

SOCIETY

GLADDEN PLACES IN MRS. AMERICA

Mrs. America — See page A9

NEWS

RIDGELAND DRAWS NEW BOUNDARY

Result of annexation — See page A2



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AMERICAN RESCUE ACT

\$32M in stimulus flowing to county

By SCOTT HAWKINS scott@onlinemadison.com

Madison County is slated to receive \$20 million in federal COVID-19 stimulus monies of the state's \$6 billion with separate allocations for municipalities.

The funds are all part of the federal government's \$1.9 trillion federal American Rescue Act passed last month by Congress to help local governments recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The break down for Madison county municipalities is as follows:

- \$5.7 million, city of Madison.
\$5.4 million, city of Ridgeland.
\$2.7 million, city of Canton.
\$420,000, city of Flora.

While local officials know they will be able to receive the funds, most said they do not yet know how they will use the monies because they are awaiting further guidelines from the federal government on how the funds can be used.

The initial legislation, however, provided some broad

guidelines for acceptable expenditures, including infrastructure and broadband internet for rural areas.

Below is what some elected officials throughout Madison County said about their government's plans at this point for the money coming their way.

Madison County \$20,610,800

Madison County is slated to receive more than \$20 million in federal funds and District 4 Supervisor and Board President Karl Banks said early discussions between county officials

have them considering expanding broadband internet access in the northern part of the county.

"That is one area we are considering using the funds," Banks said, adding the Rescue Funds process is "complicated."

Madison County Administrator Shelton Vance, Banks said, is still crunching numbers on what the broadband internet project could look like.

"There are specific uses for these funds," Banks said. "You can't just take it and use it anywhere but we are going to try to

make it go."

County spokesman Heath Hall said Vance is still awaiting details on what the money can be spent on but said the county is ready to receive the funds.

"Shelton and his team are still working through all the details," Hall said. "We don't even know when the money will be paid to the county, but we have already opened a bank account for these funds."

Hall said Banks' suggestion of a broadband project was consistent with issues the board has been discussing for some time. Specifically, he said that

District 5 Supervisor Paul Griffin has been noting broadband dead spots in the northern part of the county for about a year.

During the Madison County Board of Supervisors April 5 meeting, three students from rural northern Madison County came before the board to ask the county to support bringing broadband internet to their areas. (See story, page A5.)

Joey Deason said the Madison County Economic Development Authority has not had an opportunity to review the American Rescue Act in depth.

See STIMULUS, page A3



Work continues on the massive, four-story Amazon fulfillment center currently under construction at the Madison County Megasite.

Amazon and county officials estimate the facility to be up and running by August.

MADISON

Legislature earmarks \$5M for Bozeman

By SCOTT HAWKINS scott@onlinemadison.com

A \$32 million project to four-lane Bozeman Road got a \$5 million shot in the arm from the Legislature and work could begin in January.

The project calling for a four-lane divided median from Mississippi 463 to Reunion Parkway has been in the works for several years, said Trey Baxter, District 2 Madison County supervisor.

"Before I took office five years ago, the federal government gave Madison County \$4.5 million for Bozeman Road," Baxter said, adding the money sat dormant for approximately seven or eight years and the county was at risk of losing the funding.

Baxter said he was able to obtain an extension on the federal grant funds and has since gotten other funding for the project through the state.

Last July, the Legislature announced \$5 million in funding for the project so in total the project has approximately \$14.5 million in funding if Gov. Tate Reeves signs this year's \$5 million appropriation for the project that is included in SB2971, a general obligation bond bill passed April 5 that is awaiting the governor's signature.

"The governor and the speaker and the lieutenant governor have been nothing but helpful," Baxter said of Legislative support for the project. "They stepped up to the plate."

District 3 Madison County

See BOZEMAN, page A2

Amazon fulfilling vision of ready sites

By DUNCAN DENT duncan@onlinemadison.com

Text notification alerts about the availability jobs at Mississippi's third state-of-the-art Amazon fulfillment center set to open here this fall are available now.

Amazon hopes to begin hiring this summer at the site west of I-55 and Nissan Parkway off Mississippi 22 near Canton.

The Amazon fulfillment center is helping to fulfill Madison County Economic Development Director Joey Deason's vision for jobs he laid out when he arrived four years ago.

Madison County has a lot of good qualities, but one thing it lacks is land ready and available for industrial development, Deason said back in February 2018 shortly after arriving on the job.

"We don't even get to play in a lot of the opportunities that the state has because we don't have land available," Deason told the Canton Rotary Club in February 2018 after about four months on the job.

MCEDA's aim is to make more land available for development because that's what's necessary

along with four-lane highways, water, electric, sewer and rail access, he said then.

And that Deason has done by growing the Madison County Megasite where Amazon is locating.

"Yes, the fulfillment center is still slated to open later this year," said Amazon spokesperson Ashley Lansdale. "I should have updates on hiring later this summer."

The facility should be substantially complete by August 2021, Deason said.

"Amazon is progressing and moving along at a fast pace," he said.

The Journal first reported last July that the shipping giant had bought 69.02 acres at the Megasite.

In November, the company announced that the facility would bring as many as 1,000 full-time jobs to the state, which Lansdale confirmed Monday.

"Yes, the 1,000 new jobs number still stands," Lansdale said.

The facility will be at least four stories and will house the majority of the sortable goods sold on Amazon.

Associates will pick, pack and ship customers' orders alongside robots.

Amazon says this allows for a more efficient process that will enable them to more efficiently meet consumer demand.

Deason said that while anyone is waiting for the jobs to come available they can sign up for text notifications by texting MISSNOW to 77088.

"The preliminary process for hiring has begun with a text alert system," Deason said.

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.

Madison County's recruitment efforts focus on the advanced manufacturing, warehouse and distribution and data center sectors, a strategy Deason brought with him and his implemented.

With their 69 acres, Amazon is the initial tenant for the site.

Late last October, MCEDA and County officials announced the purchase of 520 acres within

See AMAZON, page A5

MADISON

Garden underway at Montgomery House

By JOHN LEE john@onlinemadison.com

A large traditional Southern garden for family activities on the grounds of the historic 1852 Montgomery House in the center of Madison is becoming reality with a groundbreaking event set later this month.

Officials envision a walkway incorporating the large trees were families will be able to picnic and stroll through the garden.

"We'll be including azaleas, ferns, wildflowers, and more," said Miriam Ethridge code enforcement officer with the city of Madison, which has pur-

chased the Montgomery House property.

"It's planned to be an old Southern garden that will accentuate the house," Ethridge said. "There's a lot of history there, and we hope to build on it. It's right in the middle of Madison and will be the focal point of downtown."

The Montgomery House, a one-story Gothic Revival, was built in 1852 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. The house is located right off Main Street in Madison across from the Methodist church.

The house's design is attributed to Frank Wills, a British-

born architect known for his designs of Gothic Revival churches and who designed the Chapel of the Cross in Madison, which was built between 1850 and 1852.

Gothic Revival was an architectural movement that began in the late 1740s in England and is commonly identified by pointed arches, used for windows, doors and decorative elements such as porches, dormers or roof gables.

Two sponsors of the garden project, America in Bloom and Canadian National Railway, will be present at the event, she said.

