



POLICE MADISON OFFICER RECOGNIZED

Warriors of the Badge — See page A8

MADISON PARK IN NEED OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Strawberry Patch Park — See page A9



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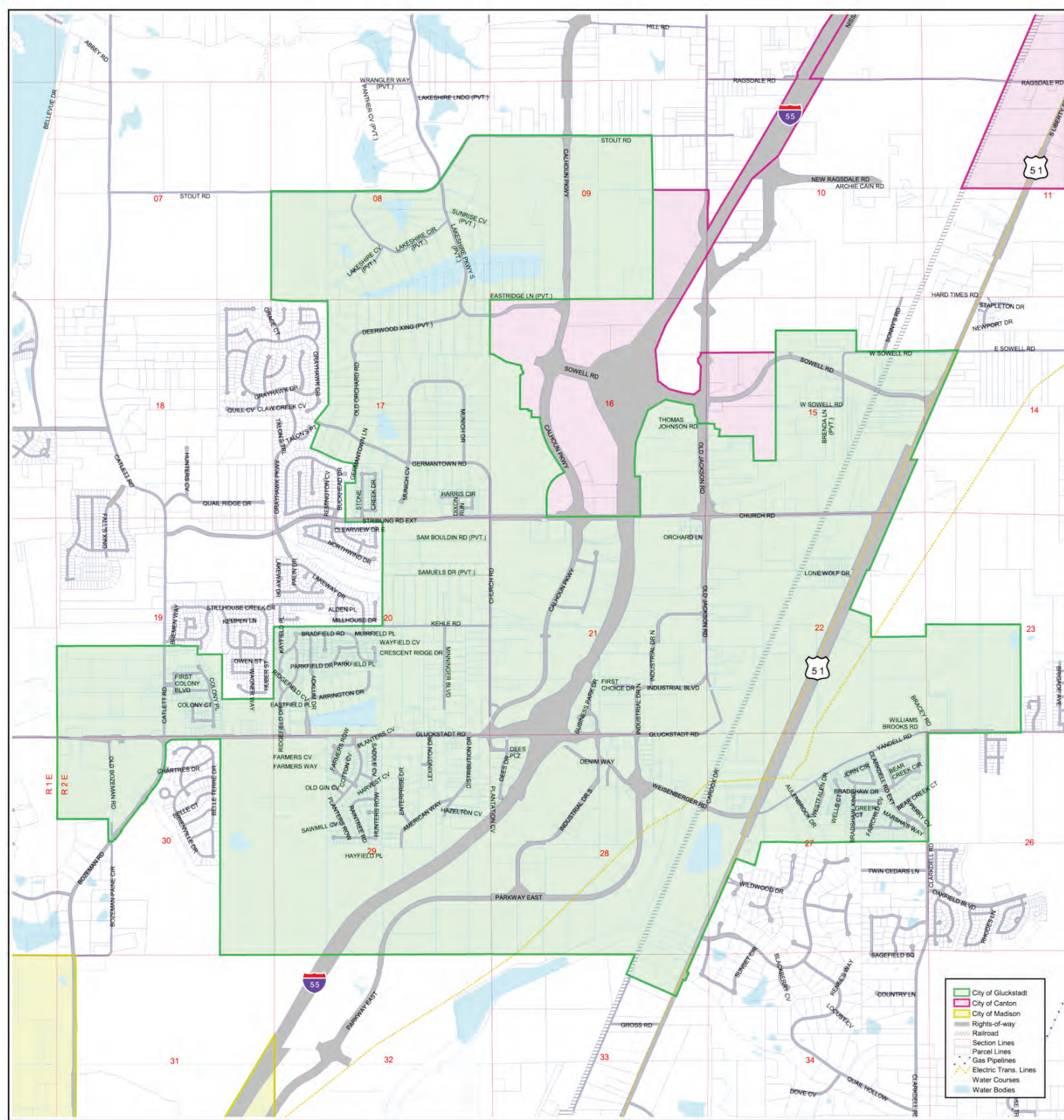
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The new boundary lines for the proposed city of Gluckstadt are shown in green in the above map. The Mississippi Supreme Court

last week upheld the incorporation effort after a two-decades-long battle.

Ruling sets Gluckstadt to become a city

By SCOTT HAWKINS
scott@onlinemadison.com

Gluckstadt will finally incorporate after a two-decades-long, hard-fought battle involving an immeasurable amount of work, proponents said after a state Supreme Court ruling in their favor last week.

While a few technical legal steps remain, Gluckstadt's incorporation is expected to be a done deal by mid-June after the high court ruled against a Canton challenge.

"There are still a few steps to go but for all practical purposes, it means they will be (able to proceed with incorporation)," said attorney Jerry Mills of the firm Pyle, Mills, Dye & Pittman who

has worked on the case for 20 years. "There is still an opportunity for petition for rehearing."

Mills said the decision was strong with all judges agreeing on the Gluckstadt incorporation portion.

"But with three of them dissenting on Canton getting anything," Mills said. "It is extremely unlikely the petition for rehearing would be granted."

Gluckstadt's appointed Mayor Walter Morrison said he and others are excited about the decision.

"It is something the citizens of Gluckstadt have worked toward for 20 years," Morrison said. "It has taken an immeasurable amount of work on the part of a lot of people who probably never thought this day would come. I am just as proud

for them and thrilled for them as I can be."

Morrison and five aldermen — Miya Warfield-Bates, John Taylor, Jayce Powell, Wesley Slay and Lisa Williams — were selected by a citizens committee headed up by Kerry Minninger and others some years back as part of the filing process for incorporation.

"It has been a long, hard-fought battle, and we feel like we are finally getting close to reaching that goal," Minninger said. "The first thing that will happen is we will have the mayor and board of aldermen that will be sworn in and take their positions and I'm sure they will hold their first board meeting."

Morrison said he hopes citizens will get See **GLUCKSTADT**, page A5

HOMICIDE

Woman found bloodied in motel

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@onlinemadison.com

CANTON — The case of a woman found dead in a motel room here last week bloodied in a wheelchair was turned over to the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation.

Canton Police Chief Otha Brown said officers were called to the Econo Lodge on Soldiers Colony Road around 10:30 a.m. on Friday, May 7 where the body of 37-year-old Takoria Brown had been found by housekeeping.

Takoria Brown had checked into the motel along with another woman and two men the previous night, according to reports.

