELIZABETH DORSEY HUNT, DECEASED NO. 21-47B JANICE G. HUNT EXECUTOR NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been issued on the 29th day of April, 2021, by the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi, to the undersigned upon the Estate of Elizabeth Dorsey Hunt, 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 within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice; otherwise, said claim will be forever barred. WITNESS MY SIGNATURE, this 30th day of April, 2021. /s/ JANICE G. HUNT JANICE G. HUNT, EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF ELIZABETH DORSEY HUNT, DECEASED MICHAEL DUNCAN MSB# 102959571 HIGHWAY 51 STE BRIDGELAND, MS 39157-2597 TELEPHONE: (601) 206-0289 FACSIMILE: (7696) 300-0614 EMAIL: michael@duncan-kenntel.com CODY W. GIBSON, MSB #1039673007 MULLEN NIX MSB #104859405 TOMBIGBEE STREET JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201 TELEPHONE: 601-948-9840; FACSIMILE: 601-487-5341 EMAIL: cwgibsonlaw@gmail.com

TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2014, Ruben Martinez Gaytan and Alfonso Nava Gomez, delivered unto the Trustee named therein a Deed of Trust securing the payment to the Bank of Morton, of an indebtedness described therein, recorded in Deed of Trust Book 3086 at Page 805 of the records on file in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Madison County, Mississippi; and WHEREAS, AS, default has been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust; the holder of the Note and Deed of Trust having requested the undersigned to do so, in accordance with the terms of said Deeds of Trust, I, Hez L. Hollingsworth, Trustee, will on the 4th day of June, 2021, offer for sale at public outcry and sell during legal hours the South door of the New Courthouse of the Madison County Courthouse in Canton, Mississippi for cash to the highest and best bidder, the property in Madison County, Mississippi, described as: A lot or parcel of land fronting 200 feet on the North side of Dinkins Street in the City of Canton, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as: Beginning at a point which is North 89 degrees 20 minutes East along the North side of Dinkins Street and 247 feet East of the Southeast corner of Lot 36, of Block A, of the F. H. Edwards Subdivision of the City of Canton, said county and state, a plot of which said subdivision is of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Madison County, Mississippi, and run thence North

89 degrees 20 minutes East along a continuation of the Northline of said Dinkins Street for 200 feet to the East line of the Smith Tract, thence running North 0 degrees 20 minutes East along said East line of the Smith Tract for 250 feet, thence running South 89 degrees 20 minutes West for 200 feet; thence running South 0 degrees 20 minutes West 250 feet to the Point of Beginning, and containing in all 1.15 acres, more or less, and all being a part of Lots 44 and 46, of Block C of the Walton's Addition to the City of Canton, Madison County, Mississippi. I will convey only such title as is vested in me as Trustee. WITNESS MY SIGNATURE this 4th day of May, 2021. /s/ Hez L. Hollingsworth HEZ L. HOLLINGSWORTH, MSB #2539 TRUSTEE OF COUNSEL THOMPSON & HOLLINGSWORTH, P.A. POST OFFICE DRAWER 119 FOREST, MS 39074; (601) 469-3411 PUBLISHED ON: May 13, 2021 May 20, 2021 May 27, 2021 June 3, 2021

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, EX REL. MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PLAINTIFF VS. EIGHT THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$8,400.00) IN UNITED STATES CURRENCY DEFENDANT CIVIL CAUSE NO. 2021-533 JH SUMMONS THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: Kenny D. Smith, and the unknown owner of Eight Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$8,400.00) in United States Currency A PETITION FOR FORFEITURE OR COMPLAINT HAS BEEN FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS. You are required by law to mail or hand-deliver a written response to the lawyer for the Plaintiff, whose name and address is Todd McAlpin, Assistant District Attorney, Post Office Box 121, Canton, Mississippi 39046. A COPY OF YOUR ANSWER MUST BE MAILED OR HAND-DELIVERED TO SAID LAWYER WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SUMMONS AND PETITION ARE SERVED UPON YOU, OR A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE CURRENCY AND PROPERTY OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE PETITION OR COMPLAINT. You must also file the original of your response with the Clerk of the Court within a reasonable time afterward. The name and address of the Clerk of this Court is Honorable Anita Wray, Madison County Circuit Court, Post Office Box 1626, Canton, Mississippi, 39046. Issued under my hand and the official seal of this Court this 5th day of May 2021. ANITA WRAY MADISON COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI BY: [u] Monica Henderson, D.C. [u] Monica Henderson

