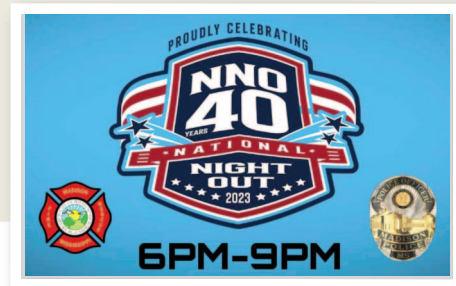


BUSINESS
ISRAELI CONSUL
TOURS METRO
Economic development — See page, A2

MADISON
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
SET FOR OCT. 3
Community engagement — See page, A3



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MADISON COUNTY JOURNAL

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\$4 MILLION GROWTH IN VALUE

County budget increases with no tax hike

By **MICHAEL SIMMONS**
msimmons@onlinemadison.com

Madison County will have a budget that exceeds \$200 million for the first time in history, County Administrator Greg Higginbotham told supervisors on Monday before the board adopted the

new budget.

Last year's budget was about \$149 million. The county's millage rate of 38.13 mills remains unchanged, meaning no tax increase, except for those living in the Southwest Madison County Fire Protection District, which received a slight

bump.

Higginbotham said the fire district board asked for the increase so that full-time staff could be hired in an attempt to lower the district's fire rating and provide faster response time.

The new year's budget includes millions in federal

and state funds that are allocated for specific projects.

The county's general fund increased by \$4 million from \$62 million to \$66 million.

"There are some slight raises for employees outside of the Sheriff's Office," the county administrator told supervisors, noting the cost

for that is about \$400,000.

County employees making less than \$50,000 per year will receive a 5-percent increase, while those making above \$50,000 will receive a 3-percent increase.

The Sheriff's Department is implementing its second year of pay increases that

reward longevity as opposed to blanket raises.

"It's always a challenge," Board President Gerald Steen said of the budget. "Everybody's wanting this and wanting that. We've done an excellent job with our pay raises. Inflation is very high."

BUDGET

Gluckstadt employees to see raises on merit

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

GLUCKSTADT — The city's proposed budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 has no new taxes and a proposed merit-based pay raise for city employees.

Aldermen held a special meeting and public hearing on Sep. 5 and voted unanimously not to raise the ad valorem tax rate.

Gluckstadt is currently operating with a projected total revenue of \$7,059,386, with 19 percent (or \$1,338,600) obtained through ad valorem taxes.

The new budget has a total projected revenue of \$6,527,141, and 22.2 percent (or \$1,448,900) is proposed to be from ad valorem taxes.

The city's decision not to increase the millage rate means residents will not pay more in ad valorem taxes on their homes, automobile tags, utilities, business fixtures and equipment, and rental real property unless the assessed value of their property has increased for the fiscal year. FY 2023 ends for Gluckstadt on Sep. 30.

See **RAISES**, page A3

DNA TEST

Officials try to identify man killed in crash

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

The victim of a fiery Aug. 17 crash on I-55 has yet to be identified as officials await DNA testing results.

State and local officials are still working to identify the victim of the one-vehicle accident that occurred between Ridgeland and Madison.

Investigators have submitted a DNA sample to the State Medical Examiner's office for positive identification, Deputy Medical Examiner for Madison County Joel Shows said.

Shows said the sample came from a presumed family member to ensure a positive identification. Shows said he does not know when his office expects to receive a result from the state office.

"We hope to hear back soon so we can bring this case to a close," Shows said.

The victim is believed to be a male, according to Shows.

The crash happened at
See **CRASH**, page A3

chipotle in madison



Construction on the new Chipotle restaurant on Grandview Boulevard is going smoothly. The city broke ground on the restaurant in February and it is estimated to open to the public in late summer or early fall. It

is one of two Chipotle locations in Madison County, with the other located in Ridgeland on E. County Line Road across from the Hilton.

Madison swimmer recognized by board

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

Madison's Brooklyn Gallagher was recognized Tuesday night for her accomplishments in the 2023 Mississippi Swimming Long Course State Championship in July.

Gallagher, a senior at Madison Central, competes for the Mississippi Makos Swim Team and helped the team capture its 12th state title this year, along with earning several first and second-place wins during the state meet.

Gallagher took first place in the 400-meter individual medley, 200-meter butterfly, and 200-meter breaststroke in Tupelo. She also took second place in the 200-meter individual medley, 100-meter breaststroke, and 50-meter freestyle. She also placed sixth in the 100-meter backstroke and earned a combined 124 points for her team.

Madison Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler kicked off the Sep. 5 meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen by presenting Gallagher with a certificate.

"We have a celebrity in the house," Hawkins-Butler said. "Brooklyn is our state champion and has represented our state and city. She has won three 'best in state' titles and is recognized as an 'overall state high point winner for girls.' We want to congratulate you, and we tell all the little Jags to dream big, never



quit, and always make sure to pray. We love you." Gallagher is originally from California and moved to Madison about three years ago. Her mother, Monica Gallagher, said they are Madison proud and moved to the area for the swim team and the city.

"We started looking at Madison,

and after one visit to this beautiful town, we knew we wanted to call it home," Gallagher said. "We also loved Madison Central's swim program. Both are important to us."

Brooklyn said everything about Madison's great athletes is great because of "Mayor Mary and how she and our city officials make it

here. We were attracted to Madison because of its beauty, the school district, and local sports programs. Their hard work daily for us doesn't go unnoticed and it often attracts great athletes and families to our town."

Brooklyn said everything about Madison's great athletes is great because of "Mayor Mary and how she and our city officials make it



Israeli consul takes economic tour of metro

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

An Israeli official on an economic fact-finding mission met with several state and local officials in a three-day trip last week.

The trip included a meeting with Gov. Tate Reeves, a dinner with economic development officials, and a tour of the University of Mississippi Medical Center and Jackson State University.

The Mississippi Development Authority partnered with Anat Sultan-Dadon, the Consul General of Israel to the Southeastern United States, in organizing the official visit. Sultan-Dadon said she and her staff received a "warm welcome" in the Hospitality State.

"This visit has reaffirmed the warmth and enthusiasm that characterize the relations between Israel and Mississippi," Sultan-Dadon said of her visit. "The shared commitment to progress and partnership is truly inspiring."

The visit began on the



Pictured, from left, are Vickie Watters, Director, International Trade Office, MDA; Karen Isenberg Jones, Director of Government Affairs, consulate general of Israel to the Southeastern United States; Laura Hipp, MDA Deputy Director & Chief Economic Development Officer; Tameka Jenkins, CECD, Executive Director · Hinds County Economic Development Authority; Gabby Nuzzo, Senior Vice President of Economic Development Greater Jackson Chamber; Anat Sultan-Dadon, Consul General of Israel to the Southeastern United States; Mississippi State Senator John Horhn; Regina Todd, Assistant Director, Rankin First Economic Development; Pablo Diaz, President & CEO, Vicksburg Warren County Partnership; Christian Lockamy, MDA Deputy Chief Economic Development Officer; Luigi Dominighini, Senior Trade Manager, International; and Joey Deason, Executive Director Madison County Economic Development Authority.

Gulf Coast and ended Wednesday, Aug. 30, in Jackson.

During her visit to Jackson Sultan-Dadon held meetings with economic developers, elected officials, and acad-

emic institutions.

This included a Tuesday evening dinner with about a dozen MDA officials, representatives of the business community, Madison County Economic Development

Authority Executive Director Joey Deason and other economic development officials from throughout the state.

As to what specific projects may result from this visit, Sultan-Dadon said, "That will be up to the private sector in Israel," but she did note that during the dinner she was informed of the

opportunities in Madison County including at the Madison County MegaSite and the land that will open up as the Reunion Parkway extension over I-55 begins construction. She said that was part of "an exciting time of growth" she was shown during her visit.

Sultan-Dadon said she hoped to organize a future visit to Israel for Mississippi officials as well as foster future relationships between the state and her home country whether those ties be economic or academic.

"We want to show Israelis what Mississippi has to offer and it has a lot to offer," she said.

Her visits to Jackson included Jackson State University, COFO Civil Rights Education Center, the University of Mississippi Medical Center, The Mississippi History Museum and Museum of Civil Rights, and the Beth Israel Congregation.

Discussions revolved around identifying opportunities for collaboration in trade, investment, and education, reinforcing the shared interests and ties between Israel and Mississippi, Sultan-

Dadon's office said in a press release.

The highlight of the visit, according to Sultan-Dadon, was an audience with Gov. Reeves, in which the Consul General was honored with a special proclamation marking Israel's 75th Independence Day.