Canton Police Lt. Kenneth West told WLBT that Brown was found slumped over and bloodied in her wheelchair. "All I can say is that this is the first murder we have had in Canton this year," Police Chief Otha Brown told the Journal.

Brown said they do not have a description of the suspect or suspects. The case has been handed over to MBI.

Brown has noted in the past that 2020 was a particularly violent year for the city with eight murders.

The first murder recorded in 2020 in Canton was of David Herrin, 85, who was working as a security guard at an apartment complex in Canton on the evening of June 14 when he was shot "execution-style."

The case has gone unsolved and S&S Management Group, LLC, which operates as Guard One Security in Mississippi, is still offering a \$5,000 reward leading to information on Herrin's killer.

"The shootings are out of control," Brown said at the end of last year. "We need more community help in solving some of these cases. We are out there doing our job but we cannot be everywhere at once."

The year was capped by a triple homicide of members of a family of immigrants from Guatemala. Officers found Faustino Ramirez, 20, and his pregnant wife, Martina, 19, dead with gunshot wounds to the head around 1:30 a.m. on Dec. 29, according to Brown.

Authorities said Martina was about eight months pregnant and

See **MURDER**, page A5

HIGHLAND COLONY

Rain delays resurfacing work

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@onlinemadison.com

RIDGELAND — When the rain stops, city officials say they will finish paving a roughly 3-mile stretch of the Highland Colony Parkway from Steed Road to the city limits.

Public Works Director Mike McCollum said a mill and overlay project using county funds had gotten them from the roundabout to Steed Road in mid-April.

The project has been temporarily held up, according to Mayor Gene McGee, due to weather. The remainder of the project was supposed to commence on Monday, May 10.

"Rain has held them up," McGee said. "Most likely they will begin next week if the rain stops."

At the May 4 regularly scheduled mayor and board of aldermen meeting, McCollum requested \$600,000 from the general fund from the city board to complete the Highland Colony repaving project to the city limits line.

McGee said that he approved of the project. He said that it would be good to finish the project in case the price of asphalt were to go up and that there was an aesthetic benefit to the city.

"It will be good to make the roadway consistent with the

work that has been done out there," McGee said.

The board approved the motion unanimously on the consent agenda.

McCollum said the project was started with some \$880,000 in county funds from the board of supervisors. He said that in addition to Highland Colony, the county funds were used for mill and overlay projects city-wide including portions of Ridgewood and Richardson Roads.

Back in 2016, county supervisors approved roadwork to pave Highland Colony Parkway from County Line Road to Old Agency Road.



Panic-buying fuels gas shortage

Madison County residents rushed to fill up their fuel tanks this week amid the Colonial Pipeline shutdown caused by computer hackers leaving many stations empty like the Valero on U.S. 51 in Ridgeland. Gov. Tate Reeves had urged Mississippians not to panic saying that less than 30% of Mississippi's fuel comes from the Colonial Pipeline.

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Scale, scope of spec building sets county apart

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@onlinemadison.com

A 100,000-square-foot spec building near where Amazon is opening this August will set Madison County apart for future jobs creation, officials are saying.

The speculative building announced on Tuesday by the Madison County Economic Development Authority will be developed in partnership with Agracel and Ergon at the Madi-

son County Megasite west of I-55 and Nissan Parkway off Mississippi 22 near Canton.

MCEDA Executive Director Joey Deason said they enjoy seeing the Megasite continue to grow and attract businesses.

"Madison County is ready to compete in this fast-paced market," Deason said. "Our organization is laser-focused on enhancing the competitive edge of the Madison County Megasite and today's specu-

lative building announcement is another significant step in providing unsurpassed value to prospects. MCEDA is thankful for Agron's vision to make this building a reality."

Owned by the newly-formed Agron, LLC, the industrial shell building will initially be constructed to 100,000 square feet, with the ability to expand to 300,000 square feet.

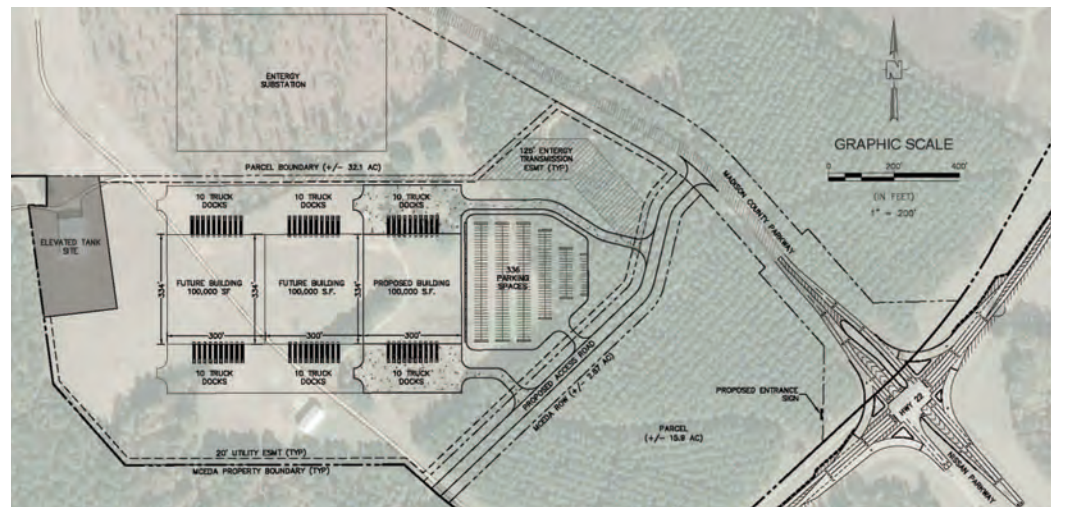
Clayton McKinnon, regional development director of Agracel's Gulf States Office, said that the building will have great flexibility to meet a project's individual requirements. Construction is expected to commence this summer.

"Agracel is proud to partner with MCEDA and Ergon on the speculative facility," McKinnon said. "We have experienced great success in developing industrial facilities in Mississippi, and Madison County has long been on our radar. We cannot say enough about the tremendous team effort to bring this project to fruition. Thank you to MCEDA and Ergon for putting your trust in Agracel. We look forward to being part of Madison County's continued growth."

Speculative buildings have long been utilized as a tool by economic development organizations to help draw attention to a region and provide fast-track projects with an option to meet market demands quickly.

Madison County Board of Supervisors President Karl Banks said that the speculative building within the Megasite will provide potential prospects considering the region with a competitive existing building option to increase speed to market.