The city applied for a grant See GARDEN, page A5



Work continues on the Montgomery House in Madison. The city purchased the property and will soon be developing a garden on the grounds.

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OPINION

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# Aldermen place annexed group into Ward 1

By **DUNCAN DENT**  
duncan@onlinemadison.com

**RIDGELAND** — As city officials face the possibility of having to redraw ward lines because of the recent annexation, aldermen passed a temporary resolution that will allow those in the annexed area to vote in the June general election.

Based on new census data and the 345 people added to the city with recent annexation, officials anticipate redrawing lines but not before the election.

The resolution incorporates the newly annexed area into Ward 1 so that those residents can vote in the June 8 election.

City Attorney Jerry Mills said the temporary solution is not expected to affect any election results as Ward 1 Alderman Ken Heard has no opponent in his race. It will allow the new residents to vote in the contested alderman-at-large race.

“This is necessary to allow those (new residents) to vote but will need adjusting,” Mills said.

Ward 1 includes the city limits west of I-55.

Democrat Poteat Medley will face incumbent Alderman-at-Large Republican D.I. Smith.

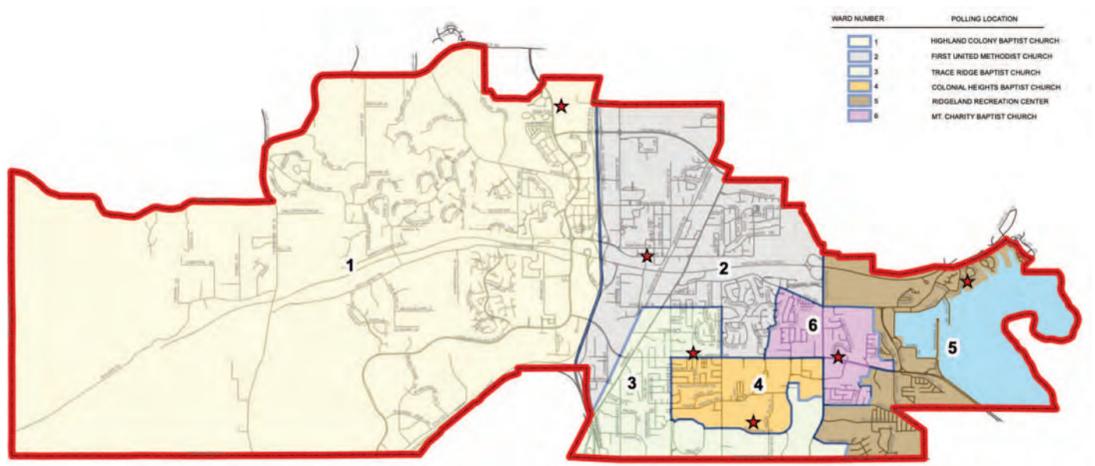
Ward 2 incumbent Alderman Chuck Gautier also has a Democratic challenger in Walter Young Jr. in the June 8 election.

The Mississippi Supreme Court ruled in favor of Ridgeland on Feb. 22, 2021, allowing the property west of the city to be annexed into the City.

The area was incorporated into the city on March 5.

The annexed area includes 345 residents and 4.9 square miles, making the city’s current estimated total population 24,683 and the total city limits 26.3 square miles.

The annexation includes property surrounded by Greens Crossing Road, North Liv-



Ridgeland’s proposed ward boundaries after a recent annexation

ington Road, the Natchez Trace Parkway, and north and West County Line roads.

The resolution states that the portion is completely adjacent to Ward 1 and was a “logical extension” to the ward. It

further state that the addition represents an 11.96% increase the population, exceeding the customary limit of 10%.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen will look into the redistricting process in the

coming months. The resolution says that the city will have to reassess the district lines anyway when they receive the 2020 census data.

The resolution passed 7-0 on the consent agenda, a unan-

imous vote.

In addition to voting lines, the city’s currently analyzing zoning classifications that will ultimately be determined by the Board of Aldermen in the near future.

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## Bozeman

Continued from page A1

Supervisor Gerald Steen said he too was grateful to state legislators for support of the project.

“They have been very helpful ...,” Steen said. “They have been very helpful on the Reunion Interchange as well in the past.”

Once complete, the project will match the Highland Colony Parkway, Baxter said.

“We are going to have lights in the middle, and we are also going to have a walking trail on the left side and then we are going to do some capacity improvements from Reunion to the Gluckstadt turn lane.

We are going to improve the intersections with more through lanes and longer turn lanes at Gluckstadt and Bozeman.”

“It is \$10 million per mile to widen that road. It is 3.2

miles so it will be \$32 million total,” Baxter said. “We don’t have the money to do the whole thing, but we are going on and buying the right-of-way, for the future. We are going to keep going back to the Legislature each and every year and get more money.”

Baxter said he also is hopeful that some of Madison County’s \$20,610,800 in federal COVID-19 Rescue funds could go toward the project, and he is applying for a federal

BUILD grant for the project.

Baxter said the design work is complete and the county has purchased 45 of 55 rights-of-way parcels needed for the project.

“There are a whole lot of utilities to move including power poles,” Baxter said. “We are going to start moving utilities and hopefully go to construction in January of next year, which will create a traffic armageddon when we get started digging that road up.”

The sacrifice, he said, should be worth the effort.

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# Everhart eliminated on 'Idol'

By JOHN LEE  
john@onlinemadison.com

After progressing through multiple rounds of "American Idol," Gluckstadt's Hannah Everhart reached the end of her journey when she was voted out during the April 12 episode that determined the Top 16 contestants.

Everhart performed during the Top 24 episode on April 5, with a solo performance of Chris Stapleton's "I Was

Wrong" and a duet with country music superstar Jason Aldean with his hit single, "She's Country."

Instead of celebrity judges Katy Perry, Lionel Richie, and Luke Bryan deciding who qualified for the Top 16, they left it up to America to vote on who would move forward to the next round.

Everhart was voted out during the April 12 episode of "Idol," along with seven other Top 24 contestants — Andrea

Valles, Anilee List, Cecil Ray, Mary Jo Young, Liana Olayan, Jason Warrior and Alana Sherman.

"I want to thank all of my fans and supporters for supporting me throughout this and continuing to do it," Everhart said during her "Fond Farewell" message to her supporters. "I cannot express how grateful I am for it. Thank you so much. I love ya'll."

# Stimulus

Continued from page A1

## City of Ridgeland \$5,430,000

The City of Ridgeland is slated to receive \$5,430,000, and Mayor Gene McGee said the city is still awaiting guidelines before making a plan to spend the money.

"That is all we know at this point," said McGee of the amount designated to the city.

McGee said he did not have information on what projects the city would be allowed to use the money on or if they currently have anything in the works that would qualify.

McGee said it was his understanding that the money would be issued to the state first and then the city, though that exact process had not yet been made clear to the city, and they did not have a timeline on when they might have access to the funds.

McGee said the Mississippi Municipal League, of which he is a past president, is monitoring the situation and is poised to lobby for allowable uses that would benefit the State's municipalities.

## City of Madison \$5,790,000

Likewise, Madison Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler said Madison is in a holding pattern on how the city will use its \$5,790,000 funds.

