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ROUTINE TRAFFIC STOP

Trooper struck, killed near Canton

By SCOTT HAWKINS
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No new information is being released in the death of a state trooper struck and killed by a dump truck west of Canton Friday afternoon during a routine traffic stop.

Mississippi Highway Patrol trooper John Martin Harris, 44, of Madison died on Mississippi 16 west of I-55 near Old Yazoo Road, the authorities said.

The investigation is ongoing, the MHP said.

Since he was 5-year-old boy, all Harris had ever wanted to be was a “policeman,” his father said. (See story, Page 1A.)

Harris, a native of Clarksdale, had lived in Madison since 2004. He is survived by his wife, Kate Parker Harris, and their children, Cooper and Parker.

He began his law enforce-

ment career in 1997 in Webb, Mississippi. He then served in Friars Point and later in Madison County as a Sheriff’s deputy and then in the Richland Police Department before joining the Highway Patrol three years ago.

Hundreds turned out for his funeral service on Tuesday in Madison and many others lined the procession route to the cemetery waving American flags and stopping their

vehicles along Interstate 55 and Highway 51 to pay their respects. (See story, Page 8A.)

“The Mississippi Highway Patrol mourns the loss of Trooper John Harris,” Col. Randy Ginn said Friday. “Trooper Harris was a passionate, dedicated public servant and an important member of the MHP family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family at this difficult time.”

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Mississippi Highway Patrol trooper John Martin Harris with wife, Kate Parker Harris, and children, Parker and Cooper.

John Martin Harris



Photo by Coleman Eakes

Above: The hearse carrying the body of Mississippi Highway Patrol trooper John Martin Harris is escorted down U.S. 51 Tuesday afternoon to the cemetery. **At right:** A U.S. flag is draped over the casket during Harris’ funeral service in Madison on Tuesday afternoon with state dignitaries at left, including Gov. Tate Reeves and former Gov. Phi Bryant.



A HERO Trooper laid to rest in Madison

By SCOTT HAWKINS
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As a five-year-old boy, John Martin Harris declared to his father he wanted to be a “policeman” and he never wavered.

John Martin knew his “why” early in life, his father, Jimmy Harris, said at the state trooper’s funeral on Tuesday at the Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison. Harris was a member of Madison United Methodist Church, but because of the large crowd the service was moved to Broadmoor.

“I asked John Martin when he was 5 years old, ‘What are you going to be?’ ‘Policeman,’” Jimmy Harris said.

“I asked him at 6, 7, 8, 9 — ‘policeman.’ He never moved. At 10 I asked him. ‘Policeman.’ At 15 I asked him. ‘Policeman.’ Seventeen, ‘policeman.’ You know what he asked me when he was 18 years old? He said, ‘Daddy, I want to be emancipated.’”

Jimmy Harris said John Harris wanted to be emancipated so he could become a policeman before he turned 21, which he did shortly after becoming emancipated.

Jimmy Harris of Clarksdale said he was proud of his son, who died Friday after being struck by a dump truck west of Canton during a routine traffic stop. (See story, Page 1A.)

“I am so proud that my son was a trooper,” Jimmy Harris said to the troopers assembled. “Y’all are an elite group of individuals who possess character,

See HARRIS, page A2

MPB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Agnew discusses new projects

By MAGGIE RUTLEDGE
Special to the Journal

Madison’s Ronnie Agnew, executive director of Mississippi Public Broadcasting, shares two deep passions in his life: journalism and family.

Agnew, 58, has done it all in the journalism world.

This makes perfect sense for a journalist whose favorite quote, according to thehistorymakers.org is, “I don’t like no. Bring me solutions, not problems.”

Since graduating from the University of Mississippi with bachelor degrees in both English and Radio/Television, Agnew has worked as the executive edi-

tor for Mississippi’s largest and most widely circulated newspaper, The Clarion Ledger, and has earned many awards for his investigative reporting and for his leadership.

Agnew has served as the diversity chairman for the American Society of News Editors, on the board of directors for the Associated Press Media Editors and as board chairman for the America’s Public Television Stations, executive committee chair for the National Educational Telecommunications Association, and a variety of other significant positions.

Perhaps his family life has been even more rewarding.

Ronnie and his wife,

Melodie, live in Madison. The Agnew children, Christopher, Victoria and Rachel, are well-accomplished.

Victoria (Tori) Agnew Woodhouse describes her father as, “over protective. He loves to hear from us kids every day.”

“Family is everything to him. He especially loves being a granddaddy.

He has supported my dreams for as long as I’ve known what they were. He has always been there for me through everything. And he is a storyteller at heart.

He always managed to keep the journalism separate from being a father except when he proofread our papers. He would

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MPB Executive Director Ronnie Agnew, left, talks on the air in the Think Radio studio.

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Trooper was motivator, hard worker, friend

By **MICHAEL SIMMONS**
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Hours before John Martin Harris died in the line of duty, the state trooper was in the gym sharing photos of an ecstasy bust he'd made the day before with fellow law enforcement officers. Robbie Sanders, assistant chief of the Madison Police Department, was in the gym with Harris and others Friday morning. Sanders had previously worked with Harris at the Madison County Sheriff's Office but their paths crossed many times working on drug interdiction in the Jackson metro. The two were more than professional colleagues, they were

friends. "In the gym that morning he was showing us a picture of a load of ecstasy he had gotten the day before," Sanders said. "He had gone down on I-55 just outside of McComb. We were going to work a detail (Friday) night and he was going to come out and work with us." Sanders said what happened next is something that he's always going to remember. "We had finished working out and he hugged every single one of us and told us he loved us before he left," Sanders said. Harris and Sanders' friendship began in the mid-2000s, when the two were working together as deputies. "We worked highway inter-

diction and K-9s together," Sanders said, adding that Harris had a knack for finding vehicles hauling drugs. Harris would transition from the Madison SO to the Richland Police Department and they would work in concert together on I-20. After Richland, Harris attended trooper school and came back to Madison County. "He was a motivator," Sanders said. "You could go to work and not really be into it that day and then get around him and five minutes later you were ready to go." Madison County Sheriff Randy Tucker said Harris worked as a patrol deputy when he first joined the department in 2004 before transitioning to K-9

work directly under him. "He was that class clown, life-of-the-party type of guy," Tucker said. "He was the loudest voice and biggest smile. He could drive you absolutely crazy and turn around and make you absolutely proud of him. I've never been so mad and so happy at a person in a 24-hour period. That's just the kind of guy he was." Tucker said there were too many stories to tell, but one that sticks out was the time Harris was shot while responding to a call on Highway 16 north of Canton. Tucker said that Harris was standing in the driveway of a house when this man came out with a 12-gauge shotgun loaded

with birdshot. "I remember John didn't scream, he didn't really yell out," the sheriff recalled. "He had a few choice words and took off running behind the car." Tucker said Harris was mad the guy shot him, but at the same time was justifying it. "If I was in the guy's position, I would have probably shot me too," Harris said, according to Tucker. Sanders, too, said there were so many stories to tell, but one that sticks out in his mind was when they were working one shift together and Harris wanted to head out to Highway 49 instead of I-55. "He always wanted to go to Highway 49," Sanders began. "I

told him every time we go to 49 we either get in a pursuit or we wind up having to fight somebody. So, we go over there anyway, and we stop this woman and she refused consent. I got my dog out and he alerted to the trunk. There was 5 pounds of weed in the trunk. We go to arrest her and we ended up having to fight her." Sanders said they eventually got the woman in custody and the three were sitting on the side of the highway catching their breath. "I looked at him and he just busted out laughing," Sanders said. "He was solid. If he was your friend, he was your friend for life."

Harris

Continued from page A1

integrity — all the qualities that you would want your son or daughter to have." Jimmy Harris said that in Jackson his son was known simply as John. "In the Delta he is John Martin," he said. When John Martin asked

his dad to be his best man, he told him that the best man should be the groom's best friend. "He looks at me and he said, 'Daddy you are. You are,'" Jimmy Harris said. "At the rehearsal dinner, he gives me this. A little cardholder. (It is full of highway patrol cards right now.) If you read the inscription in it it reads, 'Best man once. My hero always.'"

Jimmy Harris went on to say that John Martin had only wanted two things in life, to be a state trooper and to be a hero. "Look around. He got it. He got both. He was a trooper, and he was a hero," Jimmy Harris said to the assembled group of hundreds including friends, family, state dignitaries and law enforcement officials from Mississippi, Florida and Alabama, among others. "Heaven got a twofor. A top cop and a super trooper."