"It was my pleasure to welcome Israeli Consul General Anat Sultan-Dadon to Mississippi," said Governor Tate Reeves. "I enjoyed discussing economic development and how we can further improve the lives of our citizens. For almost 75 years, our countries have worked together as close allies, and I look forward to making Mississippi's partnership with Israel even stronger over the coming years."

In remembrance of the presentation, Sultan-Dadon said, "As we celebrate Israel's 75th Independence and 75 years of robust relations between Israel and the United States, we look forward to further strengthening the bonds that unite us and exploring new avenues for mutually beneficial collaboration."

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Madison's 'National Night Out' set for Oct. 3

By JOHN LEE
john@onlinemadison.com

MADISON — Police fire officials are teaming up for "National Night Out" this fall to meet the community on a more personal level by listening to different neighborhoods and teaching residents the ins and outs of the city's first responders.

NNO is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer and more caring places to live. The event was established

by Matt Peskin in the western suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and has been held annually since 1984. In the United States, the event is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. It began simply with neighbors turning on their porch lights and sitting in front of their homes, and involved 2.5 million residents across 400 communities in 23 states.

NNO is typically held on the first Tuesday in August and October, and MPD chose October due to the cooler weather.

Lt. Micah Taylor, who oversees traffic division and

special events for MPD, said NNO enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community, along with providing a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

"Events like NNO give us both the chance to listen to different neighborhood problems ranging from speeding and running stop signs," Taylor said. "And yes, there's even crime in Madison."

Taylor said MPD is teaming up with the Madison Fire Department to bring resources out to each neigh-

borhood, such as patrol cars, motorcycles, K-9s, fire engines and rescue trucks.

"For each neighborhood that is participating, the scheduling will be released as the date gets closer and plans are finalized," Taylor said.

Madison Police Chief Gene Waldrop said MPD is looking forward to spending the night out meeting residents.

"It's a good exchange of information from them to us and us getting a feel for these communities and what they see as issues," Waldrop said. "Our officers enjoy it and we have a good time with our

community. It's open to all subdivisions in Madison, but it comes down to whether their HOA is open to participate."

Waldrop said the department is making arrangements to stop at all participating subdivisions to teach residents about what MPD does.

"We go into safety issues with all the subdivisions and tell them what we do," he said. "We'll have motorcycles out there along with K-9s and such, as we'll have a good time. Some subdivisions have hamburger cook-

outs and ice cream socials for this, they'll have things for kids to do, and more. It's a good time to be out to mingle with our folks."

The date this year for NNO is Tuesday, Oct. 3 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. If a neighborhood would like to participate in the event, contact the police department at (601) 856-6111 for more information. MPD will coordinate with the Madison Fire Department on times and locations of each event.

R'land holding line on taxes for 3 decades

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@onlinemadison.com

RIDGELAND — Following a three-decades-long trend, no tax increase is planned here, but city employees, including the Mayor and Board of Alderman, can expect three-percent pay raises following budget approval this week.

Mayor Gene F. McGee said he is pleased with the FY 2024 budget and is excited to see it put into effect after Aldermen approved the proposed budget unanimously in a 7-0 vote at Tuesday's regular city board meeting.

"I think our department heads did a really good job being conservative but ensuring that we continue to offer the high-quality services that make this city so great for our residents and our guests," McGee said.

Specifically, McGee said he was pleased that city employees would receive a three-percent pay raise.

"You just don't get to do that every year," McGee said.

The last two budgets have featured five-percent pay raises for city employees.

Ward 1 Alderman Ken Heard noted that he would be exempt from the raise at his request.

City Clerk Paula Tierce



A host of Ridgeland residents attended Tuesday night's board meeting.

presented the proposed budget, which runs at 156 pages, to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen during a public hearing on Aug. 22. The approved FY 2024 budget projects revenues at \$29,645,835 and expenditures at \$32, 544,751.28.

Tierce noted that these estimates represent conservative forecasts specifically for revenues. She also noted the

expected end-of-year general fund balance will be about a \$21,205,039 surplus.

This puts the projected percentage of ending balance over total expenditures at 65.16 percent.

The board voted unanimously at the first meeting in September to levy tax millage at 11.27 for the general fund and 8.76 for the debt service fund and a total of

20.03 mills. McGee noted that is the same millage the board has levied for more than 30 years and has been a point of pride for his administration year after year.

McGee noted that the city of Ridgeland has not raised taxes since he has been at the helm since 1989.

The FY 2023 Fiscal Year ends on Sept. 30 and the new year begins on Oct. 1.

Crash

Continued from page A1

about 9 a.m. Madison Police Capt. Kevin Newman said at the time that "Due to the condition of the driver's remains as a result of the post-accident fire," the official identification has not been made.

Newman said MPD received a 911 call regarding a gray passenger car traveling southbound in the northbound lanes of Interstate 55 in the

Madison city limits.

A few minutes later, the Ridgeland Police Department received a 911 call that a gray passenger car crashed into the trees on the west side of the southbound lanes near mile marker 107 at the Madison Avenue exit, Newman said.

"Once emergency personnel arrived on scene," Newman said. "the vehicle was already fully engulfed in flames."

The Madison Fire Department was on the scene to begin rescue efforts and extinguish the fire.

"Despite their best efforts," Newman said. "The driver of

the vehicle was pronounced deceased."

Authorities say the vehicle was only occupied by the driver and there were no other vehicles involved in the accident.

"The Madison Police

Department would like to thank the Ridgeland Police Department, Ridgeland Fire Department and Madison Fire Department for their prompt response and assistance on scene," Newman said.

Raises

Continued from page A1

Gluckstadt Mayor Walter C. Morrison IV said he expects city employees to get a merit-based pay increase during FY24 due to their hard work and to counteract inflation.

"Gluckstadt has the best employees around and all of

them deserve a pay increase in an effort to combat inflation," Morrison said. "It is my hope that in FY24, the city will be in a position to give all of our employees merit-based raises because they deserve it. Given the inflation situation, they are making less money now than when they were hired."

Morrison said the FY23-24 budget will be voted on during next week's regular meeting on Sep. 12.

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Opinion & Editorials

CAL THOMAS

Illegal immigration a big issue

It can be difficult to establish the motives of government leaders unless they are told to us outright or unless a pattern of behavior allows us to draw conclusions consistent with that behavior.

The wave of migrants crossing America's southern border illegally and the Biden administration's refusal to do what is necessary to stop them (as in building the wall) was first defended as a humanitarian effort to help people who were fleeing from dictatorships and violence in their home countries. Most traveled from Mexico, Central America and increasingly South America, but more recently from scores of countries as far away as China and Africa.

American compassion was displayed as volunteers went to the border to assist with housing, food and transportation to cities around the country. Soon the flow became uncontrollable.

The Biden administration has consistently and erroneously claimed the border is closed and under control, while video shows otherwise. State and city leaders who had declared "sanctuary cities" and "sanctuary states" for migrants are now pleading for federal help as many — especially in New York City and upstate — are running out of space and money to care for them.

Roughly 100,000 migrants have come to New York's five boroughs, forcing Mayor Eric Adams to come up with emergency shelters, the New York Post reports.

According to the Federation for American Immigration Reform, "Despite the happy talk coming out of the Biden administration, claiming that their policies have

The wave of migrants crossing America's southern border illegally and Biden's refusal to do anything is an issue for the 2024 campaign.

reduced illegal immigration, the July Customs and Border Protection (CBP) data show precisely the opposite. Overall, CBP encounters in July were 245,286, up from 238,929 in July 2022. Even Southwest Border encounters between ports of entry - which had been artificially reduced because the administration has been massively abusing its parole authority to allow many inadmissible aliens to enter - rose sharply in July, even as temperatures soared into the triple digits.

"By every metric, illegal immigration increased last month - at the Southwest border, the Northern border, unaccompanied children, family units and single adults. In the 30 months that President Biden has been in office, there have been 6.9 million CBP encounters and 1.7 million known gotaways." In 2022, the Border Patrol reported "98 encounters with people on the U.S. government's terrorist watchlist along the southwest border." Those people "were stopped by border agents, and did not escape into the U.S."

What if they had escaped? What if some migrants are criminals, gang members, or drug smugglers?

Schools in some areas are being challenged to come up with space and sufficient foreign language speakers to teach migrant children. How does this affect how teachers educate young Americans who speak English?

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican presidential candidate, took a hard-line position in last week's GOP debate, saying that as president, he would detain and deport all who have entered the country illegally.