"After the funding is allocated and the guidelines for use

are determined," Hawkins said, "the Mayor and Board of Aldermen will meet to explore our options. At this time it would not be prudent to speculate on how monies will be spent."

## City of Canton \$2,730,000

The city of Canton is receiving \$2,730,000, but the city also does not know what they are doing with the money yet or when they will be receiving it, said Canton City Clerk Allyson Majors.

## Town of Flora \$420,000

Flora will be receiving \$420,000 as part of the American Rescue Plan for Mississippi, and Mayor Leslie Childress said he does not know when Flora will be receiving the money but uses for the package are planned.

"We plan on using the money to upgrade the infrastructure of water and sewer lines," Childress said. "There's not much we can do until we get the money, but that is the plan as of right now."

He said the plans will not go into effect until the money comes in.

Mississippi Statewide breakdown of \$6 billion

Mississippi will receive approximately \$6 billion in total from the rescue act, which is equal to the state budget.

The funding will be distributed as follows, according to Mississippi Today:

- \$429 million for higher education;
- \$166 million for capital projects for rural broadband

access project;

- \$577 million for counties;
- \$258 million for smaller cities;

- \$97 million for metro cities;

• \$1.8 billion to be appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature over the next three years primarily to replace revenue lost because of the pandemic for COVID-19-related costs; and

- \$1.6 billion for K-12 education, primarily to be disbursed to local school districts.

Duncan Dent and John Lee contributed to this report.

## THE LORD'S DAY

### Morning Worship

8:30 a.m.  
11 a.m.

### Sunday School

9:45 a.m.

### Evening Worship

6 p.m.

### Midweek Activities

Prayer Meeting 6 p.m. (Patterson)  
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Childrens Choirs, Youth Activities

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### EDITORIALS

## Media stoke cop killer furry

There's so little we know about what really happened on Jan. 6.

Last week, we learned only one person was killed that day, Ashli Babbitt, from a brief report issued by the D.C. medical examiner. Two men suffered heart attacks and one woman died of an overdose, none of their deaths were tied to the protest.

The cause and manner of death of Officer Brian Sicknick is still unknown, the case is "pending." Two men were charged last month for using bear spray, but no evidence has been presented the spray led to his death. The officer that shot Ms. Babbitt at point blank range still hasn't been identified and no charges have been brought.

Yet, quick, toxic, false narratives took hold and embedded themselves in the nation's consciousness.

The New York Times reported Mr. Sicknick was bludgeoned to death by a fire extinguisher and the woman who died of an overdose was trampled to death. The words "armed insurrection" "attempted coup" and "domestic terrorism" were used in countless news stories, all reporting five died, including Mr. Sicknick. The news media worked hard to stoke fury and inflame tensions — Trump supporters were not only deplorables, but cop killers.

As a result, those who attended the riot have been aggressively pursued. Their first amendment rights have been ignored and due process denied. President Biden's Justice Department is drawing up what could be sedition charges on nearly 400 people for "thumbing their noses at the public for what they did," former prosecu-

tor Michael Sherwin told CBS' "60 Minutes" last month, adding "the scope and scale of this investigation is really unprecedented, not only in FBI history, but probably DOJ history."

There will be arrests and jail time for many people who just walked into what most would consider the people's House on Jan. 6. Trespassing, yes. Sedition? Hardly. Yet perspective is not the goal here, annihilating ones political enemy is. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer compared Jan. 6 to Pearl Harbor, after all.

The news media will ignore the new evidence from the D.C. medical examiner and they clearly have no interest in the circumstances surrounding Ms. Babbitt's death. The damage has been done, the narrative has been set, and so they will move on.

Much like Russia-gate, there will be no retractions, no apologies and no retrospection.

Luckily, some federal judges are stepping in, questioning DOJ overreach. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals has ordered the DOJ to distinguish between people who actually assaulted police officers, broke through windows, doors and barricades and planned the actions versus those who merely entered the Capitol after others had cleared the way.

It may be a long time before we know exactly what transpired at the nation's Capitol on Jan. 6. The Washington Times will continue to cover the events fairly, truthfully and without bias, as the facts emerge.

— The Washington Times

## Biden worsens tension

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step," says an oft-quoted Chinese proverb. Sometimes, the first step should not be taken, though, because it is pointed in the wrong direction. Attempting to stem a mounting surge of gun violence, President Biden has tightened firearms restrictions and urged Congress to take even more ambitious action. Instead, he should be tempering his inflammatory insistence that America is a deeply unjust nation. Exonerating violent social upheaval while sanctioning self-defense can only lead to more blood in the streets.

On Thursday, the president signed executive orders calling for regulations governing the sale of self-assembly handgun kits — so-called ghost guns — and stabilizing attachments that make pistols more accurate. He also directed the Justice Department to craft model "red flag" legislation that empowers authorities to remove firearms from the possession of unstable individuals deemed a danger to themselves or others.

These measures are a mere preface for more extreme gun-grabbing ambitions, such as Senate passage of three House-approved bills closing "loopholes" in background checks of gun purchasers. To hear Mr. Biden tell it, ne'er-do-wells are strolling into gun shows and purchasing tools for murder and mayhem with no questions asked.

There are plenty of gun laws on the books already, with the toughest ones in cities where gun crimes are most horrific. They don't keep Americans safe, though. Sadly, because bad people use firearms to

prey upon good people, the good need guns to defend themselves. If the malevolent were not committed to shooting up and burning down the communities of the peaceable, the bullets would not be flying.

Racial tension erupted last summer in the wake of George Floyd's death in police custody, and the twin scourges of dissidence and violence have persisted since. In Chicago, 298 victims were shot during the first three months of the year, up from 165 last year. In Los Angeles, 64 persons were killed by gunfire during January and February, a 39% increase over the same period last year. In New York City, murders have climbed more than 15%. Nationwide, homicides surged 37% in 2020, according to a report from the Major Cities Chiefs Association.

It should surprise no one that gun sales subsequently have exploded as urban police are defunded and citizens are largely left to their own defenses. The FBI conducted a record 3.9 million background checks for gun purchases in December 2020, only to see the figure surpassed with 4.3 million in January.

When Mr. Biden makes such blatantly inflammatory statements as "systemic racism and white supremacy are ugly poisons that have long plagued the United States," as he did last month, Americans hear not the uplifting of Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of a colorblind society, but its trashing. With word and policy, the president is pushing the nation into the line of fire.

— The Washington Times

### PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

## Putin, Xi have red lines, too

What are Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping up to?

In recent days, Russian tanks, artillery, armor, trucks and troops have been moving by road and rail ever closer to Ukraine, and Moscow is said to be repositioning its 56th Guards Air Assault Brigade in Crimea.

Military sources in Kyiv estimate there are now 85,000 Russian troops between six and 25 miles from Ukraine's northern and eastern borders.

"I have real concerns about Russia's actions on the borders of Ukraine. There are more Russian forces massed on those borders than at any time since 2014 when Russia first invaded," said Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Sunday's "Meet the Press." Blinken added this warning:

"President Biden's been very clear about this. If Russia acts recklessly, or aggressively, there will be costs, there will be consequences."

What "costs" and what "consequences" were left unstated.