Gov. Tate Reeves lauded John Martin's service. "Mississippi is a better place because of Trooper John Harris," he said. "And likely more importantly to John, Mississippi is a safer place because of Trooper John Harris." The governor went on to say, "We must take this tragedy as a stark reminder of how fragile life on Earth can be....and of the dangers and sacrifices our law enforcement officers face each day. We must hold his family close....his mom, his dad, wife and children....and we must also hold all of his brothers and sisters in blue close as well!" Col. Randy Ginn, chief of the Mississippi Highway Patrol, said it didn't take long after patrol school to get to know John Martin. He was determined, Ginn said. He was determined to seize the opportunity when he felt like it was his time to go to patrol school and he was "determined to get in and to stay in and that he did." Ginn attributed the trooper's determination to his



Photo by Coleman Eakes

U.S. 51 was flooded in a sea of blue lights Tuesday afternoon escorting Harris to burial.

upbringing. "I think that probably comes from his upbringing and probably with his brothers and friends and all the things that you do growing up you get a determination to do what you want to do," he said. "Then you go after it when you have the opportunity." He didn't just want to get there, Ginn said. "He wanted to get through and finish what he had started. That he very well did. He earned everything he got in life and he earned the opportunity to join us in the highway patrol and to serve as a trooper." John Martin was dedicated, but he loved life, Ginn said. "He loved his family, his wife and his children and he loved what he did because he loved serving people and making a difference and he went about — if you know his career — making a difference everywhere that he was. The things that he faced and the challenges that he faced when he

was at Friar's Point and then at Madison County and then as he has come through Richland and into the Highway Patrol. "When I talk to people who have worked with him at all of those places all of them said the same thing about John. He was determined to do it right and he wasn't going to quit. He wanted to be a part of the solution of what's going on in society. John was dedicated in the job he had with us even to the point that he would come out and work when he didn't have to because he knew somebody else was gone and they were short-handed, or knew it was a holiday and there would be extra people on the road and he would come out. He would drive to Louisiana to help take off a load of dope if that needed to be done. He was driven. He was determined and he was dedicated." The Rev. Barry Male, John's Martin's pastor at

Madison United Methodist and the one who delivered the message at the funeral, said he talked to John Martin's youth pastor this week. "Can you imagine who John was at 13? I talked to his youth pastor who at that time was only a 19-year-old kid," he said. His youth pastor at Clarksdale Methodist was Eddie Rester. "I want to close with what Rev. Rester said about John Martin. Here is what he said, 'I was a rookie youth director at Clarksdale Methodist when I met John Martin, he was simply a force of nature as a 13-year-old kid and some of you can testify to that. He was the kid who had the ability to drive me crazy with his energy and recklessness but then he would amaze me with his generous heart for others in depth of faith he was always John Martin no more and no less. Fearless, true, faithful.'"

Agnew

Continued from page A1

edit them like crazy. However, he loved the newspaper. He still keeps up with all the news, loves to write about his life as a country boy from Saltillo, Mississippi, and loves his broadcasting job." Agnew's work has been remarkable. He has won many awards and honors throughout his career, such as the University of Mississippi's Silver Elm Award for journalism excellence and being in its Alumni Hall of Fame as well as in the University of Southern Mississippi's Journalism Hall of Fame. Perhaps most notably, Agnew has received four President's Rings for Gannett Co. Inc.'s best editor and his significant contributions to national coverage of civil rights issues. Woodhouse continues, "Broadcasting has stretched him in ways that he didn't know he could. He is always mentoring young journalists. He is the best writer I know. He brings life to anything he writes about." Two of Agnew's important projects at Mississippi Public Broadcasting, are the "At-Home Learning" TV channel, which helps assist parents with their children's educations during the

COVID-19 pandemic, and cooperative plans with other states' journalists to assist in broadening investigative journalism. In response to Mississippi's broadband challenge, Agnew's At-Home Learning TV channel has recorded more than 200 classes during the last six months, enabling students K-12 to learn from home. Teachers have been and continue to film many classes on topics ranging from basic phonics to various sciences and math. "This has been probably the most difficult project to put together," yet it has gained admiration in the legislature as well as from the Mississippi Department of Education. In a word, this project is simply invaluable, Agnew said. The most recent project is funded by a \$1.3 million grant from National Public Radio (NPR). MPB hired 10 staff members, including a healthcare reporter in Birmingham, Alabama; a criminal justice reporter in Jackson; and a wealth and poverty reporter in New Orleans. Their stories are broadcast on MPB radio and submitted to NPR. "I do believe that all of these story reports will be worth NPR distribution," Agnew said. The company's goal of this collaborative project is not only to broadcast televised news for MPB, but also to supply Nation-

al Public Radio with influential stories in order to find a "common thread of reports from all three states." Agnew's passion does not stop at work. He is dedicated to helping students with a possible interest in journalism by serving on journalism advisory boards at Jackson State University, the School of Journalism at the University of Mississippi and the University of Southern Mississippi. "Early on in my career as a young reporter on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, he paused in his busy schedule and challenged me to dream of the kind of editor that I hoped to become," said Dr. Marquita Smith, assistant dean for graduate studies at the School of Journalism and New Media at the University of Mississippi. "Before I knew my path, he charted it for me and so many others." Believing that journalism can change lives and shape people, Agnew said his journalism career has enabled him to "develop a heart for people."

A graduate of Jackson Preparatory School, Maggie Rutledge is currently studying Integrated Marketing Communications at the University of Mississippi. Maggie is the daughter of Bryan and Ceci Rutledge of Madison.

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Municipal elections Tuesday

By **STAFF REPORTS**
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Voters in three Madison County cities will go to the polls Tuesday to cast votes in municipal general elections. Most races were decided during April’s party primaries and only a few contested races remain on the ballots for Tuesday’s general elections. Below is a rundown of races that will be on Tuesday’s municipal general election ballots in Madison County’s municipalities.

Madison
The only challenged race is for an alderman-at-large in which Democrat Janice Jackson will face incumbent Republican Alderman-at-Large Sandra Strain. Madison’s Republican Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler drew no opponent and will serve her 11th term as mayor. All other incumbent Madison aldermen ran unopposed as Republicans.

Ridgeland
The alderman-at-large and Ward 2 Alderman seats are contested and will be on ballots in next week’s general election. Democrat Poteat Medley

will face incumbent Republican Alderman-at-Large D.I. Smith. Ward 2 incumbent Republican Chuck Gautier will face Democratic challenger Walter Young Jr. Republican Ridgeland Mayor Gene F. McGee had no opponent and will serve his ninth term as mayor. All other incumbent aldermen in Ridgeland ran unopposed as Republicans. A resolution passed by the Ridgeland Mayor and Board of Aldermen in April temporarily allows the 345 residents eligible to vote in a newly annexed area along W County Line Road to vote in Ward 1 and for alderman-at-large. City Attorney Jerry Mills said at the time that 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

Canton
Republican Charles “Chip” Matthews is challenging incumbent Democrat Mayor William Truly. All other candidates in Canton ran as Democrats and those

races were settled in the April Democrat Party primary. In a lawsuit filed by three Democrat Party incumbent candidates who lost their seats in the April 6 primaries, a Friday status conference hearing before Special Madison County Circuit Court Judge Jeff Weill Sr. is pending. The candidates — Ward 1 Rodriguez Brown, Ward 2 Fred Esco Jr. and Ward 5 Tim C. Taylor — had filed individual suits that were later consolidated into one suit, questioning among other things, the Democrat Party candidates list submitted to the Mississippi Secretary of State’s office and the legitimacy of the city’s Democrat Party Executive Committee which certified the primary results.

Flora
Flora officials are all running as independents and unopposed. Flora incumbents who will serve another term in their respective offices are Mayor Les Childress, Ward 1 Alderman Michael Westbrook, Ward 2 Alderman Kenny Jenkins, Ward 3 Alderman Mary Sumler, Ward 4 Alderman Ray Allard and Alderman-at-large A.J. Lunsford.

Canton man sentenced in fentanyl case

By **DUNCAN DENT**
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A Canton man received an 11-year sentence after he pleaded guilty for his role in the distribution of more than 380 counterfeit pharmaceutical pills containing fentanyl. Justin Romello Williams, 26, of Canton, pleaded guilty in Circuit Court on May 17 to one count of conspiracy, two counts of trafficking in controlled substances and four counts of selling drugs. He was later sentenced to 11 years to serve in the Mississippi Department of Corrections for his part in a scheme to distribute more than 380 pills containing fentanyl, a schedule II controlled substance, District Attorney Bubba Bramlett announced Thursday. He said the 11 years in cus-

tody will be spent day for day without the possibility of parole or early release. “In this particular case, the Madison County Sheriff’s Department kept almost 400 potentially deadly pills off the streets and out of the hands of our young people,” Bramlett said. Bramlett said counterfeit pain pills are causing significant overdose deaths in Mississippi. These pills often contain fentanyl, an opioid that is said to be 100 times more potent than morphine. Bramlett said the pills can look identical to medications such as hydrocodone, oxycodone or Xanax and these counterfeit versions often contain fentanyl. “Fentanyl is not to be experimented with...the first time may be the end,” Bramlett said. “Fentanyl does not forgive —

one pill can kill. Each time an individual takes a pill that did not come from their doctor or pharmacy, he or she is playing Russian Roulette, plain and simple.”

