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Madison County's  
 leading newspaper.

# MADISON COUNTY JOURNAL

Serving Madison, Ridgeland,  
 Canton, Flora, Gluckstadt

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**USA TODAY**

## Madison tops list as best city in Mississippi

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

Madison the City has been ranked as the best city in Mississippi to live in and one of the best cities in America by USA Today.

USA Today published an article last week listing the best city in all 50 states and Madison was selected as the highlight of Mississippi.

Madison Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler said the city accepts the honor with great pride. "Our city flourishes with an array of opportunities that cater to people of all genera-

tions," Hawkins-Butler said. "Nurturing neighborhoods emit a delightful, family-friendly ambiance, complemented by a renowned education system and an unwavering dedication to public safety and welfare. Madison is a testament to the accomplishments that can be achieved when a community unites."

As of 2023, Madison has a population of 25,473 people and a 7.1 percent population change in a five-year period. The city also has a \$243,500 median home value, and the average median household income sits around \$100,978.

USA Today describes Madison as a "relatively wealthy community" that offers many activities to its residents, including an archery range, baseball and soccer fields, walking trails, batting cages, and an outdoor learning center.

Hawkins-Butler said Madison is a city that prayer is building and that the city is looking to build upon its successes and forge an even brighter future for the cherished community. "Offering a variety of opportunities for people of

**CRIME**

### Pedestrian killed in hit-and-run on I-55

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

MADISON — A fatal hit-and-run accident involving a pedestrian on I-55 north of here Sunday is under investigation by state and local law enforcement.

"This crash remains under investigation by the Mississippi Highway Patrol," Public Affairs Officer Damika Mayfield said. The pedestrian, Frank Tucker, 51, of Jackson, was fatally injured by an unidentified vehicle early on the afternoon on Saturday, July 15, while walking north on Interstate 55, Mayfield said.

MHP received the call at about 2:20 p.m., of a fatal hit-and-run crash on Interstate 55 in Madison County involving a pedestrian, he said. Tucker was pronounced dead on the scene, according to the authorities.

MHP closed a portion of I-55 near the 110-mile marker in connection with the incident. The Madison Police Department is assisting with the Highway Patrol's investigation.

**RENAISSANCE**

### Police await blood test in airborne crash

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

RIDGELAND — Authorities could have to wait another month for lab results to see if charges will be filed in an accident at the Renaissance where a vehicle went airborne and ended up on top of two others. "We have not made an arrest in this case," said Lt. Eddie Addison of the Ridgeland Police Department. "We will have to wait for the lab results to come back from the crime lab so we can have his Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) numbers."

Addison said blood results could take six weeks or more to come back from the lab. The incident happened on July 9, just after 1 p.m. "We received calls of a reckless driver on I-55," Addison said.

Addison said officers looking for the driver when emergency calls came in about an accident at Zea Rotisserie and Bar at the northwestern corner of the Renaissance at Colony Park development.

See **CRASH**, page A3



Madison Summer Arts Camp finishes its two week run with three shows of The SpongeBob Musical Youth Edition on Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. There is no admission charge for the show at Madison Square Center for the Arts on Main Street. The cast includes, front row, Joseph Belser as Perch Perkins, Emily Kay

Kirk as Pearl, Scott Thomas Murphy as Plankton, Campbell Haindel as Karen and Morgan Trusty as Mayor; second row, Elizabeth Yeager as Sandy Cheeks, Lilly Temple as Squidward, Miles Agent as SpongeBob, Meredith Odom as Patrick, and Thomas Pound as the Narrator.

PRODUCTIONS FRIDAY-SATURDAY

## Madison Square Center for the Arts hosts summer camps

By **LUCY WEBER**  
 lucy@onlinemadison.com

This camp moves to a different beat. There is plenty of music, dancing and singing, plus improvisation games, art and more all day during the two-week camp that is happening now at Madison Square Center for the Arts. This camp has been a tradition for arts-loving campers for about 20 or so years. "This is a great introduction to live theater for children and teens. Our aim is to get all the campers the best training and experience they can get from auditioning to learning the music," camp director Megan Mayhan said. "It's also so much fun for the campers and staff too. Each morning starts with a fast-paced game, like Quidditch or Bippity Bippity Bop, that gets the campers energized for the day. Music plays almost continuously in the background, and campers and counselors spontaneously start singing and dancing whenever there is a break in the action. Classes are meant to educate and prepare the campers for the big show. Art projects revolve around the theme of the production. Music class focuses on the songs each age group sings, and in the case of the younger

kids, teaches them about reading music. In dance, each group learns the steps for the songs in the show and more. Drama quickly puts the campers on stage learning the lines and actions in the production. Ninety-four campers, from elementary age to high schoolers and led by staffers and counselors, are spending their days in Bikini Bottom preparing for this weekend's productions of "The SpongeBob Musical Youth Edition." The shows are open to the public at no charge Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. "It's very impressive seeing them put a show together in two weeks," said Benton Donahue, the music assistant. The first week is learning the songs, dances and action on stage while "week two is just polishing," said the Ole Miss sophomore in his third year as an instructor. Recent Madison Central graduate Omari Daniels is part of camp for the first time as a group counselor. "It's a great opportunity for younger kids to express their theater side," said the veteran of MC's show choir. "I'm having a great time. "Coming in, I thought two weeks wasn't enough to get a show together. These kids are ready to engage in the-

ater, ready to sing and ready to dance." Putting a complete show together in two weeks involves a lot of moving parts. Brittney Aven, the chairman of the visual and performing arts department at MRA, is the director of the show and drama teacher. Planning for the production began months ago with the selection of the SpongeBob musical. What makes it all work — in addition to providing a fun experience for the campers — is the trust and friendship among the staff, she said. Campers also are passionate about what they're learning, and that is contagious, Aven said. "The caliber of experience in the staff and the trust we have in each other works," Aven said, adding she trusts the different teachers to prepare the campers in their songs and dances. "The kids we cast as leads are mini-professionals," said Aven who has worked with the Summer Arts Camp for 19 years. "We trust them to go home and continue working." Miles Agent, who plays SpongeBob, said he came home the first night of camp running through his lines. "Every night before I go to bed, I go through the whole show. You've got to do the work but it's worth it."

Landing the role of SpongeBob was exciting for Agent, an eighth-grader at Madison Middle School who has attended camp for four years. "I love the people here and love the staff. I love putting a show together. Seeing the show come together is very rewarding. We are all having fun. It doesn't matter if you're in the main cast or not." At this camp, everyone gets the chance to shine. "Everybody gets a feature moment on stage in the lights. We make sure that happens," Aven said. Over the years, campers return annually until they age out, and then many of them return as staff if they can. Friendships and love for the arts keeps everyone coming back. Rowan Gentry, a sophomore at Ole Miss, has been a part of Summer Arts Camp for 10 years, as a camper and now a counselor. "I found my love for the theater and dance here," she said. "I love seeing the campers now fall in love with it like I did." Sigrid Wise, began camp as a 7-year-old and now she is in her sixth year as the theater arts teacher. An actress in New York, Wise said her experiences as a camper and on staff keep bringing her back. "The

See **ARTS**, page A3



# Bassett wins Fourth Alternate in pageant

By JOHN LEE  
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Madison County's Gracie Bassett says finishing as Fourth Alternate in the 2023 Miss Hospitality competition was absolutely surreal.

"I was quite surprised and honored, to say the least," Bassett said. "The program directors told us throughout the week that this was one of the most competitive programs they had experienced in a while and the best program they had seen in at least a decade. 41 amazing women came from across the state to compete and did their best. The competition was very tough this time around."

As part of winning Fourth Alternate, Bassett received \$2,000 in scholarships, which she plans to use for medical school.

Bassett is the daughter of William and Barbie Bassett of



Madison County's Gracie Bassett was among the top five winners of the 2023 Miss Hospitality competition and finished as Fourth Alternate. Pictured, from left: Gracie Bassett of Madison County (Fourth Alternate), Maddie Grace Lightfey of Hattiesburg (Second Alternate), Abney Grace Pittman of Wayne County (2023 Miss Hospitality), Loren Wade of Petal (First Alternate), and Gabby Bell of Pontotoc County (Third Alternate).

Madison. Gabby Bell from Pontotoc won Third Alternate, Maddie Grace Lightfey from Hatties-

burg was Second Alternate, Loren Wade from Petal was First Alternate and the overall winner of the 2023 Miss Hos-

pitality competition was Abney Pittman from Wayne County.

Bassett and her fellow contestants arrived in Hattiesburg on July 9 and finished the competition on July 15. She described the experience as "the best week ever" and would pay money to go back and do it all over again.