Earlier, Biden personally assured President Volodymyr Zelensky of America's "unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of Russia's ongoing aggression in the Donbass and Crimea."

What does that mean?

When Putin was a young KGB officer, the Black Sea was a virtual Soviet lake, dominated in the west by Warsaw Pact members Bulgaria and Romania, and on the north and east by the USSR. Turkey occupied the south bank.

Today, three of the six countries that front on the Black Sea — Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey — are NATO members. Two of the others, Ukraine and Georgia, openly aspire to become members of NATO.

If Russia feels a sense of loss and forced isolation, who can blame them?

The transparency of the Russian military buildup suggests that it is more of a message to the U.S. and NATO than any preparation for an invasion.

*Russian military buildup suggests that it is more of a message to the U.S., NATO than an invasion.*

Putin seems to be saying: Ukraine's admission to NATO or a stationing of U.S. or NATO forces in that country would cross a red line for Russia. And we will not rule out military action to prevent or counter it.

The record suggests that Putin is not bluffing. We have been here twice before.

In 2008, when Georgia invaded South Ossetia, a province that had broken free of Georgia in the 1990s, Putin sent troops into South Ossetia, drove the Georgians out, and then invaded Georgia and occupied part of that country as an object lesson.

And though the U.S. had regarded Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili as a friend and Georgia as a potential NATO ally, George W. Bush did nothing.

Again, in 2014, when a U.S.-backed coup overthrew the elected and pro-Russian regime in Kyiv, Putin occupied and annexed Crimea and assisted pro-Russian rebels in the Donbass in breaking free of Kyiv's control.

In short, when it comes to Ukraine, Russia has demonstrated that it has its own red lines, which it will back up with military action.

The U.S. and NATO, however, have shown repeatedly that while they will give moral support and provide military aid to Ukraine, they are not going to fight Russia over Ukraine, or to wrest Crimea or the Donbass from Putin's control.

A similar test is taking place in the South and East China seas.

Also on Sunday's "Meet the Press," Blinken was asked if the United States would fight to defend Taiwan, which is being harassed and threatened by Xi Jinping's China, which claims

the island as its sovereign national territory.

"Are we prepared to defend Taiwan militarily?" NBC's Chuck Todd asked.

Blinken's response: "What we've seen, and what is of real concern to us, is increasingly aggressive actions by the government in Beijing directed at Taiwan, raising tensions in the Straits. And we have a commitment to Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act ... All I can tell you is it would be a serious mistake for anyone to try to change the existing status quo by force."

Since Biden's presidency began, China has been sending military aircraft, fighters and bombers, into Taiwanese air space, circumnavigating the island with warships, and openly warning that any declaration of independence by Taipei would mean war with Beijing.

Thus, Russia has made clear what it would fight to prevent — Ukraine's accession to NATO and NATO troops on its soil. And China has made clear what its red line is, what it would fight to prevent — the declared independence of Taiwan.

But U.S. policy in both cases seems to be one of "strategic ambiguity," leaving the issue open as to what we would do.

A question arises: Are Putin's Russia and Xi's China, with their advantages of geographic proximity, threatening military action to jointly test the resolve of the Biden administration, and colluding to do so — one in Ukraine, the other in the South and East China Seas?

And, should we fight for Ukraine, how many NATO allies would be there beside us? And should we fight to keep Taiwan free, how many Asian allies would fight China alongside us?

Recent actions by Putin and Xi make the questions no longer academic.

*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

## Florida governor is the man

If Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis ever sets up a presidential exploratory committee, it should have to disclose an enormous in-kind contribution from CBS News.

The "60 Minutes" segment two weekends ago alleging that DeSantis distributed the COVID-19 vaccine through pharmacies at the Publix grocery store chain as part of a quid pro quo was so outlandishly wrong that even Democratic officials in the state have objected.

It's not clear that the "60 Minutes" piece can even be called "journalistic malpractice," since it barely qualifies as journalism.

The downside for DeSantis is that he's been smeared by the most iconic news magazine show on American television; the upside is that this latest, swiftly debunked media attack contributes to his ongoing ascent in the Republican political firmament.

It's much too early to know with any certainty what the post-Trump GOP will look like, or even if there will be a genuinely post-Trump GOP for years. But if a post-Trump GOP looks like Ron DeSantis, who has a populist edge and is combative with the press, yet is unquestionably serious about governing and is succeeding in the third-most populous state in the nation, it will have landed in a favorable place.

DeSantis has navigated the Trump years with a deft political touch. He obviously went out of his way to identify himself with Trump at the outset

*The claims were so outlandishly wrong that even Democrats have objected.*

of his gubernatorial run in 2018, but it wasn't a Matt Gaetz-style play to gain cable TV notoriety and become a Trump-world celebrity.

DeSantis took the boost he got from Trump's support, won a contested Republican primary, and then captured the Florida governorship with a clear idea of what he wanted to do with it — indeed, near the end of his first year, prior to the pandemic, he had a 72% approval rating.

The governor checks key Trumpian boxes. Trump's supporters want someone who is a fighter, who gives as good as he gets with the media, and who has the right enemies.

Since the onset of the pandemic, the media has been determined to paint DeSantis as a villain flouting science to the detriment of his constituents. Actually, he had a considered approach focused on protecting the most vulnerable in the nursing homes and taking a light touch on government restrictions to try to get through the pandemic with a minimum of economic damage. Any fair reading of the evidence — Florida has a death rate that's about the national average, while its economy is in much better shape than New York's and California's — has to concede that, at the very least, this was

an entirely reasonable strategy.

DeSantis has rightly been fierce in defending his record, but never gives the sense, as Trump often did, that fighting with the media is a good thing in its own right, over and above any substantive considerations.

If the rise of DeSantis is a Trump-era phenomenon, his record is rooted in traditional conservative priorities — textualist judges, school choice, tax cuts, spending restraint and law and order. He also has a more pragmatic side, increasing teacher pay even as he has pushed for educational reforms and pursuing a robust environmental agenda.

It is always a fool's errand forecasting a presidential race three years before it begins in earnest. Trump may decide to run again in 2024 and blot out the sun, and DeSantis still has to win reelection in 2022.

On paper, though, he has obvious strength as a potential national candidate. He's from a hugely important swing state. He's been battle-tested — he won a brawl of a race in 2018, trailing in the polls throughout. He would perhaps be the only major candidate in 2024 holding an executive office while his governing record would, in theory, allow him to appeal to the key category of "somewhat conservative" voters in GOP primaries, not just to the hardcore.

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

### LETTERS

The Journal welcomes letters, comments or suggestions: President and Publisher Jim Prince  
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Telephone: 601.853.4222

### BIBLE SELECTION

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,  
— Romans 3:23-24 (ESV)

# Residents urge supervisors to invest in broadband

By SCOTT HAWKINS  
scott@onlinemadison.com

As state and local governments eye millions of dollars in federal COVID-19 Rescue Act funds, some constituents know how they would like to see the stimulus money spent — offering rural Madison County residents broadband internet access.

During the Madison County Board of Supervisors April 5 meeting, three students from rural northern Madison County came before the board to ask the county to support bringing broadband internet to their areas.

Nicholas Jackson, a senior at Velma Jackson High School, said he was addressing the board on behalf of his classmates and the community.