"We are immensely appreciative of this partnership on our Megasite, and the Board of Supervisors are thankful for the confidence Agracel and Ergon have placed in our county," Banks said. "Having an existing industrial building to the scale and scope of this property will help set Madison County apart."



A new, 100,000-square-foot spec building is being built south of the Entergy substation at the Madison County Megasite.

Deason said this project brings together two powerhouses in the construction and industrial development arena. Ergon, a globally recognized Mississippi company, has a proven track record across a multitude of business segments.

"Ergon serves customers around the world, but our base of operations is in Central Mississippi. We are delighted to support our community and to play a role in opening the door for new industries to come to Madison County," commented Kris Patrick, Ergon COO.

"Agracel is well-respected, with a culture and values similar to our own, and we look forward to the opportunities this relationship will provide."

Illinois-based Agracel has long been a leader in build-to-suit facilities as well as acquisitions of industrial properties. With experience across the state of Mississippi, Agracel has built a successful portfolio of industrial properties. This unique joint venture, under the newly formed Agron, LLC, brings together the right assets to make this project a reality, officials said.

Strategically located in the Southeast, the 875 acres publicly owned Madison County Megasite is positioned perfectly to attract future investment, officials said. This shovel-ready site has full water, sewer, and gas, including a 300-megawatt triple redundancy substation on site.

The speculative building will join an Amazon fulfillment facility set to be substantially complete in August. Amazon has 69.02 acres at

the megasite and expects to have about 1,000 jobs. Deason said in April that while anyone is waiting for the jobs to come available they can sign up for text notifications by texting MISSNOW to 77088.

Amazon fits within MCEDA's vision to build a comprehensive marketing plan to help promote Madison County to key target markets like Amazon since the metro is sort of a crossroads between Dallas and Atlanta, Deason said.

Late last October, MCEDA and county officials announced the purchase of 520 acres within the Megasite. This purchase brought the total acreage under Madison County's control to 900 acres.

MCEDA has been working closely with Entergy Mississippi to put in a \$60 million substation that could provide upwards of 80 megawatts to service the Megasite.

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Supes sign onto Costco TIF

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@onlinemadison.com

Madison County has signed onto the Renaissance Phase III Tax Increment Financing as Ridgeland officials await a report from developers to start issuing bond monies.

Ridgeland Alderman-at-Large D.I. Smith said he

expects officials to start issuing bonds soon on the Renaissance Phase III TIF as soon as the developers are ready to present their first year of tax information.

"It will be in the near future," Smith said. "It is in the developer's court and I do not know when they will try to convince us that they have the sales tax receipts to go ahead."

Smith said they could hear from the developers as early as the next meeting on May 4, but that it could be as far away as the opening of a Chick-fil-a set for the development between the fuel center and the Wendys.

An interlocal agreement between the county and city approved at the April 20 meeting of the Ridgeland Mayor and Board of Aldermen means the county will divert tax money to the TIF. The county's contributions will exclude ad valorem taxes collected on the Costco building anchoring the development. Bonds can be issued

up to \$12.5 million.

A TIF is a creative financing mechanism that diverts a portion of sales and property taxes generated by a development to debt service. The money will be invested in the area's infrastructure.

The Renaissance Phase III TIF was approved in December 2016 by the board with Butler Snow as bond counsel, Jerry Mills as counsel to the city and Government Consultants Inc., as the municipal advisors.

In December 2020 the area eligible for TIF money was expanded to include the 9 acres across the street from the Costco known as Renaissance Phase IV that currently includes a fuel center, Wendys and the site of the future Chick-fil-a.

Construction has already started on the Chick-fil-a after the site plan and architectural review were approved in April of this year.

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The Gluckstadt Fire Dept responded to a house fire on Catlett Road Tuesday afternoon. Standing, from left, are Henry Davis, Dan Tarsi, Paul Springer, Randall Hutton, Colby Acy, Mark Perry, Eric Gibbs, Anthony Washington and Tamarcus Williams. Kneeling from left, are Michael Schuhmann, Andy Divine, Jr., Andrew Thompson and Dustin Turner.

Fire destroys house on Catlett

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

Gluckstadt firefighters responded to a house fire on Catlett Road Tuesday evening. Gluckstadt Fire Department Chief Henry Davis said the department received a call of a house fire on Catlett Road around 6:04 p.m. on Tuesday.

He said the tenants of the house were outside when firefighters arrived. Davis said the fire was "quickly contained and extinguished" and that no injuries were reported. Davis noted that the house was old and would likely be declared a loss. Davis also said it looked like the owners were doing some

work on the house. No cause of the fire is known at this time. The fire remains under investigation. "This is what they do, and we are proud to have them," read part of a caption of a picture of the 13 responding firemen posted by Lisa Williams on social media.

COVID-19 continues decline

By **STAFF REPORTS**

Madison County's total COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began is now 10,092 which is 37 more than last week and the death toll remained at 217 this week, according to the Mississippi State Department of Health's Wednesday COVID-19 report. Meanwhile, 39% of Madison County's population is fully vaccinated as of Wednesday, according to MSDH, and 44% of the county's population has received one of the 86,688 total doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered in the county. Vaccines are currently available for all Mississippians ages 16 and older and are available at the Walmart locations in

Canton and Madison. Go to <https://msdh.ms.gov/c19appointment#local> to check availability. Vaccinations also are currently being administered by appointment in Madison County at Canton High School, 634 Finney Road in Canton on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. The state's total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases now stands at 192,285 with 121,862 probable cases for a total of 314,147 cases as of Tuesday and 4,993 confirmed COVID-19 deaths and another 2,251 probable COVID-19 deaths for a total of 7,244 deaths since the pandemic began in March 2020.

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Morning Worship
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11 a.m.
Sunday School
9:45 a.m.
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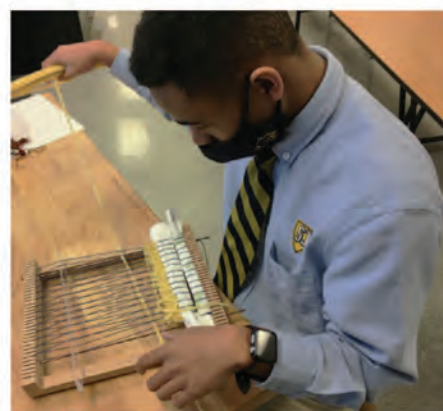
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JAMES E. PRINCE III
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EDITORIALS

Harmony among all is hope

Harmony among all shades of color is humanity's shared dream. Sadly, the crusade against racial injustice has become little more than a perpetual-emotion machine, fueling the flames of conflict it purports to fight. Trendy Black Lives Matter (BLM) is only making matters worse for Black Americans by failing to address the root cause of their suffering. It's not daggers of hate from the outside community, but ceaseless turmoil roiling the inner lives of children from broken families.