"If I can't go back and do it again, I can at least say that I couldn't be more proud to be from Mississippi and Madison County, especially after all the things I learned about it after doing this program," Bassett said.

Program festivities began on July 12 with one-on-one interviews with each judge, followed by panel interviews with all of the judges, and a speech competition on July 14 where each contestant had to convince a tourist to come to visit Mississippi.

On top of rehearsing for the competition, Bassett was also involved in multiple service projects in Hattiesburg, including events such as an autograph party with her Little Miss, a Breakfast at Tiffany's themed party at the Bottling Company, and dinner in the President's Suite at The

Rock Stadium at the University of Southern Mississippi, something she said was an incredible honor.

Bassett said the relationships she made along the way, particularly a bond she shared with a radiation oncologist at Forrest General Hospital, Sophy Mangana, were the best part of the entire experience.

"I learned so much from her about being a physician, and I connected with her because it's also something I've wanted to do growing up," Bassett said. "That relationship will go forward with me for years after all of this is over."

Bassett said she is not sure what she will compete in next down the road, but she plans on being back for some kind of competition in the future. The next time she can compete in Miss Hospitality will be 2025.

"I highly encourage females aged 18-24 to look into this program if you're looking for a scholarship, networking opportunities, and if you're wanting to meet new people and make friends," Bassett said. "I'd love to see this program grow in Madison County to include Canton, Flora, and Gluckstadt. It's an awesome scholarship opportunity."

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## List

Continued from page A1

different generations, Madison proudly holds the title of

### Meet the Candidates

The Madison County Journal is authorized to announce the following candidates:

**Tax Collector**  
Shelton Vance  
(Republican)

C.J. Garavelli  
(Republican)

**District 25 State Senate**  
J. Walter Michel  
(Republican)

**District 58 State House**  
Bob Anderson  
(Republican)

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a Certified Retirement Community, only 1 of 12 in the state of Mississippi," Hawkins-Butler said. "Our two beautiful parks guarantee tranquility and the vibrant Farmers Market ensures an opportunity for our entrepreneurs. Additionally, Swing into Summer and Movies on Main add an enchanting touch to our city-sponsored events. With a calendar full of activities, retirees can enjoy a fulfilling and engaging

lifestyle without a dull moment." She said that with grit and commitment, Madison continually strives for excellence and works tirelessly to enhance the city, and everyone involved is dedicated to making Madison an even more remarkable place to call home, as we work towards an even brighter future. "Madison is the best place to live in Mississippi, and in my opinion, in the country as well," she added.

### About the Journal

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The weekly Journal primarily serves Madison County, including the cities of Madison, Ridgeland, Canton and Flora.

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# Bob Anderson

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



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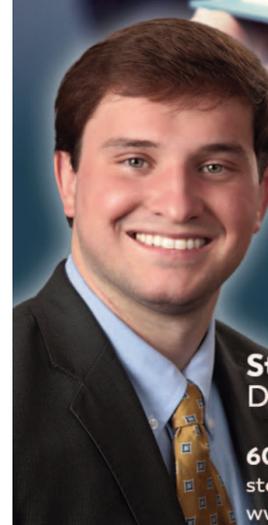


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## PAID POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Bob Anderson seeks election as District 58 State Rep.



Bob Anderson

Hello, I'm Bob Anderson. I've never been a politician, but I have done a lot in the private sector over thirty years. After careers in both aerospace engineering and real estate development, I know how to bring people together to make big things happen.

Our district excels in many ways, but I know we can do more. I will push to widen our crowded roads and bring high tech jobs. I will fight to protect the values we hold dear in Mississippi and push back on federal overreach into our schools and our lives. As a veteran CFO, I will work to conserve every dollar of your public money.

an Angel Flight pilot, and serving through my church at home and abroad. I'll work hard as your public servant in the State House too.

I am a constitutional conservative driven by the principle that less government is better, that lower taxes fuels growth, that less regulation frees the wheels of progress, that capitalism is key to investment, and that our moral compass matters most of all. I believe our county, our state and our nation can prosper under those principles.

Bottom line: I care about how government affects our families, our finances, and our freedom — how it affects you.

I ask for the opportunity to serve as your next State Representative for House District 58. Bob Anderson.

## Crash

Continued from page A1

"When we arrived at the accident," Addison said. "We realized that the car we were looking for was the one involved in the accident."

The driver of the car was the only person involved in the accident and was transported to the hospital.

Officers then typed up a search warrant for his blood and had it drawn at the hospital.

"We sent it to the lab and we are waiting for those results," Addison said.



A car landed on another car at Renaissance on July 9.

## Arts

Continued from page A1

community, the people, everyone has such a good attitude. We all want the same thing — a good production, good art."

Wise said she had so much fun at camp that she wants to make sure today's campers find the joy in all of it. "I love being able to make the day as fun as possible."

While the campers are having fun, they are using the games and exercises she introduces to build an ensemble that works together, Wise said. "I

always make sure they understand they are building a community that can go far. They're growing together."

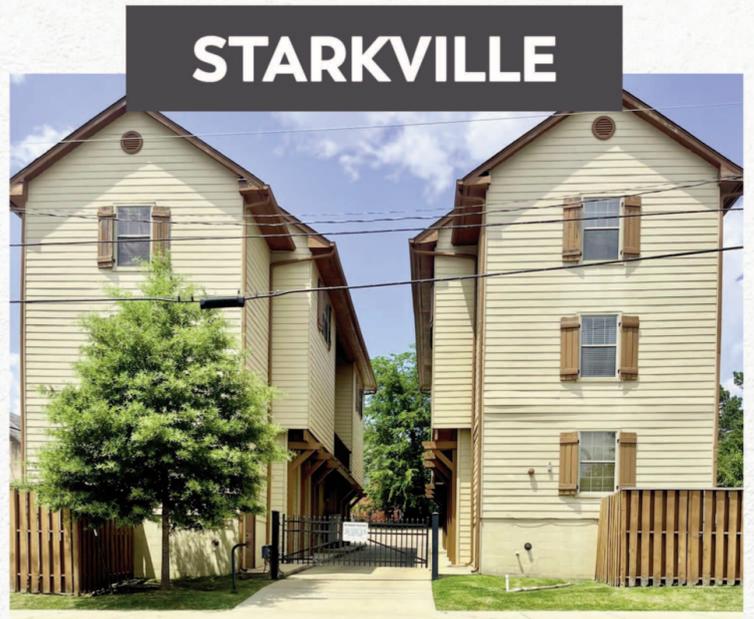
University of Alabama senior Miller Widemire, an eight-year veteran camper now in her fourth year as the assistant dance instructor, loves the whole experience. "I come back for the camaraderie, the camp traditions. We're a family that keeps coming back."

No matter what a camper's role in the show is, the staff wants everyone to be a vital part of the production, she said. "Everybody has an integral part of making the show. They want you to have your moment to shine. They never make you

feel any less important. The responsibility you get, they know you can handle it."

The fun for counselors and staff is sharing their passion with campers for dance, music, drama or anything else involved in creating Sponge-Bob and his home in Bikini Bottom.

"Even if the campers have never taken a music or dance class, they're in tune and wanting to do their best," Widemire said. "You can actually see their progress each day. It's kind of amazing to see how they catch on. You get to share your passion and see them take hold of it for themselves."



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# Opinion & Editorials

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“To glorify God, and enjoy Him forever.”

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Associate Editor & Publisher

### EDITORIALS

## The FBI has lost its way

As the nation’s top law enforcement organization, the FBI boasts a motto composed of a trio of virtues: “Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity.”

Under its leadership in recent years, including that of current Director Christopher Wray, the agency has demonstrated an ethic describable in less laudable terms: denial and deflection.

Such a code of conduct dishonors the FBI’s storied history.

Mr. Wray’s testimony before the House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday was a display of duplicity as Republican lawmakers called on him — fruitlessly — to account for his agency’s partisanship that, by all appearances, favors the Democratic Party and harbors bias against conservatives.

Among the top congressional concerns that placed the federal lawmaker before the committee and national news cameras was the FBI’s handling of its inquiry into the business dealings of President Biden’s son Hunter, which entwined with U.S. foreign policy ventures while his father was vice president.

Deceptively, the FBI in recent months initially denied the existence of a documented allegation from a whistleblower that the senior Biden accepted a \$5 million bribe from a Ukrainian businessman.

The agency’s record of refusal to produce the document until Mr. Wray was threatened with contempt of Congress prompted Rep. Matt Gaetz, Florida Republican, to inquire of the director, “Are you protecting the Bidens?”

Mr. Wray’s response: “Absolutely not.” Perhaps he should have gone on to advise the lawmakers not to believe their lying eyes.

