



SPORTS

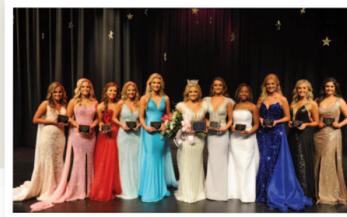
**SOCCER TEAMS' SEASON REVIEW**

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SCHOOLS

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# MADISON COUNTY JOURNAL

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 8

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FEBRUARY 25, 2021

\*\* \$1.00



Hannah Everhart recently auditioned for the new season of American Idol. The episode featuring Everhart's audition aired this past

Sunday. She will appear in a future episode after making it through to Hollywood Week.

## Gluckstadt teenager appears on 'Idol'

By **JOHN LEE**  
john@onlinemadison.com

Canton native Hannah Everhart went from singing with her father in her living room to auditioning in front of Luke Bryan, Katy Perry and Lionel Richie on the set of "American Idol."

Everhart, 17, was recently featured in the Feb. 21 episode of "American Idol" audition rounds and will be appearing in another episode within the next few weeks, she said.

During Everhart's Feb. 21 audition, "American Idol" judge and pop music star Katy Perry asked Everhart, "Are you the country version of me?" because of the striking resemblance of the two women.

Lionel Richie, another "American Idol" judge told Everhart, "I just love that twang in your voice."

Everhart proceeded to sing "Wayfaring Stranger" for the judges when Bryan cut her off to tell her to "quit checking us out" and to focus on her singing.

After the song was finished

Everhart said she was nervous and her voice was dry.

Bryan said Everhart had "50% whooped everybody in your little hometown but if you start going 100% you're going to start whooping people on 'American Idol.'"

Everhart thanked him for the advice and admitted she originally wanted to audition with "At Last" by Etta James but went with "Wayfaring Stranger" to play it safe.

"Why are you going to play 'American Idol' safe?" Bryan said, and Perry asked her to sing a little

of "At Last," which Everhart did to get through to the Hollywood round.

Everhart, who grew up in Canton and Andalusia, Alabama, moving back and forth between the two areas throughout her childhood, attended Andalusia Elementary, East Flora Elementary and later moved to Gluckstadt with her family and attended Germantown High School.

Everhart said she has been singing since she was a young girl,

See **IDOL**, page A3

WINTER STORMS

## County recovering from icy weather

By **SCOTT HAWKINS**  
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Officials throughout Madison County said they are glad last week's winter storms are over even as they are dealing with the residual effects of the storms.

At the peak of last week's storms approximately 6,200 of some 49,584 Entergy customers in Madison County lost power overnight Wednesday, Feb. 17, when a second winter storm brought more sleet and snow through the area.

The majority of those customers had their power restored within 24 hours, said Mara Hartmann, Entergy spokesperson.

"We had just over 6,200 out early Thursday, and Friday, the next day at 10 a.m., we still had about 2,105, out," Hartmann said. "By 24 hours later, we had two-thirds of those customers restored."

It was not until Sunday by 10 p.m., however, that all of Madison County's Entergy customers had power restored, Hartmann said, adding that the more customers they get restored the longer it takes to get the remainders.

"We very quickly restored two-thirds of the county," Hartmann said, adding the company works to get first responders, media and water companies back on first, then transmission points that feed large numbers of customers. Later efforts are for lines that feed smaller numbers of customers, Hartmann said.

"We were able to get everyone in Madison County restored Sunday by 10 p.m."

Madison County Sheriff Randy Tucker told members of the Madison County Board of Supervisors on Monday that the county had no major incidents from the storm.

"We had a lot of ice, a lot of snow, a lot of bad road conditions," Tucker said. "I want to thank all of the other first responders and emergency county personnel, road department, fire departments. ... We did not have a lot of issues. I don't think we had any significant emergency accidents. We had a lot of vehicles that slid off the roads, we had a lot of trees down. I don't think we had any major road blockages that lasted any length of time. All in all, it went well."

David Hodge, director of public works for the City of Madison,

See **STORM**, page A3

ACCOMPLISHED GOALS

## McGee eyes opportunities in 9th term

By **DUNCAN DENT**  
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"Lead by example" continues to be a mantra for Mayor Gene F. McGee as he runs unopposed for his ninth term as the mayor of Ridgeland.

"I am very fortunate the city has allowed me to serve," McGee said. "I am blessed and thankful for everyone who has supported me for eight terms. I would specifically like to mention my wife, Jane, who has sacrificed so much over the years for me. I feel blessed."

McGee sat at a work table in a brand new office in the brand new 30,000 square foot \$15.9 million building at the corner of School Street and U.S. 51.

"This building is evidence

that we have accomplished our goals," McGee said.

Drawings were submitted to the board in 2014 but a new building has been a goal of McGee and current and past board members for more than a decade. The building was completed in January and had a ribbon cutting on Valentine's Day.

The City Hall is just one of the latest long-term major capital projects completed by the city in McGee's latest term.

The city is also wrapping up the Lake Harbour Drive extension project, a \$22 million undertaking in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Transportation that has widened and improved the roadway and extended a bridge over the interstate.

Both of these projects were part of a long-time goal for McGee which has been to create a more traditional, walkable downtown environment centered on Jackson Street.

McGee said that after the sale of the old city hall building at U.S. 51 and Lake Harbour they want to use some of the money towards that goal.

"We want to grow it in the right way," McGee said.

McGee said they hope to slow down traffic and get through traffic off of the roadway with a variety of city planning techniques including landscaping and lighting.

A walkable downtown fits in with the city's image as a health community. In 2013 the Blue

See **MGEE**, page A2



Mayor Gene F. McGee works in his office at the new Ridgeland City Hall.

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OPINION  
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# Madison music teacher inspires her students

By JOHN LEE  
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Lisa Clark, Madison Central SSA and SATB Madrigals director, said her top priority is motivating her students and having them realize their potential.

That priority is why she was chosen as the National Federation of High Schools Music Educator of the Year for Mississippi.

Claudia Pieroni, a member of the Madison Central SATB Madrigals, said Clark deserves everything she has earned, especially being recognized as Music Educator of the Year.

"Ms. Clark has been so motivational and she inspires us to become the very best since she knows our potential," said Pieroni, a senior at Madison Central. "She uses emotions to invoke tone in our music and I've bonded with everyone in the choral groups I've been in."

Clark is not only the director of the Madison Central SSA and SATB Madrigals, but she is also the choir director at Rosa Scott School.

As Music Educator of the Year for Mississippi and Section 3 of the National Federation of High Schools, Clark also represents the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Clark grew up in Louisville and currently lives in Ridgeland.

When she isn't teaching music, Clark said she loves to visit Starkville and attend Mississippi State Women's basketball games. She also likes watching Nascar races and visiting the Neshoba County Fair, which she said is her favorite vacation spot.

Ever since she was a young girl, Clark said she has been interested in music and started taking piano lessons in the third grade. She moved to Ridgeland from Louisville in 2002 when she got the opportunity to enter the Madison



Lisa Clark directs the Madison Central SSA Choir. Pictured are: (Row 1) Kat Eagan, Kat Moorman, Alex Snowdy, Elexis Ollie, Haley Gall, Shantavia Robinson, Kate Male, Claudia Pieroni, Rachel Narbo, Nancy Lee Sanders, Lanie Schulz (Row 2) Veonia Smith, Kaelyn Merriwether, Ember Wilson, Carson Jones, Anna Booth, Ashlynn Smith, Natalie Gault, Anders Estorge, Baleigh Williamson, Abby Booth (Row 3) Katy Prater, Jordan Little, Ainsley Gibson, Hannah Brady, Abbie McKenzie, Raegan Gourley, Alex Cyrus, Holly Hunt, Morghan McDonald, Skye Law, Cecily Rolfe

County School District when Ridgeland High School opened.

"The first principal of Ridgeland High, Lee Boozer, gave me the opportunity," Clark said. "After 10 wonderful years at Ridgeland, I felt my career needed some revitalization. I moved to Madison Central High School in 2012 and have been there for the last nine years. It's been wonderful there."