The public is beginning to push back as hotels, parks and other facilities have been taken over by the migrants. Protesters have shown up at the home of Mayor Adams, who once declared New York a sanctuary city where migrants are welcome.

Now, he and his state are going to spend an estimated \$4 billion this coming year housing and feeding "the nearly 55,000 asylum seekers still in the city's care."

And more are coming. A rally last Monday on Staten Island drew more than 400 people protesting the decision to turn a shuttered Catholic school into a migrant shelter.

As to motivation, there is talk about getting the migrants work permits. With them, they can vote in New York municipal elections.

Does anyone see a pattern here? With the right to vote, migrants could vote for the politicians who promise to give them more stuff.

And then there's the possibility that laws would be changed so that migrants can vote in federal elections. Wouldn't this ensure that Democrats stay in power?

Should this be an issue in the 2024 presidential campaign? You bet it should.

Cal Thomas is a syndicated columnist and a veteran of TV and radio news. For 19 years he worked for the Fox News channel.

MADISON COUNTY JOURNAL

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MICHAEL SIMMONS
Associate Editor & Publisher

EDITORIALS

'Bidenomics' is hurting

Inflation-adjusted average hourly wages, which the Bureau of Labor Statistics adjusts to 1982-1984 dollars, were \$11.39 when President Biden took office. They are now \$11.09, meaning that American workers have seen a 2.6% pay cut since Mr. Biden entered the White House.

As the working class digs into their retirement funds and maxes out their credit cards to pay their bills, they are increasingly tightening their wallets when it comes to discretionary spending. Major retailers from T-Mobile to CVS have announced layoffs in the past month. The number of long-term unemployed Americans increased in July by 59,000, with 4 million working part time to make ends meet.

Since Mr. Biden took office and unleashed unprecedented levels of federal spending, inflation has risen 16.9%, costing the middle class \$2.4 trillion since March 2022. Blue-collar Americans have lost more than \$33,000 in real wealth in just the past year, with 61% of Americans living from paycheck to paycheck.

On Labor Day, 61% of Americans are less likely to travel because of higher costs on everything from the grocery store to the gas pump. More than 85% plan on implementing money-saving measures to celebrate the holiday. Those who choose to eat out will pay, on average, 7.1% more than last year.

This is as Mr. Biden tours the country — between vacations — touting what he considers his economic accomplishments, proudly dubbing them "Bidenomics."

On Labor Day, 61% of Americans are less likely to travel because of higher costs on everything from the grocery store to the gas pump. More than 85% plan on implementing money-saving measures to celebrate the holiday. Those who choose to eat out will pay, on average, 7.1% more

than last year.

This is as Mr. Biden tours the country — between vacations — touting what he considers his economic accomplishments, proudly dubbing them "Bidenomics."

The Federal Reserve has raised interest rates 11 times since March 2022; rates are at their highest levels in 22 years. First-time homebuyers have been pushed out of the housing market because of rising interest rates. Starter home price increases are outpacing wage gains.

With federal student loan repayment resuming in October, pressure on American workers will continue, and retail sales will likely continue to be depressed.

Mr. Biden claims he's building the economy from "the middle out and the bottom up." Yet his rampant spending of taxpayer money has only made America poorer.

It wasn't too long ago, under a Republican administration, that gas prices were \$2.38 a gallon, the inflation rate was 1.3%, and the interest on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage was 2.77%.

Median household incomes for Black, Hispanic and Asian Americans hit record highs in 2019. According to the Council of Economic Advisers, "the poverty rate fell to an all-time record low for every race and ethnic group in 2019."

The child poverty rate was at a 50-year low. Paychecks were growing faster than inflation, with average weekly earnings for all workers up 8.7%.

Tax cuts reduced federal spending, and regulations are the recipe for success in making America richer.

Mr. Biden's policies are the antithesis. It will be up to the American public — and their wallets — to vote him out of office in 2024.

— *The Washington Times*

Global warming doomsayers

As noted by the inestimable Roger Pielke, the IPCC had realized by 2021 that "there is still no consensus on the relative magnitude of human and natural influences on past changes in Atlantic hurricane activity, and particularly on which factor has dominated the observed increase and it remains uncertain whether past changes in Atlantic [tropical cyclone] activity are outside the range of natural variability."

As for the frequency of hurricanes, NOAA's former chief scientist, Ryan Maue, charted the incidence of hurricanes worldwide. His effort revealed the number of hurricanes has gone up and down a bit over time, but there is no discernible trend other than that the last few years have ranked near the bottom with respect to the number of major hurricanes.

Hurricane Idalia made landfall in Florida on Wednesday, as Hurricane Franklin threatens to stir the Atlantic.

That's a sure sign we are about to be inundated with another tidal wave of climate hyperventilation from television news anchors and political pundits.

The best defense against this sort of "climate change" onslaught is not deploying sandbags but rather a healthy dose of following the science.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in May provided an important observation about hurricane season: "We conclude that the historical Atlantic hurricane data at this stage do not provide compelling evidence for a substantial greenhouse warming-induced century-scale increase in: frequency of tropical storms, hurricanes, or major hurricanes, or in the proportion of hurricanes that become major hurricanes."

Simply put, there isn't a lot of evidence that hurricanes in the Atlantic are getting

more frequent or more powerful because of climate change. Or, as NOAA's researchers explained, "it is premature to conclude with high confidence that human-caused increases in greenhouse gases have caused a change in past Atlantic basin hurricane activity that is outside the range of natural variability."

NOAA's work was done by the same team that laid the foundation for the conclusions in the recent United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group on tropical cyclones and hurricanes.

As for the frequency of hurricanes in the United States, it is interesting to note that President Franklin Roosevelt presided over the most hurricanes making landfall on our shores, though this is primarily because he served the longest.

Measuring by the highest average number of hurricanes per year produces a tie between Presidents William Howard Taft and Donald Trump. President Barack Obama presided over the lowest average number of hurricanes that made landfall in the lower 48.

It would be a challenge to blame the relative handful of Model T's and Wright Flyers for the abundance of hurricanes during the Taft administration, while explaining how the proliferation of SUVs and jet travel could coincide with Mr. Obama's period of good fortune.

But that's the thing about climate fear-mongering. It's not rooted in a desire to understand nature's awesome power; it's rooted in a desire to advance a political agenda.

As the hysteria surrounding the dueling hurricanes reaches its peak, rest assured that the Category 5 onslaught of climate alarmism has nothing to do with science.

— *The Washington Times*

CHARLES HURT

Trump vs. 'American Carnage'

For as long as anyone can remember, politics in America has been a game of charades.

Generally speaking, there are two parties. Adversaries from those two parties get elected by voters based on promises they make to solve problems that matter to those voters. The elected adversaries gather in Washington to make laws that govern voters and spend money they take from voters.

The issues these adversaries fight about in Washington today — spending, wars, welfare, crime, Social Security, illegal immigration, abortion — are pretty much the same issues they have been fighting about for decades. To keep voters distracted, they occasionally make up new issues like the weather, or they change the name of an issue, such as when they talk about "gun control" instead of "crime."

The only thing you can rely on these elected adversaries for — year after year — is never to solve any of the problems they have been promising to fix for the past 50 years. And yet — year after year — they make new laws governing your life and take more of your money to not solve any of these problems.

Next year, they hope to take your \$2,056,804,000,000 and divide it up as they see fit and call it another year in the books of progress. Some people will get very rich, the government-industrial complex will prosper, politicians will bank huge favors, and a host of new unintended consequences will spread like venereal disease.

The one thing that is certain: None of the problems they promised to solve will be solved. After all, if they did,

Last hope to end Washington's game of charades.

how would they get elected next time?

Washington is where the hopes and dreams of voters go to die. It is where the will of the people is strangled to death. It is where democracy dies in all the bureaucratic cobwebs and clutter.

This is why adversaries in both parties despise Donald Trump so much.

From the moment of his inaugural address, the henchmen of Permanent Washington announced that they would impeach him. Why was that date so important?

Because that was the date they realized for certain that Mr. Trump was not playing their game of charades.

He had run a swashbuckling pirate's campaign for president. He made bold statements and issued clear promises.

Sure, they hated him — but, you know, whatever! He didn't really mean any of it, they told themselves.

Then came his inaugural, when he made perfectly clear that he intended to keep every promise he had on the campaign trail. For him, it was no joke.

Flanked by all of official Washington — where most newly elected presidents come to heel and bend the knee — Mr. Trump excoriated and humiliated them.

"Their victories have not been your victories," he told the American people as Washington seethed in the grandstands behind him. "Their triumphs have not been your tri-

umphs, and while they celebrated in our nation's capital, there was little to celebrate for struggling families all across the land."