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SARA HARVEY ROBERTS, DECEASED CAUSE NO. 2021-51 B NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted in this matter on January 26, 2021, by Chancellor Cynthia Brewer in the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi, to the undersigned upon the estate of Sara Harvey Roberts, 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 within ninety (90) days from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred. DATED May 5, 2021. [u]s/ Claude Patrick Roberts/ u] CLAUDE PATRICK ROBERTS, Executor PREPARED AND PRESENTED TO THE COURT BY: [u]s/ Jonathan P. Barrett/ u] Jonathan P. Barrett, Esq. (MSB #102426) BARRETT LAW, PLLC 121 Colony Crossing, Suite D Madison, Mississippi 39110 601-790-1505

office 769-300-0922 facsimile jpb@barrettlawms.com Attorney for Estate of Sara Harvey Roberts, Deceased

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF PETER J. COSTAS, DECEASED CAUSE NO. 2020-941 (B)

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 8th day of December, 2020, by the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi, to the undersigned Executor under the Last Will and Testament of Peter J. Costas, 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 7th day of May, 2021. /s/ Theo Costas, Jr. THEO COSTAS, JR., Executor under the Last Will and Testament of Peter J. Costas, deceased PUBLISHED: 5/13, 5/20 & 5/27/21 SAMUEL H. WILLIFORD, MSB #100095WILLIFORD, McALLISTER, JACOBUS & WHITE, LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW 303 Highland Park Cove, Suite A Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157 (601) 991-2000 SOLICITOR

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI RE: THE ESTATE OF DWIGHT PRESLEY, DECEASED CAUSE NO. 2021-195B NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF MADISON

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 5th day of April, 2021, by the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi, to Vivian Presley to serve as Administrator of the Estate of Dwight Presley, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims in or against the Estate of Dwight Presley that they shall and will be required to present any and all claims against said Estate to the Clerk of the Court for probate and registration as is required by law within ninety (90) days from the first publication of notice, or said claims will be barred by law. ISSUED THIS, the 10th day of May, 2021. Ronny Lott, Clerk Madison County Chancery Court, P.O. Box 404 Canton, MS 39046 By: Kim Sievers, D.C. This document was prepared by: J. Hale Freeland, MSB NO. 5525 FREELAND MARTZ, PLLC 302 Enterprise Drive, Suite A Oxford, MS 38655 (662) 234-1711 hale@freelandmartz.com

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, EX REL. MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT PLAINTIFF VS. ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDREDDOLLARS (1,400.00) IN UNITED STATES CURRENCY DEFENDANT CIVIL CAUSE NO. CO-20210540 JH SUMMONS THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: Cedric D. Jackson and the unknown owner of one thousand four hundred dollars (\$1400.00) in United States Currency A PETITION FOR FORFEITURE OR COMPLAINT HAS BEEN FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS. You are required by law to mail or hand-deliver a written response to the Plaintiff, whose name and address is: Todd McAlpin, Assistant District Attorney, Post Office Box 121, Canton, Mississippi 39046. A COPY OF YOUR ANSWER MUST BE MAILED OR HAND-DELIVERED TO SAID LAWYER WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SUMMONS AND PETITION ARE SERVED UPON YOU. OR A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE CURRENCY AND PROPERTY OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE PETITION OR COMPLAINT. You must also file the original of your response with the Clerk of the Court within a

reasonable time afterward. The name and address of the Clerk of this Court is Honorable Anita Wray, Madison County Circuit Court, Post Office Box 1626, Canton, Mississippi, 39046. Issued under my hand and the official seal of this Court this 10th day of May 2021. ANITA WRAY MADISON COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI BY: Wanda Jefferson, D.C. Wanda Jefferson (SEAL)