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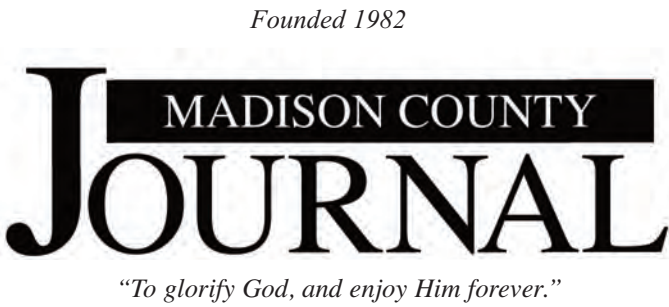
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EDITORIALS

John Martin, trooper, hero

Mississippi is a better place because of MHP trooper John Martin Harris.

And likely more importantly to John Martin, Mississippi is without question a safer place because of his service, Gov. Tate Reeves said at his funeral service in Madison on Tuesday. We all realize John Martin’s service and commitment now.

John Martin, as he was called back home in the Delta, has won the victory over death through Christ, so we weep not for him but for ourselves — as even Christ, fully human and fully God — wept over the death of his friend Lazareth.

“We must take this tragedy as a stark reminder of how fragile life on Earth can be....and of the dangers and sacrifices our law enforcement officers face each day,” Reeves said.

“We must hold his family close....his mom, his dad, wife and children....and we must also hold all of his brothers and sisters in blue close as well!”

Hundreds of law enforcement officers and first responders processed with the family from the church to the cemetery on Tuesday as John Martin was laid to rest.

Hundreds of regular Mississippians lined the streets of Madison and Ridgeland to pay their final respects.

Individuals got out of their automobiles along I-55 and U.S. 51 and stood hand over heart in a massive show of compassion and respect, not only for John Martin’s family but for all of law enforcement.

As a small boy, John Martin would say he wanted to be a policeman, his father said, and that continued into his teens, his first job and finally three years ago realizing his ultimate dream of becoming a state trooper.

Hours before John Martin died he was in the gym sharing photos of an ecstasy bust he’d made the day before with fellow law enforcement officers.

“He was that class clown, life-of-the-party type of guy,” said Madison County Sheriff Randy Tucker. “He was the loudest voice and biggest smile. He could drive you absolutely crazy and turn around and make you absolutely proud of him. I’ve never been so mad and so happy at a person in a 24-hour period. That’s just the kind of guy he was.”

We will forever honor John Martin’s sacrifice in the line of duty, as Gov. Reeves said, for keeping us safe, just as we honor every single man and woman who swears the same oath and faces the same dangers to protect us from the bad guys. Well done, John Martin.

Smith, Strain for alderman

D.I. Smith helped lead the charge to stop the landfill in south Madison County and that alone is reason to re-elect him on Tuesday.

Smith is retired military, he loves America, he loves Ridgeland and he loves Madison County demonstrated by his service.

There is hardly a harder-working, honest, more sincere man in public office than D.I. Smith.

Madison’s Sandra Strain has demonstrated her commitment to Madison by filling her late husband Warren’s seat she won in a special election last December.

Now, Sandra is asking for your vote again for a full four-year term, and we believe the people of Madison see her sincerity and enthusiasm and will trust her.

“Being your Alderman-at-Large has given me more joy than I can put into words,” she said in May.

Memorial Day

This editorial first appeared on May 31, 2018.

Every day could be Memorial Day, but the last Monday in May is set aside as a day of reflection and remembrance of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to country.

On Monday, a grateful nation paused to honor those who didn't come home — or if they did it was in a flag-draped casket.

In ceremonies on town squares, at Arlington National Cemetery, at major league ball parks, at family picnics or in quiet reflection, the dead were again memorialized.

“Sacrifice is meaningless without remembrance,” former Circuit Judge Vernon Cotten of said at a Memorial Day ceremony a few years ago in Philadelphia.

“America’s collective consciousness demands that all citizens be aware of and recall on special occasions the deaths of their fellow countrymen during war time,” he said.

“Far too often the nation as a whole takes for granted the freedoms all Americans enjoy. Those freedoms were paid for with the lives of others few of us actually knew.”

Cotten quoted Abraham Lincoln when he said: “From these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain.”

Carved into granite at the cemetery in France where 5,076 Americans are buried — most of whom died in the Battle of the

Bulge — are Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower’s words:

“All who shall hereafter live in freedom will be here reminded that to these men and their comrades we owe a debt to be paid with grateful remembrance of their sacrifice and with the high resolve that the cause for which they died shall live eternally.”

At Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, President Tump honored the wife and 7-year-old son of a fallen Marine. The President met the boy last year and they walked — the kid in full Marine dress —?among the grave markers to his father's burial place in a touching moment that captured the nation.

“Last year at Arlington Cemetery, I met a young boy named Christian Jacobs. He was special,” Trump said. "He was standing fully in a uniform. His father was a great man to him and he was a great man to me. And Christian was standing over his father's grave, saluting. It was something I'll never forget.”

“It was a moment I will always remember. Christian, I want you to know that even though your father has left this world, he's left it for the next. He's not gone, he'll never be gone. Your dad's love, courage, and strength live in you, Christian, and as you grow bigger and stronger, just like him, so, too, does your father's incredible legacy. So thank you both. That's so beautiful. Thank you.”

President Trump said to Gold Star mothers everywhere, “May we never, ever forget our honored war dead and their sacrifices.”

PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

The country is coming apart

After nine people were shot to death by a public transit worker, who then killed himself in San Jose, the latest mass murder in America, California Governor Gavin Newsom spoke for many on the eve of last Memorial Day weekend.

“What the hell is going on in the United States of America? What the hell is wrong with us?”

Good question. Indeed, it seems that the country is coming apart.

In May, Congress, to address a spate of criminal assaults on Asian Americans, enacted a new hate crimes law to protect them.

May also witnessed a rash of assaults on Jewish Americans to show the attackers’ hatred of Israel and support for the Palestinians in the Gaza war.

The terms “racist” and “racism” are now commonplace accusations in political discourse and a public square where whites are expected to ritually denounce the “white privilege” into which they were born.

In the year since the death of George Floyd and the rise of the Black Lives Matter “Defund the Police!” campaign, the shootings and killings of cops and citizens in our great cities have skyrocketed.

In March, and again in April, 167,000 immigrants were caught crossing our southern border illegally. The invaders are now coming not only from Central and South America but also from Africa, the Islamic world and the largest and most populous continent, Asia. And their destiny may be to replace us.

For as the endless invasion proceeds, native-born Americans have ceased to reproduce themselves. Not since the birth dearth of the Great Depression and WWII, when the Silent Generation was born, has the U.S. population experienced such a birth decline as today.

At the same time, a war of all against all in America seems to raise the question, to which recitation of the cliché — “Our diversity is our great

Equality of opportunity is no longer enough.

An equality of rewards is replacing an equality of rights.

est strength” — no longer seems an adequate response:

Is there no limit to the racial, religious, ideological, political, cultural and ethnic diversity the nation can accommodate before it splinters into its component parts?

In professions of religious belief, atheists, agnostics and secularists have become our largest “congregation,” followed by Catholics and Protestants, both of which are in numerical decline.

Diversity of faiths leads to irreconcilable, clashing opinions about morality on the most divisive social issues of our era: abortion, homosexuality, same-sex marriage, etc.

Racial diversity, too, is bringing back problems unseen since the 1960s.

America was almost 90% white in 1960, but that figure is down to 60% and falling. In 25 years, we will all belong to racial minorities.

Are we Americans still united in our love of country? Do we still take pride in what we have done for our own people and what America has done for the world in the 400 years since Jamestown?

Hardly. Part of the nation buys into the academic and intellectual elites’ version of history, tracing America’s birth as a nation to the arrival of the first slave ship in Virginia in 1619.

We not only disagree about our history; some actually hate our history.

That hate can be seen in the statues and monuments destroyed, not just of Confederate military heroes but of the European explorers who discovered America, the Founding Fathers who created the nation, and the leaders, from Thomas Jefferson to Andrew Jackson to Teddy Roosevelt, who built the America we became.