And then the lines that cut too deep.

"That all changes starting right here and right now because this moment is your moment. It belongs to you," he said gravely.

"This American carnage stops right here and stops right now."

Mr. Trump may have become famous as a reality television star, but he wasn't going to step out of character just because he arrived in the comfortable confines of Washington's most powerful residence.

And from that moment, they vowed to destroy him.

Some inside Washington now scoff at Mr. Trump for not accomplishing enough of his agenda — which is hilarious if you think about it. None of these people has ever accomplished anything except giving your money to their friends, and then they attack Mr. Trump for not accomplishing more.

For the record, Mr. Trump cleared the path for a robust economy, bolstered domestic energy production, started no new wars, delivered peace in the Middle East and proved to both parties once and for all that it really is possible to seal the southern border.

Which is why they will stop at nothing to destroy him.

Two impeachments, a disputed election and four indictments later, Mr. Trump is still swinging away. And so far, voters are not distracted.

Charles Hurt is the opinion editor at The Washington Times.

BIBLE SELECTION

Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

— 2 Timothy 1:13-14 (ESV)

OBITUARIES

Fletcher Ray

Fletcher Ray was born August 7, 1942, in Canton. At the age of two, his precious grandparents Fletcher and Mary Ray welcomed him into their loving home and the wonderful people of Canton made him feel like he was Canton's little boy.

He graduated from Canton High School and from the John A. Gupton School of Mortuary Science in Nashville. He later served as coroner of Madison County for two terms in the 1970's.

Fletcher began designing flowers at his cousin's shop at age 13, and continued designing at a well-known shop, Emma's, in Nashville while he was in college.

In 1971, he opened Fletcher's Flowers, and later he and Margaret started Memories Catering.

Fletcher was the second Mississippian to be inducted into the American Institute of Floral Design. He was president of the Mississippi Floral Association in 1979 and 1980. He also received the Lifetime Achievement Award in 1998.

For many years, he traveled across the US commentating floral design shows for FTD and Teleflora. He also mentored many other young designers who eventually had businesses of their own.

Fletcher married Margaret Bonds of Newton in 1967, making her family his "forever family." They had three children, Elizabeth, Holmes, and Mary Malcolm. And years later had the privilege of welcoming two new family members into their home, Judy Barksdale and Mike Nelson. Judy and Mike still call them Mom and Dad today.

Fletcher and Margaret's life of Christian service began at the First Presbyterian Church in Canton where Fletcher was a deacon and taught Sunday School. Their journey continued to Canton Christian Center, where they served for many years. Currently, they are members of We Are One in Brandon, MS.

Fletcher is also a member of the Abdullam Men's Prayer Group 9 (1 Samuel 22) in

Madison.

Throughout Fletcher's battles with Multiple Sclerosis and heart disease he was encouraged and supported by the actions of so many – the prayer warriors who faithfully lifted him up, the young men and women who fundraised for the Multiple Sclerosis Society in his honor, the medical professionals who fought alongside him, and all of their friends, family members, and even complete strangers who supported them and wanted to be a part of his journey.

To know Fletcher was to love him. He had an unbreakable spirit, and such a will to live, two qualities that recently prompted one of his doctors to say, "In my 39-years of medical practice, Fletcher is one of two patients who fought the hardest to live." You didn't have to spend much time with Fletcher to realize that he was this way because of the goodness of God. During this past, very-difficult year, these song lyrics helped carry him through.

"In all my life You have been faithful, in all my life You have been so, so good.

With every breath that I am able, I will sing of the goodness of God."

Fletcher Ray is survived by his wife of 55 years, Margaret Bonds Ray, his daughter Elizabeth Ray Gober, her husband Michael Gober, and their daughter Savannah Grace Gober; his son, Fletcher Holmes Ray, IV, and his daughter Hayden Elizabeth Ray; his daughter Mary Malcolm Ray Solomon, her husband Ellis Solomon, and their three girls, Genevieve, Caroline, and Evelyn Solomon; and his son Michael Nelson, his wife Shawn Nelson, their children Katherine and Cory English, Olivia Nelson, and Timothy Nelson. He is also survived by his sister, Patricia Via, of Cabot, Arkansas; his sister Barbara Munos and her husband Jack Munos of Thompson's Station, TN; and his brother Bubba Bonds of Newton, MS; as well as countless loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Robert Copeland Fleming

Robert Copeland Fleming, 93, long-time resident of Wallingford, CT, beloved husband of Oma Lou (Thompson) Fleming, died in his home in Madison on August 24, 2023, surrounded by loved ones.

Bob was born on April 23, 1930, in Wantagh, New York, son of the late Eugene T. Fleming and Marion (Copeland) Fleming.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife, Lou, his four children, seven grandchildren (Matthew, Kristen, Tiffany, Megan, Kate, Alena, and Thomas), five great-grandchildren (Denzel, Damari, Rosie, Lucy, and Wade), as well as three daughters-in law (Gail, Angelica, and Claire). He is predeceased by his siblings (Gene, Betty, and Bill).

The family will hold a private celebration of their beloved husband, father, and grandfather.

Harry Stewart Baldwin, Jr.

Harry Stewart Baldwin, Jr., 81, died Sunday, August 27, 2023, at his home in Canton, MS. Harry was born April 25, 1942, in Winona, MS and his family moved to Canton where he grew up.

A graduate of Canton High School and Auburn University, he worked as a graphic artist in the area before settling in Atlanta. He continued his career at McCann-Erickson where he traveled extensively creating ads for corporate clients. Upon retirement, he returned to Canton. Harry served on the Historical Preservation Commission and Architectural Review Board for several years and was active in historical preservation of the City of Canton.

Harry is survived by his sisters, Sally Baldwin, Sara Albritton (Paul) and his brother, Dick Baldwin (Wanda), all of Canton. He is predeceased by his parents, Harry and Betty Baldwin, and his brother, Mike Baldwin.

A private graveside service will be held at a later date.

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES/J. Ligon Duncan III

Judas sells the Messiah

If you have your Bibles, I'd invite you to turn with me to Matthew 26:14-19. The events recorded here provide the backdrop for the Passover and the Lord's Supper which would occur in a few hours. Although the wickedness of Judah is highlighted here, Matthew is very clear to show us that Jesus is in control. Jesus has prepared and planned for this whole occasion, and though Judas is plotting to deliver Him up, Jesus is in total control. He has planned for it, He has prepared for it, and He moves toward it. There are a couple of sections in the passage. First, in verses 14 – 16, you see Judas making his preparations to betray the Messiah. Secondly, in verses 17 – 19, you see Jesus preparing to share the Lord's Supper with His disciples. I'd like to look at these two parts of the passage.

I. Judas Prepares to Betray Jesus

In verses 14 – 16, Judas makes his preparations to betray Jesus. Two things are of note here.

Firstly, the actions of Judas highlight that having an allegiance to Christ is an essential aspect of saving faith. Judas is perhaps the greatest example of a man unchanged by the grace of the gospel. This man heard the Sermon on the Mount with his own ears. This man saw the miracles of Jesus. He saw the resurrection of Lazarus. He saw the healings. He saw how the Lord Jesus responded with mastery of the word of God to the greatest teachers in the land. He lived with the man, day by day; he saw the perfection of His holiness, and he still betrayed Jesus. In a similar way, you could enjoy a great many privileges. You can sit under great teaching, you can go to great conferences, you can read great books, you can make a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you can still betray Him. You can still be a person unchanged by the grace of the gospel. If that does not scare you, I don't know what will. No man ever had greater advantages than Judas. And yet he betrayed Him. Is that not a warning to us? Do you believe the message of gospel?

Secondly, Judas's traitorous act is a permanent reminder that it is a dire thing to seek the opportunity to sin. To carefully plan to rebel against the living God is a soul-killing thing. That's why the psalmist prays for the Lord to deliver Him from presumptuous sins. When we know the will of God, and we plan to sin against it, there is nothing more soul killing. Judas never recovered from this sin. He never found repentance. We must never, ever take the attitude, "Oh, I can go ahead and plan to do this sin; I can always repent later." Because repentance is a grace. Who are we to say that we will have the grace of repentance when the time comes? Judas is a standing warning against that kind of thinking. Judas goes to Jesus' enemies, and he offers help to entrap Jesus, and he agrees to do this for thirty pieces of silver. For those of you who are in the planning stages of sin, don't do it. Don't take the attitude, "It's easier to ask forgiveness than it is to ask permission." You never know whether you'll be granted the grace of repentance. You don't know whether that sin will be the final straw that breaks the camel's back; and send you down a road from which you'll never return, which will be a road away from God. And that's exactly what Judas reminds us of. He's a man who took a step from which he could never extract himself.

