

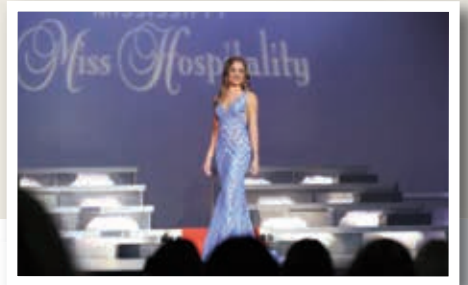


**GLUCKSTADT
P&Z COMMISSION
APPOINTED**

Four-year terms — See page A3

**PAGEANT
HEDERMAN PLACES
THIRD ALTERNATE**

Miss Hospitality — See page A3



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JULY 22, 2021 ** \$1.00



Gov. Tate Reeves sits behind the wheel of a brand new 2022 Nissan Frontier truck that was manufactured at the Canton plant. Automobile executives and business leaders announced the truck would be made exclusively in Madison County.

'22 Frontier line exclusive to Canton

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

Local dignitaries were on hand along with hundreds of Nissan employees and executives to watch the first 2022 Frontier pickup truck developed and produced at the Canton facility roll off the assembly line last week.

Tim Fallon, vice president of manufacturing at the Canton plant, said the rollout would likely bring "incremental jobs" during the event last Thursday.

Inclusion of new technology in the trucks, Fallon said, would likely necessitate future job openings though he was not sure how many new jobs would be or at what pace they would become available.

Fallon said consumers could expect the new Frontier pickup trucks to roll onto car lots in the fall.

Gov. Tate Reeves spoke at the event congratulating the workers. He said he was proud of the state and its relationship with Nissan.

Reeves said Nissan decided to locate a plant in Canton 18 years ago because it was in their best interest. He noted that it was in their best interest



See **NISSAN**, page A5 Nissan employees huddle together last week to celebrate the launch of the 2022 Frontier.

STANDOFF Arkansas fugitive killed in shootout

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

CANTON — An Arkansas man suspected of shooting an ex-girlfriend died in a shootout with police at an interstate motel here on Saturday.

Madison County Sheriff's Office Spokesman Heath Hall said the fugitive, later identified as Quentin Bogard, was killed after a three-hour standoff with law enforcement. Bogard was on the run for a shooting he is believed to have committed in Jonesboro, Arkansas, Hall said.

Lt. Kenny Oldham with the Jonesboro Police Department confirmed the victim Bogard was wanted in connection with the shooting of a woman that occurred at approximately 9:49 p.m. on July 16 in the 1800 block of Highland Drive in Jonesboro.

Initial reports stated the woman had succumbed to her injuries but Oldham said the woman had been airlifted to a Memphis hospital where she was treated and released. Early reports also indicated the woman was the mother of Bogard's children, but Oldham said he did not know if the two had any children together but confirmed they had had a previous relationship.

Hall said the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation is investigating the officer-involved shooting of Bogard.

MBI spokesman Capt. Johnny Poulos said the MBI is conducting the investigation and that no other information is available.

Hall said law enforcement responded to a call at the Relax Inn, 123 Sidney Runnels Dr., near the Pizza Hut off west Peace Street at approximately 2 p.m. Saturday, July 17.

He said the man had barricaded himself in a room and that law enforcement officers tried to talk the man down to no avail and had to enter the room. When law enforcement entered the room, the man was fatally shot. Hall said no other injuries have been reported.

Hall said he could not confirm if a sheriff's deputy shot the man. He said the Canton police and other agencies were on the scene as well.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Ray remembered as a 'solid rock'

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

Law enforcement and hundreds of people from the community came out last weekend to honor the life of Madison Central school Resource officer Corey Ray and his 22-year career in law enforcement.

Corey Evan Ray, 41, of Ridgeland, died July 14, 2021, at his home surrounded by family and friends. His mother, Karen Green Golden, said he went peacefully after a lengthy struggle with an extended illness.

Ray suffered from a rare intestinal problem and only one doctor was willing to do the surgery, his family said, extending his life another eight months. During that time, Ray made a profession of faith in Christ and was bap-

tized in his hospital room, his family said.

"I went back to talk to Corey and told him I knew how tired he was, and what a fighter he had been since he'd been in the hospital," his mother wrote in the Facebook group Pray for Corey Ray after they'd brought him home. "I told him it's ok if he wanted to just rest now and stop fighting. I told him what a wonderful place Heaven is and it's ok if he's ready to go be with Jesus."

His mother remembered his bright personality, sense of humor, work ethic and ability to multi-task as defining characteristics of her son.

She said her family has been through a "rough eight and half months" but knows her son is in a better place now.

"He is whole again," Golden said.

Ray is survived by his mother and stepfather Gary as well as his father, Charles Ray and stepmother Vicki. He is also survived by his maternal grandparents, Harold and Frances Green. Ray was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Coy and Kathryn Ray.

The funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 17, at Broadmoor Baptist Church with a graveside service after in Jessamine Cemetery in Ridgeland.

Speakers at the service included Madison Police Chief Gene Waldrop and Madison County Sheriff Randy Tucker.

Waldrop said Ray was a "solid rock" as an employee,

See **RAY**, page A3



Corey Evan Ray had a 22-year career in law enforcement and most recently served as the School Resource Officer at Madison Central High School.

OPINION
Patrick Buchanan Page A4

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES
Ligon Duncan Page A5

OPINION
Rich Lowry Page A4



County to grade roads in annexed area

By SCOTT HAWKINS
scott@onlinemadison.com

The city of Ridgeland will cut grass along some county roads in a newly-annexed area west of I-55 and Madison County will in turn grade some gravel roads.

The move comes after the Madison County Board of Supervisors approved a Memorandum of Understanding to enter into an interlocal agreement with the city of Ridgeland during their Monday meeting.

District 3 Supervisor Gerald Steen made the request in the form of a motion for the board to enter into the agreement, saying the city of Ridgeland asked for help grading some gravel roads in

an area recently annexed by the city.

"The city of Ridgeland came and asked in the annexed area ... and they asked us to grade those roads," Steen said. "The more we got to talking we did some swapping out. They are going to do some grass cutting on Lake Castle and North Livingston to offset the grading."

Steen said Ridgeland does not own a grader.

Board Attorney Mike Espy said, "Basically, the city of Ridgeland will agree to cut some grass and pick up litter along the county roads, and in consideration the county will dredge some of the areas in the city especially after it rains."

Supervisors unanimously approved the motion.

In other matters during Monday's meeting, the board:

- Supervisors adopted a resolution honoring the life of Melvin Ray, the former Madison County Schools superintendent, who died June 24 at the age of 82.

The resolution reads in part: "The Madison County Board of Supervisors approves, authorizes and passes a resolution honoring the life of the 'citizen servant,' Clarence Melvin Ray, who served as county school superintendent, and in other capacities within the county school system of Madison County for over thirty (30) years, and, in doing so, he blessed the lives of future genera-

tions, and of everyone who came to know him," states in part the resolution.

Supervisors unanimously adopted the resolution and agreed to send a copy to Ray's family.

- Agreed to allow Ruby White, a resident of Lincoln Street in the Magnolia Heights subdivision in the county, to close off a portion of Lincoln Street between Center Street and Madison Street from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 21 for a block party to celebrate her birthday.

- Acknowledged receiving a 2020 fiscal year audit report from Dr. Mary Sims-Johnson, Madison County Citizens Services Agency. The independent audit report had no adverse findings.

- Heard a report from Heath Hall of Strategic Marketing Group, LLC on the county's Facebook page that now has 4,994 followers and an update on the county's app that now has 534 users.

- Authorized a summary change order and project closeout on an onsite water and sewer utilities project with a total cost of \$1,419,980.

- Approved claims and payroll dockets, wedding reports and Fleetcor dockets as well as budget amendments and inter-fund cash transfers.

- Went into executive session in which they:

- Made two administrative adjustments and condemned one

property on Bozeman Road;

- Hired a traffic engineer for a cost not to exceed \$10,000 on the Bozeman Road project;

- Established just compensation for four parcels of property on the Reunion Phase II project as well as state aid project;

- Began establishment of the Madison County Megasite Fire District board that will be composed of the members of the board of supervisors and retained the services of Watkins & Eager law firm to assist the county attorney in the creation of the fire district.

- Set a special budget workshop meeting for 9 a.m. Tuesday, July 27.

Madison police seeking public input for accreditation

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@onlinemadison.com

Madison Police will seek public comment on July 26 as part of an accreditation program the department been involved with for almost 20 years.

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc., through a virtual format, will examine all aspects of the Madison Police Department's policies and procedures, management, operations, and sup-

port services, Chief M. E. Waldrop announced last week.

"The Department has been previously accredited since November 2002," Waldrop said.

Waldrop said the accreditation is a voluntary process that his department pursues because the commission's "state-of-the-art standards." He went on to describe it as "a highly prized recognition of public safety professional excellence."

MPD will be required to comply with 365 standards in

order to continue advanced accredited status. Accreditation is for four years, during which the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

"Advanced Law Enforcement accreditation provides the Madison Police Department a process for accountability to the citizens and public which the Department serves," Waldrop said.

The CALEA Program Man-

ager for the Madison Police Department is Vince Dauro. He said the assessment team is composed of public safety practitioners from similar, out-of-state agencies. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals and view offices, locations and equipment and processes virtually where compliance can be verified.

"Once the CALEA assessors complete their review of the agency, they report back to the full Commission, which will

then decide if the agency is to be granted accredited status," Dauro said.

As part of the virtual assessment, agency personnel and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session on Monday, July 26, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The session will be conducted virtually utilizing the Zoom teleconference platform.