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: 2001 GMC YUKON-VIN# 1GKEC13V01R175053 Date of Sale: May 31, 2021 Time: 9:30 am Place: 308 N Wheatley Street, Ridgeland, MS 39157

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, 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: 1995 CHEVROLET G20VIN# 1GCEG25Z9SF187517 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-ESTATE OF CARL RAY THOMPSON, DECEASED NO. 21-252 (W) NOTICE TO CREDITORS

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION having been granted on the 5th day of May, 2021, by the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi, to the undersigned, upon the Estate of CARL RAY THOMPSON, Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the said estate to present the same to the Clerk of the said Court for probate and registration according to law within ninety (90) days from the date of first publication of this Notice, or they will be forever barred. THIS the 11th day of May, 2021. /s/ Carolyn Thompson Carolyn Thompson, Administrator of the Estate of CARL RAY THOMPSON, Deceased JOHN ROBERT WHITE (MSB #7142) Williford, McAllister, Jacobus & White, LLP 303 Highland Park Cove, Suite A Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157 Telephone: (601) 326-3314 Facsimile: (601) 991-0859 E-mail: jrwhite@jrwlaw.com Attorneys for Carolyn Thompson

PUBLIC NOTICE

In compliance with §23-15-481 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, the Ridgeland City Clerk will conduct a test of the election equipment for the 2021 General Election. The test will be conducted in the basement of the Madison County Office Complex located at 125 N. West Street in Canton, Mississippi beginning at 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 3, 2021. Representatives of political parties, candidates, the press and the public are invited to witness the test. Publish May 20, 2021

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, EX REL. MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT PLAINTIFF VS. ONE (1) 2010 BLACK ACURA ZDX BEARING VIN # 2HNYB1H40AH503917 AND TWO HUNDRED NINETY-THREETHOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$293,800.00) IN UNITED STATES CURRENCY DEFENDANT CIVIL Cause No. CI 2021-0125 JR SUMMONS THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: Eddie Jaumar Ratliff, Yamilla Zamot, and the unknown owner of Two Hundred NinetyThree Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$293,800.00) In United States Currency A PETITION FOR FORFEITURE OR COMPLAINT HAS BEEN FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS. You are required by law to mail or hand-deliver a written response to the Plaintiff, whose name and address is: Todd McAlpin, Assistant District Attorney, Post Office Box 121, Canton, Mississippi 39046. A COPY OF YOUR ANSWER MUST BE MAILED OR HAND-DELIVERED TO SAID LAWYER WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SUMMONS AND PETITION ARE SERVED UPON YOU, OR A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE CURRENCY AND PROPERTY OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE PETITION OR COMPLAINT. You must also file the original of your response with the Clerk of the Court within a reasonable time afterward. The name and address of the Clerk of this Court is Honorable Anita Wray, Madison County Circuit Court, Post Office Box 1626, Canton, Mississippi, 39046. Issued under my hand and the official seal of this Court this 12th day of May 2021. ANITA WRAY MADISON COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI BY: Wanda Jefferson, D.C. Wanda Jefferson

Notice of sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles for the following: 2007 CHEVY TAHOE, VIN #1GNFC13097R283787, \$ 2776.65. Public sale of this abandoned/unclaimed vehicle will be held on Friday June 4, 2021 at Big Byrd Towing & Recovery located at 120 E. State St. Ridgeland, MS 39157 at 10:00 A.M.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI- IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ELSIE W. SMITH, DECEASED CAUSE NO. 2021-54 W SUMMONS THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ELSIE W. SMITH, DECEASED

You have been made a Defendant in this Petition to Determine Heirs At Law filed in this Court by BLAKE G. HAYNES, JR., Petitioner, seeking authority to determine the heirs-at-law of ELSIE W. SMITH, Deceased. You are summoned to appear and defend against said Petition to Determine Heirs At Law filed against you in this action and show cause, if you can, that you are an heir-at-law of ELSIE W. SMITH, DECEASED, at 8:45 o'clock a.m. on the 22nd day of June, 2021, before Judge James Walker in the courtroom of the Madison County Chancery Courthouse at 146 W Center Street, Canton, Mississippi 39046, and in case of your failure to appear and defend, judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the Petition to Determine Heirs At Law. You are not required to file an answer or other pleading, but you may do so if you desire. Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this 14th day of May, 2021. RONNIE LOTT, CHANCERY CLERK MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI BY: Ivy Stephens Deputy Clerk-Prepared by: RICHARD H. YOUNG, MSB NO. 6660 THE ELDER LAW FIRM P. O. Box 5142 Brandon, MS 39047 (601) 992-1437; (601) 992-3855 (FAX) Richard@theelderlawfirm.net

