



COMMUNITY

GROUNDBREAKING HELD IN MADISON

St. Jude Dream Home— See page A8

WEATHER

IDA KNOCKS DOWN TREES MONDAY

Limited damage— See page A9



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MADISON COUNTY JOURNAL

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JUVENILES

U.S. Marshals nab carjacking suspects

By DUNCAN DENT duncan@onlinemadison.com

RIDGELAND — Three juveniles have been charged in a spate of carjackings over the weekend, two of which occurred here, the authorities said.

Ridgeland Police Lt. Brian Myers said Wednesday the three juveniles were arrested by the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force.

The names are currently being withheld by law enforcement because they are juveniles and have not been charged as adults yet.

Myers said the two incidents in Ridgeland were part of several reported over the weekend in the Jackson Metro.

"We have had two armed carjackings," Myers said Monday. "There have been a number of armed carjacking cases over the weekend in the metro area. Investigators continue to investigate all available leads."

Myers said the first reported incident occurred at the Shell gas station at Old Canton and Lake Harbour at 5:51 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 29. The victim advised that multiple unidentified males held her at gunpoint and stole her vehicle.

The second occurred at the Residence Inn on Centre Street at approximately 3 p.m., that same day, Myers said.

Myers said that they have been able to recover one of the vehicles stolen from Ridgeland. He said that it was found wrecked in Jackson.

Officials expect the majority of the carjackings reported in the metro area this weekend to be related, Myers said.

Media outlets have reported as many as eight carjackings in Terry, Ridgeland, Clinton and Jackson related to the streak.

Madison Police Capt. Kevin Newman said they had no such incidents reported in Madison.

"We and other metro agencies were made aware of the Ridgeland carjackings as they occurred and have been kept in the loop on possible suspects

and stolen vehicle descriptions," Newman said. "Fortunately, we have not had any incidents in Madison."

Anyone with further information on these carjackings or any other crime is encouraged to contact Central MS CrimeStoppers at (601) 355-8477 or online at www.centralmscrimestoppers.com.



Students exit a bus at Madison Avenue Elementary School Wednesday morning. Currently, the Madison County School District is experiencing a bus driver shortage and this has impacted routes and pick-up/dropoff times.

Bus driver shortage causing delays

By SCOTT HAWKINS scott@onlinemadison.com

Madison County School District is short on bus drivers and as a result, some bus routes might leave students waiting a bit longer than usual, officials said.

The district is short some 33 bus drivers and as a result, routes are combined or some drivers have to run additional routes, said Gene Wright, spokesperson for the district.

"Bus driver shortages are happening all across the nation and here in Madison County, we are no exception to that," Wright said.

The school district runs elementary routes first, Wright said.

"That is where we see the fewest amount of delays but because those drivers who run elementary routes then turn around and do middle and high school, we do see more delays happening for our older students," Wright said.

The length of those delays can vary from day to day, Wright said.

"If we have drivers call in sick and have to combine routes that are already compressed more than in a normal year, students could end up waiting, delayed an hour to an hour and a half at the worst for some of the high schools," Wright said.

"Most of the routes that are running late are not cutting into instructional time, so that has been the good thing, but occasionally when drivers call in sick and things like that happen they will be running late to school."

Durham School Services, a nationwide company, manages the buses for the Madison County district.

Durham spokesperson, Edward Flavin, said the company is facing difficulties in hiring commercial drivers license certified drivers throughout the nation and is offering incentives to attract qualified drivers.

"This is a nationwide shortage problem and there are a lot of reasons behind it, one being COVID," Flavin said. "We've increased our rates by 3% and now the starting salary is \$15 per hour."

Flavin said the company has a dedicated local See BUS, page A3

ON THE RUN

2 arrested for Canton shooting of kid, adult

By DUNCAN DENT duncan@onlinemadison.com

Canton police have arrested two suspects in connection to an Aug. 26 shooting that killed two people here, including a 6-year-old bystander and a 42-year-old man, and also injured another man.

Police continue to search for two additional suspects and Mayor William Truly has instituted a curfew in the city for teenagers 18 and younger.

Police Chief Otha Brown said Tomar Rashod Smith, 24, was arrested and charged with two counts each of accessory before the fact and accessory after the fact in relation to the Aug. 26 shooting that killed 42-year-old Tracy Wilder and Jeison Lopez, 6. Brown said Octavion Carter, 19, was also shot in the wrist.