Clark said music can touch a person not only intellectually, but also emotionally and phys-

ically. It doesn't matter what's trying to be expressed. Music is the way to express it.

Clark said she tells her students that anyone can sing or play the notes and rhythms on a page, but what matters is what's done with it that makes the music. A performer can be technical, but they also need to have expression.

"The way you can touch people with music is so much different than any other type of career," she said. "It's just one of those things that you see so much right now with education

going to the technological world is currently going through so much division and uncertainty, and it's music and thinking that can bring joy to our community, state, country and the world."

Clark said even if people aren't actively participating in a musical group, they can still participate by enjoying what a choir or band is doing, such as a musical or play. She said observers can still have that appreciation for what the performers are doing, especially if they have been there before.

"Music is more than what is on the paper. Through the interpretation of music, someone's performance tells a story to the listener," Clark said. "The

world is currently going through so much division and uncertainty, and it's music and thinking that can bring joy to our community, state, country and the world."

Carson Jones, a member of the SSA Madrigals and senior at Madison Central, has been a student of Clark's since the ninth grade and said she's a better singer and student after learning from Clark.

"I'm so happy she got this award because she has been so good at encouraging us and pushing us to do better than we

think we can do," Jones said. "I'm insanely happy and proud of her. She has worked so hard over the years."

Jones noted that Clark's best skill is helping people improve with multiple different skill sets and different kinds of choirs, and always pushes people to succeed.

To learn more about the SSA and SATB Madrigals choir program and Lisa Clark, visit [www.madison-schools.com](http://www.madison-schools.com), or email Clark at [lcark@madison-schools.com](mailto:lcark@madison-schools.com).



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## McGee

Continued from page A1

Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation named the city of Ridgeland "Mississippi Healthiest Hometown."

The city is regularly recognized for its healthy options. The city maintains a robust Parks and Recreation department and oversees many facilities that offer a variety of options like the Ridgeland Tennis Center, handicapped acces-

sible fields and a disc golf course.

The city also maintains miles of multi-use trails in conjunction with the National Parks Service that crisscrosses and connects the city and even accesses the Natchez Trace.

"We offer recreation programs for all ages and have many options and programs for the less fortunate," McGee said.

That is another way McGee leads by example. McGee is an avid cyclist and member of a robust cycling community that rides trails and roadways throughout town often starting

in the wee hours of the morning and covering distances that will make your head spin.

McGee is also an active vegan. He said he has been pleased to see the city grow into a place where there are multiple establishments with vegan options.

"I have been vegan for several years now," McGee said. "It has made all the difference. I don't really even like the smell of cooked meat anymore."

McGee said his good health and good vision for the city qualify him for another term.

"We provide a great quality of life, and I am certain we can continue to offer that," McGee said.

To accomplish his vision, McGee has to work with a lot of people. He works with seven alderman and numerous department heads. McGee came to politics from the business world. He said the biggest lesson he had to learn was patience in decision making.

"In the business world I was the one making decisions but as mayor, I have to work and plan with the board of alderman," McGee said. "There are seven of them and one of me."

McGee said the best way to accomplish strong working relationships is to surround yourself with competent people.

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- \*OVER 65 HOMEOWNERS (FIRST TIME)\*
- \*PEOPLE WHO FILED DEEDS IN 2020\*
- \*MARITAL STATUS CHANGE\*
- \*SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY (FIRST TIME)\*
- \*TOTAL DISABILITY VETERANS\*

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MADISON OFFICE- 171 Cobblestone Dr

OFFICE HOURS 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. (AFTER HOURS BY APPOINTMENT)

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Recorded Deed, Lease or Will  
Social Security Number/Date of Birth/Phone Number/Email for Applicant & Spouse  
Automobile Tag Numbers  
Settlement Statement/Closing Disclosure  
Valid MS proof of identification  
(MS drivers license/MS photo identification card)  
For a Complete Listing of Requirements Visit Our Web Site @ [www.madison-co.com](http://www.madison-co.com)



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

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# Canton aldermen ask county to oversee election

By **SCOTT HAWKINS**  
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CANTON — The City of Canton wants to abolish the city's election commission and is asking the Madison County Board of Supervisors to take over the city's future elections, including upcoming municipal elections in April.

Madison County Board of Supervisors Attorney Mike Espy said the City of Canton mailed him the request last week with a resolution and ordinance passed by the board of aldermen to that effect.

"It basically said that the City of Canton felt it would be more efficient for them in the

upcoming elections which are coming up in April to abolish their municipal elections commission," Espy said.

Following Canton's 2017 municipal elections, 12 different people faced charges stemming from the elections, including former Canton School Board member Courtney Rainey who was later sentenced to more than a decade in prison for intimidating witnesses in the Canton voter fraud investigation stemming from the 2017 municipal elections.

Others include former Canton Alderman Vickie McNeil, who had four counts of voter fraud dropped after she agreed to step down from her position

and former Ward 7 Alderman Andrew Grant, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit voter fraud and received a suspended prison sentence of five years.

Former Canton City Clerk Valerie Smith pleaded guilty to one count of violation of voter registration, and Donnell Robinson was indicted on one count of voter fraud for voting as an unqualified person. Robinson later pleaded guilty to the charge as a misdemeanor and received a one-year suspended jail sentence with six months probation.

Desmond King, deputy City Clerk, was indicted in December 2018 on two counts of voter

fraud. His case was dismissed. Sherman Matlock was indicted on charges of voting as an unqualified person because of a previous manslaughter conviction, and former Canton Fire Chief Cary Johnson and Jennifer Robinson, both indicted on voter fraud, were entered into the DA's pre-trial diversion program instead of a trial.

"They said it would be more efficient for them to cancel the municipal election commission ... (because) of difficulties with the last election of 2017," Espy said during Monday's board of supervisors meeting.

Espy said the city's request falls under a fairly recent state statute 2315-221 of the Missis-

issippi Code that states if no other options are available, the municipality can petition the county government within the county it is located to conduct their elections.

"That's everything — that's polling locations, ballots, hiring poll workers — the whole shebang," Espy said, adding the county would have to agree to take over.

Supervisors had questions about whether the county is obligated to comply with the request including what other options Canton might have and whether the statute requires the county to help. If so, could that open the door for other cities to ask the county to take over their

elections?

Espy said he could not speculate on what negotiations might bring and noted that Canton Mayor William Truly's signature was not on the letter sent to Espy requesting the county take over the city's election commission.

"I'm not going to have the answers today," Espy said.

Supervisors unanimously agreed to have Espy meet with the Canton City Attorney and Truly to discuss other options and potential costs of taking over municipal elections.

## Storm

Continued from page A1

said he believes Madison was lucky not to have had any more issues than the city experienced from last week's storms.

"We encouraged everyone to stay off the roads, and we weathered the storm pretty well," Hodge said, adding his department's employees put in extra effort to get through the storms. "We had some long hours monitoring our systems."

This week in the aftermath of the storms, Hodge said the city crews have been watching the water pipes to make sure no

leaks emerge and monitoring the roads.

"We had about 15 potholes we are filling today," Hodge said Wednesday morning.

Mississippi Department of Transportation Public Information Officer Michael Flood said MDOT has its full maintenance employees working to fill potholes on state highways and interstates.

Flood said crews had been working the past three days to repair potholes in Madison County at the I-55 Madison exit

and along I-55 between Old Agency Road and the Madison exit.

Flood said MDOT does not have an exact number of potholes created by or worsened by last week's storms but that they are aware of several including one on U.S. 51 just north of Hoy Road.

"All of our maintenance forces are working to get them all patched up as quickly as possible," Flood said.

Ridgeland Mayor Gene F. McGee said Ridgeland came

through the storm well thanks to the efforts of city employees.

Toward the end of a special-called meeting of the Ridgeland Mayor and Board of Aldermen on Tuesday, Magee said he would be "remiss" if he did not take a moment to recognize the Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works Department and their department heads for their reaction to the ice and snow and rain last week.