CAL THOMAS

The Jan. 6 commission we really need

How about a commission to examine the source of the anger that produced the attack?

that has misspent our money for years on programs that don’t work and to help politicians stay in office. We must live within our means, but government is spending us into unsustainable debt.

We must obey all laws or suffer civil or criminal penalties, yet we see on news channels (but not all, which is another issue) countless people breaking the law to illegally cross our southern border. The IRS estimates that only 50 percent to 75 percent of those here without authority pay federal, state or local taxes. Who foots the remainder of the bill? If we crossed illegally into other countries, especially Mexico, we would surely wind up in a jail cell.

We watch as public schools teach critical race theory as part of what some consider historical revisionism and invite drag queens to middle-school Career Day.

The Pentagon demolished the Trump-era ban on transgender people in the military. They can now freely serve. I have yet to hear how this will promote unit cohesion, help us win wars and compete with the militaries of Russia and China, whose priorities are much different.

We spend record amounts of money on public education and yet American kids are

Yet, tens of millions from all over the world still see coming to America as the realization of a life’s dream.

Some look at Western civilization as 500 years of colonialism, imperialism, genocide, slavery and segregation — practiced against people of color. This is the source of the West’s wealth and power, it is said, and that wealth and power should be redistributed to the descendants of the victims of Western rapacity.

For many, equality of opportunity is no longer enough. We must make restitution, deliver reparations and guarantee a future where an equality of rewards replaces an equality of rights.

Meritocracy must yield to equity. Elite high schools, such as Thomas Jefferson in Virginia, Stuyvesant in New York and Lowell in San Francisco, must abandon their emphasis on grades, tests and exams to gain admissions and prove progress.

And these schools must be remade to mirror the racial and ethnic composition of the communities where they reside.

And a new cancel culture has taken root in America.

Former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum, a CNN commentator, was fired for suggesting that Native American institutions and culture played no significant role in the foundation and formation of the American Republic.

“We birthed a nation from nothing. I mean, there was nothing here. I mean, yes, we have Native Americans,” Santorum said, adding: “There isn’t much Native American culture in American culture.”

Impolitic though this rendition was, was it wholly false?

Something is seriously wrong with a country that professes to be great but whose elite cannot abide the mildest of heresies to its established truth.

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

behind Russia and China and many other countries in important subjects, such as math and science.

Notice there are no proposals for a commission to investigate Black Lives Matter, or the large amounts of dark money used by both parties flooding in to influence our elections. No, it is only people viewed as the “extreme right” who should be subject to investigations.

There are numerous quotes, even books, about nations that have crumbled under the weight of their own self-indulgence. None surpass the statement by our 16th president. Abraham Lincoln said: “From whence shall we expect the approach of danger? Shall some trans-Atlantic military giant step the earth and crush us at a blow? Never. All the armies of Europe and Asia...could not by force take a drink from the Ohio River or make a track on the Blue Ridge in the trial of a thousand years. No, if destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of free men, we will live forever or die by suicide.”

If a commission looking into what fueled the Jan. 6 riot is established, that quote would explain our suicidal tendencies. It might also explain the anger many feel.

Cal Thomas, a nationally syndicated columnist, is the author of “America’s Expiration Date: The Fall of Empires, Superpowers and the United States” (Harper-Collins/Zondervan, January 2020).

LETTERS

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BIBLE SELECTION

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

— 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (ESV)

COMMENTARY

CHRISTOPHER F. RUFO | THE COURAGE OF OUR CONVICTIONS

What is Critical Race Theory and how to respond

To explain Critical Race Theory, it helps to begin with a brief history of Marxism

Critical race theory is fast becoming America’s new institutional orthodoxy. Yet most Americans have never heard of it—and of those who have, many don’t understand it. This must change. We need to know what it is so we can know how to fight it.

To explain critical race theory, it helps to begin with a brief history of Marxism. Originally, the Marxist Left built its political program on the theory of class conflict. Karl Marx believed that the primary characteristic of industrial societies was the imbalance of power between capitalists and workers. The solution to that imbalance, according to Marx, was revolution: the workers would eventually gain consciousness of their plight, seize the means of production, overthrow the capitalist class, and usher in a new socialist society.

During the twentieth century, a number of regimes underwent Marxist-style revolutions, and each ended in disaster. Socialist governments in the Soviet Union, China, Cambodia, Cuba, and elsewhere racked up a body count of nearly 100 million people. They are remembered for gulags, show trials, executions, and mass starvations. In practice, Marx’s ideas unleashed man’s darkest brutalities.

By the mid-1960s, Marxist intellectuals in the West had begun to acknowledge these failures. They recoiled at revelations of Soviet atrocities and came to realize that workers’ revolutions would never occur in Western Europe or the United States, which had large middle classes and rapidly improving standards of living. Americans in particular had never developed a sense of class consciousness or class division. Most Americans believed in the American dream—the idea that they could transcend their origins through education, hard work, and good citizenship.

But rather than abandon their political project, Marxist scholars in the West simply adapted their revolutionary theory to the social and racial unrest of the 1960s. Abandoning Marx’s economic dialectic of capitalists and workers, they substituted race for class and sought to create a revolutionary coalition of the dispossessed based on racial and ethnic categories.

Fortunately, the early proponents of this revolutionary coalition in the U.S. lost out in the 1960s to the civil rights movement, which sought instead the fulfillment of the American promise of freedom and equality under the law. Americans preferred the idea of improving their country to that of overthrowing it. Martin Luther King Jr.’s vision, President Lyndon Johnson’s pursuit of the Great Society, and the restoration of law and order promised by President Richard Nixon in his 1968 campaign defined the post-1960s American political consensus.

But the radical Left has proved resilient and enduring—which is where critical race theory comes in.

Critical race theory is an academic discipline, formulated in the 1990s and built on the intellectual framework of identity-based Marxism. Relegated for many years to universities and obscure academic journals, it has increasingly become the default ideology in our public institutions over the past decade. It has been injected into government agencies, public school systems, teacher training programs, and corporate human-resources departments, in

the form of diversity-training programs, human-resources modules, public-policy frameworks, and school curricula.

Its supporters deploy a series of euphemisms to describe critical race theory, including “equity,” “social justice,” “diversity and inclusion,” and “culturally responsive teaching.” Critical race theorists, masters of language construction, realize that “neo-Marxism” would be a hard sell. Equity, on the other hand, sounds non-threatening and is easily confused with the American principle of equality. But the distinction is vast and important. Indeed, critical race theorists explicitly reject equality—the principle proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence, defended in the Civil War, and codified into law with the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. To them, equality represents “mere nondiscrimination” and provides “camouflage” for white supremacy, patriarchy, and oppression.

In contrast to equality, equity as defined and promoted by critical race theorists is little more than reformulated Marxism. In the name of equity, UCLA law professor and critical race theorist Cheryl Harris has proposed suspending private property rights, seizing land and wealth, and redistributing them along racial lines. Critical race guru Ibram X. Kendi, who directs the Center for Antiracist Research at Boston University, has proposed the creation of a federal Department of Antiracism. This department would be independent of (i.e., unaccountable to) the elected branches of government, and would have the power to nullify, veto, or abolish any law at any level of government and curtail the speech of political leaders and others deemed insufficiently “antiracist.”

One practical result of the creation of such a department would be the overthrow of capitalism, since, according to Kendi, “In order to truly be antiracist, you also have to truly be anti-capitalist.” In other words, identity is the means; Marxism is the end.

An equity-based form of government would mean the end not only of private property but also of individual rights, equality under the law, federalism, and freedom of speech. These would be replaced by race-based redistribution of wealth, group-based rights, active discrimination, and omnipotent bureaucratic authority. Historically, the accusation of “anti-Americanism” has been overused. But in this case, it’s not a matter of interpretation: critical race theory prescribes a revolutionary program that would overturn the principles of the Declaration and destroy the remaining structure of the Constitution.

What does critical race theory look like in practice? Last year, I authored a series of reports focused on critical race theory in the federal government. The FBI was holding workshops on intersectionality theory. The Department of Homeland Security was telling white employees that they were committing “microinequities” and had been “socialized into oppressor roles.” The Treasury Department held a training session telling staff members that “virtually all white people contribute to racism” and that they must convert “everyone in the federal government” to the ideology of “antiracism.” And the Sandia National Laboratories, which designs America’s nuclear arsenal, sent white male executives to a three-day reeducation camp,

where they were told that “white male culture” was analogous to the “KKK,” “white supremacists,” and “mass killings.” The executives were then forced to renounce their “white male privilege” and to write letters of apology to fictitious women and people of color.