Brown said Smith turned himself in on the evening of Friday, Aug. 27. Smith is also See ARRESTS, page A2



Tomar Smith



Obie Lee

2022 OPENING

Old Town Market coming to Ridgeland

By JOHN LEE john@onlinemadison.com

RIDGELAND — A new mixed-use marketplace with a gas station and convenience store, a drive-through restaurant, Subway, and office spaces is under construction here on West Jackson Street with an anticipated opening date of March 2022.

Rab Bedi, the owner and developer of the Old Town Marketplace project, said construction of the market began in January this year and is expected to be finished in March of next year.

"The second floor will have professional offices, and we're looking for tenants such as lawyers and certified public accountants," Bedi said. "Subway has already signed their lease, and they will take the

east endcap. The Shell gas station will also be in the center of the market with a convenience store.

"You can find your normal gas station convenience store items there, and it will also have a deli that serves breakfast and lunch."

Badi said the plan to include charging stations for electric cars as part of the gas station.

Alan Hart, director of community development for Ridgeland, said the marketplace is planned to have 3,000 square feet of drive-through space for the restaurant portion on the west endcap, 4,200 square feet of space for the Shell Station and convenience store in the middle, 1,400 square feet of space for the Subway in the east endcap, and 3,700 square feet of office

space available on the second floor.

"This marketplace is being designed by Dean and Dean architects and it reflects some of the elements of the West Jackson Overlay District, which has some historic designs," Hart said.

"These designs also date back to 1992 when the Mayor and Board of Alderman adopted an ordinance to make a turn-of-the-century-design-styled building in the downtown community development."

Hart said the area has since been named the Railroad District, and Old Town Market is being designed to fit the style. He said it helps create a transition into that district.

"We are excited to see how this market turns out and fits into Ridgeland," Hart said.



Construction crews work on the site of the new Old Town Market in Ridgeland.



# Michel open to eliminating Mississippi income tax

By SCOTT HAWKINS  
scott@onlinemadison.com

State Sen. J. Walter Michel says he is in favor of a tax reduction but has not ruled out an income tax elimination in the state.

"There are two ways to get to the tax elimination," said Michel, who represents Madison County and parts of Hinds. "One would be gradual over time starting with a reduced amount instead of just lopping it off, but a gradual reduction. I would be more inclined to look at a gradual reduction on the income tax."

House Speaker Philip Gunn is leading an effort to eliminate the state's income tax after a measure passed his chamber last session but failed to make it out of a Senate committee.

A bipartisan group of state lawmakers met at the Capitol last week to hold hearings on the possibility of eliminating the state income tax.

Michel said one of the reasons the House proposal did not

make it out of the Senate committee last session was because the bill raised sales taxes and that senators were not sure Gov. Tate Reeves would even sign the bill into law since he is on record as being for a straight income tax elimination and against a tax swap.

Gunn, a Republican representing Hinds and Madison counties, is chairing the committee and said he believes the House measure is a sound plan but he supports the Senate's decision to study the issue before the next session.

"That's why the Senate and House held an in-depth two-day joint hearing to hear from economists and tax policy experts," Gunn said. "The purpose was to get a clear-eyed look at the data and expert analysis and take their advice seriously."

Lawmakers are in the study phase and no action can be taken on eliminating the state's income tax until the full Legislature is in session, which barring any special sessions,

would be January.

Gov. Tate Reeves has pushed eliminating the state income tax.

"I'm also very glad that the Lt. Governor, Speaker, and I all agree that the income tax should be eliminated, and that doing so best positions Mississippi for long-term success," Reeves said. "I hope that once the hearings are over, the Legislature will realize that eliminating Mississippi's income tax is needed and reducing the tax burden on Mississippians across the board is the best way to ensure our state's economic prosperity."

Reeves said he does not support eliminating the state's income tax in exchange for another form of tax.

"I hope that once the hearings are over, the Legislature will realize that the best way forward is to not swap the income tax for increases in sales taxes, agriculture taxes and other taxes," Reeves said. "I'm opposed to robbing Peter to pay Paul. In fact, I want Peter and Paul to have more money in their pocket. I've been in contact with small businesses throughout Mississippi — including in the manufacturing and agricultural industries — outside think-tanks, and other stakeholders. Based on my conversations with them, it's clear — the consensus is that eliminating, not swapping the tax burden, is the way to go."