Evidence of FBI deception meant to stonewall a potentially historic case of political corruption itself has the look of partisan favoritism.

To be fair, politics is a team sport, and Ameri-

## The raging borer crisis

With more than 6,500 illegal crossings daily, President Biden’s border crisis is overwhelming the system. New data shows 204,561 immigrants were apprehended attempting to cross the U.S.-Mexico border illegally in May, directly contradicting the White House’s claim that “unlawful border crossings have plummeted.”

May’s crossings make the second-highest total for that month in 22 years. Democrats can no longer live in denial.

The facts show the border crisis is leaving us wide open to terror suspects crossing our southern border at an alarming rate. So far this year, 125 have crossed into our country, compared with 14 through former President Donald Trump’s entire administration.

And 98 crossed last year, a previous record high, up from 16 in 2021.

This past week, it was revealed that border agents made “multiple mistakes” that led a Colombian terrorist on the FBI’s watchlist to be released into the U.S., according to an inspector general report. The migrant, whose name was on the terror watchlist, spent weeks in the U.S.

The case involved the apprehension of an illegal immigrant on April 17, 2022, who was released two days after Border Patrol found he was an “inconclusive match” on the terror watchlist.

Two days later, the FBI obtained further information from the Transportation Security Administration that he was a positive on the watchlist (after the illegal immigrant booked a flight to Tampa, Florida, from Palm Springs, California), and informed Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ICE later detained him.

“This occurred because CBP’s [Customs and Border Protection] ineffective practices and processes for resolving inconclusive matches with the Terrorist Watchlist led to multiple mistakes,” the report said.

The release of the man came in a busy month, where there were more than 235,000 migrant encounters in Yuma, Arizona, where the man was first flagged, in April 2022 alone.

The IG report included testimony from a Border Patrol agent at the processing center in Yuma, who said he and his co-workers were trying to respond to emails from CBP’s National Targeting Center but were overwhelmed with the surge of illegal crossings, putting the center over capacity.

“Meanwhile, ICE officials explained that while the agency prioritized the arrest, its Fugitive Operations did not receive the migrant’s file until 8 days after requesting it,” Fox News reported.

“Officials said that the delay may have been because the agency’s Yuma office receives about 1,000 alien files once or twice a week that it must sort, box and ship to

cans have witnessed what appears to be an organized defense of the Biden family.

In a separate tax fraud case, former IRS investigator Gary Shapley has recently alleged that the FBI tipped off Hunter’s lawyers of plans to interview him and search a Biden property.

Further, Mr. Shapley has reportedly testified that witnesses heard U.S. Attorney David Weiss admit that Justice Department bosses were pulling the strings in the case against the president’s son.

Vehement denials notwithstanding, Hunter Biden is the recipient of a tentative, sweetheart deal — complete with a “get out of jail free” card — that few regular Americans could hope to cop.

Questioned by Rep. Darrell Issa, California Republican, over whether confidential FBI sources were present at the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, Mr. Wray simply deflected, answering, “I believe there is a filing in one of the January 6 cases that can provide a little more information about this.”

Almost anyone with a fair grasp of the English language and common sense would interpret his answer as yes. Americans look forward to full disclosure about the activities of bureau assets, including whether they were among sketchy characters provoking violence on that dark day.

“Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity” may describe the FBI as a whole, but not its leadership. By all appearances, the agency’s top brass have lost their way. Serving as a tool of the Democratic Party, they no longer seek justice on behalf of the people.

If Americans in 2024 award Republicans with an electoral majority, one measure would remedy Mr. Wray’s persistent practice of denial and deflection: defunding.

— *The Washington Times*

Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) offices across the country. It is currently piloting using electronic A-files, but that pilot has not yet been expanded.”

In May, House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Mark Green, Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer and Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan sent a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas investigating how the department is handling the national security risk presented by an increased number of known or suspected terrorists illegally crossing the southwestern border.

The letter focused not only on those apprehended at the border but also the 1.5 million illegal “gotaways” who crossed undetected during the Biden administration.

“These ‘known gotaways’ do not provide biometric or biographic information to USBP agents and continue their journey into the interior of the country without background checks against law enforcement databases,” the letter stated. “Terrorists and other bad actors will attempt to exploit weaknesses in border security and vetting procedures to infiltrate the United States. We fear these known gotaways could also include illegal aliens with terrorist ties.”

The letter questioned the extent to which the legal impediments exist to “prevent detention and removal of aliens with terrorist ties, as opposed to impediments imposed by the Biden administration’s misguided policies.”

In 2019, former President Barack Obama’s former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said that more than 1,000 apprehensions a day overwhelms the system. May’s 200,000-plus encounters is a 337% increase from the average number of May apprehensions from 2017 through 2020.

Since Mr. Biden took office, 6.9 million immigrants have crossed the border illegally. Homeland Security Investigations estimates that Mexican cartels are making \$13 billion a year smuggling illegal immigrants into the U.S., 26 times what they made in 2018.

Since Mr. Biden took office, more than 20 tons of fentanyl have crossed the southern border, enough to kill 9.1 billion people.

Despite Mr. Biden’s promise of a fair and humane immigration system, his open border policies aren’t compassionate; they are deadly. Mr. Biden’s Department of Health and Human Services lost track of 85,000 children after responding to Mr. Biden’s demands to “move the children quickly out of shelters” by rolling back important vetting and safeguarding procedures.

Not only are lives lost in the smuggling, but more could be jeopardized with known terrorists flagrantly flouting the law amid Mr. Biden’s lack of enforcement.

— *The Washington Times*

### RICH LOWRY

## The Biden debacle waiting to happen

Mika Brzezinski, co-host of the MSNBC program “Morning Joe,” is very cross with the White House staff.

It isn’t, she believes, doing a good enough job protecting Joe Biden from the effects of being 80 years old and increasingly frail.

She insists that it needs “to clear a pathway” whenever he is walking somewhere, and make sure it is “there and telling him what’s next” when he’s at an event and going from Point A to Point B.

It’s not clear what presidency Brzezinski has been watching, because it’s not as though the White House staff is working Biden like a dog, or as though there isn’t plenty of pointing and directing whenever Biden is out in public.

Axios reported a couple of months ago that “some White House officials say it’s difficult to schedule public or private events with the president in the morning, in the evening, or on weekends.” That does leave weekdays between about noon and 4 p.m., when most of his public events are scheduled.

Obviously, the problem isn’t staff inattention or unawareness of the limitations of their boss, but the difficult balance involved in maintaining the image of Biden as a robust, fully in-control president of the United States, on the one hand, and in giving him the help he needs as someone who is visibly shaky on his feet and unsure of what to do with himself at public events, on the other.

To her credit, Brzezinski-

*In the end, there is a reliable way to keep President Biden upright, which is a walker.*

isn’t denying Biden’s infirmities — as many Democrats do, at least in public — so much as shifting the blame for them.

The latest discussion of Biden’s age was occasioned by his use of King Charles as a bit of a crutch during a visit the other day, while the king had some difficulty negotiating Biden where he needed to go during an inspection of the Welsh Guards.

In the scheme of things, this wasn’t a big event, but it’s part of a pattern and one that suggests more trouble ahead — the minor stumbles and wobbles will inevitably get worse, since aging is a progressive condition.

Even if the White House staff were to dispatch the advance team to remove every pebble in Biden’s path, as Brzezinski hopes, there is simply no way to protect an 80-year-old man from every potential misstep.

In the end, there is a reliable way to keep him upright, which is a walker. Let’s say he doesn’t need one now. Can we be sure he wouldn’t need one in a year’s time? And would the White House ever want to have him use one, given that he’s in the most demanding office in the world and a walker is a symbol of decrepitude

associated with assisted living facilities?

No, of course not. Every incentive is to keep trotting Biden out like nothing is wrong — 80 is the new 70 — and hope for the best. Maybe he shuffles through the raindrops and nothing bad happens between now and November 2024. But there is some significant chance that it does, that there is a fateful sandbag, wire, or step out there that is going to bring home the fragility of the leader of the free world in a disturbing and undeniable way.

Democrats who look past this possibility are running the risk of repeating the Ruth Bader Ginsburg experience of talking themselves into believing everything is fine, until it’s not and they are left dealing with an avoidable catastrophe.

Ginsburg’s defenders dismissed concerns about her age and calls for her to resign as sexist while President Barack Obama was in office and Democrats controlled the Senate. Then, Republicans took the Senate, Donald Trump won the presidency, and it was too late.

Again, maybe Biden gets lucky, and certainly everyone of good will should hope that he does.

If he has an ill-timed mishap, though, Democrats will have no one — not even the White House staff — to blame but themselves.