This year, I produced another series of reports focused on critical race theory in education. In Cupertino, California, an elementary school forced first-graders to deconstruct their racial and sexual identities and rank themselves according to their “power and privilege.” In Springfield, Missouri, a middle school forced teachers to locate themselves on an “oppression matrix,” based on the idea that straight, white, English-speaking, Christian males are members of the oppressor class and must atone for their privilege and “covert white supremacy.” In Philadelphia, an elementary school forced fifth-graders to celebrate “Black communism” and simulate a Black Power rally to free 1960s radical Angela Davis from prison, where she had once been held on charges of murder. And in Seattle, the school district told white teachers that they are guilty of “spirit murder” against black children and must “bankrupt [their] privilege in acknowledgment of [their] thieved inheritance.”

I’m just one investigative journalist, but I’ve developed a database of more than 1,000 of these stories. When I say that critical race theory is becoming the operating ideology of our public institutions, I am not exaggerating—from the universities to bureaucracies to K-12 school systems, critical race theory has permeated the collective intelligence and decision-making process of American government, with no sign of slowing down.

This is a revolutionary change. When originally established, these government institutions were presented as neutral, technocratic, and oriented toward broadly held perceptions of the public good. Today, under the increasing sway of critical race theory and related ideologies, they are being turned against the American people. This isn’t limited to the permanent bureaucracy in Washington, D.C., but is true as well of institutions in the states—even red states. It is spreading to county public health departments, small midwestern school districts, and more. This ideology will not stop until it has devoured all of our institutions.

So far, attempts to halt the encroachment of critical race theory have been ineffective. There are a number of reasons for this.

First, too many Americans have developed an acute fear of speaking up about social and political issues, especially those involving race. According to a recent Gallup poll, 77 percent of conservatives are afraid to share their political beliefs publicly. Worried about getting mobbed on social media, fired from their jobs, or worse, they remain quiet, largely ceding the public debate to those pushing these anti-American ideologies. Consequently, the institutions themselves become monocultures: dogmatic, suspicious, and hostile to a diversity of opinion. Conservatives in both the federal government and public school systems have told me that their “equity and inclusion” departments serve as political offices, searching for and stamping out any dissent from the official orthodoxy.

Second, critical race theorists have

constructed their argument like a mousetrap. Disagreement with their program becomes irrefutable evidence of a dissenter’s “white fragility,” “unconscious bias,” or “internalized white supremacy.” I’ve seen this projection of false consciousness on their opponents play out dozens of times in my reporting. Diversity trainers will make an outrageous claim—such as “all whites are intrinsically oppressors” or “white teachers are guilty of spirit murdering black children”—and then, when confronted with disagreement, adopt a patronizing tone and explain that participants who feel “defensiveness” or “anger” are reacting out of guilt and shame. Dissenters are instructed to remain silent, “lean into the discomfort,” and accept their “complicity in white supremacy.”

Third, Americans across the political spectrum have failed to separate the premise of critical race theory from its conclusion. Its premise—that American history includes slavery and other injustices, and that we should examine and learn from that history—is undeniable. But its revolutionary conclusion—that America was founded on and defined by racism and that our founding principles, our Constitution, and our way of life should be overthrown—does not rightly, much less necessarily, follow.

Fourth and finally, the writers and activists who have had the courage to speak out against critical race theory have tended to address it on the theoretical level, pointing out the theory’s logical contradictions and dishonest account of history. These criticisms are worthy and good, but they move the debate into the academic realm—friendly terrain for proponents of critical race theory. They fail to force defenders of this revolutionary ideology to defend the practical consequences of their ideas in the realm of politics.

No longer simply an academic matter, critical race theory has become a tool of political power. To borrow a phrase from the Marxist theoretician Antonio Gramsci, it is fast achieving cultural hegemony in America’s public institutions. It is driving the vast machinery of the state and society. If we want to succeed in opposing it, we must address it politically at every level.

Critical race theorists must be confronted with and forced to speak to the facts. Do they support public schools separating first-graders into groups of “oppressors” and “oppressed”? Do they support mandatory curricula teaching that “all white people play a part in perpetuating systemic racism”? Do they support public schools instructing white parents to become “white traitors” and advocate for “white abolition”? Do they want those who work in government to be required to undergo this kind of reeducation? How about managers and workers in corporate America? How about the men and women in our military? How about every one of us?

There are three parts to a successful strategy to defeat the forces of critical race theory: governmental action, grassroots mobilization, and an appeal to principle.

We already see examples of governmental action. Last year, one of my reports led President Trump to issue an executive order banning critical race theory-based training programs in the federal government. President Biden rescinded this order on his first day in office, but it provides a model for governors and municipal leaders to follow.

This year, several state legislatures have introduced bills to achieve the same goal: preventing public institutions from conducting programs that stereotype, scapegoat, or demean people on the basis of race. And I have organized a coalition of attorneys to file lawsuits against schools and government agencies that impose critical race theory-based programs on grounds of the First Amendment (which protects citizens from compelled speech), the Fourteenth Amendment (which provides equal protection under the law), and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (which prohibits public institutions from discriminating on the basis of race).

On the grassroots level, a multiracial and bipartisan coalition is emerging to fight critical race theory. Parents are mobilizing against racially divisive curricula in public schools and employees are increasingly speaking out against Orwellian reeducation in the workplace. When they see what is happening, Americans are naturally outraged that critical race theory promotes three ideas—race essentialism, collective guilt, and neo-segregation—that violate the basic principles of equality and justice. Anecdotally, many Chinese-Americans have told me that, having survived the Cultural Revolution in their former country, they refuse to let the same thing happen here.

In terms of principles, we need to employ our own moral language rather than allow ourselves to be confined by the categories of critical race theory. For example, we often find ourselves debating “diversity.” Diversity as most of us understand it is generally good, all things being equal, but it is of secondary value. We should be talking about and aiming at excellence, a common standard that challenges people of all backgrounds to achieve their potential. On the scale of desirable ends, excellence beats diversity every time.

Similarly, in addition to pointing out the dishonesty of the historical narrative on which critical race theory is predicated, we must promote the true story of America—a story that is honest about injustices in American history, but that places them in the context of our nation’s high ideals and the progress we have made toward realizing them. Genuine American history is rich with stories of achievements and sacrifices that will move the hearts of Americans, in stark contrast to the grim and pessimistic narrative pressed by critical race theorists.

Above all, we must have courage, the fundamental virtue required in our time: courage to stand and speak the truth, courage to withstand epithets, courage to face the mob, and courage to shrug off the scorn of elites. When enough of us overcome the fear that currently prevents so many from speaking out, the hold of critical race theory will begin to slip. And courage begets courage. It’s easy to stop a lone dissenter; it’s much harder to stop 10, 20, 100, 1,000, 1 million, or more who stand up together for the principles of America. Truth and justice are on our side. If we can muster the courage, we will win.

Christopher F. Rufo is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, a conservative think tank focused on domestic policy and urban affairs founded in 1977. This article is adapted from a lecture delivered at Hillsdale College.

CITY OF RIDGELAND BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES & EXPENDITURES For Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2021				
	FY 2021 ORIGINAL BUDGET		FY 2021 REVISED BUDGET	
GENERAL FUND				
REVENUES				
Taxes	\$4,786,205		\$4,786,205	
Licenses and permits	1,656,348		1,656,348	
Intergovernmental revenues	12,664,657		13,486,257	
Charges for governmental services	759,328		759,328	
Fines and fees	870,655		871,155	
Miscellaneous	384,450		450,138	
Transfer from Road & Bridge Tax	838,107		838,107	
TOTAL REVENUES	21,959,750		22,847,538	
BALANCE (CASH) AT BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	18,149,771		18,149,771	
TOTAL CASH & ANTICIPATED REVENUES	\$40,109,521		\$40,997,309	
EXPENDITURES				
Judicial	690,701		690,701	
Mayor & Board	589,527		589,527	
Election	72,800		72,800	
Financial Administration	986,754		986,754	
MIS	86,310		86,310	
Legal	50,000		50,000	
Human Resources	20,217		20,217	
General Government Buildings & Grounds	510,232		516,979	
Community Promotion	148,717		148,717	
Engineering		6,000		6,000
Community Development		1,095,426		1,195,426
Total General Government		4,256,684		4,363,431
Public Works		4,986,574		6,767,338
Police department		7,072,695		7,154,520
Fire department		4,579,425		4,580,425
Health & welfare		120,000		143,652
Parks & recreation		1,962,243		1,963,158
Libraries		151,585		151,585
Debt Service		246,508		246,508
Miscellaneous – Keep Ridgeland Beautiful		20,000		20,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		23,395,714		25,390,617
BALANCE AT END OF YEAR		16,713,807		15,606,692
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & YEAR-END BALANCE		\$40,109,521		\$40,997,309
The Mayor & Board of Aldermen approved three budget amendments totaling \$63,773 to General fund revenue related to insurance proceeds received for vehicles and property damaged in accidents.				
The Mayor & Board of Aldermen approved an \$800,000 budget amendment to Public Works Street Overlay and Other Participation Revenue to allow for the increase in street overlay expenditures and reimbursement related to an Interlocal Agreement with Madison County.				
The Mayor & Board approved a \$600,000 budget amendment to the Public Works Street Overlay to allow for the increase in street overlay expenditures on Highland Colony Parkway.				
The Mayor & Board approved a \$177,800 budget amendment to the Public Works Professional fees for improvements to the Freedom Ridge retention pond.				
The Mayor & board approved a \$198,917 budget amendment to the Public Works Drainage Improvements to allow for the increase in drainage improvement expenditures related to projects budgeted in the prior year being delayed.				
The Mayor & Board approved a \$23,652 budget amendment to Health & Welfare Services to allow for the increase in mosquito control expenditures related to the recently annexed area.				