Reeves said he believes Mississippi is in a good financial position now to eliminate the state's income tax.

"Mississippi is in the best fiscal and financial shape in the state's history, thanks in large part to Mississippians' willingness to go back to work despite a global pandemic," Reeves

said. "Thanks to them, Mississippi ended the year \$1 billion over revenue estimates."

Reeves said that when he was the state's Lt. Governor he proposed the largest tax cut in the state's history.

"We were able to eliminate the 3% tax bracket without increasing taxes in other areas," Reeves said. "We did it before, and it is my firm belief that we can do it again."

Michel said the House bill is just a blueprint at this point.

"We intend to start with that and work on it, but there are some things that are important to me that I want to look into," Michel said. "One issue is what the tax would do to our restaurants in Madison County. It would take the sales tax when you go out to eat at a restaurant from 7% to 9-and-a-half percent."

Michel said many municipalities already have an additional add-on tax on top of that.

"For example, Ridgeland has another 1% add-on tax," he said. "Jackson has a 2% add-on tax. Ridgeland right now if that bill became law with Ridgeland's 1% add on you'd be paying 9-and-a-half percent tax at a restaurant. The city of Ridgeland has come to us legislators in the last couple of years and they want to raise that tax another 1% for the Visit Ridgeland. If you are looking at the totality of that it could be as much as 10-and-a-half percent tax on eating out at a restaurant in Ridgeland."

Michel said he believes restaurants have already been hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I would be in favor of some relaxation of the sales tax on the restaurants," Michel said adding the current plan amounts to a tax swap. "The tax plan reduces the income tax but on the other hand, it raises sales tax on just about everything except groceries. It does reduce the tax on groceries."

However, Michel said, while grocery taxes would be reduced in the current plan it also raises taxes on some of the other items you might buy at a grocery store.

"At a grocery store, not every item you put in your cart is a grocery item," Michel said, adding that right now everything at a grocery store is taxed at 7%. "If this bill were to become law, we would have to differentiate between what

items they consider groceries and other things that would go up."

Michel said bread, milk and eggs would be reduced under the current measure but other items would go from 7% to 9-and-a-half percent.

"That would be everything like soap, detergent, paper towels, laundry detergent, dog food, beer, soft drinks, chips," Michel said. "Any kind of prepared food you would buy at the deli would go up. It is important to realize that not everything at the grocery store would be reduced."

Michel said he also is concerned about how the initial measure would affect retirees who now have no income tax on IRAs, 401Ks, pensions or retirement incomes.

"We are a very retiree-friendly state and what this legislation would do since the retirees are already not paying income tax on that income anyway, it would give them a tax increase because it would raise the cost of just about everything they buy except those few grocery items that would qualify to be at a reduced rate at the grocery store," Michel said. "Just about everything else they would buy at a Walmart as an example would go up to 9-and-a-half percent."

Michel said he thinks an income tax reduction is good.

"I want to look at it with an open mind and maybe look at some reductions of some of these large sales tax increases that were in the House bill," Michel said.

Democratic Sen. Hob Bryan of Amory told the Associated Press last week that he opposes eliminating the income tax because of the state's infrastructure problems, which include poor roads and bridges, water and sewer problems and lack of internet access.

"Do you know a single human being on the face of the earth that would move to Mississippi if only we didn't have a state income tax?" the AP reported Bryan saying. "It's laughable on its face."

During the joint Tax Study Committee hearings held Aug. 25 and 26, tax economists from the University of Mississippi and other tax reform proponents, including Grover Norquist, founder and president of Americans for Tax Reform, and Russ Latino, president of Empower Mississippi, spoke.

Norquist told the group of lawmakers that eliminating the state income tax is a good incentive to bring people and businesses to the state.

"There is a movement now that is moving state by state," Norquist told members of the joint Tax Study Commission on Aug. 26. "Utah is getting in on the conversation about moving down toward zero. Even some of the blue states are talking about inching their extremely high-income taxes down and certainly not increasing them and they are explicitly saying because people will leave."

Norquist presented data that he said showed states with lower or no income taxes have more people moving into them while states with higher income tax rates have people moving away from them.

"Pretty soon everyone is going to be a no-tax state, so the question for Mississippi is are you going to be an early adopter or are you going to be catching up?" Norquist said. "California and New York are going to be catching up."