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

### CHARLES HURT

## Is DeSantis the Kamala Harris?

In 2019, when then-Sen. Kamala Harris announced her campaign for president, she was immediately crowned “the one to beat” by all the political experts in Washington. She checked all the Democrats’ boxes and had all the depth, charm, gravitas and smarts to clear the field and beat then-President Donald Trump.

Looking back, the coverage of her announcement was comically absurd.

The New York Times compared her to Martin Luther King Jr.

U.S. News & World Report’s senior politics writer declared that Ms. Harris’ campaign would be “the standard” to which all future campaigns would aspire.

“Harris is clearly comfortable in her own skin, and in interview after interview, her natural charisma and ability to connect shined through with ease,” he wrote. “She’s also blessed with a[n] infectious laugh that will come in handy when the inevitable attacks against her strengthen.”

Reading those words today, it almost seems like the writer was mocking her. He wasn’t, of course. It was his very best political analysis — an analysis that was shared by nearly every other political expert in Washington at the time.

Of course, cruel reality had other ideas for Kamala Harris. So did Democratic voters. She struggled to connect with ordinary Americans.

After an initial explosion of funding by powerful party donors, the money ran dry. She came off as slippery — a shallow opportunist — in debates. Her campaign went bust before the first ballot was

*Is Ron DeSantis the Kamala Harris of this election cycle?*

cast.

She failed to earn one single delegate.

In the end, all Ms. Harris had left were her checked boxes, which turned out to be her most valuable asset anyway.

Today, she is a verbally incontinent, flailing embarrassment in the White House. Her cackling attempts to be more likable sound like nails on a chalkboard to many voters.

Her only political accomplishment — and it is a damned Herculean miracle — is somehow managing to keep President Biden from being the most unpopular person in the White House.

It should be noted that the same political experts who crowned Kamala Harris the next president in 2019 also declared Hillary Clinton the next president when she announced her first campaign

back in January 2007.

Whoops! Or, more accurately, double whoops!

Surveying the political field today, all these same experts who were so disastrously wrong about Ms. Harris and Mrs. Clinton have been promoted to enjoy even greater latitude in predicting the next “one to beat.” But this time, it’s in the Republican primary race.

All the same political experts who missed the rise of Donald Trump and so badly whiffed on Kamala Harris and Hillary Clinton have been insisting for the better part of a

year now that the next “future of the party” is Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Mr. DeSantis was all the Trump policies, they told us, without Donald Trump — the mean tweeter. American voters would just love Ron DeSantis.

The only problem — once again — was that nobody checked with actual American voters on this.

It is certainly true that Mr. DeSantis has a powerful record to run on. But, of course, so does Mr. Trump. Just ask anyone suffering under “Bidenomics” today.

And it is true that Mr. DeSantis has demonstrated significant political prowess. But, of course, so has Donald Trump. Don’t forget: Mr. DeSantis never would have been elected governor of Florida in the first place without the endorsement and support of Mr. Trump.

And there is no greater display of political prowess than Mr. Trump’s 2016 stunning victory that, even today, many political experts refuse to accept.

Now, polls are almost always ridiculous — especially those taken half a year before a political contest.

But trends tend not to lie. The trouble for Mr. DeSantis is that the polls show his support from actual voters vanishing the longer he is in the race.

This raises a painful question: Is Ron DeSantis the Kamala Harris of this election cycle?

It would not be the first time all the political experts in Washington got it all wrong.

*Charles Hurt is the opinion editor at The Washington Times.*

### BIBLE SELECTION

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

— **Romans 1:16 (ESV)**

# Murphy hired as dual credit coordinator

By STAFF REPORTS  
news@onlinemadison.com

Holmes Community College welcomed Katie Murphy as the district coordinator of Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit. She has 21 years of experience working in the community college system; seven with Jones College and 14 years with Hinds Community College.

A community college alumna herself, Murphy holds an Associate of Arts degree in psychology from Hinds (1999), a Bachelor of Science in educational psychology from Mississippi State University (2001) and a Master of Arts in higher

education from The University of Mississippi (2002). She is a member of The National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) and an active member of Highland Colony Baptist Church in Ridgeland, as well.

Murphy has three children: Thomas (19), Rhett (17) and Lainey Kate (14). Thomas was a dual enrollment/dual credit student at Holmes last year and is now a college freshman, Rhett is a junior at Germantown High School and Lainey Kate is an



Katie Murphy

eighth grader at Germantown Middle School. Murphy's hobbies include attending her children's sporting events, working in the yard and playing with her two labs, Cocoa and Molly.

"I am very excited to be a part of the Holmes Community College family!" Murphy said. "I am a tremendous supporter of the Mississippi Community College system and I look forward to serving the students at Holmes!"

## OBITUARIES

### Gene Hurtis Wade

Gene Hurtis Wade died peacefully in his sleep at his home in Ridgeland MS on July 11, 2023.

He was born in Columbus, GA on February 5, 1926, to Gordon and Evie Wade. He was the eldest of 7.

He joined the US Navy when he was 16 serving in the Pacific Theater. His ship was attacked near Guadalcanal and Tarawa. He was wounded in action in route to Guadalcanal. He served primarily as a Semaphore Operator.

He became a pilot and was a member of the MS Civil Air patrol in the 60s and 70s, participating in many Search and Rescue operations. He lived in Jackson and later in Florida where he was an accountant.

Gene is survived by his wife Barbara, his son Phillip Wade, his daughter Myra Hammond, 3 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Gene requested that no service be held. His arrangements are being administered by Chancellor Funeral Home in Florence.

### Geraldine Martin Brown

Geraldine Martin Brown, 93, passed away Monday, July 10, 2023, peacefully at her home.

A funeral service was held July 15 at Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Madison. Burial followed in Moaks Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Bogue Chitto, MS.

Mrs. Brown was born on July 30, 1929, the daughter of the late Fred and Martha Martin of Felders Campground Community. A graduate of Carters Creek High School in Pike County, she was a member of 4H Club and won many awards. While attending Southwest Junior College, she was elected to participate in

Home Coming Court activities. A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, she earned a Bachelors Degree, majoring in Home Economics. She began her teaching career in Long Beach, MS, Public School System.

After 2 years she came to Jackson and later taught at McCluer and Hillcrest Academies. She retired after serving 14 years as a teacher, loved by her students and fellow faculty members. Mrs. Brown was a long-time member of the Baptist faith. She taught Sunday School many times where needed in various churches she attended. She was a member of Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Madison, MS.

Along with her parents, she is preceded in death by her siblings: Billy Martin, Lloyd Martin, John Martin, Marshall Martin, Clinton Martin, Alma McCulough Boyd, Alice Pate, and a daughter-in-law, Peggy Brown.

Survivors include: her husband of 71 years, Eugene Clayton Brown, Sr., of Madison; Son, Dr. Eugene Clayton Brown, Jr., Madison; Daughter, Janet Renee Nations (Kerry), Nashville, TN; Daughter, Judy Annette Smith (Jeff), Jackson; Grandchildren: Stephanie Powell (Jayce), Gluckstadt; Stacy Brown, Madison; Rev. Cameron Nations (Carly), Austin Texas; Shelby Nations, Nashville, TN; Nolan Smith (Christa), Starkville, MS; Leah Bell (Corey), Picayune; Lydia Thompson (Liam), Riverside CA. Great Grand Children: Marcie McDaniel and Clayton McDaniel; Kayleigh Sykes and Taylor Sykes; Cece Nations; and Thea Thompson.

### Josie Mae Ridgel Pradat

Josie Mae Ridgel Pradat, age 92, of Madison, passed away July 13, 2023.

She was born on September 19th, 1930 in Vaughn, New

Mexico, to Louis Ridgel and Florence Anderson Ridgel. She graduated from Charity Hospital Nursing School in New Orleans, where she met her beloved husband of 70 years.

For many years she was active in the Girl Scouts, serving as neighborhood chairman and troop leader. She also held leadership positions in her church, including President of the Parish Council of Catholic Women and serving on the Finance Committee. In later years, she enjoyed volunteering at local nursing homes.

She is survived by her husband Doug; daughters Debra Joel, Diane Pumphrey (Mike), Denise Pradat (Dave Rotundo), Dawn Cannon (Doug), and son Douglas Pradat, Jr. (Dorothy Mandl). Grandchildren, Jennifer Hannah (Tony), Alison Pruitt, Joe Pumphrey (Brooke), Joe Cannon, and Mike Cannon; Great grandchildren, Britney Corbell, Brandi Hardin, Chris Lannon, Reed Griffith, McKayla Hannah, Andrew Hannah, and Olivia Pruitt. Eleven great-great grandchildren. Brothers, Kenny and Colin Ridgel, and sister Linda Ridgel, and a multitude of beloved nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her daughter Donna Pradat Smith, son in law Rick Smith, her brothers Tommy Smith; Victor, Louis, Jessie, Keith, and Edward Ridgel; and sisters Mae Smith, Ann Smith, Louise Ridgel Legendre, and Janice Ridgel Services were held July 19 at Parkway Funeral Home.