“As you know last year has been extremely challenging and difficult and uncertain to say the least for us and the whole world basically,” Jackson said. “In the midst of the pandemic, schools and employers were forced to make the difficult decision to work from home. For families in the north Madison County area, this was not possible. The lack of quality internet in the area has made it difficult not only for my family and several others to meet the demands of the new normal of working from home but through several conversations with peers and fellow statement holders this has become a serious topic. . . . I am asking on behalf of families, students and the entire north Madison County area to bring adequate internet service to our area.”

R.K. Jones, an eighth-grade honor student at Shirley D. Simmons Middle School in northeast Madison County, said he was representing his school community to appeal to the board, officials and businesses to use their influence to help bring affordable internet connectivity to northeast Madison County.

“I know the challenges and frustrations that many of my other classmates have trying to access distance or virtual learning with poor connectivity or total lack of internet services,” Jones said. “Many students have to leave home, go to the library or someone else’s home

for basic internet service. We live in an age of technology, yet our homes, our families and our communities are not connected to the age we live in. As students, how can we be held accountable at the same standards with the same level of expectations as other students, schools and workforce communities, if the field of technology is not level?”

Ashlyn Thompson, who lives on U.S. 51 about 9 miles north of Canton and is a freshman at Canton Academy, said during the COVID-19 pandemic students had to work from home.

“It was very difficult,” Thompson said. “Where I live, we can only get a hotspot box that has limited data and at times it would not let me connect and go to class so I come to you this morning to ask for your assistance to help get broadband available to all of Madison County.”

Banks said he was not sure when the county would receive Rescue Act funds but would it would likely be months and any proposed items will remain a wishlist.

# 2 children injured in fiery wreck

By DUNCAN DENT  
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RIDGELAND — Two children remained in intensive care after a fiery two-car rollover accident Sunday evening on County Line Road.

The wreck occurred around 5:30 p.m. Sunday at County Line Road and U.S. 51, near the railroad, but Ridgeland Police are withholding some details.

Patrol Division Commander Lt. Tony Willridge said the wreck involved an SUV and four-door sedan.

The occupant of the sedan, a mother and her two children, were transported to the hospital

as was the lone occupant of the SUV.

A witness said before police arrived a vehicle was upside down and on fire in the grass near the old Logan’s Roadhouse.

Police were still on the scene almost two hours later, the witness said.

“There were multiple injuries which required transport to local hospitals,” Willridge said.

“The roadways were blocked for a short period of time as medical and towing services cleared the injured and vehicles from the scene.”

Willridge said the two adults

were treated and released earlier this week.

He said the two children remain in the hospital in intensive care. Willridge said they are not releasing any names at this time as the wreck remains under investigation.

The sedan caught fire due to fuel leaking from its gas tank but Willridge said all the occupants escaped before the vehicle caught fire and that none of the victims suffered burns.

He said the cause of the wreck has not yet been determined as the case remains under investigation.

# Court hears marijuana arguments

By SCOTT HAWKINS  
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Oral arguments in Madison Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler’s challenge to Initiative 65 began at the state Supreme Court on Wednesday.

Initiative 65 is the constitutional amendment passed in November to allow for medical marijuana in the state.

Hawkins-Butler’s arguments centered on the plain language of the state Constitution and a reduced number of Congressional districts, not the wisdom of legalizing medical marijuana itself, Hawkins-Butler has asserted since late-October.

The state Supreme Court agreed in December to hear the appeal filed by Hawkins-Butler and the city of Madison in October before Initiative 65 was passed overwhelmingly by voters in November.

Hawkins-Butler says Initiative 65 was put before voters unconstitutionally.

Her appeal technically challenges the sufficiency of the petition itself, not the marijuana language.

“Initiative 65 gives marijuana providers greater rights than any other lawful business,” the mayor has said. “Such a significant change must be lawfully adopted.”

The mayor has said she is not opposed to a well-regulated

pure medical marijuana program for the truly suffering.

The mayor is arguing 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 percent of its required signatures from each of the state’s congressional districts.

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

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

The Secretary of State argues in response that 100 percent can be achieved because the meaning and intent behind the law is to use the former five districts as they existed before 2000.

Hawkins-Butler says 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 insists the sick and dying people of Mississippi deserve a controlled, well-regulated program overseen by universities, doctors, and pharma-

cists — which is why she opposes Initiative 65.

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

Furthermore, the mayor argues, 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 said.

Ridgeland’s Spencer Flatgard, a partner at the law firm Watkins & Eager PLLC and the original drafter of Initiative 65, is confident they will prevail.

He previously told the Journal he is grateful that Mississippi patients will have access to medical marijuana like most of the nation, and that Mississippi voters overwhelmingly supported Initiative 65 with 74 percent of the vote, carrying all 82 counties including Madison and the city of Madison.

# County’s COVID numbers creeping up again

Despite the increasing number of people in Madison County being vaccinated, COVID-19 rose slightly with 58 new cases reported by the county as of April 14, according to Wednesday’s Mississippi State Department of Health COVID-19 report.

Last week, Madison County reported only 48 new cases. According to Wednesday’s MSDH report, 75,479 people have been vaccinated in Madison County, up 5,997 from last week’s 69,482 total.

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

who are residents of Madison County.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, Madison County has recorded 9,922 COVID-19 cases, up 58 cases from 9,864 in last week’s report, and 210 COVID-19 deaths, up one from last week’s report.

The MSDH has not updated Madison County’s schools COVID-19 report since April 2.

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

Vaccinations also are cur-

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

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

Mississippi’s total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases now stands at 188,633 with another 119,478 probable cases for a total of 308,111 COVID-19 cases and 4,922 confirmed deaths and 2,200 probable COVID-19 deaths since the pandemic began in March 2020.

upwards of 80 megawatts to service the Megasite.

A megawatt of capacity will produce electricity that equates to about the same amount of electricity consumed by 400 to 900 homes in a year.

## BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES/J. Ligon Duncan III

# Christ: The creator and reconciler

Please turn in your Bible to Colossians 1:15-20. In this passage, the Apostle Paul addresses the concern within the Church, that many people acknowledge Christ’s supremacy with their tongues, but they question whether He is sufficient. In other words, they think that in order to have fullness of life, they need to supplement what they have in Christ in something else. Sometimes they think that they can begin with Christ and yet if they are going to stay in fellowship with God, they must supplement it by earning God’s favor in their obedience. Other times they think that there is some deeper spiritual principle so they mix Christianity with other types of belief. Therefore, Paul addresses those concerns in four ways within his letter. First, Paul asserts that Christ is the Lord of creation. Secondly, Paul maintains that Christ is the head of the Church. Thirdly, Paul declares that in Christ is the fullness of God. Fourthly and finally, Paul says that Christ is the Reconciler.