Secondly, Judas's traitorous act is a permanent reminder that it is a dire thing to seek the opportunity to sin. To carefully plan to rebel against the living God is a soul-killing thing. That's why the psalmist prays for the Lord to deliver Him from presumptuous sins. When we know the will of God, and we plan to sin against it, there is nothing more soul killing. Judas never recovered from this sin. He never found repentance. We must never, ever take the attitude, "Oh, I can go ahead and plan to do this sin; I can always repent later." Because repentance is a grace. Who are we to say that we will have the grace of repentance when the time comes? Judas is a standing warning against that kind of thinking. Judas goes to Jesus' enemies, and he offers help to entrap Jesus, and he agrees to do this for thirty pieces of silver. For those of you who are in the planning stages of sin, don't do it. Don't take the attitude, "It's easier to ask forgiveness than it is to ask permission." You never know whether you'll be granted the grace of repentance. You don't know whether that sin will be the final straw that breaks the camel's back; and send you down a road from which you'll never return, which will be a road away from God. And that's exactly what Judas reminds us of. He's a man who took a step from which he could never extract himself.

ma which He is going to experience within thirty-six hours. He is aware of His upcoming death, and He is focused on one thing: Worshipping God with His disciples. Do you show that same kind of determination to worship God as Jesus did? Is it that high of a priority for you? If ever there was a man who had an excuse for thinking of something other than corporate worship of God with the disciples, it was the Lord Jesus Christ. If ever there was a man who had a reason to say, "Well under these circumstances I'm going to just have to skip church," it was Jesus. Never has a man borne a greater weight, and yet He is singularly focused on doing one thing: Worshipping God with His disciples. Let that serve as reminder to us all that corporate worship is of the utmost importance.

II. Jesus Prepares to Share the Passover

If you look at verses 17 – 19, you see Jesus making His preparations to share the Passover with His disciples. There are two things of note here.

Firstly, we see that Jesus prioritizes the worship of God. It's the eleventh hour. Jerusalem was swarming with pilgrims. And the disciples surely must have been thinking, "We're not going to be able to find anywhere in Jerusalem for the Passover supper." But Jesus said, "You go find a certain man and you tell him the teacher says, 'My time is here. We're going to celebrate the Passover.'" Jesus had prepared for this ahead of time because he was under an obligation to keep the Passover. And He does so willingly. Jesus is aware of His coming betrayal. It will happen within the next eighteen hours from when He spoke these words. He is aware of His coming trial. He is aware of His suffering. He is aware of the divine trauma which He is going to experience within thirty-six hours. He is aware of His upcoming death, and He is focused on one thing: Worshipping God with His disciples. Do you show that same kind of determination to worship God as Jesus did? Is it that high of a priority for you? If ever there was a man who had an excuse for thinking of something other than corporate worship of God with the disciples, it was the Lord Jesus Christ. If ever there was a man who had a reason to say, "Well under these circumstances I'm going to just have to skip church," it was Jesus. Never has a man borne a greater weight, and yet He is singularly focused on doing one thing: Worshipping God with His disciples. Let that serve as reminder to us all that corporate worship is of the utmost importance.

Secondly, we have a picture of the intensity and the focus of Christ's love. Do you realize the kind of love that the Lord Jesus is showing you here? He is determined to sit down to this memorial worship supper with His betrayer, and with a group of disciples who are all within two hours of the supper going to desert him. He is determined to sit down with that motley crew and worship God, and pledge to them His undying love. Now maybe you're sitting out there today, and you're thinking that you're beyond the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. But you're never out of his loving reach. The Lord Jesus sat down with those failures called disciples. He sat down with his betrayer. He is standing there and waiting for you, and He is saying, "I have earnestly desired to eat this meal with you." Do you have any idea of the intensity and focus of the love of Jesus Christ for you? If you are to embrace Him for eternal salvation, you must grasp His love. A love that was willing to dine with sinners. A love that was willing to be betrayed. A love that was willing to die. May God enable you in response to His love to embrace Him and so fellowship with Him now and forevermore.

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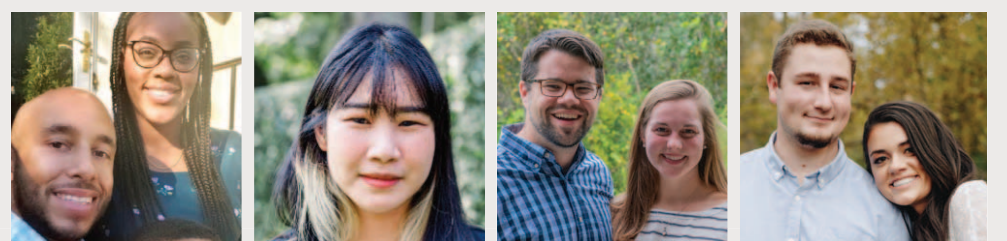
The Rev. Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III is Chancellor and CEO of Reformed Theological Seminary. He can be reached at 601-923-1600 or by email at jhyde@rts.edu.

"NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX LEVIES FOR THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR FOR THE CITY OF CANTON"

The City of Canton will hold a public hearing on its proposed budget and proposed tax levies for fiscal year 2024 on Thursday, September 7, 4:30 PM at Canton Multipurpose Complex. The City of Canton is now operating projected total budget revenue of \$13M. (49.6 percent) or \$6.42M of such revenue is obtained through ad valorem taxes. For the next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$13.8. Of that amount, (52.6 percent) or \$7.26M, is proposed to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy. The decision to not increase the ad valorem tax millage rate for fiscal year 2023 above the current fiscal year's ad valorem tax millage rate means you will not pay more in ad valorem taxes on your home, automobile tag, utilities, business fixtures and equipment, and rental real property unless the assessed value of your property has increased for fiscal year 2024. Any citizen of The City of Canton is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed budget and tax levies for fiscal year 2024 and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.



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Public Notices

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF STELLA WOLOSIN, DECEASED PROBATE NO. 2023-821 W

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 17th day of August, 2023, by the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi to the undersigned Executor of the Estate of Stella Wolosin, Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

THIS the 21st day of August, 2023.

Linda C. Macksoud, Executor of the Estate of Stella Wolosin, Deceased

Philip A. Buchanan MSB #102626 Attorney for Executor COURTNEY ELDER LAW ASSOCIATES 7708 Old Canton Road, Suite B Madison, Mississippi 39110 Telephone: (601) 987-3000

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

CHRISTIAN ANTONY GRAVES PETITIONER VS. CAUSE NO.: 20-757-W

SYLVIA ANN THORNTON AND JAMES EDWARD THORNTON RESPONDENT BRITTANY FAITH MCPHAIL INTERESTED PARTY

RULE 81 SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI TO: BRITTANY FAITH MCPHAIL

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT(S)

THE COMPLAINT AND/OR PETITION WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said complaint or petition at 1:00 p.m. on the 6th day of October, 2023, at the Madison County Chancery Courthouse, before the Honorable James C. Walker, Chancellor 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.

Issued under my hand and official seal of said Court, this the 29th day of August, 2023.

MADISON COUNTY CHANCERY CLERK

By: /s/ Ronny Lott, D.C. Ronny Lott

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

ROY KEITH EASLEY, DECEASED CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-296

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 2nd day of August, 2023, by the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi, Civil Action No. 23-296 to the undersigned Robert Keith Easley, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the said Estate to present same to the Clerk of the said Court for probate and registration, according to law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred. DATED, this the 2nd day of August 2023.

Robert Keith Easley, Administrator

By: /s/ Kimberly M. Phillips Kimberly M. Phillips, Attorney for Administrator

PREPARED BY:

J. Edward Rainer, MSB No. 4602 Kimberly M. Phillips, MSB No. 106143 Rainer & Phillips, PLLC Post Office Box 258 Brandon, Mississippi 39043 T: (601) 825-0212 F: (601) 825-0219 erainer@rainerlaw.net kphilips@rainerlaw.net

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN RE: GURSAHIB SINGH, A MINOR CAUSE NO.: 23-687 SEWA SINGH, PETITIONER RULE 81 SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: HAWINDER SINGH WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

NOTICE TO PARTY OF INTEREST

THE COMPLAINT WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

You have been made a Respondent in the suit filed in this Court by Jasvir Kaur, Petitioner, seeking custody of your biological child, Gursahib Singh, An eleven (11) year old unmarried male.