Most of the City of Canton was under a boil water notice

since last week but on Tuesday afternoon the order was lifted for much of the city.

Canton placed the following notice on the city's website Tuesday afternoon: "The Boil Water notice put in place for the City of Canton has been lifted EXCEPT in the following areas:

- Way Road
- The North side of Pisgah Bottom Road
- Davis Crossing
- Tyson Road
- Green Road

- Way Road Circle
- Dinkin Road in the county
- Loring Road extension on the West side of HWY 51
- Loring Road to Truitt Road
- Old HWY 51
- HWY 51 from Way Rd intersection to Load Road intersection.

All citizens living inside the Canton City Limits boil water notice has been lifted."

*Duncan Dent contributed to this report.*

## Idol

Continued from page A1

and her parents are both avid singers as well.

Her father, David, loves playing guitar, and her mother, Nekia, sings at Apostolic Lighthouse Church in Canton.

However, Everhart said she never thought about auditioning for "American Idol" until her friend messaged her about auditions that would be happening virtually through the video platform Zoom.

"I auditioned and didn't know what to expect," Everhart said. "Around three

weeks later, I was contacted by "American Idol" and was told I would be flying out to California for the live auditions in front of the judges."

Everhart said she believed the most challenging part of the auditions was keeping confident throughout the show. She said her voice has always been unique. She knows she can sing, but she never expected her voice to get her as far as it has.

Everhart said that when someone sings with confi-

dence, it improves their performance.

"I didn't watch 'American Idol' growing up, but I've watched it recently over the years."

Everhart said. "There's a lot more to it than you would think. It was very surreal, and it's been so fresh on my mind. Getting to be on the show feels good."

Everhart said her favorite part of the experience was making herself proud, and most importantly, her family

proud as well.

Along with singing, Everhart said she loves to paint, write poems, ride horses and help her father on the family's cow farm in Pickens. She said she will keep doing those things along with singing, and of course plans to pursue the journey she's on and continue music if that's what God has in store for her.

"I'm just trying to be an inspiration to small-town folks," she said. "I will do what God has planned for

me."

Nekia Everhart said it brought joy to her heart to see her daughter on live TV.

"When I see my sweet girl on TV chasing her dreams, it brings such a huge smile to my face," Everhart said.

"Her daddy and I encourage her to stay true to herself and keep God first in all she does in life. I hope she chases her dreams but remembers that all roads lead back home."

Raeganne Robinson, a

long-time friend of Hannah Everhart, said seeing her friend on TV was incredibly exciting since it was something they had always talked about.

"I get emotional about it because seeing her pursuing her dream and growing into such a wonderful person is truly amazing," Robinson said.

"I know she is going to be a true inspiration to anyone that has big dreams."



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# Opinion & Editorials

NEWT GINGRICH

## Why I will not give up

*This commentary was first published at Gingrich360.com in December 2020.*

A smart friend of mine who is a moderate liberal asked why I was not recognizing Joe Biden's victory.

The friend made the case that Biden had gotten more votes, and historically we recognize the person with the most votes. Normally, we accept the outcome of elections just as we accept the outcomes of sporting events.

So, my friend asked why was 2020 different?

Having spent more than four years watching the left #Resist President Donald Trump and focus entirely on undoing and undermining the 2016 election, it took me several days to understand the depth of my own feelings.

As I thought about it, I realized my anger and fear were not narrowly focused on votes. My unwillingness to relax and accept that the election was over grew out of a level of outrage and alienation unlike anything I had experienced in more than 60 years involvement in public affairs.

The challenge is that I – and other conservatives – are not disagreeing with the left within a commonly understood world. We live in alternative worlds.

The left's world is mostly the established world of the forces who have been dominant for most of my life.

My world is the populist rebellion which believes we are being destroyed, our liberties are being cancelled, and our religions are under assault. (Note the new Human Rights Campaign to decertify any religious school which does not accept secular sexual values – and that many Democrat governors have kept casinos open while closing churches through the COVID-19 pandemic.) We also believe other Democrat-led COVID-19 policies have enriched the wealthy while crushing middle class small business owners (some 160,000 restaurants may close).

In this context, let's talk first about the recent past and the presidency.

In 2016, I supported an outsider candidate, who was rough around the edges and in the Andrew Jackson school of controversial assaults on the old order. When my candidate won, it was blamed on the Russians. We now know (four years later) Hillary Clinton's own team financed the total lie that fueled this attack. Members of the FBI twice engaged in criminal acts to help it along – once in avoiding prosecution of someone who had deleted 33,000 emails and had a subordinate use a hammer to physically destroy hard drives, and a second time by lying to FISA judges to destroy Gen. Michael Flynn and spy on then-candidate Donald Trump and his team. The national liberal media aided and abetted every step of the way. All this was purely an attempt to cripple the new president and lead to the appointment of a special counsel – who ultimately produced nothing.

Now, people in my world are told it is time to stop resisting and cooperate with the new president. But we remember that the Democrats wanted to cooperate with Trump so much that they began talking about his impeachment before he even took office. The Washington Post ran a story on Democrat impeachment plots the day of the Inauguration. In fact, nearly 70 Democratic lawmakers boycotted his inauguration. A massive leftwing demonstra-

*The truth is tens of millions of Americans are deeply alienated, angry over Trump loss.*

tion was staged in Washington the day after, where Madonna announced she dreamed of blowing up the White House to widespread applause. These same forces want me to cooperate with their new president. I find myself adopting the Nancy Pelosi model of constant resistance. Nothing I have seen from Biden since the election offers me any hope that he will reach out to the more than 74 million Americans who voted for President Trump.

So, I am not reacting to the votes so much as to the whole election environment.

When Twitter and Facebook censored the oldest and fourth largest newspaper (founded by Alexander Hamilton) because it accurately reported news that could hurt Biden's chances – where were The New York Times and The Washington Post?

The truth of the Hunter Biden story is now becoming impossible to avoid or conceal. The family of the Democrat nominee for president received at least \$5 million from an entity controlled by our greatest adversary. It was a blatant pay-off, and most Americans who voted for Biden never heard of it – or were told before the election it was Russian disinformation. Once they did hear of it, 17 percent said they would have switched their votes, according to a poll by the Media Research Center. That's the entire election. The censorship worked exactly as intended.

Typically, newspapers and media outlets band together when press freedom is threatened by censorship. Where was the sanctimonious "democracy dies in darkness?" Tragically, The Washington Post is now part of the darkness.

But this is just a start. When Twitter censors four of five Rush Limbaugh tweets in one day, I fear for the country.

When these monolithic internet giants censor the President of the United States, I fear for the country.

When I see elite billionaires like Mark Zuckerberg are able to spend \$400 million to hire city governments to maximize turnout in specifically Democratic districts – without any regard to election spending laws or good governance standards – I fear for the country.

When I read that Apple has a firm rule of never irritating China – and I watch the NBA kowtow to Beijing, I fear for our country.

When I watch story after story about election fraud being spiked – without even the appearance of journalistic due diligence or curiosity – I know something is sick.

The election process itself was the final straw in creating the crisis of confidence which is accelerating and deepening for many millions of Americans.

Aside from a constant stream of allegations of outright fraud, there are some specific outrages – any one of which was likely enough to swing the entire election.

Officials in virtually every swing state broke their states' own laws to send out millions of ballots or ballot applications to every registered voter. It was all clearly documented in the Texas lawsuit, which was declined by the US Supreme Court based on Texas' proce-

dural standing – not the merits of the case. That's the election.

In addition, it's clear that virtually every swing state essentially suspended normal requirements for verifying absentee ballots. Rejection rates were an order of magnitude lower than in a normal year. In Georgia, rejection rates dropped from 6.5 percent in 2016 to 0.2 percent in 2020. In Pennsylvania, it went from 1 percent in 2016 to .003 percent in 2020. Nevada fell from 1.6 percent to .75 percent. There is no plausible explanation other than that they were counting a huge number of ballots – disproportionately for Biden – that normally would not have passed muster. That's the election.