Those wishing to attend the online meeting may do so by joining the Zoom teleconference

at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82728862379?pwd=ZjNpTHZiQ0lqS0l4azh6dmVHakNUUT09>.

The Zoom meeting ID is 827 2886 2379. The Zoom meeting passcode is 710088.

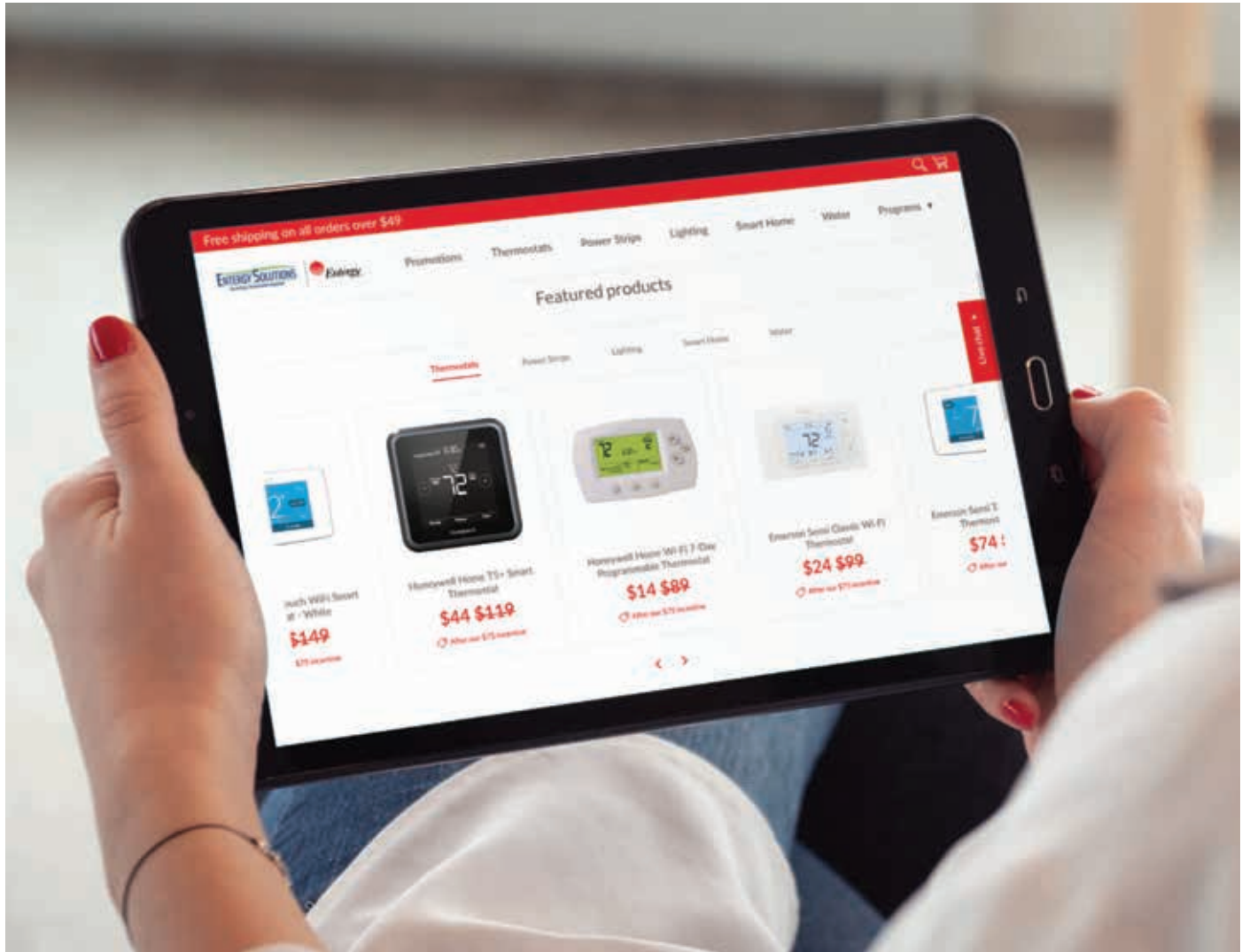
If for some reason an individual cannot attend the public information session but would like to provide comments to the assessment team, he/she may do so by telephone. The public

may call 601-500-2831 on Monday, July 26, between the hours of 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Telephone comments as well as comments at the online public information session are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA Standards. A copy of the standards is available at the City of Madison Police Department.

Waldrop said the local contact is Capt. Kevin Newman, telephone number 601-856-6111.

Persons wishing to offer written comments about the City of Madison Police Department's ability to meet the standards for accreditation are requested to write to: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), 1357 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, VA 20155. Comments may also be submitted by email to calea@calea.org.



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Camden man arrested for theft at Neshoba casino

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@onlinemadison.com

A Madison County man has been arrested and charged in connection with the theft of a vehicle from the a Neshoba County casino on Saturday.