### THE LORD'S DAY

**Morning Worship**  
8:30 a.m.  
11 a.m.

**Sunday School**  
9:45 a.m.

**Evening Worship**  
6 p.m.

**Midweek Activities**  
Prayer Meeting 6 p.m. (Patterson)  
Adult Electives, D Groups  
Childrens Choirs, Youth Activities

**Services Livestream**  
fpcjackson.org/livestream  
WLBT-TV3  
10 a.m.

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## BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES/J. Ligon Duncan III

# Therefore: Be ready!

Please turn with me in your Bibles to Matthew 24:42-44. Jesus is speaking to us in this passage about spiritual preparedness. And He is telling us that to be spiritually unprepared for the day of His coming, would be the worst disaster that could ever befall a human being. No unpreparedness which we have ever experienced in life can possibly be compared to the kind of spiritual unpreparedness about which Jesus is warning today. And I would like you to look with me at this passage very briefly. Jesus gives some very practical challenges to us about spiritual preparation. In verse 42, He tells us that we ought to be prepared because of what we don't know. In verse 43, Jesus shows us an illustration about not being alert. And then in verse 44, Jesus tells us that we ought to be prepared because we know He is coming. Let's look at this passage together today very briefly.

### I. Christians Should be Prepared for His Coming Because We Don't Know When to Expect Him

First in verse 42, we see this exhortation that Jesus gives to be prepared because of what we don't know. That is kind of strange. Be prepared because of what you don't know. Jesus, is telling us about the uncertainty of His coming. And He is telling us that because of the uncertainty of His coming, we need to be prepared. In other words, we are to be prepared because of what we don't know. We don't know when He is coming, and therefore, we should be prepared. That is the lesson that Jesus is teaching us, that Christians ought to be alert because we don't know the timing of His return. Again, He is not telling us to look for signs. He has already made it clear, that is not the prime part of being prepared for His coming. No, to be alert is to live a sanctified life in consciousness of the coming judgment day. To be spiritually awake.

And so, Jesus, in this passage, teaches us that we must be ready because we don't know when He is coming. And being ready, among other things, guarding our hearts against the world. Not allowing the concerns of the world to take us away from the most important thing. And so, Jesus gives a very practical pastoral use or explanation

for our ignorance of His coming. Why in the world would the Lord leave us ignorant of some things? Well, in this case, Jesus tells us why the Lord leaves us ignorant of the timing of His coming. It is so that we will be vigilant. There are all sorts of things, that are conspiring to draw our hearts away from the Lord, in our everyday experience. And by saying to us to 'be alert,' Jesus is saying, 'keep the one thing before you at all times and you be prepared for the day of My coming.'

### II. The Result of Not Being Alert

In verse 43, he gives us a warning illustration. He tells us a story about what happens when you are not alert. He is alluding here to the disaster of unpreparedness. We see it around us all the time. The illustration is taken from common life in Palestine. The illustration of a robber, or a thief breaking into a house at night. And I am told that thieves would often dig through the brick in homes at night and break in and steal. And you know, Jesus is saying, you know if the head of the household had known that a thief was coming that night, he would have been on guard to make sure that his family was not harmed, or that his possessions were not stolen. And so, Jesus is showing an illustration of how a homeowner by not being diligent, lost something. Now, he is not blaming the man for being robbed. But he is raising the issue of culpable unpreparedness. Jesus is saying, you know there is a difference if we are not prepared for Him. Because He has told us that He is coming. He hasn't told us when. But He has told us that He is coming. And He has commanded us to be prepared. And so, if we are not prepared, unlike a homeowner, who experiences a surprise break-in from a thief, we are responsible. We are culpable, if we are not prepared for that day. And it is amazing how often this theme is repeated in the New Testament.

Are we unprepared for the coming of the Lord? Are there other things which are more important in our experience than our relationship with the Lord and His coming. Are there other things that we care more about than His coming and eternal fellowship with Him? See, the humble

Christian, is the vigilant Christian, the watchful Christian, the wary Christian. The humble Christian has their eye on the coming of the Lord. And the Lord Jesus is saying, be prepared, because you know the results of being unprepared.

### III. An Exhortation to be Prepared Because We Know He is Coming

And finally in verse 44, he gives another exhortation. Jesus tells us that as Christians, we ought to be ready because we do know that His coming is going to be unexpected. He says, we ought to be ready because of what we do know. We do know that He is coming; when, we don't know. We don't know the timing, but we do know that He is coming and He is coming unexpectedly. And in light of this, Jesus is arguing, that we need to live like watchmen. That is, we need to be prepared in mind and heart for His coming. You see, the true Christian, will study to please Christ. Show something to the Christian in his life or her life that displeases Christ, the Christian will get rid of it. Show something in life that Christ loves and approves of, and the Christian will do it. If we love a person, we like to be with them. You know, some people, view worship as a torturous hour from which they can only too soon be released. You know what you are going to be doing forever in heaven? Do we long for that kind of fellowship with the Lord? In worship, in His presence?

The most secure Christian in his salvation is the most watchful and hopeful Christian, longing for the day of Christ's coming. If you are trusting and loving Christ today, then you are going to be singing "Joy to the World" with Isaac Watts on the day of His coming. If you are not trusting and resting in Him, then you are going to cry for the mountains to fall upon you and hide you from the judge of the world. And they will not spare you in that day. Pray God, that you will embrace Christ, even now.

*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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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**TO THE PUBLIC AND THE TAXPAYERS OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

You are hereby notified that the real and personal property assessment rolls of Madison County, Mississippi, for the year 2023 have been equalized according to law, and that said rolls are ready for inspection and examination, and that any objections to said rolls or any assessment therein contained, shall be in writing and filed with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Madison County, Mississippi on or before 9:00 o'clock a.m. on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023 at his office in the Chancery/Administrative Building, 125 West North Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Canton, Madison County, Mississippi, and that all assessments to which no objection is then and there made, will be finally approved by said Board of Supervisors, and that all assessments to which objection is made, and which may be corrected and properly determined by this Board, will be made final by this Board of Supervisors and that said rolls and the assessments contained therein will be approved by this Board of Supervisors; and that,

- This Board will be in session, for the purpose of hearing objections to the said assessments which may be filed at the Chancery Clerks Office at the Chancery/Administrative Building, 125 West North Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor in the City of Canton, Madison County, Mississippi, beginning at 9:00 o'clock a.m. on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023.
- This Board of Supervisors will remain in session from day to day until all objections, lawfully filed, shall have been disposed of and all proper corrections made in the said rolls.

Witness the signature of the said Board of Supervisors this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2023.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MADISON COUNTY  
/s/Gerald Steen, President

Publish: July 13, 20 and 27, 2023.

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### Public Notices

to a point in a lake; thence along the southern line of a 11.64 acre tract described in Book 40 1, Page 353, North 72°55' 1 4" East a distance of 983.05 feet; thence North 72°55'20" East a distance of 300 feet along the southern line of a 5.28 acre tract described in Book 313 4, Page 571, thence continue in a northeasterly along the northern line of Tax Parcel 08 1 D- 1 9 -005/01 0 0, 100 feet, more or less, to the western most corner of a 22.64 acre tract described in Book 393, Page 547, thence along the western line of said tract, North 40°53' East to the north line of Section 1 9.

4.) All of Section 20, less and except, that portion of a 2.28 acre tract (Tax Parcel 08 1 D- 1 7 - 00 1 /03 . 00) (Book 375, Page 466) which may lie or may not lie in the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the Section.

5. All of Sections 3 0, and 3 1 Section 29: The N 1/2 and the W 1/2 of the SW 1/4. 6.) Section 32: The W 1/2 of the NW 1/4. The E 1/2 of the NE 1/4. 7. Section 33: The W 1/2 of the W 1/2. Containing in all: 4,708 acres, more or less; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors considered the Petition For Annexation filed by the Southwest Madison County Fire Protection District and such matters as presented by parties present, and after due consideration finds that (1) that the public convenience and necessity require the annexation of the Annexation Area described above into the Southwest Madison County Fire Protection District, and (2) that the annexation into the District is economically sound and desirable;

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 19-5-155 it is hereby RESOLVED,

(1) that at the public convenience and necessity require the annexation of the above-described Annexation Area into the Southwest Madison County Fire Protection District to provide fire protection and emergency medical services within the Annexation Area, and (2) that the annexation into the District is economically sound and desirable;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the above stated findings shall become final and the annexation finally approved effective August 7, 2023, that said Annexation Area shall thereafter be known as part of the Southwest Madison County Fire Protection District;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Board of supervisors shall levy the tax authorized in Miss. Code Ann. § 19-5-189, and shall assess benefited properties within the Annexation Area in accordance with section Miss. Code Ann. § 19-5-191;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a certified copy of this resolution shall be published in a newspaper having a general circulation within the Southwest Madison County Fire Protection District inclusive of an Annexation Area.