YOU ARE SUMMONED to appear and defend against said Complaint at 1:30 PM on the 10th day of October 2023, at the courthouse at the Chancery Court of Madison County, located at 146 W Center Street, Canton, Mississippi 39046, Before the Honorable Judge James C. Walker, Chancellor and in your failing to appear and defend, a judgment will be entered against you for the money or things demanded in the Complaint or Petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleadings, but you may do so if you so desire. If you choose to file an answer the original must be filed with the Madison County Chancery Clerk, Canton, Mississippi.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this 3rd day of August 2023. Ronny Lott Chancery Clerk, Madison County, Mississippi

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

CHRISTIAN ANTONY GRAVES PETITIONER

Public Notices

VS. CAUSE NO.: 20-757-W

SYLVIA ANN THORNTON AND JAMES EDWARD THORNTON RESPONDENT BRITTANY FAITH MCPHAIL INTERESTED PARTY

RULE 4 SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI TO: BRITTANY FAITH MCPHAIL

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT(S)

THE COMPLAINT AND/OR PETITION WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

You are required to mail or hand deliver a copy of a written response to the Complaint to Andrew S. Sorrentino, the attorney for the Plaintiff whose address is 108 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Your response must be mailed or delivered within thirty (30) days from the date of delivery of this summons and motion or a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint. You must also file the original of your response with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable time afterward.

MADISON COUNTY CHANCERY CLERK

By: /s/ Ronny Lott, D.C. Ronny Lott

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN RE: ARSHDEEP SINGH, A MINOR CAUSE NO.: 2023-727B RAMANJEET SINGH, PETITIONER

RULE 81 SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: MANJIT KAUR WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

NOTICE TO PARTY OF INTEREST

THE COMPLAINT WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

YOU ARE SUMMONED to appear and defend against said Complaint at 8:30 AM on the 6th day of November 2023, at the courthouse at the Chancery Court of Madison County, located at 146 W Center Street, Canton, Mississippi 39046 and in your failing to appear and defend, a judgment will be entered against you for the money or things demanded in the Complaint or Petition.

MADISON COUNTY CHANCERY CLERK

By: /s/ Ronny Lott, D.C. Ronny Lott

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

ROY KEITH EASLEY, DECEASED CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-296

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 2nd day of August, 2023, by the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi, Civil Action No. 23-296 to the undersigned Robert Keith Easley, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the said Estate to present same to the Clerk of the said Court for probate and registration, according to law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred. DATED, this the 2nd day of August 2023.

Robert Keith Easley, Administrator

By: /s/ Kimberly M. Phillips Kimberly M. Phillips, Attorney for Administrator

PREPARED BY:

J. Edward Rainer, MSB No. 4602 Kimberly M. Phillips, MSB No. 106143 Rainer & Phillips, PLLC Post Office Box 258 Brandon, Mississippi 39043 T: (601) 825-0212 F: (601) 825-0219 erainer@rainerlaw.net kphilips@rainerlaw.net

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN RE: GURSAHIB SINGH, A MINOR CAUSE NO.: 23-687 SEWA SINGH, PETITIONER RULE 81 SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: HAWINDER SINGH WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

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You are not required to file an answer or other pleadings, but you may do so if you so desire. If you choose to file an answer the original must be filed with the Madison County Chancery Clerk, Canton, Mississippi.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this 3rd day of August 2023. Ronny Lott Chancery Clerk, Madison County, Mississippi

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

CHRISTIAN ANTONY GRAVES PETITIONER

Public Notices

property situated in Madison County, State of Mississippi, to-wit: Lots 1124 and 1125, Heron's Bay of Caroline, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Madison County at Canton, Mississippi, in Plat Cabinet F, Slides 180A and 180B reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

I WILL CONVEY only such title as is vested in me as Substituted Trustee. WITNESS MY SIGNATURE, this the 18th day of August, 2023.

/s/ Jeff D. Rawlings Jeff D. Rawlings, Substituted Trustee for Community Bank of Mississippi

Dates of Publication: August 24, 31, September 7, 14, 2023

Jeff Rawlings Rawlings & MacInnis P.O. Box 1789 Madison, Ms. 39130 601-898-1180

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROBERT C. BERTOLET, DECEASED CAUSE NO. 23-588-C

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on June 21, 2023, by the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi to the undersigned Executor of the Estate of Robert C. Bertolet, Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law within 90 days after the date of the first publication of this notice or they will forever be barred.

This the 31st day of August, 2023. Robert Todd Bertolet Executor of the Estate of Robert C. Bertolet, Deceased

Ian Austin (MSB #104584) Copeland, Cook, Taylor & Bush, P.A. P.O. Box 6020 Ridgeland, MS 39158 Telephone 601-856-7200

NOTICE OF SALE IS HEREBY GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MISSISSIPPI

Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles for the

following: 2007 HYUNDAI SONATA, VIN #

5NPEU46F37H204981, \$ 2728.50. Public sale of this

abandoned/unclaimed vehicle and its contents will be held on

Friday September 15, 2023 at Big Byrd Towing, LLC located at 120 E. State St. Ridgeland, MS 39157 at 10:00 A.M.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Federal Aid Project No. STP-6985-00(001)LPJA/106993/701000

The Madison County Board of Supervisors, Madison County, Mississippi, will receive bids for the Bozeman Road Improvements Project from Hwy 463 to Gluckstadt Road for a total project length of 3.2 miles, Federal Aid Project No. STP- 6985-00(001)LPJA/106993/701000 no later than 10:00 a.m., Local Time, September 29, 2023, at the Madison County Chancery Clerk's Office, Rooms 225-228 located at 146 West North Street, Canton, Mississippi. All bids so received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The work shall consist essentially of the following items:

Reconstruction of an existing two lane roadway to a four lane boulevard section with necessary turn lanes from Hwy 463 to Reunion Parkway with overlay and intersection improvements at the Gluckstadt Road intersection. Also included is a multi-use trail from Hwy 463 to Gluckstadt Road.

The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the contractor to perform all work and furnish all plant, labor, equipment and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein.

The attention of bidders is directed to the Contract Provisions governing selection and employment of labor. Minimum wage rates for Federal-Aid projects have been predetermined by the Secretary of Labor and are subject to Public Law 87-581 Work Hours Act of 1962, as set forth in the Contract Provisions.

The Madison County Board of Supervisors hereby notifies all Bidders that they will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged and women's business enterprises will be afforded the full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, age, disability, religion or national origin in consideration for an award.

The award of this contract will be contingent upon the Contractor satisfying the DBE requirements.

The contract Documents are on file and may be examined at the following locations:

- 1. Madison County Chancery Clerk's Office, Rooms 225-228, 146 West North Street, Canton, MS 39046
- 2. Neel-Schaffer, Inc. 215 Waterford Square, Madison, Mississippi 39110

Plans, specifications, and contract documents may be secured at no charge by downloading a copy from Madison County's website at http://www.madison-co.com/bids.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Cashier's check, Certified Check on a solvent bank or a Bidder's Bond issued by a Surety Company licensed to operate in the State of Mississippi, in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid price, payable to the Madison County Board of Supervisors as bid security. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount.

The proposal and contract documents in its entirety shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and deposited with the Chancery Clerk, Rooms 225-228, 146 West North Street, Canton, Mississippi 39046 or electronically to Madison County's website at http://www.madison-co.com/bids prior to the hour and date above designated.

Public Notices

Work to be performed shall be in accordance with the "Mississippi State Highway Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, 2017", together with all amendments and/or special provisions and/or addenda to the standards duly approved and adopted, unless otherwise noted in these specifications.

The attention of Bidders is directed to the provisions of Subsection 102.07 pertaining to irregular proposals and rejection of bids.

PR-2020-01396 CITATION BY PUBLICATION

Juli Luke Applicant's Attorney Denton County Clerk Brandy Baxter-Thompson 3900 Morse Street Denton, TX 76208 500 N Akard Street Suite 2150 Dallas TX 75201 214-217-2427

THE STATE OF TEXAS § OF DENTON COUNTY §

To any Sheriff or any Constable within the State of Texas:

You are hereby commanded to cause to be published; One Time (1), in a newspaper printed in Denton County, Texas, the following citation.

To the Estate of Larry Lee Baron, Deceased, c/o Attorney Jeff Alder, All Unknown Heirs, And/Or Persons Interested in The Estate of Robert Lee Cagle, Deceased

Cause No. PR-2020-01396 Probate Court #1 of Denton County 3900 Morse Street Denton, TX 76208

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Trustee of Cagle Trust, Applicant, in the above numbered and styled estate filed an First Amended Application to Determine Heirship on the 22nd day of May, 2023.