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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

Mass conversions to Christ

The first part of this chapter gives us the account of the church spreading to Samaria and of mass conversions to Christ occurring. The growth was through the evangelist Philip’s preaching first and then through the apostles Peter and John.

The Lord now directs Philip to leave that happy scene and go to a lightly traveled road in a desert place. There he encounters an Ethiopian eunuch traveling home in a chariot from Jerusalem. This man was a high court official of the queen of Ethiopia, and he had been to Jerusalem to worship (verses 27-28).

The man is reading the book of Isaiah, and the Lord directs Philip to go over to him. Philip approaches the man and asks, “Do you understand what you are reading?” The man knows he needs help, so he invites Philip to sit with him.

The passage the man was reading was from Isaiah 53, a chapter about the servant of God bearing the iniquity of sinner. Philip begins with the passage in Isaiah and tells him the good news about Jesus (verse 35). The man believes, is baptized, and then continues his journey rejoicing (verse 39).

One of the things we learn here is that evangelism is about the person and work of Christ Jesus. This is taught to us in the Scriptures. Philip explains Scripture to the man. Isaiah 53 points to the suffering and atoning work of Christ on the cross for sinners.

In Isaiah 53:4-5 we read, “Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities, upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.”

The principle of substitution is plain; he is bearing the guilt of others in their place. Also, it is penal. He is punished not for his own guilt, but the guilt of others. And the guilt of those he dies for is from willful transgression. In verse 6, the prophet says, “We all like sheep have gone astray, each to his own way.” Your “own way” means not God’s way, not the righteous way. So Christ died for sinners.

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CANTON CHRISTIAN CENTER
2735 S. Liberty St., Canton 859-8324

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Ridgeland 952-0307
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851 W. Fulton, Canton 859-7698
HIGHLAND COLONY CHURCH OF CHRIST
N. Sunnybrook 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
PLEASANT GREEN CHURCH OF CHRIST
925 Lutz Ave., Canton 895-5515
PLEASANT GREEN CHURCH OF CHRIST
925 George Washington Ave., Canton 859-5515
SOUTH MADISON CHURCH OF CHRIST
338 Lake Harbour Dr., 856-2165

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
703 Hwy. 17, Canton 859-3591
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
243 Hoy Rd., Madison 898-7751
CHURCH OF GOD

CHURCH OF GOD IN MISSISSIPPI, INC.
213 John Day Rd. #A, Canton 859-9804
COBBLESTONE CHURCH OF GOD
444 Pebble Creek Dr., Madison 853-6910

The Ethiopian man was sinful and knew it. His traveling on a desert highway was indicative of his soul, parched and thirsty. This man rejoices after his baptism, as only a forgiven sinner can rejoice. And he is not alone. Jesus said in Luke 15 that the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents. They don’t rejoice over men going their own way. They rejoice over one who, knowing his sinful condition, turns to Christ. Do angels rejoice over you?

This joy of coming to Christ is unlike any other joy. It is of the Holy Spirit, so it comes with the light of God’s word. It is a glorious word that shines out of the darkness. It is a pleasant and delightful thing to the soul to behold this light.

In his ministry on earth, Jesus healed many blind men. It is not burdensome to a man to go from years of darkness to having his eyes opened if he can see the grass of the fields, and the heavens above. The soul that comes into an understanding of God’s word discovers the excellency of God and the beauty of Christ the Savior. He sees by faith the light that was hidden to him before.

It is pleasing and refreshing to the soul to give oneself to Christ upon seeing the light of his truth, as it would be for a man locked up in a dark dungeon in chains to be set free and brought out into the world. So too, those escaping from the darkness of the devil’s kingdom can’t but rejoice in entering into the kingdom of God’s beloved Son (Colossians 1).

Thankfulness, humility, and love toward the Lord Jesus for bearing your sin are not miserable to the soul, but are the spring of all happiness. The way of Christ is the best way, and the most pleasing way for your soul. It is a great joy to me to confess my Lord. Whatever my sins may be, I am not ashamed of Jesus, nor do I fear to declare the doctrines of his cross.

The Ethiopian man, on a long journey, found the path of life; the narrow way, but joyful way. Jesus promises to confess before his Father those who confess him in this world.

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Over \$5,000 raised for Children’s Hospital

The Commissary in Renaissance in Ridgeland presented a check for more than \$5,000 to Friends of Children’s Hospital, marking the fourth year the toy and gift shop and its customers have supported the hospital through the store’s hand-painted Easter egg drive. Pictured, from left, are Erica Bradshaw, FOCH Development Manager; Commissary artist Kathleen Nolan, who painted the 150 special eggs; and Melissa Skelton, The Commissary owner. Each child who was a patient at the hospital during the Easter season received an egg.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AD VALOREM TAX EFFORT

Canton Public School District

The Canton Public School District will hold a public hearing on its proposed school district budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at Canton Career Center, 487 North Union Extension, Canton, MS. At this meeting, a proposed ad valorem tax effort will be considered.

The Canton Public School District is now operating with projected total budget revenue of \$45,262,497.93 Of that amount, 34 percent or \$15,181,582.81. of such revenue is obtained through ad valorem taxes. For the next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenues of \$51,959,671.04 Of that amount, 30 percent or \$15,403,952.35 is proposed to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

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

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

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES/J. Ligon Duncan III

Putting on Christ

Please turn to Colossians 3:9-17. In this passage, the apostle Paul defines what it looks like to live under the rule of Christ. Specifically, he tells us that to live under the rule of Christ means to be made a new person by being united to Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit. Living under the rule of Christ also means that we stop our old patterns of living, thinking, and behaving which are not in accord with the God’s Word. So to live under the rule of Christ means to be a new creation, and it also means to put off sin and to put on righteousness. This passage divides easily into two sections. First, in verses 9-11, Paul says that believers must make sure that their speech is not destructive to church unity. Secondly, in verses 12-17, Paul says that believers must put on the characteristics of the new creation.

I. A Christian’s Speech Must Promote Unity.

In verses 9-11, Paul asserts that believers must make sure that their speech does not undercut church unity. Throughout this passage, Paul is concerned that church unity be realized and experienced in the life of this local congregation. And he begins by saying “do not lie to one another” because he knew that lying would be destructive of the unity of the congregation. But Paul does not just say, “Don’t lie.” Instead, he tells them how it is that they are able not to follow the trends of their culture which did not emphasize truthfulness of speech. And he gives them the answer in that little phrase, “Since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices and have put on the new self.” How is it that our previous conduct can change? Our behavior can change because we have died to the old self and we have put on the new self. Because we have been embraced by the grace of Christ, we are now able to speak in such a way that builds up the congregation. Christianity is a religion which recognizes that in and of ourselves we are weak, and we are incapable of doing what the Lord wants us to do. Paul recognizes that our renovation in Christ is an on-going work. There’s a lot more work to be done in us. Sanctification is an on-going process. So the apostle Paul reminds them of the transfor-

mation that God is performing in believers. Thus, he says to the Colossians don’t destroy the unity of the fellowship by using your tongues in a destructive way. Paul also tells them that it doesn’t matter what backgrounds they are from in this congregation. God is doing the same work in all of them regardless of their educational level, regardless of their ethnic background, regardless of their national credentials, and regardless of any other factor in their background. Paul is reminding us in this passage that God is doing a work in us, and therefore we are to treat others with our lips in such a way as to build them up and to establish unity in the local congregation.