**I. Christ: Lord of Creation.** First, Paul is stressing that Christ is the Lord of creation. In verse 15, Paul says, “He is the image of the invisible God and the first-born of all creation.” In that phrase, Paul is stressing that Jesus is very God. He is not the highest of created beings, He is not simply a good man, or a good moral teacher, He is very God. Christ is the Lord of creation. Why? Because He made creation. Paul says that “He is the creator of all things” both “of the heavens and of the earth, visible and invisible.” There is nothing in this universe that is outside of His control. In contrast, the false teachers were saying to the Colossians, “You have been saved from your sins by Christ, but now you need to be saved and freed from these demonic forces in the spiritual world.” In response, the Apostle Paul says, “Nonsense! Christ is the Lord of all. If you are in Christ, you have been saved from those forces of darkness. You have everything you need to exercise dominion in Christ.”

**II. Christ: Head of the Church**

Secondly, in verse 18, Paul says, “Christ is the head of the Church.” Jesus is not only supreme over creation; He is supreme in and over the Church. He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. He is the authority. He is the only Lord of the Church. My friends, you are free to be who your Lord intends you to be, and no man, however spiritual, may add to the commands of the Lord for what you are to be. The Bible frees you from the foolish and capricious commands of men. If you have life today as a believer, it is because you are united to Christ by faith. If you have life today, it is evidence that the work of the head of the body of Christ is at work in you. Paul goes on to write in verse 18, that “He is the first-born of the dead.” This points to the resurrection of Christ, which is the ground of our hope. He is the first-born of the dead. It is precisely because of that truth, because of the reality of Christ’s resurrection, that we expect and hope for our resurrection. Because He is the head of the Church, because He is the first-born of the dead, and because He has preceded us in resurrection, Paul says Christ has primacy in the Church. He has supremacy.

**III. Christ: the Fullness**

Thirdly, Paul addresses the implications of the truths that he has been sharing with the believers in Colossae. He knows that these Colossians believe in the supremacy of Christ, at least in theory, but they have not understood its implications. Therefore, he turns to the implications of it in verses 19 and 20. Specifically, Paul says, for “it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him.” Paul is arguing that because Christ is supreme, in creation and in redemption, therefore, He is sufficient. There are at least two implications that can be drawn out from verse 19. First of all, “the fullness” is a word that the false teachers in Colossae liked to use. They liked to talk about this fullness that believers could attain if they would go through the mystic rituals. Is it not interesting that the Apostle Paul fires back by saying, “No, Christ is the fullness. You look in and to Christ for the fullness.” Secondly, Paul is talking about the honor and the glory and the reward which is due to Christ alone because He has fulfilled all the responsibilities of His office as our Savior and the

Mediator of the Covenant of Grace. Paul is speaking of that fullness which God has been pleased to give to His Son, because He is pleased beyond measure with the perfection of our Savior’s obedience and sacrifice. That fullness is all found in Him. That fullness belongs to Him alone. Therefore, the Apostle Paul is saying, “You have got the fullness in Christ. Do not look somewhere else.” There is nothing of glory and honor and blessing which is to be found outside of Christ.

**IV. Christ: the Reconciler**

Finally in verse 20, the Apostle Paul stresses that Christ is the Reconciler. Specifically, he says that through Christ, God reconciled all things to Himself, “having made peace through the blood of His cross whether things on earth or things in heaven.” As Christ is the Creator, Paul says, He is also the Reconciler. As sin destroyed the relationship between creatures and the Creator, bringing estrangement between man and God, so Christ restores that fellowship and relationship between man and God, and He does it through the death of His cross. My friends, we can never leave out the cross, because there is no way to get to Him without it. Christianity says that we have been estranged from God and that we deserved to be judged, but through the atoning death of Christ, the wrath of God was quitted for all His people. And as we embrace Christ by faith, repenting of our sins, we find in Him the blessing of all the benefits of reconciliation with God. Have you embraced Christ? Have you realized that there is no way that you can be indifferent to God? You are either for Him or against Him. If you are in Christ, have you recognized how sufficient He is? There is no need to go anywhere else than to Christ, the Creator, and the Redeemer. May God, by His Holy Spirit, implant these truths deep within our hearts and minds, so that we might recognize Christ’s supremacy in all, and live in deeper and more consistent fellowship with Him.

*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 [jlhyde@rts.edu](mailto:jlhyde@rts.edu).*

# Garden

Continued from page A1

from America in Bloom, an organization that focuses on flowers in cities.

One of its biggest sponsors is the Canadian National Railway, which happens to run right through Madison in full view of where the garden will be.

“The grant is \$25,000, and

the city will match that for a total of \$50,000,” Ethridge said. “We’re starting to clear the area now, and we hope to get a walkway in before the groundbreaking so people can walk the path and see where the garden will be.”

Ethridge said the \$50,000 will help kickstart the project that could take around two or three years to complete, and the city could use all the help it can get. The plan is to do more fundraising and get some volunteer groups to come out and

help as well.

“There’s irrigation, planting mix and more, so the expenses run up fast,” she said. “The whole project is so exciting for me since I’m a gardener, so having this garden right smack in the middle of Madison will be spectacular.”

The groundbreaking for the Montgomery House garden will be at 11 a.m. April 21 and will last around 45 minutes to an hour. The public and the media are invited to attend.

## 2021-2022 Schoolwide Planning Meetings Madison County Schools

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

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

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

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

Submitted by:

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

# Amazon

Continued from page A1

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

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**Animal Hospital** Danny S. Prestel, D.V.M.  
601-859-2703  
3114 South Liberty (Old Hwy 51 S), Canton

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www.fbcflora.org  
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Getting the Message/Rev. Chris Shelton

'Peace to you!'

In this passage the Lord Jesus blesses his disciples before ascending into heaven. He had appeared to his disciples after being raised from the dead. When He first appeared to them, He said to them, "Peace to you!" (verse 36)

In your life you might have wonderful pronouncements from someone. You might hear compliments that are encouraging, or the affectionate "I love you," from someone whom you love. I recently heard a lady, who was 20 years old when WWII ended, tell me it was a feeling she will never forget when she heard the war was over.

But there is no pronouncement like the Son of God saying, "Peace to you." At that point the disciples didn't understand it. Jesus knows they are troubled and full of doubts (verse 38). So he shows them his hands and feet. He is not a just a spirit. His body has been raised. And it means peace for them.

Jesus is not ashamed of his wounds inflicted upon Him from the cross. He has conquered death, and accomplished the peace God promised in Moses and the prophets, which the angels also announced at his birth (Luke 2). He is alive forevermore, and all who believe in him will be also. He has paid in full the debt of sin.

The disciples loved Jesus, but they could not understand his dying, especially upon the cross, the sign of one cursed of God. So Jesus explains the Scriptures and opens their minds to understand why he had to suffer (verses 44-45). It had to have been a humbling, yet joyful thing to hear the Lord explaining he had to die for their sin, and he loved them this way so they could be with God forever.

Moreover, Jesus tells them they are witnesses of all that has happened, and of the Scriptures, so they are commissioned to "proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins in his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem (verses 47-48)." There is indemnity to be proclaimed from heaven to sinners; they will have no legal liability to God through Christ Jesus.

Jesus tells the disciples that he will send the promise of the Father, which means the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will empower the disciples and convict men of the truth. Men are

slaves to sin until Christ makes them free. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. That which is born of flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Without the Spirit we can do nothing.

Therefore, we owe all to God for our salvation. He has given us Christ for our sin and corruption; the Spirit to make us wise for salvation. Christ is risen indeed, so when he blesses the disciples (verse 50), they are blessed indeed.