Said Application will be subject to be heard and acted on by said Court at any call of the docket on or after the first Monday after the expiration of ten days of the date of this publication of this notice. Accordingly, any objections, intervention, or response must be filed with the clerk of the above Court in writing at or before the above referenced time and date.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at or before said above mentioned date and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so. Said written contest or answer should be filed in the County Clerk's Office, Probate Court #1, in the city of Denton, County of Denton, Texas.

The officer executing this citation shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs.

ISSUED UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Denton, Texas, on this the 7th day of August, 2023.

JULI LUKE County Clerk, Denton County, Texas

By: /s/ Fabian Gonzalez Fabian Gonzalez, Deputy Clerk

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN FOR MATEO TOMAS BALTAZAR, A MINOR CAUSE NO: 23-847 FLORINDA BALTAZAR PETITIONER

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF MADISON

TO: Respondents Pascual Tomas Baltazar and Juana Baltazar Tomas, non-residents of the State of Mississippi, or not to be found therein, and whose residence, post office, and street address is unknown to Petitioner after diligent search and inquiry:

You have been made Respondents in the suit filed in this Court by Florinda Baltazar Tomas, Petitioner herein, seeking appointment as Guardian for Mateo Tomas Baltazar, a minor. There are no other Respondents other than yourself. You are summoned to appear and defend against the Petition filed against you in this action at 9:00 AM on the 2nd day of November, 2023, at the Yazoo County Courthouse, located in Yazoo City, 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 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, this the 11th day of August, 2023.

Hon. Ronny Lott, Madison County Chancery Clerk

By Rita Carpenter, D.C. Requested By:

John B. Hunt, IV, MSB#103847 Hunt Law Firm, PLLC 1640 Lelia Dr., Ste. 105 Jackson, MS 39216 Tel: 601-214-3211 email: jack@jbhlegal.com

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, EX REL. RIDGELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT PLAINTIFF VS.

Civil Cause No. 2023-0754 JO

THREE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE DOLLARS (\$3,159.00) IN UNITED STATES CURRENCY AND ONE (1) DIAMOND BACK 7.62MM RIFLE SERIAL # DB2159853, ONE (1) RUGER 5.7X28 CALIBER HANDGUN BEARING # 64237123, AND ONE (1) COBRA .22 CALIBER HANDGUN SERIAL # 091955 DEFENDANT

SUMMONS

Public Notices

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: Joshua Isaiah Jones of 109 Pine Knoll Dr. Apt. 111, Ridgeland, MS 39157

A PETITION FOR FORFEITURE OR COMPLAINT HAS BEEN FILED IN THE COUNTY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS. You are required by law to mail or hand-deliver a written response to the Complaint filed in this action to the lawyer for the Plaintiff, whose name and address is: Todd McAlpin, Assistant District Attorney, Post Office Box 121, Canton, Mississippi 39046.

A COPY OF YOUR ANSWER MUST BE MAILED OR HAND-DELIVERED TO SAID LAWYER WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SUMMONS AND PETITION ARE SERVED UPON YOU, OR A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE CURRENCY AND PROPERTY OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE PETITION OR COMPLAINT.

You must also file the original of your response with the Clerk of the Court within a reasonable time afterward. The name and address of the Clerk of this Court is Honorable Anita Wray, Madison County Circuit Court, Post Office Box 1626, Canton, Mississippi, 39046.

Issued under my hand and the official seal of this Court this the 29th day of August 2023.

ANITA WRAY MADISON COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

By: Wanda Jefferson, D.C. Wanda Jefferson (SEAL)

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT AND ESTATE OF RICHARD GEORGE GRAY, DECEASED CAUSE NO. 23-693W

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 19th day of July, 2023, by the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi, to the undersigned, upon the Estate of Richard George Gray, Deceased, in Cause No. 23-693W, Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present the same to the Clerk of said Court for probate and registration according to law within 90 days from first date of publication, or they will be forever barred. This, the 15th day of August, 2023.

/s/ Marrice A. Biggers. Marrice A. Biggers, Executrix of The Last Will and Testament and Estate of Richard George Gray, Deceased

Scheduled Publication: 8-24-2023 8-31-2023 9-7-2023

PREPARED BY:

/s/ Vateria M. Martin Vateria M. Martin, Esq. (MSB No. 101235) MARTIN and MARTIN, PA 228 East Capitol Street Jackson, Mississippi 39201 Telephone: (601) 355-0955 Facsimile: (601) 355-0957 E-Mail: VMMartin@JMartinsAttLaw.com

Notice of sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles for the following: 2003 HONDA ELEMENT, VIN # 5J6YH18593L000139, \$3959.00, a 2002 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER, VIN #JTEGF21A820030054, \$3959.00, a 2012 GMC ACADIA, VIN #1GKKRRED8CJ353362, \$3959.00, a 2017 MERCEDES GLA 250, VIN #WDCTG4EB1HJ296382, \$3852.00, and a 2010 MINNI COOPER, VIN #WMM-WMF3C51ATU77784, \$3852.00. Public sale of these abandoned/unclaimed vehicles and their contents will be held on Friday September 15, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. at Gilmore Towing & Recovery, 124 E. State Street, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BERTIE REDELL WEEMS, DECEASED PROBATE NO. 2023-738W

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 26th day of July, 2023, by the Chancery Court of Madison County, Mississippi to the undersigned Co-Executors of the Estate of Bertie Redell Weems, Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

THIS the 28th day of August, 2023.

Wendy Weems Pounds, Co-Executor of the Estate of Bertie Redell Weems, Deceased

Tammy Weems Amis, Co-Executor of the Estate of Bertie Redell Weems, Deceased

Richard A. Courtney, MSB #7722 Philip A. Buchanan, MSB #102626 Attorneys for Executor COURTNEY ELDER LAW ASSOCIATES 7708 Old Canton Road, Suite B Madison, Mississippi 39110 Telephone: (601) 987-3000

Notice of sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles for the following: 2002 BUICK REGAL, VIN # 2G4WB55K621275659, \$2782.00. Public sale of this abandoned/unclaimed vehicle and its contents will be held on Friday September 8, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. at Gilmore Towing & Recovery, 124 E. State Street, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

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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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— Proverbs 27:1 (ESV)



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— John 3:16 (NIV)



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Getting the Message/Rev. Chris Shelton

Our absolute need of Christ

Daniel 9:20-27 contains a prophetic passage that commentators have interpreted in various ways. In this space, I cannot interact with them, but only offer you my own. I think the key in interpreting verses 24-27 is to look at Chapter 9 as a whole.

Daniel’s concerns in his prayer are that the people of God be restored and reconciled to God so that God’s name may be great, that His holy city may not be desolate, and that His face would shine upon His people (verses 16-19). In verses 20-23 we are given a response from heaven to this prayer.

Gabriel comes from God in response to Daniel’s pleas for mercy for “the holy hill of God.” He has come to give Daniel understanding as to how God will fulfill these things Daniel is praying about. Gabriel came at the “time of the evening sacrifice.” The time of the evening sacrifice was the 9th hour.

This is not an incidental remark. The evening sacrifice was the time of prayer and confession of sin. In Acts 10, an angel came in response to the prayers of Cornelius, a Roman Centurion who feared God. Cornelius was praying at the 9th hour. The angel told him that his prayers had been heard by God. The angel instructed Cornelius to send for Peter. When Peter came, Cornelius repeated to Peter that he was praying at the 9th hour when the angel came. Peter then proceeded to tell Cornelius and his whole family about forgiveness of sins in Christ.

In Daniel 9:23, the angel told Daniel he had been sent by God in response to Daniel’s pleas for mercy. As mentioned, Daniel was praying at the 9th hour. “Coincidentally,” The Lord Jesus offered himself up as sacrifice, that is He died, at the time of the evening sacrifice (Matthew 27:46). So the 9th hour points to the work of the Messiah. And that is what we will see in verses 24-27.

In verse 24, Gabriel gives Daniel a summary of what God has decreed for the holy city. The things mentioned in verse 24 will be accomplished within a period of 70 weeks. The number 7 is a number of perfection, so what is emphasized is the certainty of fulfillment within this period. The things mentioned in verse 24 are accomplished by Christ in His first coming.

Gabriel breaks the 70 weeks into three

sections. The first is 7 weeks, the second is 62, and then the final week. One reason for this division is that the first section emphasizes the rebuilding of Jerusalem (verse 25). God had promised to do this through the prophet Jeremiah. Nevertheless, we see that this restoration, though a consolation for the Jews at the time, would not be the ultimate solution to reconciliation to God and God’s name being great among His people.