II. Christians Must Put On The Behavior Of A New Creation.

In verses 12-17, Paul instructs these believers to put on the characteristics of the new creation. And as he calls believers to live like the new creation, notice that he does not just recite a list of virtues. Instead, he gives them a basis. He answers the question, “How is it that we can do these things?” Paul says we can do it because of who we are. Specifically, in verse 12, Paul says, “You are chosen, you are holy and you are beloved.” He goes back to the electing love of God, and he says, “God has set His heart on you. He has chosen you, and because He has chosen you, He has called you to holiness, and He has evidenced His love for you by His choosing of you.”

Is it not interesting that Paul applies to this tiny congregation in Colossae the same blessings which were given by God to the children of Israel in the Old Testament? They were called God’s chosen people, and now Paul is saying to this little group of Christians in Colossae, “You are the chosen people of God. God has chosen you, and He has elected you for holiness of life, for service of His church, and His election of you is proof of your love. And because of who you are, because you are the chosen people, therefore, I want you to put off the old life, and I want you to put on the new life. Dress yourself in the reality of what it is to be the new creation.” In relation, he speaks of five virtues in verse 12 which include compassionate hearts,

kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Paul was telling the Colossians and us if we want a life of unity in the congregation, these are the things which are going to have to characterize our dealings with one another.

In verse 13, Paul pulls it all together where he specifically says, “forebear and forgive one another.” It’s so encouraging that Paul doesn’t see this local congregation of Colossian Christians as an outpost of heaven on earth where everyone is perfect. He knows that the only way these people will ever get along is if they are forbearing and forgiving as well as being compassionate, kind, humble, meek, and patient with one another. The apostle Paul knows that these principles must be in place because there are so many sins and faults in each of us. Thus, he calls us to put off sin and put on the newness of self.

It is also important to note that Paul’s idea of a new self does not mean that our personality is evacuated. In fact, the apostle Paul means that our personality and our humanity is heightened as it is restored in the image of God and as we walk in newness of life; as we put off old behavior, old attitudes, and old thoughts; and as we live in accordance with the principle of the new creation that God has implanted in us. Only when you’ve met Christ, and you’ve renounced your own efforts because you see how useless and how sinful they are, and you’ve trusted on Christ, only then can you experience the type of strength that Paul knows is necessary for a person to live like this. And if you do want to be like this, and yet you sense your weakness, then you are right where God wants you. Because it is only when you are reliant upon the work of the Holy Spirit in your life that you are ready to take the first step down the road in being a person of compassion, kindness, humility, patience, and gentleness. May God enable us to build others up with our speech and live as new creations through our union with Christ.

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

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New GoShine car wash coming to Madison

By JOHN LEE
john@onlinemadison.com

MADISON — Residents here will soon have another option for keeping their cars clean as a new GoShine Express Car Wash recently received the city’s OK to begin construction on U.S. 51.

The new GoShine Express Car Wash with an estimated \$4 million construction cost is expected to be completed by March 2022.

Developer Bridgforth Rutledge of Bridgforth Rutledge Development said he has been hoping to bring a GoShine car wash to Madison for years.

“We have four other

GoShine locations: Brandon, Ridgeland, Gluckstadt, and Daphne, Alabama, which goes by the name ‘Rich’s’ there,” Rutledge said. “I pitched the idea of the GoShine to Mayor Mary (Hawkins-Butler) around seven months ago.”

Rutledge’s dream is now closer to becoming a reality after the Madison Mayor and Board of Alderman approved plans for the new GoShine Express Car Wash location during the board’s meeting last month.

“I’m really excited that we can go forward with the project,” Rutledge said. “This city, while having high standards, is very reasonable and fair. I can’t

wait for this GoShine to come to Madison.”

Alan Hoops, landscape architect and director of environment and design for the City of Madison, said the car wash will fit in well with the other buildings in Madison, and the location on Highway 51 is convenient because it is near other auto-related stores and highly visible.

“This GoShine is going to be one-of-a-kind,” Hoops said. “It not only relates to buildings such as Firestone, O’Reilly Auto Parts, and Walgreens, but it will also have the attractive brick work that other buildings in Madison have.”



Madison aldermen recently approved a new GoShine car wash for U.S. Highway 51.

Police arrest 3 men in connection with rash of car burglaries

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@onlinemadison.com

MADISON — Three men facing charges in a rash of auto burglaries last week in a number of Madison subdivisions have been issued bond but remain in custody, Madison Police said.

Madison Police Capt. Kevin Newman said the three suspects arrested in connection

with a string of auto burglaries on May 27 had their initial court appearances in Madison Municipal Court on Friday, May 28.

Kentario Buie, 19, of Crystal Springs had bond set at \$40,000 for one count of auto burglary. Marcavious Deshun Palmer, 18, of Clinton had his bond set at \$50,000 for one count of auto burglary. Devin Isaiah Bates, 19, of Jackson

had his bond set at \$100,000 for one count of auto burglary and one count of auto theft.

“All three subjects are currently at the Madison County Detention Center,” Newman said. “This is an ongoing investigation and more charges are possible.”

Newman said that on Thursday, May 27 at approximately 1:31 a.m. officers of the Madison Police Department

responded to the Woods Crossing subdivision off Rice Road after a resident reported a suspicious person and car alarms sounding in the area.

Upon arrival, officers began canvassing the area and determined that several vehicles had been broken into in the Woods Crossing, Tidewater, Sandalwood and Highwoods subdivisions, Newman said.

Further investigation led to

the arrest in the neighborhoods of two individuals believed to have been involved in the break-ins who have now been identified as Buie and Palmer.

Newman said that later that morning at approximately 11:04 a.m. a stolen vehicle believed to be involved in the auto burglaries in the city of Madison was located on Monticello Drive in Jackson by Madison Police investigators,

agents from Homeland Security Investigations and the U. S. Marshal’s Service Fugitive Task Force.

Further investigation also led to the arrest of the wanted subject, identified as Bates, near the Target Store on I-55 Frontage Road in Jackson.

After his arrest, Bates was transported to the Madison Police Department where he was charged, Newman said.

Hundreds line roadways to pay respects to fallen trooper

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@onlinemadison.com

Hundreds lined the roadways of Madison and Ridgeland on

Tuesday to pay their respects and witness the funeral procession of state trooper John Martin Harris pass.

Sidewalks along U.S. were

full. Many were waving American flags, taking pictures with their phones and stood with their hands over their hearts as the hearse passed.

Harris was struck and killed by a dump truck west of Canton Friday afternoon during a routine traffic stop. (See story, Page 1A.)

Kevin Stacy, a Madison resident who held a flag and wore an American flag-patterned vest, said he was there to show his respect and appreciation for the danger law enforcement officers put themselves in every day.

“I didn’t know the man but he put his life on the line for everybody and he deserves some respect,” Stacy said. “It is the right thing to do.”

Amy McGill, another bystander out to show her appreciation, said she had lived in Madison for 28 years. She said her husband and daughter work as first responders and her family has served in the military going at least back to the Civil War.

“This hits close to home,” McGill said. “I wanted to come out and show some respect and support.”

She said that she knows Madison and the surrounding communities will help Harris’ family in any way they can.

Jennifer Wooten brought her daughter, Rosemary, a rising seventh-grader at Madison Ridgeland Academy, to Tuesday’s procession. She said she knew it would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for her daughter and a potent visual of the importance of community and civic engagement.

ment.

“I wanted her to feel and experience the sense of community that this represented,” Wooten said. “When a community has lost someone that serves and protects us it is important to pay respect and I thought this was a once in a lifetime moment.”

Wooten said that she had not seen such an “outpouring of love and respect” and said the tit is important to teach children to honor and respect those who serve the community.

Rosemary said that the experience was something she would not soon forget and was left with an image that made an impression on her.

“I have never seen so many cars,” she said.

Canton Animal Control Officer Tchikousky Williams Sr. said he had only known John Martin Harris for three years but Harris left a lasting impression on him.

Williams said he first met Harris at Mazzio’s Pizza place where he and fellow Madison County officers would sometimes gather for lunch.

“I saw this big muscular guy and I was like, who is that?” Williams said. “Being an animal

control officer, some other officers sometimes look down on me. He never looked down at me. He shook my hand like we had known each other for years and sat down with us and laughed and joked.”

Williams said over the years he further got to know Harris through such lunch meetings and through seeing him around in the community.

Williams recalled running into Harris in the parking lot of Walmart one time where Harris saw him sitting in his car and came over and knocked on the car window and brought his wife and children over to introduce them to him.

“He was just a great guy,” Williams said.

Williams said he heard the dispatch call last Friday that a Trooper had been injured and he immediately thought of Harris hoping it was not him.

“I had only known him three years,” Williams said. “I can’t imagine how people who have known him longer must feel.”

Williams said he will always remember Harris’ example.

“No matter how big you get, treat people with respect,” Williams said, adding he will always give people that strong, firm handshake he learned from Harris.