Lasamuel Lamont Harris, 28, 213 Carthage Road, Camden, was arrested and charged with felony motor vehicle theft and burglary of a dwelling in Neshoba County.

Neshoba County Sheriff Eric Clark said a 2019 Ford Expedition was reported stolen from the Golden Moon Casino on Saturday, July 17.

He said the vehicle was recovered due to a quick response by Choctaw Police Department and assistance from the Forest Police Department.

A Neshoba County Sheriff's Investigator responded to the complaint and took custody of Harris on Friday afternoon from the Forest Jail.

Jail records show that Harris remained Tuesday afternoon in the Neshoba County Detention Center and has been denied bond.

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Gluckstadt appoints members to P&Z board

By JOHN LEE
john@onlinemadison.com

GLUCKSTADT — Mississippi's newest city now has a Planning and Zoning Commission.

Aldermen each nominated a resident to serve and Mayor Walter Morrison appointed two members to represent the business community.

Alderman Lisa Williams said all of the Planning and Zoning Commission members appointed by aldermen are all residents of Gluckstadt and two members nominated by Gluckstadt Mayor Walter Morrison are not.

"Officials nominated by the mayor are business owners and are not required to be Gluckstadt residents," Williams said.

Members of Gluckstadt's Planning and Zoning Commission who were all unanimously approved:

- Sam McGaugh, nominated by Alderman Wesley Slay;
- Lee Drake, by Alderman John Taylor;
- David Boackle, nominated by Alderman Jayce Powell;

- Katrina Myrick, nominated by Alderman Miya Warfield-Bates;

- Tim Slattery, nominated by Alderman Lisa Williams;
- Melanie Greer, nominated by Morrison, owns Exit Realty Legacy Group located at 1078 Gluckstadt Road; and

- Andrew Duggar, nominated by Morrison, owns TherapySouth Gluckstadt on Highway 51.

Williams said a public notice will be provided before the Planning and Zoning Commission's first meeting and the commission will operate under the state's open meetings act.

The ordinance establishing Gluckstadt's Planning and Zoning Commission adopted by the mayor and board states the following:

- Each member of the commission will serve for four years in conjunction with the term of office of the Mayor and Board of Alderman.

- Any member of the commission may be removed from office at any time with or without cause by the Mayor and Board of Alderman.



Newly-appointed Gluckstadt Planning and Zoning Commission Board members stand together after the conclusion of the special Gluckstadt meeting on July 19. Pictured, from left: Tim Slattery, Melanie Greer, Katrina Myrick, David Boackle, Lee Drake, and Andrew Duggar. Not pictured is Sam McGaugh.

- Any member who misses more than three consecutive meetings of the commission may be removed by the mayor and board if no good cause is shown to the mayor and board excusing their absences. A successor to the removed member shall be appointed as

soon as possible after.

- Commission members shall annually elect one of its members as chairperson. The chairperson shall preside over all meetings and shall not vote, except in the case of a tie.

- The Commission shall schedule a monthly meeting, with the time and place for the regular meeting to be set by resolution of the commission.

- Special meetings may be called on 24-hour notice to all members of the commission by either the chairperson or any two commission members.

- The commission shall act as an advisory board to the Mayor and Board of Alderman and shall have all the powers and duties set out by state statute, and by ordinance which may hereinafter be adopted by the Board of Alderman, including but not limited to Gluckstadt's Zoning Ordinance.

The next Gluckstadt Mayor and Board of Alderman meeting will be at Aug. 3 in the Germantown High School Cafetorium.

Hederman places Third Alternate in Miss Hospitality competition

By JOHN LEE
john@onlinemadison.com

Sara Hederman said competing in Miss Hospitality was unlike anything she has ever done, and she made a lot of good friends and memories in the process.

Her first pageant competition ever, she placed third alternate overall.

"I grew up playing sports, so this competition was something new," said Hederman, a 2020 Jackson Prep graduate who was captain of the archery team, ran track and participated on the Pacers dance team and the show choir. "It was overall a great week."

She is the daughter of Doug and Blair Hederman of Ridgeland.

As part of the completion at the Historic Saenger Theater in Hattiesburg, contestants volunteered at Forrest General Hospital where they packed bags for some cancer patients and also packed food for the nonprofit organization Extra Table.

"We also painted bowls for a company called Empty Bowl," Hederman said.

"Painting the bowls was a lot of fun, and it was what I enjoyed the most out of all the volunteering we did."

The most challenging part was preparing for the interviews and her Mississippi speech that focused on Ridgeland tourism to draw people to visit Mississippi.

Her favorite parts of the Miss Hospitality Contest were the dance numbers, evening gown competitions, and getting to present her written commercial about Ridgeland.

Hederman, being in the top five winners overall, received an estimated \$1,000 in scholarship monies, a prize basket from Hattiesburg businesses, and another cash prize that she will receive in the mail within the next few days.