In Numbers 6, the priestly benediction was, "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance and give you peace." After this the Lord says that his name shall be upon the people and that he will bless them. In Revelation 22, we read that in the new heaven and new earth, Christians shall see the face of the Lord, and his name will be on their foreheads."

How do we apply this? It is vital, as the apostle Peter writes in his 2nd epistle, is to "make your calling and election sure." You have to act on God's word; practice genuine repentance and produce fruit in keeping with faith. Peter tells us growth comes by looking to what is promised in heaven, and by remembering you have been cleansed from sin.

In the parable of the great banquet, Jesus warns that many will refuse the invitation to come and eat with the Master because of pre-occupation with other things. So he sends servants to invite the afflicted, lame, crippled, and blind men. Those who come to Christ, and look ahead to seeing him, live as those cured of an affliction by Christ. Make sure of your place at the table.

The apostles worshipped Christ, and had great joy (verse 53). In those he blesses, the Lord Jesus expects adoration. Your life as a Christian may be filled with trouble (and the apostles would face many troubles), but the peace Christ proclaimed endures. So we need to endure in the faith, endeavoring to love Christ and honor his name as the first thing we practice in our life.

Area Churches

- APOSTOLIC**  
VIRGIN MARY APOSTOLIC  
614 Virgin Mary Rd., Canton 859-9110  
ASSEMBLY OF GOD  
TURNING POINT ASSEMBLY OF GOD  
335 Cameron St., Canton 859-6158  
BIBLE  
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE  
2270 Hwy. 51, Canton 855-0660  
OPEN DOOR BIBLE  
157 Sharpe Rd., Madison 898-0908  
FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY  
528 Hart Rd., Canton 859-8912  
CATHOLIC  
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC  
238 E. Center St., Canton 859-3749  
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC  
4000 W. Tidewater Ln., Madison 856-5556  
ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC  
Gluckstadt, Madison 856-2054  
HOLY CHILD JESUS  
315 Garrett St., Canton 859-2957  
NORTHEAST CHRISTIAN  
3169 W. Tidewater Ln., Madison 856-7399  
CANTON CHRISTIAN CENTER  
2735 S. Liberty St., Canton 859-8324  
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE  
First Church of Christ, Scientist  
731 S. Pear Orchard Rd., Suite 9  
Ridgeland 952-0307  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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3479 N. Liberty St., Canton 859-2865  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
851 W. Fulton, Canton 859-7698  
HIGHLAND COLONY CHURCH OF CHRIST  
N. Sunnysbrook Rd., 856-6555  
MADISON CHURCH OF CHRIST  
483 Reunion Parkway, Madison 853-9558  
NORTH FLORA CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Hwy. 49 N., Flora 879-3509  
NORTH LIBERTY CHURCH OF CHRIST  
523 N. Liberty St., Canton 859-2865  
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925 Lutz Ave., Canton 895-5515  
PLEASANT GREEN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
925 George Washington Ave., Canton 859-5515  
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CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST  
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS  
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# Madison's Gladden places in Mrs. America

By SCOTT HAWKINS  
scott@onlinemadison.com

MADISON — Mrs. Mississippi Whitney Warner Gladden recently placed in the Top 15 of the national Mrs. America competition held last month in Las Vegas.

"I was very excited and surprised to make the Top 15 at the Mrs. America pageant," Gladden said. "It is just something that I will always remember."

Gladden, who is married to Lee Gladden and has two children, Macy, 10, and Tucker, 12, said her husband encouraged her to enter the pageant world a few years ago.

Gladden, who grew up in Monroe, Louisiana, said she had competed in the former Junior Miss pageant when she was in high school.

"I did win one thing," Gladden said. "The most ads sold which is typical of me because if I have a tangible goal I can go after, I am going to go do it. I sold the most ads and I got an award for that. At that point I thought, Well, pageantry isn't my thing and I never pursued it past that one experience."

Later, Gladden said she moved to Mississippi to attend law school at Mississippi College and she got a job clerking for a law firm.

"Part of my job as a clerk was to proofread motions and memos and things that the attorneys would write," Gladden said. "I would proofread his things and I thought he was so brilliant. It is almost like I fell in love with his brain before I even really met him."

Gladden said the two wed shortly before she graduated with her law degree because she wanted her diploma to have his last name.

After they were married, Gladden said she found out Lee had been following pageants



Mrs. Mississippi Whitney Warner Gladden placed in the Top 15 of the national Mrs. America competition last month.

most of his life.

"He had a childhood friend who competed and his family would go to her events and cheer her on. They were great friends," Gladden said. "When we got married, he told me he thought I would be great at the pageantry and I kept saying no. It took him 10 years to convince me to compete in a pageant."

In 2018, Gladden said she competed in the Mrs. United States pageant and went to the national competition where she finished as the first runner-up.

That was just the beginning after that event, Gladden said her husband encouraged her to enter the Mrs. America pageant.

"He said, 'You really ought to give Mrs. America a shot,'" Gladden said. "It is the oldest Mrs. pageant. It is very prestigious. I'd love to see you try that." I said OK."

Gladden entered and won

the local and state pageant and spent the week of March 18-27 participating in the national Mrs. America pageant in Las Vegas.

"I got there and there were some powerhouse women there, just amazing from all 50 states," Gladden said. "They are all so passionate about their causes. They are multitaskers with their kids and fitness and their volunteer work. They are just really on another level. It is so inspiring to be around them."

Gladden said her favorite part of competing in pageants is preparing for the event.

"It is almost like the contest itself is like a little bit of a formality, because I love the discipline of getting ready for something," Gladden said. "I love fine-tuning my presentation skills and interview skills and really just working on myself and trying to be the best version of myself. Then you get

there and if you have a mindset it is not about winning it or even placing. It is more about did I bring the best Whitney Gladden to the table? If I did that and I didn't leave anything out, I feel good about it."

The Mrs. America contest includes an interview which counts for 50% of the score, swimwear, which counts for 25% and evening gown which also counts for 25%.

Gladden said the pageant also includes a state costume portion and she wore a flowy turquoise dress to represent the Mississippi River.

Other awards were included, too, Gladden said.

"Mrs. Congeniality went to Mrs. Georgia, who I absolutely loved," Gladden said. "She deserved it every step of the way. Mrs. America was awarded to Brooklynn Rivera, who was Mrs. Texas, who also was very kind and one of my favorite people all week, so it

just turned out exactly the way it was supposed to."

When the time came for the Top 15, Gladden said she thought she was out of the running.

"When they were calling the top 15 I already had my heels off sitting backstage," Gladden said. "They called 'Mrs. Mississippi,' and I had to put my heels back on and run out there real quick. It was really exciting."

Gladden said her platform was "Kids for a Cause."

"It is focused on helping kids find meaningful service opportunities because I really believe if we can teach the kids the importance of volunteerism at an early age that we can change how the world works," Gladden said. "We can change how people are treating each other when they understand the power of helping people who cannot help themselves."

Gladden said her family

decided to partner with Feeding America to help make a difference.

"I work at a food bank every other week and we do food drives and lots of things with the homeless community and it has just been an amazing thing to be able to do alongside my kids and my husband," Gladden said.