Norquist said eliminating state income tax tells people you support their success.

"This is not a state consumed with envy," Norquist said of the message no income tax sends. "This is not a state that will celebrate your success when you come here. We are glad you are here. We are glad you're successful. We won't decide, 'You've made more money than the guy down the street so I think we will take something from you.' People tend to move away from neighborhoods where that exists in history. The early adaptors will have the advantage over the people who decide to start this five, six and seven years from now."

The Associated Press reports that Alaska, Florida, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wyoming do not charge any state income tax.

"Individual income taxes made up 34% of Mississippi's state tax revenue during the state budget year that ended June 30, according to the state Department of Revenue," the AP reports. "That was about \$2.2 billion from individual income taxes in the nearly \$6.6 billion the state collected for its general fund."

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## Arrests

Continued from page A1

charged with malicious mischief, shooting into a vehicle

(USPS 687-570)

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and aggravated assault.

On Sunday, Aug. 29, Brown said they arrested 17-year-old Obie Omarion Lee. Lee is charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit capital murder.

Brown said two other suspects are still at large. He said CPD is looking for 17-year-old Kevin Harris and 16-year-old Demetrius Lee, Obie's brother.

Canton Police Department officers responded to a report of shots fired on Franklin Street about 10 minutes before 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26.

Brown said that when officers arrived on scene they found a deceased Wilder who had been shot multiple times as well as Carter who had been shot in the wrist.

About a block away at the Marathon Gas station at Peace Street and South Canal Street, they found Lopez who

had been fatally injured when he was struck by a stray bullet from the gunfire. Lopez was pronounced dead later after being airlifted to University Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

Brown said Friday that they had recovered the vehicle, a white Dodge Charger and were processing it for evidence.

Truly during a Friday press conference reportedly imposed an immediate curfew for everyone under 18 in the city. The curfew is set to last for two weeks and was instituted to curb gun violence.

Anyone with information about the incident should call Crime Stoppers at 601-355-8477 or Canton police Department at 601-859-2121 the Madison County Sheriff's Office at 601-859-5801.

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# Schools extend mask policy

By SCOTT HAWKINS  
scott@onlinemadison.com

The Madison County Schools are extending mandatory mask-wearing on all campuses for faculty and students for another 14 days, school officials announced in a letter on the afternoon of Aug. 25.

"While the delta variant is certainly impacting our state and community, we believe that continued efforts to wash hands, watch distance, and wear masks will give us the best chance of keeping schools open and students in class," states Charlotte A. Seals, superintendent of Madison County Schools in the Aug. 25 letter. "To this end, the Madison County Board of Education has decided to continue COVID-19 Protocol Level 3 for an additional 14 calendar days after which time the Board will reevaluate depending on circumstances in our area."

The schools initially announced that masks would be required on the first full day for all students Aug. 13 as school officials moved to Protocol Level 3 for 14 days after a mask optional Protocol Level 2 soft start Aug. 10-12 with only half of students attending schools each day.

"Our goal in transitioning to COVID-19 Protocol Level 3 nearly two weeks ago was to enable in-class instruction to continue by doing all that we can to stop the spread of illness," Seals states in Wednesday's letter. "As you know, this level requires masks to be worn by students, staff and all people inside our school buildings."

The Madison County Schools district is operating under a COVID-19 protocol system with Levels 1 through 3. Under Levels 1 and 2 masks are optional for all faculty and students (PreK-12) regardless of vaccination status.

Level 3 states that "all faculty and students (PreK-12) regardless of vaccination status, will wear masks at all times practicable while indoors and on buses."

After the extension, the COVID-19 Protocol Level 3 will be in place for 14 more calendar days, after which the district will reevaluate.

"Our COVID-19 Protocols are designed to respond to a variety of different needs and concerns in our schools," Seals letter states. "We are pleased that the Mississippi Department of Education has added hybrid learning to available

learning model options for schools to employ. While hybrid learning is a valuable tool for certain situations, at this time we feel strongly that staying on campus to the extent possible is the best course of action for our schools. I encourage you to visit our website to familiarize yourself with our Covid protocol levels.

"We are hopeful that by working together to stop the spread of COVID-19 we can provide our students with as normal a school year as possible with opportunities for in-person academics, arts, and athletics. Once again, I encourage you to take advantage of vaccination for yourself and your child, if eligible. Thank you for coming together as a community to help our students stay in school."