The proportion of births to unmarried non-Hispanic Black women in the U.S. reached 70 percent in 2019, according to a U.S. National Vital Statistics Report released March 23. The figures for unmarried Hispanic and non-Hispanic White mothers were 52 percent and 28 percent, respectively. Sadly, the United States has the world's highest share of single-parent households in the world.

Children learn the natural boundaries on human behavior from their first authority figures, their parents. The word "no" is easiest on the ear when spoken with love. With a parent absent, basic behavior goes unlearned until dishd out by a much less sympathetic authority figure, like a cop wearing a badge. It's unsurprising, then, that so many Black youths instinctively believe police are to blame, rather than their own behavior, for their run-ins with the law.

BLM has become an indignation juggernaut, weaponizing the impulse to lash out. New research indicates that the growing national outrage over police shootings has had a dramatic effect on the use of lethal force by law enforcement. The response, though, may be the opposite of

what Americans would expect.

Travis Campbell, a researcher at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, studied the impact of Black Lives Matter protests following the 2014 civil disorder in Ferguson, Mo. He found the more individuals participated in protests between 2014 and 2019, the fewer police killings occurred. Cumulatively, the reduction in such deaths measured 15-20 percent, or about 300 lives saved.

Cathy McMorris Rodgers fights government control of broadband rates in expansion plan

That's the good news. The bad news is that an additional 1,000 and 6,000 homicides occurred in places where Black Lives Matter protested. Saving 300 lives but costing as many as 6,000 is the very definition of doing more harm than good.

It may explain why Black Lives Matter is losing favor among Americans. Ipsos-USA Today polls have found the proportion of respondents saying BLM can be trusted to promote justice for all races has fallen from 60 percent to 50 percent during the past year.

Recent news could erode support even further: BLM co-founder Patrisse Cullors has reportedly acquired four homes worth \$3.2 million. Who knew that capitalist-hating Marxism could be so profitable?

Americans recognize racism for what it is: a soul-crushing human flaw. It is not racism, but family breakdown, that is the primary cause for Black America's anguish. The solution isn't Black Lives Matter's perpetual anger, but responsible parenting that allows children to feel safe and loved in their homes and nation.

— *The Washington Times*

GRANT CALLEN | GUEST COLUMN

Disagreeing as American as apple pie

Whether you're on the Right or the Left, I bet you'll agree: politics has changed a lot recently—and not for the better. I've been politically engaged since I was a kid, putting out campaign signs with my dad driving around rural Jones County. One of my earliest memories is watching George H.W. Bush and Michael Dukakis debate in 1988 who should succeed Ronald Reagan for the White House. I've written op-eds (like this one), letters to the editor, and more than a few political posts on social media, so I'm not new to the world of political discourse. But I have never experienced anything like the bitterness and vitriol I've witnessed this last year from those on both sides of the aisle.

Something seems to have shifted in the way we engage politically in America. Our language is courser, and our attacks are more personal. Every election cycle we are assured this is the most important election of our lifetime; our very lives depend on it. And as I watch people fight as though they are, indeed, defending their own lives, it appears as though the messaging has worked. In conversation after conversation, I hear friends on the Right demonize those on the Left, and friends on the Left do the same to the Right. There is a pervasive sense that those we disagree with politically are no longer just wrong; they are actually evil, even malevolent.

That we have political disagreements isn't in and of itself a bad thing. In fact, I would argue the opposite. Disagreeing is as American as apple pie. From our founding, one of the strengths of this nation has been our diversity of thought, but the founders agreed on those first principles that truly matter for self-government. Baked into our founding documents are protections for people to disagree.

Recently I've thought a lot about the quote from German theologian Rupertus Melde-nius (often misattributed to St. Augustine) saying: "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity." Where America seems to have gone wrong is mistaking essentials (must-haves) for non-essentials (nice-to-haves), and we've almost altogether thrown out the charity—arguably the most essential ingredient for meaningful discourse. And we've filled the vacuum left by charity with contempt.

Dr. John Gottman, famous for his work on marriage stability and divorce prediction, names contempt as one of "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" that is lethal to a relationship—it's not whether a couple fights, but whether they hold contempt for one another that is an indicator of marital weakness. If a marriage cannot survive contempt, where does that leave us as a nation as we engage in political discourse with those whom we have already decided are the enemy?

Today, people in both parties have elevated a wide array of public policies and cultural preferences to "essential" status, and doing so means we find anyone who disagrees with us on anything to be un-American. The Declaration of Independence does not outline whether we should rely on income taxes or consumption taxes to fund the government, but it does protect our essential right to have the conversation.

Pluralism, the idea that different religions, values, and ideologies can coexist within a nation, was an essential value for the American Founders. They anchored this nation on a few non-negotiable, foundational ideas: freedom to worship, speak up, peacefully assemble, all under the premise that all men are created equal. The founders were imperfect

in their practice of these values, but that doesn't negate their significance. And those ideas that deserve unity are not limitless. The founders imagined a great deal of disagreement or disunity within the nation. That is not a bug in their system, it is a feature! How do I know? Two reasons actually:

First, the first amendment protections wouldn't be necessary if the founders expected everyone to agree about everything. Those protections were intended to ensure that Americans would have the freedom to disagree with each other or even their government without the fear of persecution. Second, the founders themselves disagreed over hundreds of different topics. Whether to have an American monarchy, where to put the U.S. Capital, whether to have a federal bank, how to conduct trade policy, when to utilize our military to aid another country? If you have read the Federalist Papers (or watched the hit Broadway musical Hamilton for that matter), you know there were disagreements on virtually every topic imaginable. But they were unified around the essentials.

The solution isn't a national kumbaya moment where everyone falls in line behind a party or an idea; it's learning to disagree better, and still find unity around those first principles. The solution isn't less debate, it's more debate, but with respect, civility, and charity, without contempt. You see, rigorous debate makes our ideas better, it helps reveal our blind spots and fallacies, and it holds the potential to help us better understand each other and ourselves.