"I plan on using all of the money I won for school," said Hederman, an exercise science major. "I am a rising sophomore at Ole Miss and plan on using this money solely for that."

Hederman will continue working with Ridgeland as an ambassador and she is looking forward to attending different events and festivals.

"This experience pushed



Sara Hederman of Ridgeland recently competed in the Miss Hospitality Pageant, finishing as Third Alternate. Hederman, a Jackson Prep graduate, said this was the first pageant she has competed in.

me into an area I've never experienced before, and I learned so much about Mississippi and myself throughout the competition," Hederman said. "I look forward to working more with Ridgeland."

Her mother, Blaire Hederman, said she and the rest of her family was thrilled her

daughter's hard work paid off. "Since Sara had never entered a competition like this, we didn't have any other expectations other than her to do her best," Blaire Hederman said. "Of course, she was nervous, but she was well prepared."

Blaire Hederman said the interviews and speech about Mississippi counted for a lot of the scoring, and that her daughter studied details, facts and figures on tourism and economic development in Mississippi.

"Sara also practiced her speech a lot so that she would be more comfortable and could enter those areas of the competition with confidence," Blaire Hederman said. "We're all very proud of her."

To learn more about Miss Hospitality, visit <https://miss-hospitality.net/>.

Ray

Continued from page A1

officer and community helper.

Tucker summed up his experience with Ray in his opening statement. Fighting back tears, he said, "I am going to cry a little and I am going to laugh a little because everyone here has a story about Corey."

He said it was moving to see the people file into the funeral service because he knew Ray had touched their lives in one way or another like they had touched his and his family's lives.

Golden said she has appreciated the outpouring of love and affection the community has shown for her son both while he was sick and in his passing. Golden said she has not been able to read a fraction of the Facebook posts remembering her son.

"I have probably not gotten to one-thousandth of the posts people have put up," Golden said. "I will start reading one and 100 more will pop up. There have been so many

sweet things said. He made this mama proud."

Golden said many students came to his funeral service and visitation.

"He had a way with kids and was great at what he did," Golden said. "He loved his job. He loved his city. He loved the students and parents and the community. I have never seen someone more fit for their job and everyone loved him too."

Golden said Ray lived with her, or, as she put it, "he had a bed here." She said he put in long hours at the school and would often go by to check on things on holidays and his day off.

Ray was born on May 8, 1980. He graduated high school from Madison Central and joined the Madison County Sheriff's Office in the same year, 1998. He served with the Sheriff's Office for 12 years.

In 2010 Corey Ray joined the Madison Police Department and worked in Dispatch

before becoming the School Resource Officer for Madison Central High School.

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McCluskey named to Leadership Council

By SPECIAL REPORTS
news@onlinemadison.com

MADISON — Ric McCluskey was recently named to the National Small Business Association (NSBA) Leadership Council.

NSBA is the nation's oldest small-business advocacy organization and operates on a staunchly nonpartisan basis.

McCluskey joins the NSBA Leadership Council alongside other small-business advocates from across the country as they work to promote the interests of small businesses to policymakers in Washington, D.C.

"As a small-business owner, I see daily the importance of being involved and active when it comes to laws and regulation," McCluskey said. "Joining NSBA's Leadership Council will enable me to take our collective small-business message to the people that need to hear it most: Congress."

McCluskey, who owns his own consulting and distribution company, joined St. Louis-based eTech Channel earlier this year as a partner.

Within his short time there, he has been instrumental in developing an innovative new product providing solutions in markets ranging from pet care to water treatment.

Before his time in the private sector, McCluskey served in the United States Marine Corps where he served in Iraq and provided humanitarian relief in New Orleans/Mississippi Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina.

McCluskey and his wife, Anna Margaret, recently moved to Madison with their two dogs, Millie and Lillie. The McCluskey's are expecting their first child.

McCluskey joined the



Ric McCluskey

NSBA Leadership Council as part of his efforts to tackle the many critical issues facing small businesses, including tax reform, regulatory restraint, health care costs and how the Affordable Care Act will impact small businesses.

The NSBA Leadership Council is focused on providing networking between small-business advocates from across the country while ensuring small businesses a seat at the table as Congress and regulators take up key small-business proposals.

"I am proud to have Ric McCluskey as part of our Leadership Council," stated NSBA President and CEO Todd McCracken. "He came to us highly recommended and I look forward to our coordinated efforts for years to come."

Higginbotham-Moody elected to auto board

By SPECIAL REPORTS
news@onlinemadison.com

Trudy Higginbotham-Moody has been elected to serve as Secretary-Treasurer of the Mississippi Automobile Dealers Association (MADA). Higginbotham Moody is President of Mercedes-Benz of Jackson.

MADA represents 207 franchise new-car and truck dealers, employing more than 17,745 Mississippians, and providing \$6.9 billion in sales,

and \$448 million in payroll, as well as supporting other local businesses having a significant impact on Mississippi's economy.