The school district on Aug. 23 posted COVID-19 statistics from within the district for the week of Aug. 16 that showed the district had 91 active COVID-19 cases for an 0.63% of the population with active cases and 382 students quarantined.

For more information, refer to the MCS Reentry Guidelines on the district's website at [www.madison-schools.com](http://www.madison-schools.com).

# Bus

Continued from page A1

recruiter and the company is offering a \$3,500 signing bonus for CDL-certified drivers and a \$1,500 signing bonus for non-CDL-certified drivers. Durham will pay for qualifying non-certified CDL drivers' training, he said.

The bonuses and training are coming out of Durham's budget, he said and Durham also is offering \$1,000 for people who successfully refer CDL licensed drivers and a \$500 referral for successful non-CDL drivers.

"We opened this up to everyone, not just employees,"

Flavin said of the referral bonuses. "For example, our recruiting teams would contact churches to see if they are interested in earning a referral bonus if they advertise to their parishioners during their Sunday services, etc. Durham is absorbing 100% of this cost."

Durham also has hired an outside company, webTactics, to optimize online recruiting, Flavin said.

"For example, they handle all of our Indeed hiring ads to ensure that the ad is featured at the top of every imaginable search an applicant may do looking for a driver position of any kind," Flavin said.

Other measures Flavin said Durham has implemented include investing in yard signs, banners, flyers and recruiting cards to get the word out that

they are hiring, held job fairs and contacted all ex-drivers that are re-hirable to see if they are interested in coming back with the implementation of the sign-on bonus.

Flavin said all candidates must pass a comprehensive background check before being offered a position.

Wright said the school district has communicated the delays and driver shortage to parents through social media and through the district's website at [madison-schools.com](http://madison-schools.com).

For more information, visit Durham School Service on Facebook or at [careers.nelle.com](http://careers.nelle.com) or call (800) 950-0485 or email [info@durhamschoolservices.com](mailto:info@durhamschoolservices.com).

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Getting the Message/Rev. Chris Shelton

Crisis can help awaken Christians

David is in a crisis. He established earlier in the psalm that God delivered him from the pit of destruction and set his feet on solid ground.

First David proclaims God's righteousness in the crisis (verses 9-10). He is determined that no crisis will cause him to shrink from proclaiming to God's people the love and faithfulness of God.

Second, David knew what he needed to endure this trial. He affirms that God's mercy, love, and faithfulness will preserve him (verse 11).

Third, David was poor in spirit. He confesses, "My sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head; my heart fails me" (verse 12).

comfort, which the Lord alone can give.

Living in impenitence and sin is a comfortless state. Being self-confident and insensitive to the holiness of God is a wretched condition.

If we get a right view of one sin we are usually given to see that our offenses are countless. David said, "My sins are more than the hairs on my head."

A crisis can help awaken Christians or a church to fresh conviction of how sinful and dependent on God's grace they are.

This brings us to the last point, which is for the Christian in a crisis to always return to comfort in the Lord's promise of salvation and to praise the Lord for it.

Area Churches

- BAPTIST BROADMOOR BAPTIST 1531 Highland Colony Pkwy., Madison 601-898-2345
BUCK HORN BAPTIST 2193 N. Old Canton Rd. Canton 859-7039
CALVARY BAPTIST 441 Washington St., Canton 859-7431

- LIBERTY BAPTIST 815 W. Fulton St., Canton 859-6407
LIVINGSTON MISSIONARY BAPTIST Livingstone Church Rd., Flora 879-3400
MADISON COUNTY BAPTIST FAMILY LIFE CENTER 349 N. Canal St., Canton 859-9132

- BAPTIST 249 Pine Grove Rd., Canton 855-2060
PLEASANT GIFT MISSIONARY BAPTIST 2055 Pleasant Gift Rd., Canton 859-3004
PLEASANT GREEN BAPTIST 2184 Hwy. 22, Canton 859-5101

State Farm logo and John Dorsa, CPCU advertisement with contact information.

SPENCER READY-MIX CONCRETE advertisement with phone number 601-981-6080.

Canton Animal Hospital advertisement for Danny S. Prestel, D.V.M., with address 3114 South Liberty.

FLORA Funeral Home advertisement with address 102 Jackson Street.

gotgear.com advertisement for motorcycles and ATVs, listing brands like Yamaha and Honda.