Grant Callen lives in Madison and is Founder & CEO of Empower Mississippi, an independent nonprofit advocacy organization based in Ridgeland. He can be reached at grant@empowerms.org.

PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

Police-bashing backlash?

Within hours of Saturday's shooting in Times Square where three bystanders, including a 4-year-old girl, were wounded, the two leading candidates to replace Mayor Bill de Blasio were on-site.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, a retired captain of the NYPD, and Andrew Yang, who declared:

"My fellow New Yorkers ... Nothing works in our city without public safety, and for public safety, we need the police. ... My message to the NYPD is this: New York needs you. Your city needs you.

"New York cannot afford to defund the police."

The rush of Adams and Yang to the scene of the shooting, and the messages they delivered, tells us something about the state of play in politics — and not only in the city of New York.

Liberal mayors and urban politicians who enlisted in the Black Lives Matter "defund the police" movement after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last May, appear to have caught a wave that is now receding.

In the streets of America's cities, violent crimes are spiking to heights unseen since the 1990s. And, instead of "Defund the Police!" the insistent cry is, "Where are the cops?"

Atlanta is a case in point.

Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms just announced she will not run for a second term. While she listed issues and events that exhausted her energy, The New York Times suggests that Atlanta's soaring crime rate made her vulnerable and Bottoms was looking at possible defeat.

Writes Richard Fausset of the Times:

"The most serious political threat that emerged for Ms. Bottoms in recent months was a phenomenon she had previously described as the 'Covid crime wave.' ... Atlanta is struggling with a spike in violent crime, including a 58 percent increase in homicides last year...

NYPD has lost 7% of its force and is in a recruitment crisis.

"The mayor's inability to get a handle on crime has become the central theme for two challengers," one of whom is city council president Felicia Moore.

"Atlanta has a mayor that is more interested in things that happen outside Atlanta," Ms. Moore said in a recent statement, referring to Ms. Bottoms's emerging national stature, including talk that she was rumored to be a possible vice-presidential candidate. "We need a mayor who knows the No. 1 job of any mayor is to keep our city safe."

So visceral is the public reaction to the crime wave in Atlanta that in Buckhead, a wealthy enclave in the northern section of the city, there is talk of secession and taking its tax base with it.

Why is crime rising and not only in Atlanta?

Among the reasons: the demonization and demoralization of police departments under constant fire for harboring "rotten apples" and rogue cops. Seen by cops as anti-cop, this campaign is generating police resignations, retirements and reductions in force.

The NYPD has lost 7% of its force and is in a recruitment crisis.

Large reductions in the number of cops have also been recorded in Chicago, Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Atlanta. Then there is the "Ferguson Effect" where cops avoid aggressive policing for fear a mistake could cost them their reputation and career, or worse.

In a nation as violent as ours, with daily confrontations between cops and often aggressive and armed suspects, police errors are going to be made. There are going to be unwarranted and unnecessary shootings, woundings and even killings.

In any war, there are casual-

ties and collateral damage, and that is true of America's "war on crime" — another of our forever wars.

But the daily reports of escalating violent crime, resulting in growing numbers of innocent wounded and dead, are inducing a fear for safety that is outstripping any fear of cops. And politicians are beginning to see the numbers shift and reacting accordingly.

Consider a few of the crime numbers compiled by The Hill: 2020 witnessed more than 20,000 criminal homicides with a huge share of that spike occurring in urban America.

New York saw 150 additional homicides and 750 additional shootings in 2020 than in 2019. Chicago saw 274 more homicides and 1,435 additional shootings in 2020 than in 2019.

Los Angeles saw homicides rise 38% as shootings spiked 40%. Washington, D.C., ended 2020 with homicides up for the third straight year.

Killings in Philadelphia, where homicides have risen every year since 2016, almost reached 500, a 40% increase. In Louisville, homicides jumped 70%.

In Detroit, shootings and homicides rose for the second year in a row, increasing by 53%.

Homicides spiked for the second straight year in Minneapolis, to 84 deaths — the highest tally since 1995. Cleveland had its highest murder tally since 1982, after a nearly 40% jump in killings last year.

Houston hit 413 murders in 2020 — a 42% increase over 2019. Indianapolis saw a 40% jump in murders. For Denver, the murder increase was 50 percent.

Cops aren't doing these killings. They're doing their jobs trying to prevent these killings and apprehend the killers.

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

RICH LOWRY

Biden's child care folly

Joe Biden has a New Deal for America's kids.

He wants to spend more than \$225 billion on child care for infants and toddlers, and \$200 billion for free, universal preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds.

This is being hailed as a social revolution that will finally bring the United States in line with other advanced democracies.

In reality, it's a program that shows a pronounced class bias. And since it is heedless of the experience of other such mass programs in the United States and around the world, the Biden approach is also likely to fail to achieve its goals.

It's just not true, as the Biden program assumes, that parents of young children are eager to shuttle them off to industrialized daycare or pre-K programs.

An extensive survey for the populist thinktank American Compass found a stark class divide in how couples think about child care. The survey asked couples if they preferred to have one parent working full time while the other parent provides child care in the home, or to have both parents working and using child care full time. One parent working was the preference of strong majorities of working-class (68%) and lower-class couples (58%), with a plurality of middle-class couples (38%) agreeing. Only a plurality of upper-class couples preferred the child care option (44%).

So, Biden is talking about using taxpayer dollars to create as a default an arrangement that most parents would rather avoid.

Then, there are outcomes. In a paper earlier this year for

Joe Biden wants his New Deal for kids — whether it's good for them or not.

the Manhattan Institute, researcher Max Eden reviewed the literature.

The programs that have produced the most remarkable positive outcomes over the years tend to be small, expensive, and very difficult to replicate.

On the other side of the ledger, there's the Quebec Family Policy. The Canada province developed a crash program in the late 1990s that rapidly expanded child care with generally deleterious effects. Researchers found increased behavioral, social, and health problems for the kids, and interestingly, worse outcomes for parents, too. The results were, in the words of one authoritative study, "striking in their consistent indication of a substantial negative impact of universal child care on children in two-parent families."

The exception in Quebec, per another study, was children from single-parent families, where positive results were "particularly large for individuals at the very bottom of the distribution."

The Quebec outcomes, as Eden notes, accord with what's been found elsewhere — child care is best for disadvantaged children and worst for children from two-parent families.