Chancery Clerk/Clerk of the Board

**IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MELVIN DAVIS, DECEASED.  
CIVIL ACTION FILE NO.: 2015-556-B

**RULE 81 SUMMONS**  
(SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION)  
THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: Betty L. Davis, whose Post Office Address and Street Address is: 411214 Halldale Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90062

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Jimmie Lee Davis, Administratrix CTA of the Estate of Melvin Davis, Deceased, who is the Plaintiff, praying the approval of the Petition Presenting First Annual and Final Accounting. Defendants other than you in this action are Kimberly Michelle Van Buren, Jacqueline Lynette Van Buren and Ben Carl Davis. You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 8:30 O'clock A.M. on the 14 th day of August, 2023 in a second floor courtroom of the Madison County Chancery/Administrative Building at Canton, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

ISSUED under my hand and Seal of said Court on this 3 rd day of July, 2023.

Ronny Lott  
Madison County Chancery Clerk  
146 West Center Street  
P. O. Box 404  
Canton, MS 39046

BY: /s/ Kelsey Rodriguez  
Deputy Clerk  
John W. Christopher  
Christopher Law Office, PLLC  
LeFleur's Bluff Tower  
4780 I-55 North, Suite 100-14  
Jackson, MS 39211  
Telephone: (769) 777-4231  
Email: john@christopherlaw.com  
Attorney for Plaintiff

**IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MELVIN DAVIS, DECEASED  
CIVIL ACTION FILE NO.: 2015-556-B

**RULE 81 SUMMONS**  
(SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION)  
THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: Ben Carl Davis, whose Post Office Address and Street Address is: 13377 Hickory Way, Moreno Valley, CA 92553

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Jimmie Lee Davis, Administratrix CTA of the Estate of Melvin Davis, Deceased, Plaintiff, praying for the approval of the Petition Presenting First Annual and Final Accounting. Defendants other than you in this action are Kimberly Michelle Van Buren, Jacqueline Lynette Van Buren and Betty L. Davis.

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Madison County Chancery Clerk  
146 West Center Street  
P. O. Box 404  
Canton, MS 39046

BY: /s/ Kelsey Rodriguez  
Deputy Clerk

John W. Christopher  
Christopher Law Office, PLLC  
LeFleur's Bluff Tower  
4780 I-55 North, Suite 100-14  
Jackson, MS 39211  
Telephone: (769) 777-4231  
Email: john@christopherlaw.com  
Attorney for Plaintiff

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Berkshire Homes, has filed a petition with the Board of Supervisors of Madison County, MS, to request Dimensional Variance on setbacks on certain property, pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of Madison County, Mississippi, to-wit:

Legal Description

Lot 1090 in Heron's Bay of Caroline Filed July 19, 2021, a Platted Subdivision in Madison County, MS  
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Madison County, MS, will meet at 9 a.m. on August 10, 2023, at the Madison County Complex Building, in the Board Room, located at 125 West North Street, Canton, Madison County, MS to consider and act upon the petition, and will at such time, date and place, hold and conduct a public hearing at which all parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard on the matter of the petition, either in person, by petition, or by attorney.  
BY ORDER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, on this the 1st day of July 2023

/s/Scott Weeks, Zoning Administrator  
Publish: July 20, 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PETITION FOR CONDITIONAL USE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Chad Phillips has filed a petition before the Madison County Board of Supervisors for a Conditional Use pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of Madison County, MS, and the Zoning Maps adopted pursuant thereto, requesting a Public / Quasi - Public Facilities and Utilities for a Assisted Living Facility on property zoned C-1 Commercial in a PUD Planned Unit Development District as a Conditional Use, lying and being situated in Madison County, MS, to wit:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

5.08 acre tract  
5.08 acres located in Section 8, Township 8 North, Range 1 East, Madison County, Mississippi, and being further described as follows:

Commencing at a 1/2" iron rebar found marking the northwest corner of Lot 67 of Chestnut Hill, Part 1D as referenced in Plat Cabinet "E" at slide 141B and 142A and as recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Madison County at Canton, Mississippi and thence run North 52 degrees 46 minutes 44 seconds West for a distance of 2,014.07 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar set and also being the Point of Beginning of the tract herein described:

From the POINT OF BEGINNING thence run North 78 degrees 41 minutes 31 seconds West for a distance of 29.76 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar found; thence run North 42 degrees 47 minutes 56 seconds West for a distance of 141.39 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar found; thence run North 38 degrees 28 minutes 33 seconds West for a distance of 87.83 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar found; thence run North 66 degrees 09 minutes 08 seconds West for a distance of 105.85 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar set; thence run North 06 degrees 39 minutes 18 seconds East for a distance of 471.74 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar set; thence run North 30 degrees 49 minutes 27 seconds East for a distance of 99.83 feet to a concrete monument found on the south right-of-way line of MS Highway #22; thence run North 31 degrees 17 minutes 23 seconds East, along said right-of-way, for a distance of 19.96 feet to a concrete monument found; thence run South 59 degrees 01 minutes 33 seconds East, along said right-of-way, for a distance of 100.19 feet to a concrete monument found; thence run South 31 degrees 09 minutes 45 seconds West, along said right-of-way, for a distance of 19.99 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar found; thence run South 58 degrees 54 minutes 47 seconds East, along said right-of-way, for a distance of 58.72 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar set; thence run along a curve to the left with the following data: Chord Bearing of South 65 degrees 09 minutes 05 seconds East, Chord Length of 256.41 feet, Radius of 1,195.92 feet, Arc Length of 256.91 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar set; thence run South 18 degrees 40 minutes 38 seconds West for a distance of 618.30 feet back to the POINT OF BEGINNING and being 5.08 acres, more or less.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

20' wide Sanitary Sewer Easement  
861.90 square feet located in Section 8, Township 8 North, Range 1 East, Madison County, Mississippi, and being further described as follows:

Commencing at a 1/2" iron rebar found marking the northwest corner of Lot 67 of Chestnut Hill, Part 1D as referenced in Plat Cabinet "E" at slide 141B and 142A and as recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Madison County at Canton, Mississippi and thence run North 52 degrees 46 minutes 44 seconds West for a distance of 2,014.07 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar set; thence run North 18 degrees 40 minutes 38 sec-

### Public Notices

onds East for a distance of 186.71 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar set and also being the Point of Beginning of the tract herein described:

From the POINT OF BEGINNING thence continue North 18 degrees 40 minutes 38 seconds East for a distance of 20.46 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar set thence run South 59 degrees 08 minutes 23 seconds East for a distance of 48.11 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar set; thence run South 46 degrees 49 minutes 20 seconds West for a distance of 20.80 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar set; thence run North 59 degrees 08 minutes 23 seconds West for a distance of 38.08 feet back to the POINT OF BEGINNING and being 861.90 square feet, more or less.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

50' wide Ingress/Egress Easement  
0.27 acres (11,700 square feet) located in Section 8, Township 8 North, Range 1 East, Madison County, Mississippi, and being further described as follows:

Commencing at a 1/2" iron rebar found marking the northwest corner of Lot 67 of Chestnut Hill, Part 1D as referenced in Plat Cabinet "E" at slide 141B and 142A and as recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Madison County at Canton, Mississippi and thence run North 52 degrees 46 minutes 44 seconds West for a distance of 2,014.07 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar set; thence run North 18 degrees 40 minutes 38 seconds East for a distance of 518.30 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar set and also being the Point of Beginning of the tract herein described:

From the POINT OF BEGINNING thence continue North 18 degrees 40 minutes 38 seconds East for a distance of 50.00 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar set; thence run along a curve to the left with the following data: Chord Bearing of South 76 degrees 33 minutes 00 seconds East, Chord Length of 227.74 feet, Radius of 1,245.92 feet, Arc Length of 228.06 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar set; thence run South 05 degrees 01 minutes 39 seconds West for a distance of 50.07 feet to a 1/2" iron rebar set; thence run along a curve to the left with the following data: Chord Bearing of North 76 degrees 36 minutes 42 seconds West, Chord Length of 239.63 feet, Radius of 1,245.92 feet, Arc Length of 239.97 feet back to the POINT OF BEGINNING and being 0.27 acres (11,700 square feet), more or less.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Madison County, MS, will meet at 9 a.m. on August 10, 2023, at the Madison County Complex Building, in the Board Room, located at 125 West North Street, Canton, Madison County, MS to consider and act upon the petition, and will at such time, date and place, hold and conduct a public hearing at which all parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard on the matter of the petition, either in person, by petition, or by attorney.