Next up for Gladden is her plan to host a virtual 5K to benefit Feeding America this summer.

"It is going to be social media-based, and I am going to do my very best to recruit at least one person from every state to run a virtual 5K," Gladden said. "It will be on a Saturday. They can turn in their times. They can post selfies. They can invite friends. They can do it as a group in their hometown but we want to see as many people as possible, getting together, doing something that is going to benefit their health but is also going to benefit the food crisis that we are facing in America, nationwide."

Gladden said people can keep up with the virtual 5K on her website at whitneygladden.com.

"They can go there and put in their email address, and I'll send them an update on when we get things together," Gladden said.

Gladden said the Mrs. Mississippi America pageant will be held in Ridgeland on July 23-25. She said the exact venue has not yet been nailed down. Gladden encouraged women to sign up for the pageant.

"To the link to register, they can go to my Instagram @WhitneyGladden and click the link in my bio and they will be able to get to the registration," Gladden said.

## Legals

Continued from page A8

15 years ago. 1971 or 1972 Red and White Ford 100 VIN#F10YLN04049 seized more than 15 years ago. Last known registration listed to T C Snell 240 Cotton Wood Dr. Jackson, MS 39213. Red Ford Tempo VIN#2FAPP3600PB151201 seized from an unknown individual more than 15 years ago. Green and White Sea-Doo Bombardier watercraft registration number M17144B seized more than 15 years ago. Last known registration listed to Leigh A. Avara 128 Spindlewood Dr. Madison, MS 39110. Said vehicles and or property being subject to disposition under the provisions of Section 21-39-21 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended having been the receipt or recovery of lost, stolen, abandoned, or misplaced personal property. TO RECOVER SAID PROPERTY if you claim an interest in the above described property which is subject of notice under Mississippi Code Ann. § 21-39-21 and wish to contest the disposition, you must within One Hundred and Twenty (120)

days after receipt of this Notice or of the date of the first publication of this Notice, file a written claim signed by you contesting the disposition. If you file such a Notice, a copy of the said Notice must be served upon the attorney or representative providing this Notice by service of process in the same manner as any other civil cases. Said agent for process for the agency can be served at the following address: **Madison County Chancery Clerk's Office 125 West North Street, Canton, MS 39046** Attention: **Chancery Clerk Ronny Lott** If you do not file a claim stating an interest in the property within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date of the first posting of this notice, the above described property will be declared abandoned and the Madison County Sheriff's Department shall distribute or dispose of said property in accordance with the provisions of Mississippi Code Ann. § 21-39-21, to include public auction conducted by Sheriff Randy Tucker on the 16th day of August 2021, at 10:00 a.m., at the Madison

County Sheriff's Department located at 2941 Hwy 51 Canton, MS 39046. Dated this the 5th day of April 2021. Notice provided by: Ronny Lott Madison County Chancery Clerk Publish dates: April 15 and 22, 2021.

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

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 5th day of April, 2021, by the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi, to the undersigned Executor of the Estate of Steven Michael Blaylock, Deceased, being probated in Cause No. 20-961 (W) on the docket of said Court, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law,

within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this Notice, or they will be forever barred. THIS the 12th day of April, 2021. [u]/s/ Steven Michael Blaylock [u] Steven Michael Blaylock, Executor of the Estate of Robert Gerald Blaylock, Deceased PREPARED BY: Pamela L. Hancock, MSB #10676 Jeffrey B. McGuire, MSB # 104622 Jeanine M. Carafello, MSB # 10487 Attorneys for the Estate of Robert Gerald Blaylock HANCOCK LAW FIRM, PLLC P. O. Box 1078, Ridgeland, MS 39158 Telephone: (601) 853-2223 Facsimile: (601) 853-9693 Publish on: 4/15/21, 4/22/21, 4/29/21.

### NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING

Notice is hereby given to those parties in interest that there will be a hearing on Thursday, May 6, 2021, at 6:00 o'clock P.M. before the Zoning Board at the City Hall, 100 W. School Street, Ridgeland, Mississippi, for the purpose of determining whether or not a Petition and Application for Conditional

Use Permit shall be granted to the owners of the described property in the City of Ridgeland Madison County, Mississippi. DESCRIPTION TRACT 1 EXHIBIT A Being situated in the SW¼ and the SE¼ of Section 13, T7N-R1E, City of Ridgeland, Madison County, Mississippi and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at a 1" square iron bar marking the Southwest corner of aforesaid Section 13 and run thence East, 2593.88'; run thence North, 188.81' to a point on the North boundary of the Parkway Holdings property as recorded in Deedbook 394 at page 412 of the Chancery records of Madison County, Mississippi; run thence N3°04'48"E, 45.00'; run thence N16°55'12"W, 15.96'; thence N86°55'12"W, 100.47'; run thence N3°03'02"E, 142.51' to the Southwest corner of and the POINT OF BEGINNING for the property herein described; continue thence N3°03'02"E, 354.33' to a point on the Southern Right-of-Way line of Colony Park Boulevard; run thence

Northeasterly, clockwise, along the arc of a curve in said Southern Right-of-Way line, 126.13'; said curve having the following characteristics: central angle of 2°37'07", radius of 2759.79' and chord bearing and distance of N83°49'38"E, 126.12'; run thence S61°09'53"E, along said Right-of-Way line, 80.72'; run thence N88°08'36"E, along said Southern Right-of-Way line 45.12'; leaving said Right-of-Way line, run Southeasterly, counterclockwise, along the arc of a curve, 340.74'; said curve having the following characteristics: central angle of 61°58'41", radius of 315.00' and chord bearing and distance of S34°18'30"E, 324.37'; run thence S73°04'10"W, 250.05'; run thence N86°56'58"W, 203.96' to the POINT OF BEGINNING; containing 108,998 square feet or 2.502 acres, more or less. APPROVED: ATTEST: [u]/s/ Paula Tierce [u] Paula Tierce, City Clerk April 9, 2021 Publish: April 15, 2021

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**Germantown High School Who's Who**

Freshmen Class Favorites are (Back) Wiley Carter, Brayden Pigg, David Gainwell, Devin Bouldin (Front) Randi Adams, Manze Ball, Alli Umphlett, and Ella Edwards



**Mr. & Miss Germantown High**

Germantown High School's Mr. and Miss are Alex Parsa and Kayla Young. These two were voted on by the entire student body and exemplify what it truly means to be a Maverick.



**Germantown High School Who's Who**

Senior Class Favorites are (Back) Cade Black, Jagger Jones, Connor Ray, Aubrey Grace (Front) Emma Ellard, Mary Allyn McIntosh, Anna Claire Savell, and Amelia Agostinelli



**Germantown High School Who's Who**

Junior Class Favorites are (Back) Tykwon Wade, Ryan Augustine, Carson Yoder, Colt Yoder (Front) Peyton Davis, Perry DeLoach, Essence Baker, and Kate Guillory



**Germantown High School Who's Who**

Sophomore Class Favorites are (Back) Josh Bell, Jace Weaver, Andrew Dinkelacker, Reed Fairly (Front) Nora Bailey Robertson, Lily Frazier, Avery Addison, and Mary Kathryn Sheehan

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