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI PERCY DORTCH PLAINTIFF VS. ROBERT L. EDWARDS (ESTATE), ESTATE OF ROBERT L. EDWARDS, MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI THROUGH ITS CHANCERY CLERK, LYNN FITCH IN HER CAPACITY AS ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, JOHN K.

BRAMLETT, JR., IN HIS CAPACITY AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS, UNKNOWN HEIRS, FIRMS AND CORPORATIONS HAVING OR CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE INTERESTS IN THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LAND LOCATED IN MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI WHICH WAS SOLD FOR TAXES ON AUGUST 28, 2017 TO WIT: "SEE EXHIBIT 'A'; "7.5A E PT NE 1/4 SE 1/4 S O F HWY 16S-T-R: 14-09N-03E; PARCEL NO. 093F-14 -022/00.00; PPIN 28661" DEFENDANTS CAUSE NO. 2021-399W PUBLICATION SUMMONS THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI TO: ROBERT L. EDWARDS (ESTATE), ESTATE OF ROBERT L. EDWARDS, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS, UNKNOWN HEIRS, FIRMS AND CORPORATIONS HAVING OR CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE INTERESTS IN THE SUBJECT PROPERTY

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Percy Dortch, Plaintiff, seeking confirmation and quieting of title, and for other relief. The real property which is the subject of this Complaint is described as follows: 7.5A E PT NE 1/4 SE 1/4 S O F HWY 16 S-T-R: 14-09N-03E; PARCEL NO. 093F-14 -022/00.00; PPIN 28661 LOCATED IN MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI. Defendants other than you in this action are Madison County, Mississippi, Lynn Fitch in her capacity as Attorney General for the State of Mississippi, and John K. Bramlett, Jr., in his capacity as District Attorney for Madison County, Mississippi. You are required to mail or hand deliver a written response to the Complaint filed against you in this action to Jon J. Mims, Rawlings & MacInnis, P.A., 1296 Highway 51 North, Post Office Box 1789, Madison, Mississippi 39130-1789. YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED NOT LATER THAN THIRTY DAYS AFTER May 20, 2021, WHICH IS THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS SUMMONS. IF YOUR RESPONSE IS NOT MAILED OR DELIVERED, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT. You must also file the original of your Response with the Clerk of this Court within reasonable time afterward. Issued under my hand and seal of said Court, this the 10th day of May 2021. Ronny Lott Clerk, Madison County, Mississippi by Rita Carpenter, D.C. (Seal) Jon J. Mims, MSB #100341 Rawlings & MacInnis, P.A. Post Office Box 1789 Madison, Mississippi 39130-1789 Telephone No. (601) 898-1180 Telecopier No. (601) 969-1041 jon@rawlingsmacinnis.net

Notice of sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles for the following: 2015 CHEVY CAPTIVA, VIN #3GNAL3EK4F5S23358, \$2707.10, and a 2011 HONDA ACCORD, VIN # 1HGCP2F75BA047984, \$2038.35. Public sale of these abandoned/unclaimed vehicles will be held on Friday June 4, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. at Gilmore Towing & Recovery, 124 E. State Street, Ridgeland, MS 39157

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Mississippi Senate Bill Number 2201 that the following will be attached by Storage Depot, LLC 1048 Gluckstadt Rd., Madison, MS 39110 and will be sold on June 10, 2021 at 10:00am to satisfy the lien claimed by Storage Depot, LLC on the following units: T. Thigpen unit 927, C. Tuttle unit 1002, J. Lofton unit 503, K. Hunter unit 706, K. Castilla unit 162, D. Walker units 1127 and 319, J. Penny unit 966, D. Peavy units 708 and 320, P. Lee unit 519, C. Jayroe unit 109, L. Barnes unit 107, L. Lewis unit 161, L. Odies unit 224, L. Puckett units 241 and 511, A. Riser unit 1014, P. Robinson unit 1100, J. Skirtech unit 915, P. Petersen units 919 and 327, D. Sellers unit 836