Higginbotham-Moody is the first female elected officer of the statewide trade organization and regularly gives back to her community and the automotive industry. A second-generation car dealer, Higginbotham-



Higginbotham Moody

Moody has served on the Dealer Board for Mercedes-Benz representing 30 dealers from Texas to Georgia. She serves on the St. Andrew's Episcopal School Board of Trustees.

Higginbotham-Moody and her husband were awarded Conservationist of the Year in 2015 by the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Nissan

Continued from page A1

because of the roughly 5,000 employees "that work under this roof every single day."

Reeves said the plant represents technology and manufacturing jobs that will be in the state for the next 50 years and beyond.

"I am convinced they will be here another 100 years," Reeves said.

Reeves said the plant has proven they can get Nissan's product to the market and noted

that the plant can produce 400,000 vehicles a year.

Since they have broke ground, Nissan has invested roughly \$3.5 billion into the state, Reeves said.

During the presentation, Nissan America Chairman Jerome Papin said that bringing the Frontier line to Canton was something they had "talked about for quite some time" and that it gave the Canton plant one of the "freshest lineups in the industry."

Papin said the city of Canton has made the plant what it is today.

"The success of this plant is directly linked to the city of

Canton," Papin said.

Part of the success, Papin said, has been the "loyalty and passion" of the Nissan customer base. In North America alone Nissan has sold about 4 million compact and mid-sized trucks in North America since they started producing the Datson in 1955.

Canton Mayor Dr. William Truly said he remembers Nissan coming in when he was vice mayor of Canton.

"I'm so proud that Nissan is here," Truly said. "The work that it has done and the work that it is going to do."

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES/J. Ligon Duncan III

Flight, murder, and return from Egypt

Please turn in your Bible to Matthew 2:13-23. As we have opened this glorious gospel in the last few weeks, Matthew has given us the genealogy of Jesus Christ, recounted the story of His virgin birth, and witnessed to the divinity of our Savior and His almighty and all sufficient saving power. And this week, we read another glorious passage packed with gospel truth as Matthew addresses Jesus' flight to Egypt and return to Nazareth. Specifically, we learn three important things from this passage. First, we learn that Christ's person, life, and circumstances were foretold in scripture. Secondly, we see that Christ's trials were part of God's plan and under His sovereignty. Thirdly, and finally, we learn that Christ's vicarious sufferings began in His earliest days.

I. Christ's Person, Life, and Circumstances Were Foretold In Scripture.

This passage teaches us that the person of Christ, who He is, His nature, what He is like, His life, and the circumstances of His life were all foretold in the scriptures of the Old Testament. First, in verse 15, Matthew tells us that Jesus would come out of Egypt, just as it was spoken by the prophet those many hundred years before in Hosea 11:1. These words of Hosea are fulfilled in the life of Jesus as he goes down into Egypt to escape Herod and His family later brings him out of that land. Secondly, in verse 17, Matthew says that what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled. In that circumstance, Herod had slain the sons under the age of two in Bethlehem and its immediate environment, a horrible deed worthy of temporal and eternal punishment, and yet this deed was prophesied in Jeremiah 31:15. And then finally in verse 23, the truth that the prophet taught, that the Messiah, when He came would be despised by His own people, is encapsulated in the phrase, "He shall be called a Nazarene." Thus, Jesus is considered to be one from Galilee not from Judah, and surely not one to admire, obey, or worship in the eyes of the orthodox Jews of the day.

Over and over Matthew tells us in this passage that Jesus in His person, in His life, and in His circumstances fulfills scripture, and that every-

thing in the life of Christ is set forth and bounded by scripture. Jesus literally lived by the Book in accordance with precisely the things that God had set down in the scriptures of the Old Testament. Yet, we must admit that we struggle with living by the Book. There are times when the Bible says one thing, and our hearts want to do another. In such times, we must ask ourselves, "Will we live by the Book, or will we live by our wills?" Jesus lived by the Book, and we too must live by the Book.

II. Christ's Trials Were Part Of God's Plan and Under His Sovereignty.

This passage also teaches us that Christ's trials were part of God's plan and under God's sovereignty. In other words, God ordained the trials in the life of Joseph and Mary and His Son, our Lord Jesus. The things that Matthew records in this passage were not accidents. And they were not even just tragedies, though that they were. They were what God had ordained for His Son. First, in verses 14-15, we are told that it was God's plan for His own dear Son to be displaced from the land of His birth and to live in a strange land away from His relatives and a familiar environment. Secondly, in verses 16-17, we learn that as the Lord Jesus went to Egypt that Herod murdered all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinities. Finally, in verses 22-23, we are told that as the Lord Jesus comes back from Egypt with His parents that they are warned not to settle there because the son of Herod was reigning over Judea in the place of his father. So Jesus had to live in the district of Galilee, a place that was looked down upon by everyone who was of upstanding Jewish lineage.