As for pre-K, the largest study of Head Start, the federal program for low-income children, found any early benefits faded by the third grade. Other

research has been more encouraging. But a rigorous, randomized control study of low-income kids in an extensive pre-K program in Tennessee showed initial gains washed away and then, over time, participants had worse academic and behavioral outcomes.

The research of James Heckman, a Nobel Prize-winning economist at the University of Chicago who studied one of the most successful programs, is often cited by advocates of the Biden plan. In an interview last year, though, Heckman stipulated that he has never supported universal pre-K. He said the benefits of a loving, engaged family have never been adequately measured.

"Public preschool programs can potentially compensate for the home environments of disadvantaged children," Heckman said. "No public preschool program can provide the environments and the parental love and care of a functioning family and the lifetime benefits that ensue."

All of this would suggest taking a cautious approach focused on the least-advantaged kids rather than moving full-speed ahead on a massive federal expenditure to get as many kids into daycare and pre-K as possible, probably through the existing structure of public schools.

But, in a desperate rush to spend another \$4 trillion, Joe Biden wants his New Deal for kids — whether it's good for them or not.

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

BIBLE SELECTION

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

— Matthew 18:15 (ESV)



Evening commute snarl

A minor accident during the evening commute Tuesday reduced U.S. 51 at I-55 in Ridgeland to one lane in both directions. Ridgeland Fire and Police responded to the wreck near Barnett's Body Shop at approximately 5:16 p.m. The motor vehicle accident involved a Ford and a Toyota with an airbag deployment, RPD Lt. Brian Myers said. Injuries were reported but no one was transported to the hospital, Myers said. Both vehicles were towed from the scene and Ridgeland units were back in service and the roadway was clear at 5:43 p.m.

Murder

Continued from page A1

police are treating the matter as a triple homicide.

Their 1-year-old daughter survived but suffered a gunshot wound to the face and Faustino Ramirez's younger brother Robert, 15, survived by hiding in a closet.

The motive is believed to be \$2,000 in cash that was taken from the home.

Devante Xavier Johnson, 27, of Canton turned himself in in connection with the July 26 shooting of Ramone Gutter, 32, in front of a convenience store.

Gutter died of his wounds at UMMC. Gutter rapped under the name "Ray Gutta."

In October, Deondric Devontae-Reimon Green opened fire on a vehicle in the McDonalds drive-through on

West Peace Street.

Brown said that Dekarie Johnson, 24, was found dead on the scene on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

In addition, 13-year old Robert Luckett succumbed to his injuries at the University of Mississippi Medical Center later that week. Two others were sent to the hospital following the shooting but survived.

Green, 20, was identified as the suspected shooter. He now faces two charges of murder and two counts of attempted murder in connection with the shooting.

Rowena Shyanne Triplett, 23, Green's girlfriend, has also been charged in connection with the murders and faces two charges of murder and

two charges of attempted murder. Both suspects have been denied bond.

Finally, Tyjerious Damichael Sims, 19, and Jaheen Tyrone Harris, 18, were both arrested on Jan. 8, 2021, and charged with capital murder in connection with the shooting death of 35-year-old Dario Robinson.

Robinson's body was found on Dec. 18, a Friday around 7:30 a.m. by a Canton Parks and Recreation employee on one of the baseball fields at the Canton Multi-Purpose Complex.

Brown said that anyone with information on any of these or other incidents is encouraged to call Crime Stoppers at 601-355-TIPS (8477).

Gluckstadt

Continued from page A1

involved in the city's government.

"I would love to see 500 people at the first meeting because I think this is what has motivated the citizens of Gluckstadt and that is to try to have local community involvement," Morrison said. "The more the merrier. If everybody gets involved and that is the manner in which decisions are made in the long run it is going to be really good for the city."

Mississippi Justice Dawn Beam wrote the 48-page decision upholding an earlier Madison County Chancery Court ruling.

"We find no merit to the claim that the chancery court was without jurisdiction to hear and decide the incorporation petition, and we affirm the chancery court's grant of incorporation as set forth in the decree," Beam wrote in the

conclusion. "We find that the chancery court's grant of annexation for Areas 1 and 2 and denial of annexation for Areas 3, 4, and 5 is without manifest error and is supported by substantial, credible evidence. Accordingly, we affirm the chancery court's decree with regard to annexation."

The appeal originated from two cases filed in the Chancery Court of Madison County.

"Petitioners from the community of Gluckstadt sought incorporation of approximately 10.8 square miles of incorporated territory in Madison County," the decision states.

"The City of Canton petitioned for annexation of approximately 6.7 square miles of unincorporated territory in Madison County, consisting of five proposed areas (Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5). The chancery court entered a final decree, granting,

in part, the Gluckstadt Incorporators' petition. The decree granted Canton's proposed annexation of Areas 1 and 2 but denied Canton's proposed annexation of Areas 3, 4, and 5."

A few more benchmarks must pass before Gluckstadt's incorporation is officially official.

"The matter still has to wait 14 days for petition for rehearing," Mills said. "It becomes official 10 days after mandate issues, which if they are denied petition for rehearing or if there is no petition for rehearing would mean that it is effective in 21 days. If there is a petition for rehearing, it would become effective once that was decided and the mandate issued."

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES/J. Ligon Duncan III

Christ in you: Living, growing, believing, and giving thanks

Please turn to Colossians 2:6-7. In these two short verses, Paul sets before us important truths about the Christian life. Paul was dealing with people who had come into contact with false teachers who claimed that they needed to add something to Christ in order to grow more deeply in the Christian faith. In response, Paul says the problem with that false teaching is not that it wants to grow deeper in the faith. The problem with false teaching is that it ignores the first principles of spirituality which are the truth that as we start with Christ, so we live in Christ. Therefore, Paul teaches us four lessons regarding this truth. First, Paul gives an exhortation concerning the Christian life. Secondly, he tells us that the Christian life involves growing. Thirdly, Paul says that the Christian life entails believing. Fourthly and finally, he tells us that the Christian life involves thanksgiving.