Madison Central students receive scholarships

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and the Madison County Community Trust awarded scholarships to Madison Central High School students Camille Boles and Julia Van Lake. for their participation in 2020-21 MCYL program. Pictured are Camille Boles, MCBL&F Executive Director Jan Collins, and Julia Van Lake.



Wiggins signs with Belhaven University

St. Joe senior Tyler Wiggins recently signed to play women's tennis next fall at Belhaven University. Pictured are, front row from left, Tommy Wiggins, Tyler's father; Tyler Wiggins; and Bridgette Wiggins, Tyler's mother; back row from left, John Bond, St. Joe tennis coach; Melissa Hall, St Joe tennis coach; and Dwain Perkins, Tennis Center South coach.



Madison Central newspaper staff receives awards

Madison Central High School's Uproar newspaper staff was recognized at Mississippi Scholastic Press Association's Spring Conference. The following awards were presented: Best Reviews – Emily O'Reilly finalist; Best Infographic – Adya Praveen finalist; Overall News and Feature Writing finalist; and Overall Print Layout and Design finalist. Pictured is the 2020-2021 staff. Pictured are, front row left to right, Rowan Gentry and Taylor Martin; back row left to right, Emily O'Reilly editor-in-chief, Mary Addison Loving business manager, Adya Praveen, and James Phillips.



St. Joe students receive scholarships

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and the Madison County Community Trust awarded scholarships to St. Joseph Catholic School students Anna Crout and Christopher Watson for their participation in 2020-21 MCYL program. Pictured are Anna Crout, Jan Collins; Executive Director of MCBL&F, and Christopher Watson.



Investing in safety and in Mississippi.