The entire elite liberal media lied about the timeline of the COVID-19 vaccine. They blamed President Trump for the global pandemic even as he did literally everything top scientists instructed. In multiple debates, the moderators outright stated that he was lying about the US having a vaccine before the end of the year (note Vice President Mike Pence received it this week). If Americans had known the pandemic was almost over, that too was likely the difference in the election.

The unanimously never-Trump debate commission spiked the second debate at a critical time in order to hurt President Trump. If there had been one more debate like the final one, it likely would have been pivotal.

This is just the beginning. But any one of those things alone is enough for Trump supporters to think we have been robbed by a ruthless establishment – which is likely to only get more corrupt and aggressive if it gets away with these blatant acts.

For more than four years, the entire establishment mobilized against the elected President of the United States as though they were an immune system trying to kill a virus. Now, they are telling us we are undermining democracy.

You have more than 74 million voters who supported President Trump despite everything – and given the election mess, the number could easily be significantly higher. The truth is tens of millions of Americans are deeply alienated and angry.

If Biden governs from the left – and he will almost certainly be forced to – that number will grow rapidly, and we will win a massive election in 2022.

Given this environment, I have no interest in legitimizing the father of a son who Chinese Communist Party members boast about buying. Nor do I have any interest in pretending that the current result is legitimate or honorable. It is simply the final stroke of a four-year establishment-media power grab. It has been perpetrated by people who have broken the law, cheated the country of information, and smeared those of us who believe in America over China, history over revisionism, and the liberal ideal of free expression over cancel culture.

I write this in genuine sorrow, because I think we are headed toward a serious, bitter struggle in America. This extraordinary, coordinated four-year power grab threatens the fabric of our country and the freedom of every American.

*Newt Gingrich is the former speaker of the House. Visit [Gingrich360.com](http://Gingrich360.com).*

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# MADISON COUNTY JOURNAL

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JAMES E. PRINCE III  
President and Publisher

SCOTT C. HAWKINS  
Editor

## EDITORIALS

# Mob mentality won't end

The mob that attacked the U.S. Capitol is long gone, but a mob mentality remains inside and out. The second impeachment trial of Donald Trump – this time for allegedly triggering an insurrection at the U.S. Capitol – has failed, but the pitchforks and torches remain in easy reach. Teaching their children that "blessed are the peacemakers" while electing leaders who vow to "fight like hell" is, regrettably, the American way.

The shift of presidential leadership was supposed to signal a fresh start. "Politics doesn't have to be a raging fire, destroying everything in its path," President Biden intoned during his inauguration speech. "We have to be different than this, America has to be better than this, and I believe America is better than this."

Many citizens share his belief, at least in theory, but proof is in the polling. An Ipsos-Reuters survey, published just prior to the former president's acquittal in a 57-43 vote Saturday, found that 50% of respondents would have convicted Mr. Trump if they had a vote. Another 38% would have found him not guilty and the remainder were undecided.

The "raging fire" in Congress that condemned the Trump presidency burned in rough proportion to national party affiliation. A December Gallup poll found 31% of Americans identify as Democrats and 25% as Republicans. Another 41% claim independent status, breaking down into 50% "Democrats or Democratic leaners," and 39% "Republicans or Republican leaners."

Americans condemn the sort of violence that erupted on Capitol Hill Jan. 6, but ideology-filtered judgment of the

Trump impeachment spectacle demonstrates there is little interest in halting the sort of destructive politics that Mr. Biden claims to abhor. If anything, his election increased the likelihood that the Washington power structure, which so-called "progressives" now own, is prepared to incinerate the notion that "America is better than this."

Speaker Nancy Pelosi lit the post-inaugural match with her hastily organized House impeachment proceeding. Rep. Jamie Raskin quizzically called the acquittal "dramatic success in historical terms," even as his fellow impeachment managers dishonored the Senate with evidentiary videos doctored to exclude Mr. Trump's calls for peaceful protest.

Fuming behind her face mask, Mrs. Pelosi refused to accept failure, pledging Monday to empanel a "9/11-type" commission to figure out what went wrong on Jan. 6 and how security can be fortified on Capitol Hill. Welcome to "Castle Hill."

Seven Republican senators who joined Democrats in choosing to convict Mr. Trump voted their consciences rather than party. If their decisions were informed by the U.S. Constitution, though, they might have represented the consciences of their constituents.

Democrats claimed Donald Trump deserved conviction because he told supporters to "fight like hell" or they would lose their country. He is gone, but Americans have chosen to replace him with President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, who have both vowed to "fight like hell." This is what passes for "progress."

— *The Washington Times*

# The cavalry arrives

*The Neshoba Democrat in Philadelphia, Miss., said in an editorial on Feb. 24:*

Linemen in bucket trucks and Baptists serving hot meals have been like the cavalry arriving since a debilitating winter storm knocked out power to most of unincorporated Neshoba County last week, even shutting the Walmart in town for a couple of days.

At daybreak on a crisp, clear morning Tuesday and continuing as the sun rose, out-of-town crews in convoys of bucket trucks and utility vehicles were heading south on Holland Avenue out of town to the hardest-hit areas of the county to get the lights on and we are thankful as a community.

Electric cooperatives from Alabama, Arkansas and other parts of Mississippi, among others, have been assisting Central Electric to get the lights back on.

There are multiple heroes in this crisis, too many to name, but we can all be thankful for caring neighbors eager to pitch in and help.

The hardship many families here are facing was illustrated in an announcement by the Neshoba County School District on Monday offering assistance to children.

Elementary students who need a snack pack sent home, a clean set of clothes, hygiene products and so on were their concern on Monday.

"We are here to HELP! We realize many in our area still do not have power, water and may be in need," the statement posted on Facebook said.

Parents or guardians were encouraged to email [tplott@neshobacentral.com](mailto:tplott@neshobacentral.com) or call the school at 601-656-2182 and ask for Jessica McCoy.

What many assumed would be a snow

day turned into a snow week with schools and businesses shuttered.

Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief teams provided 1,800 hot meals over three days to Neshoba County residents impacted by the winter storm.

Nine Neshoba County Baptist congregations assisted in providing direct feeding and the Neshoba Baptist Center in town hosted a drive-through feeding line.

The team at the Baptist Center was able to have over 60 direct ministry contacts and 30 opportunities to pray with those in the drive-through feeding line, ministry officials said.

"Most important of all was that one of our DR Chaplains was able to share with and pray with two individuals who accepted Christ as their Savior! Praise the Lord!" the relief ministry posted on its Facebook page about the Neshoba County efforts.

The Lord can use even a fence post to accomplish His will and without our aid, and he used a terrible winter storm and a relief ministry to bring two of His children into himself at no cost, a free gift.

The Rev. Eric Sharp, the youth minister and associate pastor at New Bethel Baptist Church near Laurel Hill, led their feeding team Sunday and said it was "wonderful to see our young people eager to serve those that were in need."

The people who came and picked up take-out plates "were so thankful for a hot meal," he said.

So, there is some good that has — and will — come out of this storm.

Plenty of residents have questions and Central Electric should address concerns when the crisis is over.

But for now, thanks to all the heroes.

## LETTERS

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

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## BIBLE SELECTION

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

— 1 John 4:18 (ESV)



Former President Trump will speak at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) on Feb. 28 in Orlando.



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

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**GETTING THE MESSAGE/Rev. Chris Shelton**

**Acts 4:1-22**

We see the apostles Peter and John on trial in this passage. They are arrested after Peter (through the power of Jesus name) heals a crippled man. The arrest is not triggered as much from the healing as it is what Peter is saying. He is teaching a large Jewish crowd that Jesus of Nazareth, whom they crucified, is the promised Christ and has been raised from the dead (verses 1-3).

When the trial begins the next day, the Jewish leaders ask Peter and John by what power or what name did you do this (verse 7)? Then we are told that Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit and he answers directly. And in his answer we see what the chief work of the Holy Spirit is: to exalt Christ.