Throughout scripture we learn that the Father willed these difficulties to come into the life of His precious Son. Now we have to stop and we have to ask ourselves, "Why would the Father do this?" There are two answers given to us in scripture. The first answer is that the Father willed this for His Son for your sake and my sake. Jesus bore these things for our sins. Secondly, the Father willed these difficulties on His Son for His good, for His growth, and for His conformity. Specifically, the writer of

Hebrews tells us in chapter 5, verse 8 that "although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered." And we in our own trials must keep in view Christ's trials. Christian, please know that every trial, every heartbreak, every grief, every painful experience, if you are His, is not meant to harm you. It is an expression of His love and when you experience that discipline, you are experiencing the discipline that the Father gave to His own Son. Only in Christ are the trials of our lives redeemed and given meaning. Come to Christ and find meaning, even in your trials.

III. Christ's Vicarious Sufferings Began In His Earliest Days.

One final truth that Matthew teaches us in this passage is that Christ's vicarious sufferings began from His earliest days. Christ's sufferings were experienced on our behalf. He suffered in our place. And that is a great truth of Christianity. As believers, we all reflect upon the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ suffered on the cross. Yet, this passage reminds us that His sufferings began long before the cross. From His earliest days Jesus began to suffer on our behalf. And it is important to realize, my friends, that the Lord Jesus chose each of these things in the counsels of eternity. What a Savior we have in Jesus Christ. A Savior whose days were set forth in scripture. A Savior whose life was ordained by God, for our sakes, and for His good. And a Savior who willingly bore the reproach for you and me. Have you embraced Jesus? Do you want to face the Father one day and say, "I did not need that glorious Man." Or do you want to face the Father and say, "Your Son embraced me by grace and I come to you as your son or your daughter because of Him." May God, by His grace, enable us to know and embrace Jesus Christ, who purchased us with His own blood and suffered in our place.

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 jlyde@rts.edu.

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Governor announces plan to help reduce crime in Jackson

By SCOTT HAWKINS
scott@onlinemadison.com

A state law enforcement initiative to help make Jackson safer was announced by Gov. Tate Reeves last week.

The city of Jackson will benefit from an increase in state law enforcement presence and visibility under a Capital City Safety Initiative.

Thanks to new legislation that allows the Mississippi Highway Patrol to operate in the city limits and for the Capitol Police Department to work under the Department of Public Safety, state police will take on some law enforcement duties within the city of Jackson freeing up Jackson police to focus on crime, officials said.

Jackson is experiencing a high crime rate in recent months approaching 80 murders recorded already this year.

"At its core, the government's most basic responsibility is to protect its citizens and residents," Reeves said in announcing the initiative on July 14. "My top priority is and has always been and will always be ensuring the safety of all Mississippians."

Reeves said reports of violent crime in Jackson seem to be a never-ending cycle.

"This is not what Jackson is and does not reflect who we are as a city or who we are as a state," Reeves said. "For Jackson to reach its full potential, the residents must be able to satisfy one of their most basic



Gov. Tate Reeves, flanked by state law enforcement officials, unveils a plan to help reduce crime in Jackson last week.

fundamental needs. Safety and security."

During the last legislative session, the Legislature passed House Bill 974, which transferred the Capitol Police Department to the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, and Senate Bill 2788, which allowed the Mississippi Highway Patrol to operate stationary radar within larger cities.

"This gave us the greater opportunity to help the city of Jackson and our capital city by utilizing state assets and resources to help protect the citizens of Mississippi and in particular those within the capital city," Reeves said.

The initiative also will increase the number of Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics officers, who operate unnoticed, in Jackson, Reeves said.

Mississippi Capitol Police officers will operate in the Capitol Complex Improvement District that includes down-

town Jackson from I-55 and the capitol building to Jackson State University, Fondren and the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

"I would like to remind everybody that the goal here is to create a safer capital city," said Sean Tindell, commissioner, Mississippi Department of Public Safety. "The citizens of Mississippi should be able to visit their state capital. They should be able to visit their state hospital, their state museums without the fear of being raped, robbed or murdered while they visit their capital city initiative will make a difference. It is a starting point, and we look forward to increasing our efforts over the years."

Tindell said he could not provide specifics numbers of new officers that will be immediately employed under the initiative.

"We just graduated a patrol

class of 45," Tindell said. "Our goal for the future is to have 600 highway patrolmen, 150 capitol police officers and 150 Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics agents."

Currently, the Capitol Police Department has 81 uniformed officers, the MBN has 92 agents and the MHP has 520 Troopers, Tindell said.

"When you combine the increased presence of capitol police, the increased number of state troopers as well as the increased presence of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, which you will not see, I can assure you that the presence will be felt," Reeves said.

Tindell said the increased law enforcement presence is

already having an impact.

"Since these bills went into effect on July 1, the Mississippi Highway Patrol has issued 87 traffic citations within the city of Jackson and over 14 DUI citations within the city of Jackson already," Tindell said. "Already, there has been an increase in the presence and that increase will continue to grow with this saturation."