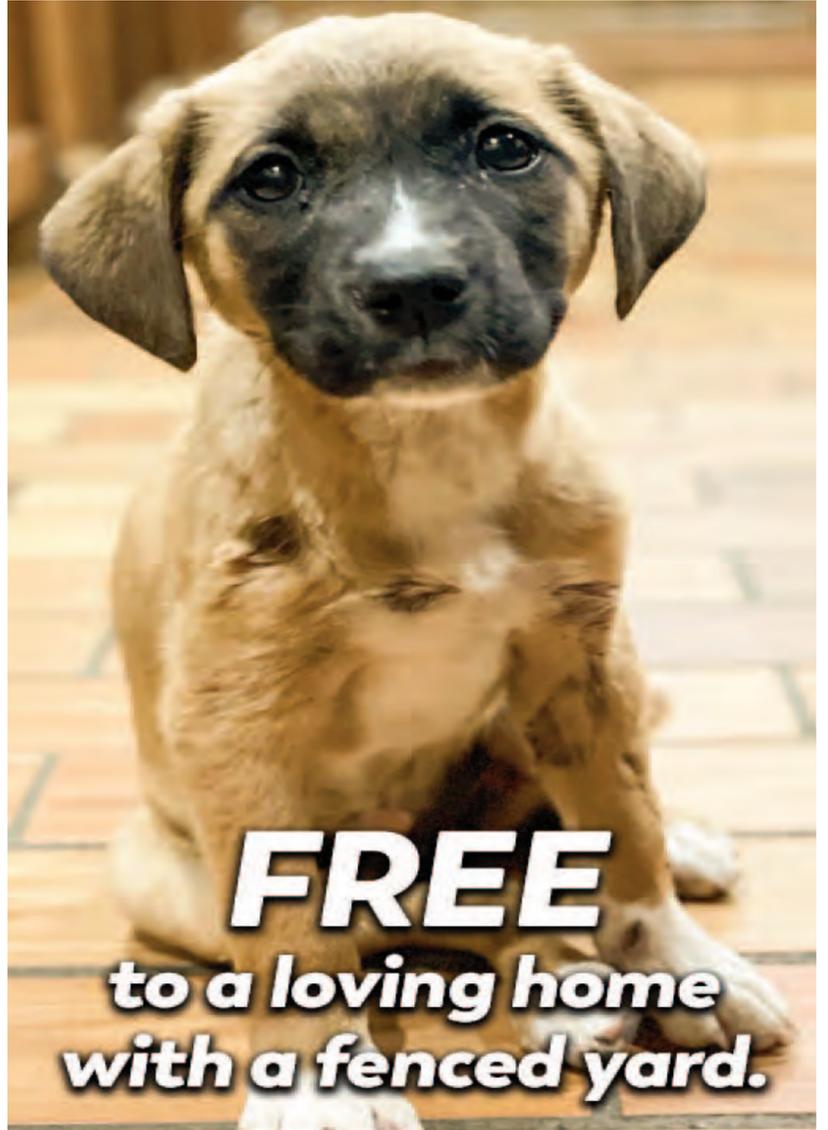
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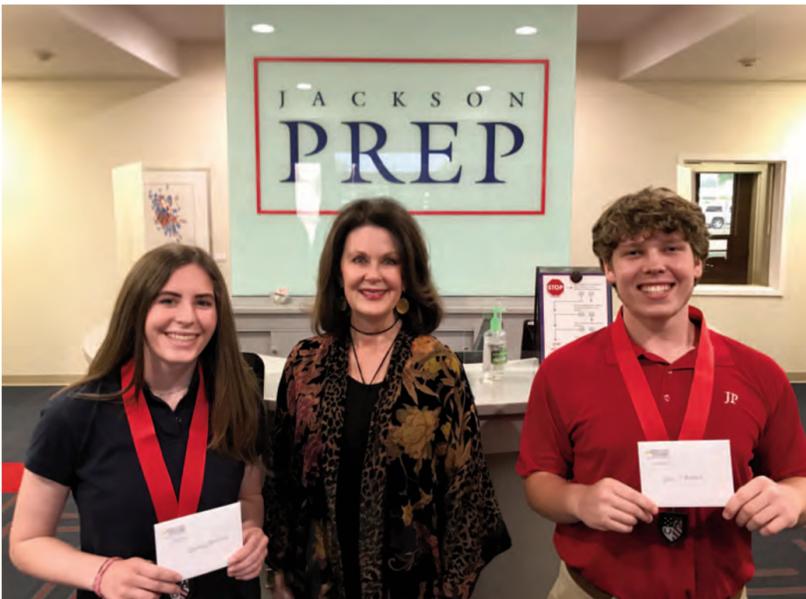
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Seawright signs with Rhodes College.

Sarah Bradford Seawright of the St. Andrew's Saints' State Championship Swim Team recently announced her commitment to swim at Rhodes College. Pictured are (back from left) Heath Seawright, Jon Seawright; (front, from left) Sarah Bradford Seawright, and Ashley Seawright.



Jackson Prep students receive scholarships

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and the Madison County Community Trust awarded scholarships to Jackson Preparatory School students Kennedy Maloney and Win D'Antonio for their participation in 2020-21 MCYL program. Pictured are Kennedy Maloney, Jan Collins; Executive Director of MCBL&F, and Win D'Antonio.

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BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES/J. Ligon Duncan III

Fullness in Christ

Please turn in your Bible to Colossians 2:8-15. In this passage, the Apostle Paul warns the Colossians against what he calls "philosophy." Paul is not warning them against the philosophy of Plato, Aristotle, or Socrates. He is not even speaking of Greek philosophy or modern philosophy. Instead, he is speaking of a counterfeit message that opposes Christ. In combatting this false teaching, he not only warns the Colossians to be on guard against that false teaching, but he also tells them that in fellowship with Christ, there is fullness, there is forgiveness, and there is freedom. Thus, Paul combats the false teaching and reminds us of the benefits that we have in union with Christ in three ways. First, Paul warns Christians that they must be on alert for false speculations. Secondly, he reminds believers to remember who Christ is and who we are in union with Him. Thirdly and finally, Paul points out the specific benefits which flow from our union with Christ.