CAPITOL BUILDING PRODUCTS COMPANY advertisement for specialty millwork, listing Larry Stacy as sales representative.

MMC MATERIALS, INC. advertisement for construction materials, established since 1927.

First United Methodist Church advertisement with address at the corner of Liberty St. & Academy St.

The Nichols Center advertisement for compassionate and professional care with dignity.

Tico's Steakhouse advertisement with address 1536 E. County Line Road.

Mae Hawk advertisement for automotive services, listing phone number 601-500-5555.

Breeland Funeral Home advertisement for quiet service with dignity, listing phone number 601-859-366.

Culpepper Funeral Home advertisement with address 11748 HWY 35, Kosciusko, MS.

State Farm logo and John Dorsa, CPCU advertisement with contact information.

Natchez Trace Funeral Home advertisement for funeral services, listing phone number 601-898-8565.

IAMS MORTGAGE advertisement for mortgage services, listing phone number 601-607-4730.

Ozborn Communications, LLC advertisement for wireless communications, listing phone number 601-859-3433.

Atlas Foundation Repair advertisement for tree preservation, listing phone number 853-8700.

All Creatures Animal Care Center advertisement for pet care services, listing phone number 601-856-1177.

Bible Fellowship advertisement for worship services, listing phone number 601-856-1177.

CARSHOP INC. advertisement for car maintenance and repair, listing phone number 601-991-9663.

Barnett's Body Shop advertisement for car body repair, listing phone number 601-991-9663.

ABS Copier and Printing advertisement for office products, listing phone number 601-362-9192.

Compassus Hospice & Palliative Care advertisement for end-of-life care, listing phone number 601-981-9354.

Prime Care Nursing advertisement for caregivers/nurses, listing phone number 601.977.8484.

SCOTT PETROLEUM CORPORATION advertisement for automotive products, listing phone number 601-859-3601.

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# Crosstown Builders break ground at St. Jude Dream Home

By STAFF REPORTS  
news@onlinemadison.com

Crosstown Builders broke ground for the 20th anniversary Jackson St. Jude Dream Home Giveaway last Wednesday in Madison.

\$100 tickets to win this house, located in the Village at Madison will be available starting in late-February.

Representatives of Crosstown Builders, Main ST Investments, LLC, and national sponsors Brizo, Shaw Floors, Trane and Bosch, as well as several subcontractors, suppliers and supporters were all in attendance for the momentous occasion.

This year is the second year that Crosstown Builders will be the builder of the St. Jude Dream Home Giveaway.

"When we were looking for the lot this year to put the

Dream Home in, I never would have thought we would have been able to put it in a brand-new development like this," said Todd Sandridge, Builder of Crosstown Builders. "What I love most about St. Jude is the research they share to doctors across the world, even here in our local community. We encourage everyone to buy a ticket, support the cause and in return have an opportunity to win a beautiful home."

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is leading the way the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Treatments invented at St. Jude have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to 80 percent since the hospital opened more than 50 years ago.



Sponsors and supporters gathered at the groundbreaking to kick off construction for the 20th Anniversary Jackson St. Jude Dream Home Giveaway.

*Child of play*

#WeRStR      strichardschool.org

## Gluckstadt adopts budget to get going

By JOHN LEE  
john@onlinemadison.com

GLUCKSTADT — City leaders here are poised to approve a \$360,500 budget for the remaining days of Fiscal 2021 that ends Sept. 30.

Officials held a public hearing on the matter during a special called meeting last Thursday.

The vote on adopting the budget is set for the board's next regularly meeting on Sept. 7 during which they also will hold a public hearing on the city's proposed \$3,543,202 Fiscal 2022 budget that begins Oct. 1.

Gluckstadt was incorporated on June 6 of this year after a hard-fought state Supreme Court battle. Since then the appointed mayor and aldermen have been busy creating the city government and one of the first steps is creating a budget which by law must be done before the city can spend any money.

The new city is in the process of hiring a city clerk and moving into rented office space, all of which cannot be executed officially until a budget is approved.

Gluckstadt Mayor Pro Temp Lisa Williams said no ad valorem millage will be collected on the remainder of Fiscal 2021.

"The mayor and board will accept no pay," Williams said. "Currently contracted are legal and planner/consultant, new city hall leased with an

agreement to pay in arrears, liability insurance and bond company also kindly offered a discount on annual fees and accept arrears later in the year."