I. An Exhortation Concerning the Christian Life.

In verse 6, Paul says, "Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him." The Apostle Paul is reminding us that all Christians live in Christ the Lord. In other words, Paul summons us to live a lifestyle worthy of the Lord. The term "walk" refers to living. It is a metaphor for living life. Paul is saying walk in Christ, as you have received Him as Lord. He is calling believers to live in a way which is consistent to what they have professed as far as being disciples of Jesus Christ. And in that little phrase, Paul gives us two important principles in pursuing this great imperative. First, he reminds us that receiving Christ is not the end but the beginning of spiritual life. Very often we think of the point when we committed ourselves to Christ as the culmination of the Holy Spirit's work in us. Far from it. It is just the beginning of the Holy Spirit's work in us. Coupled with that truth, he gives us another truth in that little phrase. And that second truth is that all growth and progress in the Christian life must be consistent with its beginning. If we began the Christian life by professing Christ as Lord, our living of the Christian life must be consistent with that profession. If Christ is the object of our faith, if He is the one who saves us, then surely it is Christ who must be the sphere of our spiritual growth and develop-

ment. So the Apostle Paul wants us to remember that the way we grow must be consistent with how we first came into relationship with God.

II. The Christian Life Entails Growing.

The Apostle Paul then uses three phrases in verse 7 to describe what it means to walk in the Lord in the manner in which we received him. First, Paul says, "having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him." This phrase reminds us that the Christian life always involves growth. Thus, Paul is teaching us here that all Christians grow in grace, having been rooted and built up in Him. Paul expects Christians to grow. Notice that these are not imperatives, these are indicatives. Paul is simply describing what a person who walks in Christ looks like. He is not saying I want you to grow, he is saying you will grow. If you are a believer, you are going to be growing in Christ. He expects our interest in spiritual growth and he expects to see growth itself in believers. Furthermore, Paul expects this growth not to be by our own strength, but he expects this growth to be dependent on Christ. The power to live a new life depends upon our daily living and communing with the living God through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We do not grow deeper in our knowledge of God by supplementing Christ, by augmenting Christ, or by leaving Him behind to something rudimentary and moving to something more profound. We grow in knowledge and experience of God by our communion with Christ and union with Him.

III. The Christian Life Entails Believing.

Secondly, Paul says, "Established in your faith just as you were instructed." Paul reminds us here that the Christian life entails believing truth. In other words, Paul is reminding us that all Christians are founded on the faith once delivered. We don't just believe in believing. We believe in the truth. We believe in the word which the apostles preached, and which Christ preached. We believe in the word which is given to us in Scripture. And our faith is established in that instruction. The Apostle Paul reminds us here that to be established in faith means to be consolidated in the truth. We have acknowledged that truth in our first profession: Christ Jesus is Lord.

Without a full and mature understanding, there can be no satisfying Christianity for the individual and there cannot be a stable church because Paul tells us that truth is for the purpose of godliness. And if we do not attend ourselves to truth, we will not walk in the way of godliness.

IV. The Christian Life Entails Thanksgiving.

Lastly, Paul says, "overflowing with gratitude." Here the Apostle Paul teaches that the Christian life invariably entails thanksgiving. Paul is teaching us that all Christians are filled with gratitude to God. Paul is reminding us that to be filled with thanksgiving is a mark of the Spirit doing a work in us. As we think about gratitude and thanksgiving in our experience, there are two interesting components to it. First, true thanksgiving is born in a spirit of humility because true gratitude lifts our thoughts from ourselves. Secondly, true gratitude directs our hearts toward God from whom all growth comes and to whom all praise and glory should be given. So thanksgiving and gratitude move us from off ourselves and onto God. It comes from humility and it ends in praise. Thus, Paul considers thanksgiving to be a hallmark of the Christian life.

The Bible says the growing Christian is one who is established in the faith, who is rooted in Christ, and who is overflowing in gratitude. Are Christians going to grow into a deeper knowledge of Christ? Absolutely. Are they to do it by supplementing Christ? By going to

something else apart from Christ, outside of Him? Absolutely not. In Christ are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, the Apostle says. It is in Christ that we grow. When people come and whisper in our ears and say, "You need Christ plus something else," may we turn a deaf ear to that type of persuasion. However persuasive the words may be, may we say to them, by God's grace, "In Christ I have my all in all." May God, by His Holy Spirit, help us to walk in Christ as we have received Him as Lord.

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.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS DIRECTOR

Madison County, Mississippi, located in Central Mississippi, is currently seeking a Buildings & Grounds Director. Their primary responsibility shall include all matters regarding the maintenance and improvement of buildings and grounds. For Example:

- Managing and supervising all facilities personnel
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Resumes will be accepted until May 31, 2021.

Submit letter of application with resume, which includes work references to:

Madison County Board of Supervisors
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P. O. Box 608
Canton, MS 39046
Or, via email to hr@madison-co.com

Drug screening and criminal background check required. Applications and applicants' information will remain confidential
Madison County is an EEO/ADA Employer.

2021-2022 Schoolwide Planning Meetings Madison County Schools

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

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

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

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

Submitted by:

Brenda Thompson, Ed.D., Federal Programs Director, Office of Federal Programs –
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"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
— John 3:16 (NIV)

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Getting the Message/Rev. Chris Shelton

Stephen gives a defense of the gospel

In this passage Stephen gives a defense of the gospel. He is accused of blaspheming God denigrating the temple and the customs of Moses (chapter 6:13-14). The high priest asked Stephen, "Are these things so?"

Stephen answers by taking men who are experts of the Old Testament through a brief history of the redemptive purpose of God. In doing so, he will rebuke their trust in outward forms and righteousness. They do not lack zeal, but humble faith to the point that their hearts are not like the prophets but like those who opposed them. Stephen reminds them of what faith looks like.

He begins with Abraham (verses 2-8). Abraham was called by God to leave his country and kindred and go to the place God sent him. God promised Abraham he would have descendants and that in the future they will possess the land, though at the time Abraham was alone in a strange land.

The purpose of God in redeeming them was that they would worship him (verse 7). He gave them a covenant sign of circumcision signifying he is their God and they are his people. There was no temple in Abraham's day. Nevertheless God commended Abraham for his faith. God has always required a heart of faith more than outward things. This is Stephen's point to his accusers.

Stephen turns to Joseph next (verse 9-16). He emphasizes that Joseph, though rejected by his brothers, was God's vessel of deliverance for them. They find food and shelter from the very one they had been evil to, a pattern of what Christ (the Bread of life) does for sinners.

Stephen continues with the life of Moses. He divides Moses' life into three forty year periods. In the first, he reminds them of God's favor on Moses, born under Pharaoh during a time of great oppression. God sent Israel a deliverer, without whom Israel would have remained in bondage.

In the next period of Moses' life, Stephen emphasizes the rejection of Moses as a deliverer by the people of Israel, forcing Moses to leave Egypt (verse 29). The Jewish leaders, in rejecting Christ, were showing similar unbelief. God never saved the people of Israel because they were righteous; it was always his grace.