Peter says let it be known to you and all Israel than this has happened "by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead." Peter goes on to quote Psalm 118; that Jesus is the cornerstone of the people of God, and that "there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

In other words if you do not have Christ, you will perish outside of the people of God, you will not have a place. There are three main defects in men since the fall. There is ignorance and blindness to God; there is rebellion in the will and affections toward God; we are in a cursed position subject to God's wrath because of this.

We need a Savior answerable to these needs, and Christ, the Son of God, is the only sufficient Savior. There is no other way to be reconciled to God. Christ died for sinners, and he was raised from the dead that men may be justified before God.

The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to the light of Christ. He convinces us of our sin and misery, the holiness of God, and the need of Christ's sacrifice. You can do nothing apart from God's Spirit. We have no power over the devil and death. We cannot take our own sins or any other person's sins away. Truly, we will not believe the truth of God apart from the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit being poured out at Pentecost is a testament to our spiritual poverty and

God's grace. He points poor sinners to a loving Savior who gave himself for them. He brings refreshment to the soul, makes Christ the name above all names in our hearts. The Holy Spirit is the gift of life. Life is more than material. Life that endures is in knowing Christ.

We see the Spirit give the apostles boldness (verse 12). Jesus had told his disciples the night before he was to be crucified that they would be persecuted by men; that the servants were not above the Master. If men hated Christ, they would hate his disciples also. But Jesus had also told them he would never leave them; that the Holy Spirit would be with them in tribulation and on trial before men.

The contrast between the apostles and the Jewish leaders stands out at the end of the trial. The rulers are worried about the opinions of the people (verses 16-17); the apostles are focused on being obedient to God. The rulers threaten the apostles. Peter and John answer: "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard (verse 19)."

They are very respectful, and are making an appeal for their Jewish brothers to pay careful attention to what has happened. This is the hand of God. Christ has been raised from the dead. It is not the time to fear losing your position, or losing face, or pursuing worldly ambitions. They are in great jeopardy from God; now is the time to repent, rather than resist.

The gospel of Christ is opportunity. And when it goes forth, there will be souls who believe. We see in verse 4, that 5000 souls believed from Peter's sermon. Even among these obstinate rulers and priests gathered to threaten the apostles, some would come to faith (Chapter 6:7).

Men can threaten and put to death Christ's people in this world. But they are powerless to thwart God's purposes he has for his gospel. Christ will be proclaimed. Some will come to him. Others will perish outside of him. So the Lord appeals to us all, seek Christ (and the life in him), while he may be found. Look into these things, and call on the name of the Lord.



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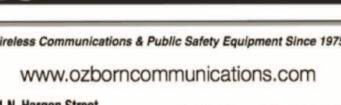
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# COVID-19 cases continue to decline

By SCOTT HAWKINS  
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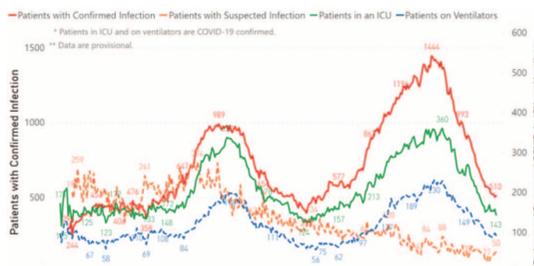
Madison County reported 54 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and five new COVID-19 deaths over the past week, according to the Mississippi State Department of Health's Wednesday report.

Madison has recorded 9,378 total confirmed COVID-19 cases and 194 COVID-19 deaths since the pandemic began last March.

New cases grew at a slower pace last week with only 54 new cases over the past week as compared to 124 cases the prior week.

Madison County has now reported 28,909 vaccinations being administered in the county since the vaccine became available. That number is up 3,069 vaccinations over last week's number of 25,840 total vaccinations, despite last week's winter storms.

The MSDH vaccination report does not distinguish county of residence of the people receiving the vaccines so all of those vaccines may not have



This chart from the Mississippi State Department of Health shows a decline in infections and ICU admissions.

been administered to people who are residents of Madison County.

Vaccines are available at the Walmart locations in Canton and Madison. Go to <https://msdh.ms.gov/c19appointment/#local> to check availability.

The state of Mississippi is currently giving COVID-19 immunizations for the following:

- All healthcare workers and EMT/paramedics
- Persons age 65 or older or those with pre-existing conditions.

• Mississippi teachers and first responders will be eligible for the vaccinations starting Monday, March 1.

Vaccinations are currently being administered in Madison County at Canton High School, 634 Finney Road, Canton, through Friday.

Sign up online at [covidvaccine.unc.edu](https://covidvaccine.unc.edu) or call 1-877-978-6453. The website is the best option, officials have said.

In total, 6,605 deaths have been reported in the state since the pandemic began last March. Much of Mississippi, including Madison, Rankin and Hinds counties, remain under a mask mandate and social distancing orders by Gov. Tate Reeves through March 3.

Madison County Schools were not included in the state's latest COVID-19 report for schools dated Feb. 19.

## THE LORD'S DAY

- Morning Worship**  
8:30 a.m. 11 a.m.
- Sunday School**  
9:40 a.m.
- Evening Worship**  
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- Family Night Dinner (Wed.)**  
5 p.m. to 6:15 (Miller Hall)
- Mid-Week Worship/Study**  
(Check website)
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## BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES/J. Ligon Duncan III

# The prayer of Daniel

Please turn in your Bible to Daniel 9:1-27. Daniel is one of our great biblical models for what it means to know God. This was a man who knew God and knew the blessings of knowing God. We are told in Scripture that Daniel knew God through his consistent meditation on God's word and by spending time with the Lord in prayer. If Daniel's keenness of prayer flows from his study of the word, his meditation on that word, and his regular practice of prayer, how much more ought we to be engaged in the pattern of study of Scripture, regular meditation on its truth, and true prayer. Daniel's prayer teaches us about the nature of true prayer and it calls us to true godliness. In fact, there are three things that we learn about prayer and about our God in this passage. First, we see that true prayer is grounded in the word of God. Secondly, we learn that true prayer recognizes who God is and who we are in relation to Him. Thirdly and finally, we see that true prayer is always heard by God.

### I. True Prayer Is Grounded In The Word Of God.

In verses 1-3, we learn something about the context and the content of true Christian prayer. Daniel had been used by God as a prophet. Daniel had received revelations from God and yet he was studying the Scripture. Why? Because he desired for his heart and his mind to be informed by the Scripture. Daniel desired to be conformed to God by being conformed to His word. It is true that we live in a hectic world and there are many things that vie for our time. However, we must ask ourselves, "Do we have time for God and for His word? Do we have time for prayer?" None of us are doing work more important than Daniel. And yet Daniel had time for God, for the Scriptures, and for prayer. For example, we are told in verse 2 that Daniel, while he was reading Jeremiah 25:11-12, discovered that by his calculations the exile should be ending soon. If you and I had heard that the exile was coming to an end, perhaps we would have called for a celebration. But Daniel responds by going to the Lord in prayer. This shows us what Daniel knew

about God's sovereignty and man's responsibility. Because God had promised a specific end to the captivity, Daniel felt the responsibility to pray that God would do what He had promised. Now, unless you believe in what the Bible says about how God's sovereignty and man's responsibility go together, that makes no sense. If God is going to do something, why would you bother praying about it? Because that is how God desires us to respond to the promises of His word. That's how all Christian prayer actually works. God moves His people to pray by His word, in accordance with His word, and the content of the promises of His word. His people grasp that truth in their hearts, and they lift their prayers back up to God. It has come to them from God and they send it back to Him.