We see this in verse 25 during the 62 weeks. The city is built again during this age with squares and a moat. This language is to alert you to the fact it is built with human hands. In Chapter 2, the everlasting kingdom of God that Daniel saw in the future would not be built with human hands. That kingdom will be built by “an anointed Prince” who will come, a reference to Christ.

In verse 26, you have this anointed one “cut off.” Isaiah wrote that the Messiah would “be cut off from the land of the living.” This refers to Christ’s death. The second half of verse 26 points to the destruction of Jerusalem, a result of war, but stemming from the corruption of the city.

Verse 27 elaborates on verse 26. The Messiah will make a strong covenant with many. Jesus said the cup was the “new covenant in his blood, poured out for many for the remission of sin.” His death put an end to “sacrifice and offering” in the temple, permanently.

The death of Christ is again juxtaposed to the sin and destruction of Jerusalem. Daniel had prayed because Jerusalem was “desolate” during his time. This passage teaches that it was also desolate when Jesus came. Jesus said in Matthew 23, “your house is desolate.” The destruction mentioned in verses 26 and 27 are connected to the spiritual desolation in Jerusalem, the apex of which is demonstrated in putting Christ to death. Jerusalem is the “desolator” in verse 27.

We learn our absolute need of Christ. Jerusalem had been given everything by God it could be given. He often desired to gather her under his wings. Yet they were desolate. And we are the same without Christ. The only answer for sin is Christ. That is the understanding Gabriel gave to Daniel.

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“Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.”

— Proverbs 16:3 (ESV)



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Community Bank · Goodwill Industries of Mississippi, Inc.
Harper, Rains, Knight & Company, P.A. · Northpark
Staffers, Inc. · Trustmark

FRIENDS OF THE CHAMBER

John Dorsa, State Farm Insurance

AND, THANK YOU TO OUR BOUTIQUES AND VENDORS!

2 Cute Boutique · Advanced Dental Clinic
Beach Look Boutique · Goodwill Industries of MS
Kendra Scott · The Mustard Seed Gift Shop
Olde Towne Dental · St. Catherine's Village
Wild Hare Antiques · Women's Wellness of Mississippi



Author and entrepreneur, Barbie Bassett, fourth from left, gathers with committee members following her inspiring message to a room filled with Ridgeland Chamber members and guests. From left, Amber Davis, AC Marriott Jackson/Ridgeland; Sissy Lloyd, Professional Eyecare Associates; Tammy Louvier, Goodwill Industries of MS; Barbie Bassett; Enjoli Nolen, Luckett Land Title, Inc.; Kristy Daniels, PriorityOne Bank; Linda Bynum, Executive Director, Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce; Lee Balch, Cadence Bank – Colony Crossing and Sandy Baas, Ridgeland Chamber.

WHAT TO DO & WHEN TO DO IT



Friday, September 8 • 11:30 A.M.
Diplomats First Friday
Cock of the Walk
141 Madison Landing Circle



Wednesday, September 13 • 11:30 A.M.
Board of Directors Meeting
Michael Baker International
310 New Pointe Drive



Thursday, September 14 • 10:30 A.M.
Ribbon Cutting
The Classy Spa
610 Highway 51, Suite C



Tuesday, September 19 • 10:30 A.M.
Ribbon Cutting
Firehouse Subs
849 Lake Harbour Drive, Suite B



Wednesday, September 20 • 10:30 A.M.
Ribbon Cutting
TrustCare Health Primary Care
1067 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite G



Friday, September 22 • 10:00 A.M.
Ribbon Cutting
PriorityOne Bank – Gluckstadt Branch
104 Church Road, Madison



Saturday, September 23
First Day of Autumn



Thursday, September 28
Ridgeland Chamber Fall Golf Classic
Lake Caroline Golf Club
Registration & Lunch: 11:30 A.M.
Tee Off Time: 1:00 P.M.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Buenos Aires Bakery

Evelyn Aviles
500 Hwy. 51, Suite F
(769) 300-2698
Buenosairesbakery1@gmail.com
Bakeries

Firehouse Subs

William Craig, Jr.
849 Lake Harbour Drive, Suite B
(601) 790-9064
restfhs2009@firehousesubs.com
firehousesubs.com
Restaurants & Catering

Jerk City Grille, LLC

Wendell Brewster
1290 E. County Line Road, #100
Jerkcitygrille@gmail.com
Jerkcitygrille.com
Restaurants & Catering

St. Columb's Episcopal Church

Rev. CJ Meaders, III
550 Sunnybrook Road
(601) 853-0205
stcolombs.org
Churches

Trihelm Properties

Skipper Giordano - Chris Colebank
667 Hwy. 51, Suite A
(601) 707-5169
chris@trihelm.com
www.Trihelm.com
Real Estate - Property Management

TrustCare Health Primary Care

Kristi Trimm, DO
1067 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite G
(601) 707-3978
trustcarehealth.com/location/primary-care-township-ridgeland
Clinics & Medical Groups

WANTED!!!

All Chamber members are invited to bring promotional items by the Chamber office to include in our Newcomer Welcome Bags.

Also, bring your business cards to fill our popular Business Card Holder in the Chamber lobby!!



RIDGELAND CHAMBER FALL GOLF CLASSIC

Thursday, September 28, 2023

LAKE CAROLINE GOLF CLUB

Madison, Mississippi

Registration & Lunch: 11:30 A.M.
Tee Off Time: 1:00 P.M.

Hole-in-One Sponsored by



Mercedes-Benz of Jackson

Lunch Sponsored by



Madison Ridgeland



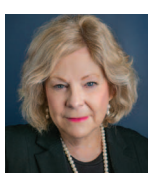
DIPLomat OF THE MONTH | JULY 2023

JOHNNY DAVIDSON
PriorityOne Bank

2023 RIDGELAND CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Front row, center, Ray Valentine, Michael Baker International and 2023 Ridgeland Chamber President. At left, Cecil Harper, Harper, Rains, Knight and Company, P.A. and Ridgeland Chamber Vice President; at right, Nathan Best, First Commercial Bank and Ridgeland Chamber Treasurer. Second row, from left, Tim Magandy, Robot Coupe USA, Inc.; Carla Palmer, CPA Realty, LLC; Jeremy Rodden, BankPlus-Renaissance. Back row, from left, Shawn Cochran, Northpark; Chris Hemphill, C Spire Business; Dan Ambrosio, Parkway Development, Inc.; Deonte Oscar, Community Bank of Mississippi and Tom Steadman, Tuxedo Junction. Not pictured is Jay Reber, CenterPoint Energy.



Linda Bynum
Executive Director



Sandy Baas
Administrative Assistant

CHAMBER STAFF



RIBBON CUTTINGS



Abi's Catering by Amy
102 Pine Knoll Drive, Ridgeland, Amy Fleming, owner, (769) 218-0916,
www.AbiCateringbyAmy.com.



Ellie Mental Health
599 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 110
Amber Gray, clinic director, (601) 202-5980
https://elliementalhealth.com/locations/Ridgeland-ms/



Ridgeland Chamber Cuts Ribbon Opening Canon's Closet

The Ridgeland Chamber unveiled "Canon's Closet" in the Roll Call Room of the Ridgeland Police Department with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The closet, named for K-9 officer Canon who passed away in 2016 and his handler Sergeant Ray Daniels who passed away July 10, 2022, is filled with items to care for children and pets who are abandoned and taken to the police station until Child Protective Services and the Animal Rescue League are able to intercede.

Items donated by residents of Ridgeland and surrounding areas include diapers, pull-ups, baby wipes, non-perishable food and drink items, blankets, hygiene items, coloring books and crayons, toys, stuffed animals, books, and clothing as well as dog and cat food. Because of their generosity "Canon's Closet" is filled to the brim.



To donate to "Canon's Closet", call the Ridgeland Chamber at (601) 991-9996.

THANK YOU to these individuals and businesses for your generous donations: Jamie Ables; Suzanne Almas; Elbert Hilliard; Bettye Fuller; Nicole Arbour; Jonathan Kettler; Lynda Matthews; Carolyn Nix; Sarah Bynum Farley; Callaway Woods; John Lyle, Acoustics, Inc.; The Baptist Children's Village staff; Lyle, Walker & Company, PA; Lisa Palmer, SummerHouse, LLC; Raymond Sinele, United Piping, Inc.; Whataburger - Ridgeland and Olivia's Food Emporium.

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5009 OLD CANTON RD

HIGHLAND COLONY PKWY