BY ORDER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, on this the 1st day of July 2023

/s/Scott Weeks, Zoning Administrator  
Publish: July 20, 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Paul Hopper has filed a petition with the Board of Supervisors of Madison County, MS, to request a Rezoning on property, pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of Madison County, Mississippi, to amend the Zoning Maps adopted pursuant thereto, by rezoning A-1 Agricultural to a C-2 Commercial District, to-wit:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Paul Hopper  
0.94 Acres +/-  
Part of Section 7, T-8-N, R-1-E  
Madison County, MS

Begin at a set 1/2 inch rebar 4723.27 feet North of and 3798.15 feet West of a found 1/2 inch rebar at the Southeast corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 7, Township 8 North, Range 1 East, Madison County, Mississippi;  
From said point run South 58 degrees 21 minutes 46 seconds West for a distance of 209.90 feet to a found 1/4 inch rebar;  
Thence run South 58 degrees 14 minutes 40 seconds West for a distance of 1.23 feet to a point on the West line of Section 7;  
Thence run North 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East along said Section line for a distance of 308.42 feet to a point;  
Thence run South 74 degrees 51 minutes 54 seconds East for a distance of 186.66 feet to a set 1/2 inch rebar;  
Thence run South 00 degrees 10 minutes 02 seconds West for a distance of 148.93 feet back to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

This tract contains 0.94 acres more or less, located in the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 7, Township 8 North, Range 1 East, Madison County, Mississippi.  
The above description is based off plat of survey by Williams, Clark, and Morrison, Inc., dated June 16th, 2023.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Madison County, MS, will meet at 9 a.m. on August 10, 2023, at the Madison County Complex Building, in the Board Room, located at 125 West North Street, Canton, Madison County, MS to consider and act upon the petition, and will at such time, date and place, hold and conduct a public hearing at which all parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard on the matter of the petition, either in person, by petition, or by attorney.

BY ORDER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, on this the 1st day of July 2023.

/s/Scott Weeks, Zoning Administrator  
Publish: July 20, 2023

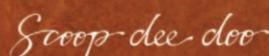


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**BUSINESS**

# Club Champion now open at Renaissance

By STAFF REPORTS  
news@onlinemadison.com

RIDGELAND — Custom golf club fitter Club Champion recently opened its new fitting studio, located at Renaissance at Colony Parkway. The store is open and accepting fitting appointments. This is Club Champion's first location in the state.

Club Champion fits, sells, and builds custom golf clubs using brands like Callaway, TaylorMade, Ping, Titleist, Cobra, Fujikura, Golf Pride, and many more. The company delivers a Tour-level fitting that produces longer, more accurate shots with a nearly 100 percent satisfaction rate for golfers of any ability level.

The new studio features three indoor hitting bays with TrackMan launch monitors for analyzing performance, a SAM PuttLab system to find the perfect putter, and a build shop for repairing and assembling golf

clubs by hand. The roughly 3,000 square foot space also includes a demo matrix to display the head and shaft options that make up their 65,000 hit-table combinations.

"Ridgeland is the first stop in Mississippi on our quest to give golfers the best possible custom golf clubs in the industry," said Nick Sherburne, founder of Club Champion.

"Our goal remains finding the best combination of components to help customers lower their scores and better enjoy the game.

"Many players think they aren't good enough to be custom fit, but we've participated in multiple third-party studies that showed higher handicappers saw the biggest gains," added Sherburne.

The studio is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit clubchampion.com.



Club Champion offers fitting, in addition to custom builds.

## Holmes holds pinning ceremony for nurses

By STAFF REPORTS  
news@onlinemadison.com

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a pinning ceremony for the Practical Nursing Class of 2023 on June 29 at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison where two Madison County residents were honored.

Fourteen students were honored. The graduating class included Colton Alexander of Lena, Brianna Beamon of Ridgeland, Brian Burrough of Bentonia, Ikeyonia Davidson of Clinton, Shea Harris of Yazoo City, Gracie Johnson of Brandon, Kalyon Jones of Benton, Robin Liddell of Clinton, U'kilah McKinley of Itta Bena, Kimberly Rushing of Clinton, Victoria Rushton of Canton, DeAnna Shoulders of Jackson, Demya Watson of Clinton and Jayla White of Byram.

The ceremony began with a professional of the graduates, followed by Burrough, the class vice president, giving the invocation. Following the prayer, Holmes Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham welcomed everyone before Davidson, the class president, shared some remarks.

"First, I give honor to God, who has made all this possible," Davidson said. "Next, I would like to thank all of our families and our friends who aided us in this nursing journey. Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank the Practical Nursing Class of 2023. We did it! We have seen each other at our worst, and we have celebrated with each other at our highest moments. We set out to achieve this goal, and here we are today, living in our moment.

"When we set out on this journey, we had no idea what was ahead for us," Davidson



Pictured, front from left, are Victoria Rushton, U'kilah McKinley, Demya Watson, Kalyon Jones, Ikeyonia Davidson, Brianna Beamon, Colton Alexander (Back) Shea Harris, Jayla White, DeAnna Shoulders, Gracie Johnson, Kimberly Rushing, Brian Burrough and Robyn Liddell.

said. "The late nights, the early mornings and still being active and present for our families. Whatever mountain we have had to climb, it has not been in vain. Being in this moment today and going through these past 10 months should let us know that there is nothing that can stop any of us.

"In conclusion, I'd like to leave an SBAR," Davidson said. "S is for situation. There are 14 ambitious individuals with a common goal in mind: to be amazing nurses who will impact every life they encounter. B is for background. Some are mothers, some are soon-to-be mothers, aunts, sisters, friends and uncles who have devoted 10 months of their lives, sacrificed countless hours of sleep and devoted countless hours studying to be right where we are today, the graduating Class of 2023.

"A is for assessment. My assessment now and will forever be, if God is for you, who can be against you? Psalm 73:26 says, 'My flesh and my heart my fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.' Finally, R is for recommendation. My recommendation is that we continue on this path and follow it

until we have reached all of our goals. I recommend that we take every lesson learned in the classroom and use it to our advantage to be the most competent nurses in our respected fields. Keep God first, and always remember that your dreams should stay big, and your worries should stay small. Work for a cause, not for applause. Thank you."

Following Davidson's remarks, nursing instructor Dr. Lakesia Sutton stepped up to introduce the speaker, Priscilla Burks, Ph.D., the director of Practical Nursing Education for the Mississippi Board of Nursing. Burks oversees the PN curriculum in Mississippi's community and proprietary colleges and governs the state's PN programs. She has more than 20 years of experience in nursing education and administration, including time as the Dean of Nursing and PN director for community colleges.

"Administrators, practical nursing faculty, staff, family, friends and the Practical Nursing 2023 summer graduates, I want to say, congratulations," Burks said. "I am humbled to participate in one of the most historical parts of your nursing journey: your pinning ceremony.

ny. What an accomplishment! A survey a few years ago deemed nursing as one of the most challenging programs to complete and you have survived it! The struggle may have been real, but the reward is worth it.

"According to the Gallup poll, for more than 20 years, nursing has been ranked as one of the most trusted professions of honesty. When you're in a position of trust, you hold a great deal of power. With that power comes great responsibility. You have an obligation to live up to the trust that has been placed upon you. You will be there for patients and their families when they are at their most vulnerable. How you act, the words you speak, the time you spend with that patient and their family can change their lives forever. As Maya Angelou stated, 'I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.'

"Nursing is a fabulous career with more opportunities than you will ever imagine," Burks said. "Being a nurse means that you will forever be learning and growing. Follow your heart, set goals and take advantage of opportunities when they are presented to you. Most of all, remember to be flexible. For those of you in the audience who are inspired by this amazing group of graduates, it's never too late to step out in faith and cease the moment.

"In closing, practical nursing graduates, I'd like to offer you some advice," Burks said. "Show gratitude. You wouldn't be here today without the support of your family and friends, whether that be support financially, emotionally, spiritually...provided a shoulder for you to cry on as you prepared for finals, interceded in prayer on your behalf...show gratitude. Remain humble; humility is an indication of your inner strength. No task is beneath you and everyone on the team is important. Challenge yourself. There are going to be times of uncertainty, but trust in yourself and know that the PN faculty have prepared you to achieve greatness. Possess integrity. Learn from your mistakes and become a better person as a result. Take care of yourself. Always, always, always remember what it was like to be a student and encourage the next generation of nurses."