### II. True Prayer Recognizes Who God Is And Who We Are In Relation To Him.

In verses 4-19, Daniel prays to the Lord and offers pleas for mercy. As such, we learn several things from Daniel's pattern of prayer. In verse 4, he humbly confesses that the covenant God of Israel is to be feared and to be trusted. Then, in verses 5-6, Daniel immediately begins to confess his sins and the sins of his people. In verses 7-8, he acknowledges God's righteous justice in punishing Israel. It's not only that he says "Lord, we're here because of our sins." He goes on to say, "Lord, You were righteous to send us here and to punish us." In verses 9-15, Daniel makes an appeal to God's mercy, not based on their deeds, but based on God's compassion. In verses 16-17, he requests that the Lord would restore the kingdom to Israel and that He would build up the spiritual condition of Israel. In verses 18-19, Daniel shows that true prayer is based on what God has promised that He will do. Notice also how God-centered Daniel's prayer is, and how this prayer appeals to God's covenant mercy over and over. He touches the deep places of the heart of God and moves Him in His compassion for His people. This prayer doesn't escape the responsibility of sin and the result of misery. Instead, it expresses the plight of God's people to the Lord and asks Him to forgive them.

### III. True Prayer Is Always

### Heard By God.

In verses 20-22, we are told that God sent Gabriel as Daniel prayed. What is God telling us there in sending the angel to Daniel? God is telling us that He always hears our prayers immediately, even if His answer delays. His heart is immediately with His people. And in this case, He sent an angel to interrupt Daniel in the middle of his prayer to assure him that his prayer had been heard in heaven. We are also told that Gabriel came to aid Daniel in understanding the vision. Why? Because these verses are some of the most difficult to understand in all of the Bible. So Gabriel had to be sent for even Daniel to understand God's message.

It is also important to note that we observe something interesting in verse 21. Specifically, we are told Gabriel came to Daniel about the time of the evening offering. Daniel doesn't draw attention to that, yet that is one of the most moving phrases in this passage, because this reminds us that though it had been decades since Daniel had been in Jerusalem at the time of the evening offering, his heart was still being set by the worship of God, morning and evening, in the sacrifices at the temple. His heart was with the worship of God and he longed more than anything else to see it re-established.

Finally, I want you to see that in answer to Daniel's prayer, God gives him a vision about the coming of the Messiah. Daniel had earnestly prayed that God would end the exile, but God responded with an even bigger picture. God was saying, "Daniel, in part, your prayers are being used as instruments for the coming of the Messiah, the Prince." This reminds us that God answers our prayers beyond our fondest hopes because His mercy is full. Won't you trust God in your prayer? Won't you be conformed to God's heart by the word and reflect it as you plead His promises back to Him? May God give us a heart for His glory and for His people like we see in His servant Daniel.

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](mailto:jhyde@rts.edu).

## FARM & CONSTRUCTION LIQUIDATION AUCTION

6900 MIDWAY RD. • RAYMOND, MS 39154  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2021 • 9 AM**

The Estate of Johnny Twiner. This auction is full of farm and construction equipment. It's a lot to choose from. Volvo front-end loader, 135 Massey Ferguson tractor with 4' bush hog - 6500 hours, Ford tractor H26 with finishing mower - 1980 hours, 165 Massey Ferguson, 135 Massey Ferguson, old Ford and Massey Ferguson tractors, M/F 248, 2006 Ford F-350 work truck 5 speed with 133,000 miles, 2002 31' Paradise Pointe camper with 5th wheel and 2 slide outs, 48' conex box, pipe transport trailers, six (6) 18 wheeler storage trailers from 28' - 48', 500 gallon fuel tank, 45' mobile conveyor system with Hopper, 5' bush hog, two (2) 2 row disks, hopper, waste oil container, 6x20 steel welding table, 30' Thermo King refrigerated trailer with lift gate, 30 gal. propane tank, 12x30 metal building workshop with porch, 2500 gal. steel tank, complete silica bagging system, Roto Cycle dust collector, commercial bagger/hopper, Redding work bed for pickup with cabinets and tool boxes, heavy duty equipment ramp, single row disk, stainless steel work table with sinks, drill pipe, racking, water caddy, fencing, old lumber, truck tool box, box fan, iron furniture, PTO, Club Cadet golf cart (President) with new batteries, drill press, grinders, vice, drills, impact wrenches, pressure washer, chop saws, tool boxes, welding torch, 40 ton press, saws alls, generator, skill-saw, metal working tools, tiller, power tools galore, bolt bin, bolts and nuts (10,000 plus), nail guns, bottle jacks, seeder, jack stands, come-a-long, golf clubs, commercial fish scaler, I-Beams, PVC, vinyl fencing, 100+ utility poles, a/c recovery system, Cub Cadet 20" mower, truck accessories, shelving, lighting, barb wire, lots of scrap metal, nice storage buildings, heavy duty battery charger, back pack sprayer, cross ties, pea gravel, and metal cutting machine. Too much to list everything. You want be disappointed. Bring your truck, Bring your trailer. Over 100 acres to park and turn around. **Easy load out. Food and drink on site.**

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f t i

# Lady Saints end milestone season with title

By SCOTT HAWKINS  
scott@onlinemadison.com

The St. Andrew's Episcopal School Girls Soccer Team won the team's second-consecutive state championship on Feb. 6 at Clinton High School.

Girls Soccer Coach Will Monsour, who has led the Lady Saints for four years, said he is proud of his team's performance in the state championship and throughout the past year.

Monsour, who has made seven trips to the soccer state championship, said winning the second state championship felt better than winning the first.

"It is weird," Monsour said. "It feels better than winning the first time. Winning the second time with COVID and everything made it difficult."

Monsour, who has also coached at Hartfield and Madison Ridgeland Academy, said the Lady Saints had nine games canceled during the past season due to COVID-19 outbreaks.

"We had the shortest roster and the shortest season," Monsour said of the team's 14 games, including the state championship game in which the Lady Saints beat St. Patrick of Biloxi 2-0 to claim the championship.

Senior Capt. Madeleine Halford scored the game-winning goal, Monsour said.

"All year, the team has been very explosive linking up well together," Monsour said, adding that in the 10th-minute,



The St. Andrew's Girls Soccer team celebrates the Class 1 championship earlier this month.

the ball was crossed to Halford at the post. "She one-touch finished it."

Halford said she was thrilled by the experience.

"It was like, if I had missed it, it would have been tragic," Halford said. "It was the best feeling in the world."

Halford said she played on the Lady Saints soccer team for six years since her seventh-

grade year, and it was a great experience where she met a lot of friends.

Monsour said the team was led all season by four players, including seniors Halford, Samantha Smith and Mary Reagan Barnett and sophomore Kira LeFlore.

Monsour said he will lose five senior starters this year, including Halford.

"(Winning a second state championship) was the best way to end the best six years of my life," Halford said. "I am so grateful I got to experience it."

Smith said winning a second-straight state soccer championship was a great feeling.

"For the six years I was on the team and to see how hard everyone works to get not only one but two titles was great,"

Smith said. "Everyone wanted it and worked hard all season, and with COVID we had to be extra careful. It showed how hard everyone worked all season. It was an awesome feeling."

Smith said she also was happy the team came through for Monsour.

"Coach Will has coached me for (several) years," Smith

said. "It feels great to finish out the season with a coach like coach Will who has been through thick and tne with me. I'm glad to help with him getting a championship. He is a really great coach."

Smith said she is not sure where she will go to college, but she will continue to play soccer. She is not sure, however, on what level she will play soccer.

Monsour said losing the seniors will be tough.

"Our roster is only 14," Monsour said. "It is a big blow."

LeFlore, Monsour said, is one of his best players, and he feels lucky to have her returning next season.

LeFlore scored 34 goals last season, Monsour said, with the final score in the state championship coming from LeFlore in the last five minutes of the championship game.

"I do have Kira coming back," Monsour said, "but we are losing the leadership of Madeleine and Sam and other leaders. It definitely hurts."

Monsour said he is especially proud of this year's title-winning team.

"With this group and so many cancelations of games, it was hard to find rhythm throughout the season with the stops and starts and to come together and play the best games in the last four or five games is very impressive," Monsour said.