This is reinforced by the account of God appearing to Moses in the burning bush at Mount Sinai (verse 30). Moses trembled at being in the presence of the holy God. God tells Moses he is sending him back to Egypt to deliver his people. He remembers his promise to Abraham.

Despite the great salvation which was accompanied by many signs and wonders, including going through the Red Sea (verse 36), Stephen reminds his hearers that the hearts of the people turned back to Egypt. Even when they outwardly practiced the customs Moses gave them, their hearts were far from God. Idolatry characterized Israel rather than faith in the Lord (verse 42).

Stephen then addresses the issue of the temple (verses 44-50). The temple represented the presence of God among his people, but it became viewed by the people of Israel in a way that did not honor God. Their allegiance was in name only, and worship was perfunctory. Instead of a place to humbly honor the Lord, the temple had become another object of idolatry for them.

Stephen, in recounting these stories, is responding to the charges against him. His point is that the people accusing him are acting in the same way toward Christ that rebellious Israel acted toward the prophets God sent them. They show no evidence of faith. They are proud, and in rejecting Christ are rejecting the prophet Moses had said would come (verse 37).

Moses trembled in the presence of God. The men who are judging Stephen were not familiar with this trembling. Self-righteous hearts have little fear of the Lord. But God is holy, and Christ came to save sinners. These men had already heard Peter tell them that there is no other name under heaven whereby men may be saved (Chapter 4:12). They were not moved.

If you refuse to be reconciled in the name of Christ, it doesn't matter who you are. You can be a Jewish leader who runs the temple. It is possible to be a church member, to hear the Word of God, enjoy the company of God's people, and yet have a heart far from God. This is Stephen's warning.

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- CENTER TERRACE BAPTIST**
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Two children playing at Madison's Strawberry Patch Park borrow books from The Reading Patch. The little library in the park is in need of donated books to replenish the shelves. New or gently used children's books will be collected at Madison Square Center for the Arts, 2103 Main Street.

Park in need of children's books

By LUCY WEBER
Special to the Journal

The Reading Patch at Strawberry Patch Park in Madison is in need of books.

In the three years since the little library was built and installed by the Mayor's Youth Council, the supply of children's books has dwindled. The books are in the park for children to borrow, but sometimes the reading materials may not be returned.

Rules for using the little library are: Take a book. Return a book. Take care of the books.

Since spring and summer are the busiest times for children to borrow from the library box in the park, Brittany Mayfield, the city's manager of special events and sponsor of the Youth Council, said additional books are needed to replenish the two shelves and back-up supply.

"This was a project that our 2017-2018 Mayor's Youth Council felt they could leave a mark on our community. Children have been enjoying it for three years now, and we would love our community's continued support by donating books

so we can continue to offer this fun and educational experience for children every time they come to Strawberry Patch Park," she said.

The library is designed for children ages 1-10. "We are looking for age-appropriate books, gently used interactive and educational," Mayfield said.

Donations can be dropped off with Mayfield in the administrative office of Madison Square Center for the Arts between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Rep. Thompson guest of business leaders

By JOHN LEE
john@onlinemadison.com

In a rare public appearance, U.S. Rep. Bennie G. Thompson will be the featured guest at a Madison County Business League and Foundation event honoring him later this month.

The League is hosting Coffee with the Congressman featuring Thompson, a Democrat who represents portions of Madison County.

The event is Tuesday, May 25 from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

at the Two Mississippi Museums in downtown Jackson.

Seating is limited and reservations are required for attendance. The reservation deadline is May 21.

Contact Jan Collins of the Madison County Business League and Foundation at collins.jan01@gmail.com for questions about reservations and seating.

Thompson is currently serving his 13th term in the United States House of Representatives.

He represents Mississippi's Second Congressional District and is the longest-serving Black official in Mississippi and the lone Democrat in the Mississippi Congressional Delegation.

For more information about Rep. Thomson, visit bennethompson.house.gov.

Visit madisoncountybusinessleague.com for more information about the Madison County Business League and Foundation.

MAY 17-28 // HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Holmes Community College is offering five courses during a Maymester Session on the Ridgeland Campus May 17-28. Classes will meet Monday-Friday and final exams will be held 1-3 p.m. on May 28. Classes offered include: **First Aid & CPR, College Algebra, Trigonometry, American National Government and Human Growth and Development.**

// CONTACT
Kristin Daniels
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Madison Central broadcast students receive awards

Madison Central High School broadcast students of the Jaguar News Network (JNN) won multiple awards at the Mississippi Scholastic Press Association's spring conference. The awards are as follows: Best News Story finalist; Best Feature Story finalist; Best Sports Story finalist; Best In-Studio Anchor - Wes Fowler winner; Best In-Studio Anchor - Camille Coleman finalist; Best News Reporter - Adam Maatallah finalist; Best News Reporter - Isabella Ragazzi finalist; Best Weather Reporter - Lily Ross finalist; Best Hype Video - Jackson Lawrence winner; Best Hype Video - Jackson Lawrence finalist; Best Long-Form Story - David Ramsey & Zoe Keyes winner; Newscast of the Year - JNN winner; Best Opening Sequence - JNN finalist; Best News Coverage - JNN winner; Best Feature Coverage - JNN finalist; Best Sports Coverage - JNN finalist; Best Creativity - JNN finalist; Culture/Entertainment Podcast Episode - David Ramsey, Jackson Lawrence, Jacob Grimsley finalist; Culture/Entertainment Podcast Episode - David Ramsey, Jackson Lawrence, Jacob Grimsley finalist; Podcast On-Air Talent - David Ramsey finalist; Podcast of the Year - The Ramsey Report finalist; News Podcast - The Ramsey Report winner; All-Mississippi & All-Publication Awards: At-Large Honorees Zoe Keyes, Jackson Lawrence and David Ramsey. Pictured are members of the Jaguar News Network team. Back row left to right are: Joshua Whitfield, Wes Fowler, and Bennett Kelly. Third row left to right are Gabe Freedman, Robert Cascio, Lilly Ross, and Gini Burton. Second row left to right are Isabella Ragazzi, Allie Ragsdale, Camille Coleman, Adam Maatallah, and Deanna Wilbourn. Front row left to right are Taylor Langele (adviser), Jackson Lawrence, Eli Ragsdale, Zoe Keyes, David Ramsey, and Gabby Newman.



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