2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
East Madison Water Association, Inc.
PWS ID#: 0450007
May 2021

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is from wells drawing from the Meridian Upper Wilcox and Cockfield Formation Aquifer.

The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identify potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the East Madison Water Association have received lower susceptibility rankings to contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Mattie Hughes at 801.859.2810. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Saturday of March at 10:00 AM at the Madison County Supervisors Board Room, Chancery Court Building on the square in Canton.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2020. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2020, the table reflects the most recent results. As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity; microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations and septic systems; radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

TEST RESULTS								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/ACL	Unit Measure -ment	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants								
8. Arsenic	N	2020	1.2	.8 – 1.2	ppb	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
10. Barium	N	2020	.0188	.0081 - .0188	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
13. Chromium	N	2020	3.3	1.7 – 3.3	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
14. Copper	N	2016/18*	.2	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
16. Fluoride**	N	2020	.513	.14 - .513	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
17. Lead	N	2016/18*	1	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	N	2019*	170000	83000 - 170000	PPB	0	0	Road Salt, Water Treatment Chemicals, Water Softeners and Sewage Effluents.
Disinfection By-Products								
81. HAA5	N	2020	46	31 - 52	ppb	0	80	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.
82. THM (Total trihalomethanes)	N	2020	49	19.28 – 77.6	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine	N	2020	1.7	.51 – 3	mg/l	0	MDRL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

* Most recent sample. No sample required for 2020.

** Fluoride level is routinely adjusted to the MS State Dept of Health's recommended level of 0.7 - 1.2 mg/l.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. In an effort to ensure systems complete all monitoring requirements, MSDH now notifies systems of any missing samples prior to the end of the compliance period.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 801.576.7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

To comply with the "Regulation Governing Fluoridation of Community Water Supplies", the EAST MADISON WATER ASSN-WEST is required to report certain results pertaining to fluoridation of our water system. The number of months in the previous calendar year that average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.6-1.2 ppm was 7. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.6-1.2 ppm was 66%.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1.800.426.4791.

The East Madison Water Association, Inc. works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.



Photo by Coleman Eakes

People line U.S. 51 with flags in advance of Trooper Harris' funeral procession.

Trooper

Continued from page A1

Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves also mourned the loss of Harris in a social media post immediately following the accident.

“The tragic loss of Trooper John Harris in Madison County has left so many suffering,” Reeves Tweeted. “It is a stark reminder of how fragile life on earth can be — and of the sacrifices made each and every day by his fellow MHP Troopers and his brothers and sisters in law enforcement across Mississippi and this great country.”

Reeves’ statement included a reference to James 5:13 in the New Testament: “The question is asked and answered, ‘Is anyone among you suffering? Let them pray.’ Elee and I pray for his wife, his young children, his Mom and

Dad and the rest of his extended family.

“We pray because we are suffering! We pray because we believe in the power of prayer! We pray because we take comfort in our belief in eternal life. “And we pray because, ‘This kind (of suffering) cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.’ (Mark 9:29)”

Public Safety Commissioner Sean Tindell also weighed in with a statement.

“We are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of Trooper John Harris (Z-21),” Tindell said. “Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and fellow Troopers.”

Harris had been with the agency for just over three years.

Harris’ funeral service was held Tuesday in Madison with Reeves and other state dignitaries in attendance along with law enforcement officers from Mississippi, Florida and Alabama, among other places. (See Story, Page 1A.)

Harris’ served as a detective with the Richland Police Department before “finishing his goal and dream as a Trooper,” the department said in a Facebook post Saturday morning. “Trooper Harris was a good friend and co-worker that will be greatly missed. Please keep your thoughts and prayers with his family in the days to come.”

A Facebook fundraising campaign for the family is underway and of Wednesday afternoon had raised \$129,410 with a \$200,000 goal. There is also a GoFundMe campaign that had raised over \$40,000.

The Facebook campaign can be found under “Raising money for the John Harris family!” The GoFundMe campaign is at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/mhp-trooper-john-harris-memorial-fund>.

OBITUARIES

John Martin Harris

John Martin Harris, 44, was killed in the act of service on Friday, May, 28, 2021. Visitation will be Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 12:00 noon followed by the funeral service at 2:00 pm all at Broadmoor Baptist Church. Interment will be in Natchez Trace Memorial Park Cemetery.

A native of Clarksdale, John had lived in Madison since 2004. Since childhood, all John ever wanted was to be a policeman. He began his law enforcement career in 1997 in Webb, MS, he then served in Friars Point where he earned his first Purple Heart. Next, he served with Madison County Sherriff's Office where he earned another Purple Heart and then he served in Richland Police Department. In 2018 he achieved the dream of his life when he graduated Cadet Class #62 and became a Mississippi Highway Patrolman.

John received many awards and commendations during his career, they include:

- USPCA Regional K9 Patrol and Narcotics Trials (2016)
- 2nd Place Overall Commendation
- 1st Place Narcotic Teams Commendation
- 2nd Place Outdoor Narcotic Search Commendation
- USPCA National Narcotic Detector K9 Trials (2015)
- 4th Place Overall Commendation
- 5th Place Outdoor Search
- USPCA Regional K9 Patrol and Narcotic Trials (2015)
- 1st Place Patrol Teams Commendation
- 1st Place Criminal Apprehension Commendation
- K-9 Nero Award
- USPCA Regional K9 Patrol and Narcotic Trials (2013)
- 3rd Place Overall Commendation
- 1st Place Patrol Teams



John Martin Harris

Commendation

- 3rd Place Evidence Search Commendation
- 3rd Place Criminal Apprehension Commendation
- 5th Place Overall Narcotics Commendation
- Letter of Appreciation, Mississippi Commissioner of Public Safety (2010)
- State of Mississippi Buckle for Life Commendation (2010)
- Top Cop, State of Mississippi Commendation (2009)
- Letter of Appreciation, Mississippi Department of Public Safety (2009)
- State of Mississippi Buckle for Life Commendation (2008)
- Employee of the Quarter Commendation (2007)
- State of Mississippi Buckle for Life Commendation (2007)
- State of Mississippi Buckle for Life Commendation (2006)
- Ted Hirsch Memorial Award (2006)
- USPCA K9 Patrol and Narcotic Trials (2006)
- 3rd Place Overall Commendation
- 1st Place Patrol Teams Commendation
- 2nd Place Criminal Apprehension Commendation
- 3rd Place Article Search Commendation
- 3rd Place Agility Commendation
- State of Mississippi 100 Club DUI Commendation (2005)

- Mississippi's Child Passenger Safety Program Commendation (2005)
- Purple Heart Commendation (2004)
- Employee of the Quarter Commendation (2004)
- Certificate of Commendation for Meritorious Service (2003)
- Certificate of Appreciation for Meritorious Service (2003)
- Purple Heart Commendation (2002)
- Silver Star for Bravery Commendation, the highest award a law enforcement officer and achieve (2002)
- The Chain of Life Certificate of Appreciation (2002)
- Letter of Appreciation, Mississippi Public Service Commission (2002)
- Letter of Appreciation, Mississippi Department of Corrections (2000)
- Above & Beyond the Call of Duty Commendation (1998)
- Pistol Expert Commendation (1996 – 2017)

Survivors include: wife, Kate Parker Harris of Madison; children, Parker and Cooper; parents, Jean and Jimmy Harris of Clarksdale; brothers, Andy Harris (Jeanie) of Dallas, TX and Lee Harris (Brooke) of Oxford; mother and father-in-law, Cynthia and Barry Parker of Canton; sister-in-law, Melissa Adams (Trestan) of Santa Rosa Beach, FL; brother-in-law, Rob Parker (Chandler) of Canton; 3 nephews and one niece.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol Troopers Association Scholarship Fund; checks made payable to The MS State Troopers Disaster Relief Fund, include John Harris on memo line. MS State Troopers Association P O Box 22871 Jackson, MS 39225

Michael Anthony “Tony” Smith

Michael Anthony “Tony” Smith, 62 of Jackson, MS, passed away from health-related issues on May 26, 2021, with his brother, Louie, by his side. Tony graduated from Jim Hill in 1976 and then pursued a real estate license at Hinds Jr. College. He worked as an electrician and later in life was a caretaker

to his mother along with caretaking of the family's country property. Tony had a great love and talent for growing all types of plants, was an avid photographer, and was quite the conversationalist, and became friends with everyone he met. He was preceded in death by: mother, Marjorie Sum-

merlin Jaap; father, William Hugh Smith, Jr., and sister, Major General Catherine Smith Lutz. Survivors include: brothers, Joseph Hugh Smith and William Louis Smith (Jan); and sister, Jennifer Joanne Japp. His family will have a private Celebration of Life Ceremony.

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