# Dream comes true for close group of players

By DUNCAN DENT  
duncan@onlinemadison.com

It has been a long road for the St. Andrews boys soccer team, a group of about 20 guys, but at the end of it all, they can hold their heads high as champions.

The St. Andrew's Saints beat Clarkdale, 1-0, in the MHSAA Class I State Soccer Championships on Feb. 6, at Clinton High School. Jackson Bataille, a senior on the team, said that this is something he has been thinking about for a long time.

"I have been dreaming about that moment for six years since the seventh grade when I joined the team at St. Andrews," he said.

But it was the opportunity to do it with his best friends that clinched it.

"There is nothing like getting to play your favorite sport with the people you love the most," Bataille said. "Soccer can really unite a group of people. It is really a sport where you can express yourself with every move you make."

Head Coach Scott Crawford said that he has worked with these guys, specifically this senior class of eight young men, for four years. Bataille said that many of the seniors had been playing the sport

together for as many as the years together.

"I am just proud," Crawford said. "It is just fantastic for these guys. I am so proud they overcame a lot of diversity to get here and they earned it."

St. Andrew's boys soccer have been to the playoffs two years in a row, losing out both seasons in the title game. The team has suffered tragedy. Four years ago they lost Liam Galaty, a teammate and friend of many of the seniors.

"He meant a lot to those guys and meant a lot to this team and they were able to dedicate that game to him," Crawford said.

The team also underwent a midseason coaching change and Crawford had to step up from his position as an assistant coach to take the helm of the team. Crawford said that his guys used their experience in two previous finals to manage their emotions and execute when they needed to.

"The atmosphere was electric," Crawford said.

Bataille said that the team's determination was palpable.

"I think we came into this game prepared with the proper mindset and intensity," Bataille said. "We should have put some balls in the net early but we controlled the ball well and we knew we could win it.



The St. Andrew's Saints celebrate after beating Clarkdale in the MHSAA Class I State Soccer Championships on Saturday, February 6, 2021, at Clinton High School. Pictured, left to right, are Jack Crawford, Hudson Bataille, Rolan Fanning, Jackson Bataille, Dami Oluwatade, Merritt DeVoss, and Nico Buford.

Everyone was focused. I have never seen anything like that in my friends' eyes."

Freshman Jonathan Livingston has not waited quite as long, but he did get some play-

ing time in last year's final and had the same taste for blood many of the seniors were feeling. He scored the game-winning goal with about 20 minutes left in overtime.

The team scored on a throw-in. Livingston said he remembered with astonishing detail the ball passing between teammates and several shots being deflected. Finally one landed in

front of him and he had an opening. He shot the ball into the bottom left of the goal. He said scoring was like coming out of some kind of haze.

"I would say seeing that ball cross the line woke me up," Livingston said.

"It was indescribable," Bataille said. "Our first reaction was to celebrate but then we realized we had to play for another 20 minutes."

Bataille, Livingston and their teammates would control the ball for the remaining time.

"The most fun part of being on a team is the relationships and bond you build with these guys," Bataille said. "It is the best feeling in the world. I remember when the game ended I really took that moment to cherish these last moments and reflect on younger days when I was just getting into soccer."

Crawford said that the lessons his guys learned during this challenging season are the important thing they will take with them.

"They showed perseverance and the ability to cope with challenges and move forward and I think that is the most valuable thing these kids have learned and what they will ake with them as they move forward in life," Crawford said.

# Jaguars overcome obstacles en route to state

By JOHN LEE  
john@onlinemadison.com

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Madison Central boys' soccer team fought to the state championship and won, defeating Brandon High School and all odds.

Cecil Hinds, head coach of the Madison Central boys soccer team since 2011 and girls soccer team since 2013, said the past season was "overcoming adversity," due to very limited training over the past summer and being prohibited to practice on days school was out.

"Both the boys and girls soccer teams made it to the state championships in 6A, which is the highest division of soccer in high school," Hinds said. "The boys were very fortunate to come out with a win and took the championship, and the girls unfortunately lost in the finals."

Hinds said the season was very back and forth and hit or miss since Madison Central would sometimes be in session, and would other times be doing distanced and virtual learning, on top of players on the team needing to quarantine.

He said the soccer program has always been marked with

hard work, determination and discipline.

"The Madison Central administration has done such a tremendous job for us athletically and academically," he said. "These kids are being pushed to excel in their classes, which helps with their discipline on and off the field."

Hinds said the most challenging part of the altered season was doing things more shortly and microscopically, which included conditioning along with the technical and tactical sides of each game.

He said the players adapted quickly to the changes, however, and succeeded in the face of adversity.

"We have many strong, determined athletes that hold their education in a very high regard," he said. "We're excited to have reached the pinnacle of soccer by winning the state championship. I consider myself very blessed to be here at Madison Central. I couldn't be more excited for next season."

Landon Parrow, the goalkeeper for the soccer team, is a junior at Madison Central and plans on returning to the team for next season. He said winning the state championship was nothing short of euphoric.



The Madison Central Jaguars celebrate after beating Brandon in the MHSAA Class 6A State Soccer Championship on Saturday, February 6, 2021, at Clinton High School.

"It was the most exciting and accomplished feeling I've ever felt," Parrow said.

He said for most of the team, they've grown up watching Madison Central soccer, went to summer camps as kids, and dreamed of one day winning the state championship themselves.

Parrow felt the most challenging part of the season was

getting the team to play and think together on the field after not having as much time to form chemistry due to lost time over the summer. The best part, though, was winning the state championship.

"Coach Hinds told us all season to trust each other, and it's something we eventually got a grasp of, towards the end of the season," he said. "I'm

looking forward to my senior season and leading the team to another state championship."

Parker Layton, captain of the soccer team, will not be returning, being a senior, but he wanted Madison Central to know the team will be winning back-to-back championships next season.

"The boys on this team have been training like crazy to

finally win a ring," Layton said. "Training during the pandemic brought some problems regarding workouts and conditioning, but we made it through."

Layton said the best part of the season was overcoming all the obstacles thrown at them during the season due to COVID and winning the championship with his team.

Winning the championship felt surreal for Will Farthing, a midfielder for the team and a junior at Madison Central. He said it takes a lot of skill to manage and discipline a high school team, and Hinds did his best for every moment of the season.

"What I appreciate most about this season is the desire to keep playing for the highest possible victory even when expectations point to defeat," Farthing said.

Farthing said some moments are worth time, energy and sacrifice, and winning the championship was one of those moments.

"Coach Hinds has put in so much hard work for us," he said. "However, we expect that he sacrificed even more than we realize."

# Aldermen enact moratorium on storage units

By DUNCAN DENT  
duncan@onlinemadison.com

RIDGELAND — City officials instituted a six-month moratorium on the location, permitting and construction of indoor climate-controlled storage facilities within the city limits.

When asked what the purpose for the moratorium was, Mayor Gene F. McGee said the resolution explains the moratorium better than he could.

The resolution reads that “certain types of businesses” can have a “blighting effect on the character of commercial areas.” The city aims to reduce the potential impact of indoor, climate-controlled storage facilities and will use the moratorium to study the issue and come up with solutions to address potential issues.

The resolution specifically tasks the Community Development office with conducting a study and prepare a zoning ordinance amendment that addresses the impacts of such facilities.

The resolution says such a study could reasonably take up to six months. The resolution sets the Aug. 3 meeting as a date when the mayor and board will hold a hearing to either extend, modify or terminate the moratorium.

The moratorium does not apply to projects that have already received site plan approval and individual cases can ask for relief from the city board. The resolution says that arguments that will be accepted include “to avoid undue hardship” and “other good cause.”

The item passed unanimously, 7-0, with Ward 5



Architectural plans for a Life Storage facility were tabled following a six-month moratorium by aldermen Tuesday. Alderman Bill Lee motioning and Ward 3 Alderman Kevin Holder seconding the motion to pass the moratorium.

The board also unanimously voted to go into executive session before any other action was taken. McGee, the board, city attorneys and Community Development Director Alan Hart were in executive session for approximately 25 minutes.