After Burks' address, nursing instructor Heather Roberts approached the podium to present awards. Liddell was named valedictorian for having the highest GPA in her class, Jones was named salutatorian for having the second highest GPA and Watson was named the class historian for having the third highest. Additionally, Liddell was named Practical Nursing Student of the Year for her excellence in academics and leadership. After the awards presentation, Dr. Sutton called the students to the stage one-by-one to receive their certificates and pins. Dr. Burnham and Career Technical Coordinator Allison DeWeese presented certificates before Roberts pinned each student.

For more information about the Holmes Practical Nursing program, contact Career Technical Counselor Jovonna Parker at (601) 605-3355 or jparker@holmescc.edu.

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Madison County School District  
Combined Budget  
For the year ending - June 30, 2024  
Date Board Approved - June 5, 2023

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Debt Service	Permanent Trust	Total
<b>Revenues</b>						
Local Sources	81,382,684.58	3,627,000.00	0.00	9,500,000.00	0.00	94,509,684.58
Intermediate Sources	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
State Sources	80,277,009.21	1,834,259.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	82,111,268.21
Federal Sources	0.00	13,054,828.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,054,828.20
Sixteenth Section Sources	933,997.99	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	44,980.00	984,977.99
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>162,593,691.78</b>	<b>18,522,087.20</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>9,500,000.00</b>	<b>44,980.00</b>	<b>190,660,758.98</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>						
Instruction	95,385,330.90	8,905,741.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	104,291,072.16
Support Services	63,923,176.59	5,708,232.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	69,631,408.82
Noninstructional Services	0.00	7,660,311.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,660,311.05
Sixteenth Section	216,251.41	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	241,251.41
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	0.00	0.00	69,597,532.46	0.00	0.00	69,597,532.46
Debt Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Principal	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,868,138.24	0.00	5,868,138.24
Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,891,996.02	0.00	1,891,996.02
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,710,150.00	0.00	2,710,150.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>159,524,758.90</b>	<b>22,299,284.54</b>	<b>69,597,532.46</b>	<b>10,470,284.26</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>261,891,860.16</b>
<b>Excess(Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures</b>	<b>3,068,932.88</b>	<b>(3,777,197.34)</b>	<b>(69,597,532.46)</b>	<b>(970,284.26)</b>	<b>44,980.00</b>	<b>(71,231,101.18)</b>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>						
Sale of Other Property	1,250,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,250,000.00
Indirect Costs	622,394.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	622,394.97
Other Transfers In	21,510,290.79	4,103,354.82	18,600,000.00	0.00	0.00	44,213,645.61
Indirect Costs Transfers Out	0.00	622,394.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	622,394.97
Other Transfers Out	44,249,719.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	44,249,719.61
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<b>(20,867,033.85)</b>	<b>3,480,959.85</b>	<b>18,600,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,213,926.00</b>
<b>Net Change in Fund Balances</b>	<b>(17,798,100.97)</b>	<b>(296,237.49)</b>	<b>(50,997,532.46)</b>	<b>(970,284.26)</b>	<b>44,980.00</b>	<b>(70,017,175.18)</b>
<b>Fund Balances / Retained Earnings</b>						
July 1, 2023	54,121,468.12	4,801,718.35	66,297,532.46	5,913,655.26	2,286,021.86	133,420,396.05
June 30, 2024	36,323,367.15	4,505,480.86	15,300,000.00	4,943,371.00	2,331,001.86	63,403,220.87

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“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”  
 — 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

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“Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.”  
 — Proverbs 27:1 (ESV)

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 — John 3:16 (NIV)

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Getting the Message/Rev. Chris Shelton

Daniel's humility before God

Daniel chapter four is a lesson in the necessity of humility before God. Pride lifts up the heart of man above God and against God and without God. Proverbs 16:5 says, “Every proud heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured that none shall go unpunished.”

King Nebuchadnezzar learned this lesson. The king “was at ease in his house and prospering in his palace” (Daniel 4:4). Then he had a dream that unnerved him. Daniel came to him and interpreted the dream. The dream meant that the king was going to be reduced to literally living like a beast eating grass, unless he humbled himself before God.

The king was shaken by the dream and the interpretation, but a year later, he was walking on the roof of his palace and while viewing the majesty of the city said, “Is this not great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?” The sentence from heaven sounded in response to the proud heart, and the king became insane, eating grass like a beast of the field.

One of the main points of the passage is that God rules over the kingdoms of men. God's judgment on King Nebuchadnezzar was until he learned that “the Most High rules the kingdoms of men, and gives it to whom he will” (verses 17, 25, 32). It is a lesson we all must learn. There is only one God and he is sovereign over the rulers of this world.

In chapter 2, Daniel revealed that a ruler from God would come and establish a kingdom that would destroy all the kingdoms of men and last forever. This future kingdom pointed to the coming of Christ into the world. That is the kingdom we must seek after. King Nebuchadnezzar was a mighty king, but he exalted himself above God. There is no future to any who walk that way, no matter their title.

God is making clear to us that He uses rulers, good or bad, wise or foolish, for His own ends. It was by God's purpose that wicked and foolish men put Christ Jesus to death on the cross. They meant it for evil, God meant it for good.

God doesn't infuse malice or evil in

rulers, but finding it there, He uses it for His own particular ends and purposes, much like a man finds a river, and then diverts the streams from it for his own ends. Because men are sinful, the less restraint a sinful man has upon him as a ruler, the worse he will be. Richard Sibbes said it was the mercy of God to a country to have restraints on a ruler, whether it be conscience, other rulers, or a lack of power. The founders of this country had enough wisdom to put checks and balances with three different branches of government, to restrain power.

As Christians we are told to honor and pray for whoever is in authority over us, whether good or bad. The main reason to pray for and give honor to those in positions of rule over us is because God tells us it is His will. Leaders need God's help and restraining hand. This passage instructs us not to give undue weight to human governments. We desire good for our country, but don't place it above God.

Another important point of the passage is that it is the kindness of God that leads a person to repentance. King Nebuchadnezzar was restored to sanity and he became a humble worshipper of the Most High God (verses 34-37). He says of God, “Those who walk in pride, he is able to humble.”

All men are vain. It is the worst sin because it blinds us to our condition before God. It's a false mirror. It makes a person see himself as better than he is. The passage teaches us that pride turns men into beasts. Beware of it in yourself. God shows his love for us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Here, then, is the remedy to beastly pride.

It was a great mercy to the king that God afflicted him. It is better to eat grass like a beast and be led to repentance, than live like a king and perish. Those who perish are those who have never been low enough. If we have been reconciled to God by grace, then our heart and mouth, like King Nebuchadnezzar, shall proclaim the Lord's praise. John Boys said, “As death is the last enemy, so pride is the last sin destroyed in us.” Sanity in the mind is never apart from grace in the soul.

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 — Proverbs 16:3 (ESV)

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“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.”  
 — 1 Peter 3:8 (ESV)



*Principals ready for the school year*

You will soon hear the rumble of school busses, and homework will resume! It is time for back to school in Madison County Schools. We look forward to welcoming students back to the Jaguar zone on August 3. Featured are your Jaguar principals: Teague Burchfield (MCHS), Marsha People (EFE), Kim Brewer (RS), Brittany Hammett (MAUE), Kara Davis (MSE), Melissa Phillely (MAE), and Douglas Jones (MMS). Go mighty, Jags!



*Hunsicker awarded DAR medal*

At the recent Civil Air Patrol Awards Ceremony, Rachel Jacobson Annandale Chapter National Defense Chairman was honored to present the Daughters of the American Revolution National Defense Silver Medal to Cadet Technical Sgt. Alexis Hunsicker. Pictured are Cadet Technical Sgt. Alexis Hunsicker and Rachel Jacobson.



*Hathorn wins essay contest*

Madison Middle School 8th grader, Landon Hathorn was the Annandale Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution 8th grade American History Essay contest winner. Debbie Cannon Annandale Chapter American History Chapter Chairman presented Landon with his certificate and medal at the May 16, 2023, 8th Grade Awards Ceremony.



*Bridges receives Youth Citizenship Award*

Blaine Bridges received the Annandale Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution DAR Youth Citizenship Award & Medal for the 7th grade at the Madison Middle School Seventh Grade Awards Ceremony. Annandale DAR Good Citizen Chairman, Debbie Cannon presented the certificate and medal.

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