Reeves said the Jackson Police Department has plenty of good officers and employees but they need more resources.

"They need more help," Reeves said. "They need more officers. I'm hopeful that our efforts are going to help supplement what they do but this is not a police force that is going to be policing the streets in every area of the city of Jackson. That is not the role that the state plays."

Reeves said he is hopeful the Jackson City Council and the Hinds County Board of Supervisors will designate some of their federal COVID relief monies, which combined is \$87 million, for more police officers.

"The president of the United States, President Biden, said that within the last couple of weeks that he encourages all municipal leaders to use some

of this money from the federal government for law enforcement to get control of the crime situation," Reeves said.

Reeves said Jackson is not alone, that many medium and large cities throughout the nation are also experiencing upticks in crime.

"I am hopeful and I strongly encourage the city council, the board of supervisors and other local leaders," Reeves said, "to join in this effort but also to invest in their local police."

Reeves said he wants residents, visitors and investors to be safe when they visit Mississippi's capital city of Jackson.

"To our residents and those looking to relocate and those looking to invest in our capital city, I make this commitment to you, my administration will do whatever it takes to help keep downtown Jackson safe," Reeves said. "If you are a resident or if you work here, you can help us. Two things you can do to help us. In the event of an emergency, call 911. If you see something, say something. If you have information on a crime, call our central Mississippi Crimestoppers at 601-355-TIPS (8477). All callers will remain anonymous."

ATF investigating Jackson man for guns

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@onlinemadison.com

The arrest of a Jackson man in connection with a Madison auto burglary last week has led to a federal investigation, the authorities said.

Joshua Smith, 26, 131 Dewitt Avenue, Jackson, was arrested on Wednesday, July 14, and charged with two counts of burglary, one count of conspiracy and one count of failure to stop. Madison County jail records show that Smith remains in the Madison County Detention Center.

During Smith's arrest, investigators recovered a firearm stolen from within the city of Jackson along with stolen items from the original auto burglary in the city of Madison, Sanders said.

Madison Police Maj. Robert Sanders said that at 11:57 p.m. July 13 officers of the Madison Police Department began investigating an auto burglary that occurred on Devereaux Drive in the city limits.

"Investigators were able to determine a suspect vehicle description, which matched a vehicle description given by the Madison County Sheriff's Department earlier where both agencies were involved in a vehicle pursuit through the City of Madison," Sanders said. "The Madison County Sheriff's Department had observed the vehicle exiting a neighborhood off of Catlett Road a few minutes prior and attempted a traffic stop where the vehicle failed to stop."

The vehicle description was put out to surrounding

agencies and a Flowood police officer spotted the vehicle on the morning of Wednesday, July 14.

A follow-up investigation led to the Madison Police Department issuing arrest warrants for Smith.

Investigators with MPD and agents with the U.S. Marshal's Office located Smith at 102 Dewitt Ave. in Jackson later that afternoon.

Additional firearms were discovered during the arrest and investigators turned the scene over to the ATF and the Madison County Sheriff's Department for follow-up investigations.

Additional arrests are possible as the investigation con-

tinues, Sanders said.

The incident involved multiple agencies including the Madison County Sheriff's Department.

"We are very proud to have a great working relationship with the Madison Police Department and the U.S. Marshal Service. These types of relationships are a very important component in solving crime. We have placed a violent offender in jail due to a great team effort and the Sheriff's office could not be more proud of the joint efforts that went toward this arrest," said Heath Hall, spokesman for the Madison County Sheriff's Department.

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Hinds investigator arrested in R'land

By DUNCAN DENT
duncan@onlinemadison.com

A former investigator for the Hinds County Sheriff's office bonded out of jail Friday morning after he was arrested on domestic violence charges in Ridgeland.

Samuel Edwin Dukes, 39, of Ridgeland bonded out of the Madison County Detention Center last Friday on \$10,000 bond.

Ridgeland Police Chief John Neal said Dukes posted bail around 11 a.m. Friday. He is set for his next court appearance at 8:30 a.m. Aug. 3. Dukes is not

allowed to contact the victim.

Ridgeland Police Lt. Brian Myers said Dukes was arrested on Wednesday, July 14, in the city on a domestic violence charge.

Ridgeland police officers responded to a 9:53 p.m. 911 call placed from a female who said she was a domestic violence victim at Sunchase Apartments, he said.

The victim told officers she had been strangled and identified the assailant as Dukes.

Myers said Dukes was then



Samuel Dukes

arrested on a charge of Domestic Violence-Aggravated Assault.

Other media outlets have reported that Dukes was an investigator for the Hinds County Sheriff's Office. Attempts to contact the HCSO went unreturned Wednesday morning though they have con-

firmed his affiliation with them to other media. Other media also reported that Dukes is no longer employed with the HCSO.

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