When they exited it was declared that they made no votes in executive session except to leave executive session.

The specially held meeting was set for Tuesday, Feb. 23, after the regularly scheduled meeting was canceled a week prior due to weather concerns.

Brookwood development was going to request an archi-

tectural review, site plans and a conditional use permit for a 98,200 square foot, four-floor indoor storage facility. Will have 133 parking spaces. Architectural Review Board records say the project was slated for a space at U.S. 51 and the I-55 Frontage Road.

The ARB board unanimously recommended the plans for approval.

Storage facilities have been the subject of controversy in recent years.

In April 2018, aldermen passed an ordinance removing climate-controlled storage facilities from the allowed conditional uses for areas zoned C-3 and added the conditional use to C-4. That measure passed 4-3 with Aldermen Ken Heard, Brian Ramsey and Bill Lee voting against it.

The ordinance followed a

90-day moratorium on storage facility construction in the city that was approved in a 6-1 vote with Heard casting the lone “nay” vote.

The moratorium and ordinance were introduced after developers wanted to build a StorageMax on property on the Highland Colony Parkway that Aldermen considered to be a gateway to the city.

The subject property was located at the corner of Highland Colony Parkway and New Pointe Drive. Smith called the area “precious land” during discussion of the project.

The latest storage facility approved was in February 2020 on Brame Road alongside I-55 and Highland Colony Parkway.

## LEGALS

### LEGALS

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM ALAN BARNES, DECEASED CAUSE NO. 21-129 (B) VIRGINIA LEE BARNES, Petitioner NOTICE TO CREDITORS Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 22nd day of February, 2021 by the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi, to the undersigned Personal Representative of the Estate of William Alan Barnes, Deceased, being probated in Cause No. 2021-129 (B) 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 23rd day of February, 2021. /s/ Virginia Lee Barnes Virginia Lee Barnes, Personal Representative PREPARED BY: Jeffrey B. McGuire (MSB# 104622) HANCOCK LAW FIRM, PLLC Post Office Box 1078 Ridgeland, MS 39158 Tel: (601) 853-2223

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF CAROLYN WILLIAMSON HULL, DECEASED CAUSE NO. 2020-1046 (C) NOTICE TO CREDITORS Letters Testamentary, having been granted on the 12th day of February, 2021, by the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi, to the undersigned Executor under the Last Will and Testament of Carolyn Williamson Hull, 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 23rd day of February, 2021. /s/ Phillip David Hull PHILLIP DAVID HULL, Executor under the Last Will and Testament and Codicil of Carolyn Williamson Hull, deceased PUBLISHED: 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

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF MABLE L. GIBSON, DECEASED CAUSE NO. 2021-131 (C) NOTICE TO CREDITORS Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 12th day of February, 2021, by the Chancery Court of Madison Hinds County, Mississippi, to the undersigned Executor under the Last Will and Testament of Mable L. Gibson, 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 23rd day of February, 2021. /s/ Patricia Kay Gibson PATRICIA KAY GIBSON, Executor under the Last Will and Testament of Mable L. Gibson, deceased PUBLISHED: SAMUEL H. WILLIFORD, MSB #100095 WILLIFORD, McALLISTER, JACOBUS & WHITE, LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW 303 Highland Park Cove, Suite A Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157 Telephone No. 601:991-2000

### SOLICITOR

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE SETTLEMENT OF MAHAGANIE PROMISE, A MINOR CAUSE NO. 2020-1092 B STEPHANIE PROMISE, NATURAL MOTHER AND NEXT FRIEND PETITIONER SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF MADISON TO: JOHNNIE PROMISE, last known address: unknown Current Address: unknown You have been made a Respondent in the matter filed in this Court by Stephanie Promise, on behalf of the minor, Mahaganie Promise, who has filed a Petition to Settle Doubtful Claim of a Minor and to Execute Releases and all Necessary Settlement Documents. Defendants other than you in this action are Stephanie Promise. YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND COMMANDED TO PERSONALLY APPEAR BEFORE THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, AT THE MADISON COUNTY CHANCERY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 146 WEST CENTER STREET, CANTON, MISSISSIPPI, 39046, ON MONDAY, THE 12TH DAY OF APRIL,

2021, AT 9:00 A.M. IN COURTROOM 1 TO JOIN IN SAID PETITION. In case of your failure to appear and respond, a Judgment will be entered granting the relief demanded in said Petition. 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 the 23rd day of February, 2021. RONNY LOTT, Chancery Clerk Madison County, Canton, Mississippi ISSUED AT THE REQUEST OF: Collin Maley, Esquire Maley Law Group, P.A. P.O. Box 12827 Jackson, MS 39236 Tel: 601-360-2300 / Fax: 601-981-2103 Dates of Publication: (Madison County Journal) February 25, 2021; March 4, 2021; March 11, 2021

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE HEIR AT LAW OF PATRICK SHOWERS, DECEASED CAUSE NO. 2021-cv-112/C DENEEN SHOWERS PETITIONER SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI TO: Deneen Showers, Bryan Littleton, Ryan Littleton, Breanna Showers, Brandon Showers, a Minor and the Unknown Heirs at Law

of Patrick Showers, deceased, whose name, residence, whereabouts, post office addresses, and street addresses are unknown to the Petitioner after diligent search and inquiry to ascertain same. You have been made a Respondent in the suit filed in this Court by DENEEN SHOWERS, petitioner, seeking a determination of heirs-at-law and wrongful death beneficiaries of PATRICK SHOWERS, deceased. You are summoned to appear and defend against the petition filed against you in this action at 9:00 o'clock a.m. on March 25, 2021, in the Chancery Court Chambers of the Holmes County Courthouse located at 2 Court Square in Lexington, Mississippi, before the Honorable Judge Robert G. Clark III, presiding, and in case of your failure to appear and defend, a judgment will be entered against you for the things demanded in the petition. 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 the 9th day of February, 2021. RONNY LOTT CLERK OF THE CHANCERY COURT MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI By: s/STACY TOTEN D.C. (S E A L)

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# Madison Central Beauty & Beau



## Madison Central Senior Beauties

Madison Central High School hosted its annual Beauty and Beau pageant the week of February 8. Friday, February 12 was senior night. Pictured are the beauty winners. Left to right are beauties Grace McQuirter, Rosy Edmonson, Anna Kay Bumgarner, Ashley Erickson,

Mary Boyd Parker, most beautiful Ellie Hetzel, beauties Taylor Boyt, Lana Evans, Ann Cabot Stockett, Avery Milligan and Adeline Walters.



## Madison Central Senior Beaus

Madison Central High School hosted its annual Beauty and Beau pageant the week of February 8. Friday, February 12 was senior night. Pictured are the beau winners. Left to right are beaus Walker Rogillio, Christian Contreras, Joe Gallaspy, Rob Embry, Carl White, most handsome Chandler Welgos, beaus Harrison Bruce, John Henson, Robert Tickner and Cameron Duncan.



## Most Beautiful & Most Handsome

Madison Central High School's Most Beautiful and Most Handsome are Ellie Hetzel and Chandler Welgos.



## Madison Central Junior Beauties & Beaus

Madison Central High School hosted its annual Beauty and Beau pageant the week of February 8. Thursday, February 11 was junior night. Pictured are the winners. Left to right are beau Simon Tipton, Nora Beth Thomas, Ann Travis Hutchinson, Sarah Kate Killens, Annalise Ferrell, Kendall Starkey, Leighton Barrett, Abby Gables, Maddie Rives, beaus Youssef Tuwahn and Mack Gorton.

## Madison Central Sophomore Beauties & Beaus

Madison Central High School hosted its annual Beauty and Beau pageant the week of February 8. Tuesday, February 9 was sophomore night. Pictured are the winners. Left to right are beau Camden Boyd, beauties Mary Scott Garrard, Avery Brady, Mary Kate Sandifer, Olivia Davidson, Megan Stokes, Davan Zenor, Bergen Bianchi, Casey Pierce and beau Aiden Allen.



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8:30 a.m.

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