I. Christians Must Be On The Alert For False Speculations.

In verse 8, Paul says, "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception." The word "philosophy" can refer to any sort of outlook and philosophy of life. This is an outlook of philosophy of life that has been developed by combining Christianity with a little bit of Judaism and a little bit of pagan belief and it has been pawned off on these people in Colossae. Furthermore, Paul says that this philosophy is "according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ." In each of those three phrases, Paul gives us a description of the hallmarks of this false teaching. First, he tells us that it is according to the tradition of men. In other words, Paul says it is man made. This teaching is not based on the Word of God. It is not based on the words of Christ. It is not based on Apostolic preaching. This false teaching comes from outside Scripture. Next, he says it is according to the elementary principles of the world. It may be that Paul is referring to ethical principles of behavior which are not grounded in the Word of God. Or Paul may be thinking of a particular teaching that says there are demonic

spiritual beings who control elementary principles in the universe where there are people who believe that the position of the planets and the stars actually control human destiny. And the Apostle Paul is saying we do not need to follow that teaching, because Christ is over all things. Christ is over the elementary principles, and He is over the spiritual world. A third thing he says is that these teachings are not in accord with Christ. In other words, they contradict the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ that the Apostle Paul has been teaching. Friends, that is no less important for us today than it was for the Colossians because there are just as many religious philosophies on the market today, if not more. So we must frequently ask ourselves, "Are we on guard against false teaching?"

II. Christians Must Remember Who Christ Is And Who We Are In Union With Him.

In verses 9-10, Paul reminds us that we Christians must remember who Jesus is and who we are in Christ. If we will remember those two things, we will be unlikely to fall prey to false teaching. And Paul tells us three things in particular that we need to remember in this passage. First, Paul says, "For in Him all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form." In this context, he means in Christ are found not just the attributes of God, not just the works of God, but in Christ is found the essence of God. In Him, all the fullness of the deity dwells, and if all the deity dwells in Him, why would we need to go anywhere else to experience the fullness of life and salvation? Next, Paul says, "For in Him, you have been made complete." Christ has provided the means of grace and the ministry to minister those means of grace to His people. And there is nothing else which needs to be added to that for us to attain completeness. Finally, Paul says, "He is the head over all rule and authority." That is, everything is under Christ's authority. What this means for the believer is that the Lordship of Christ brings freedom. Christ's lordship releases you from slavery to sin and to the world. Because He is Lord, you have been freed.

III. Christians Must Remember The Specific Benefits Which Flow From Our Being "In Christ."

In verses 11-15, the Apostle Paul works out the specific benefits which flow from our being united to Christ. In these verses, Paul is talking about a doctrine called "union with Christ." It is one of the most mysterious and glorious doctrines of the faith, which is that believers, by the Spirit, through faith, are united to Christ. Paul is telling us here that if we will understand what it is to be united to Christ, we will not fall prey to false teaching which professes to offer fullness, and we will be grown in the faith.

What is it to be united with Christ? When we are united with Christ, we do not become Christ, and Christ does not become us. But we enter into a covenantal relationship with Him whereby He is ours and we are His, and whereby all the benefits of His life and death flow to us. Specifically, he says that the benefits of our union with Christ include fellowship, the forgiveness of sin, and freedom in Him. First, Paul says because of our union with Christ, we have an intimate relationship, a community of life, a sharing of life with Christ. Next, Paul reminds us that because of our sin, we were condemned. But Christ has died and so has nailed the certificate of guilt and death to the cross, dying in our place, in order that we might be made alive through the forgiveness of sin. Lastly, Paul tells us that our union with Christ leads to freedom. Christ has already exercised authority over everything that is arrayed against us and our freedom is assured because of His victory. Because Christ is Lord, we are free. If we embrace Christ by faith, we will taste all of these benefits. If we reject Christ and His lordship or if we attempt to supplement Him, we do not receive all the benefits which are stored up in Him alone. This day are you guarding your heart against false teaching which downplays the totality of Christ's victory and are you embracing and appreciating everything that you have in Christ? Everything that you need is there for you in Christ. May God, by His Holy Spirit, enable us to look to Christ alone as our all in all.

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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