The city has no payroll at this time, Williams said, adding the first employee will be the city clerk.

"The mayor and board also approved the publishing of the city planning/zoning director/building code inspector in a combined role," Williams said.

Three people spoke during last Thursday's public hearing on the budget that includes \$5,600 for supplies, \$29,836 for personnel services \$148,595 for Administrative expenses and \$7,000 for street department services.

One of those who spoke was Jeffery Young who asked about the roadways and if there was a budget for road work.

"The city does not have public works scheduled in the budget for the first two years," said Mayor Walter Morrison. "What we intend to do is rely on the county, at least for these first two years."

Morrison said the city anticipates taxes will increase when the public works department is established.

Another resident, Marvin Cox, asked how the budget will impact property taxes on people who live in the city of Gluckstadt compared to what they are paying now per year.

Morrison said Gluckstadt's

millage rate is expected to be 12 mills, which he said is lower than Canton and Madison.

Morrison said Canton's millage rate is about 55 mills, and Ridgeland's millage rate is about 21 mills. A mill is \$1 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

The city's 2021 fiscal year budget does not have any property taxes built into it, but those taxes will come in the next budget for the Fiscal Year 2022, which begins Oct. 1, Morrison said.

During Thursday's meeting, the board also discussed the proposed \$3,543,203 budget for Fiscal 2022.

The 2022 budget includes licenses and permits, intergovernmental revenues, fines and forfeits, donations and taxes, planning and zoning, and funding first responders such as the police department and fire department.

In other matters during Thursday's meeting:

- Morrison said he hopes for Gluckstadt meetings to start being live-streamed by next year.

- The board discussed looking at a cash balance budget going forward of more than \$160,000 in the next few months.

- The board discussed gathering information on advertising for planning and zoning building inspector candidates and police chief candidates.

## Traffic signals go dark in R'land outage

By DUNCAN DENT  
duncan@onlinemadison.com

A roughly one-hour-long power outage that affected more than 1,000 customers in Ridgeland on Tuesday was not related to Tropical Storm Ida, Entergy officials said.

Sandy Powlett, customer service manager for Entergy, said Wednesday morning that the outages were due to equipment failure on two circuits.

She said the power went out about 3 p.m. Tuesday and was restored by 3:51 p.m. Tuesday even though early

repair times estimated that the repairs could take as long as five hours.

"Our crews were able to find the issue and have it repaired and resolved quickly," Powlett said.

She said about 1,031 customers were left without power south of the Natchez Trace along U.S. 51 and west of I-55.

The Ridgeland Police Department warned that power was out at several intersections. They reported the traffic signal lights were out where U.S. 51 intersects with

Ridgewood Road, Lake Harbour and School Street as well as Lake Harbour Drive and Wheatley Street.

RPD officers were stationed at each intersection directing traffic or dropped off temporary stop signs reminding motorists to treat non-functioning traffic lights as four-way stops.

"All traffic signals are cycling properly," an RPD social media post announced when power was restored.

Powlett said that neither circuit failed in relation to Tropical Storm Ida.

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WE POWER LIFE™

## Legals

Continued from page A7

This is a full-time permanent position with the City of Gluckstadt; the immediate supervisor for this position is the Mayor. The Building Official is expected to develop effective methods and routines for accomplishing job responsibilities.

Interested Applicants should submit a cover letter and resume. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, and they may be mailed to the City of Gluckstadt, Mississippi, at P.O. Box 2210, Madison, MS 39130, or hand-delivered to the Mayor or any Alderman.

A complete job description and salary range is available upon request. Contact Walter C. Morrison, Mayor at [wmorrison@gainsben.com](mailto:wmorrison@gainsben.com). The City of Gluckstadt is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Madison County Nursing Home in Canton is now hiring employees for Nurse Aides. This would lead to taking a class to become a Certified Nursing Assistant. Get paid while you work and take class and get your certification in the process. Please call (601) 855-5761 for more information.

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# Ida damage limited to a couple downed trees, power losses

By DUNCAN DENT  
duncan@onlinemadison.com

Power has been restored to the more than 2,500 customers in Madison County who lost power as Tropical Storm Ida moved through Madison County on Monday after causing considerable damage in south Louisiana and south Mississippi where it came ashore Sunday morning as a category 4 hurricane.

Madison Police Capt. Kevin Newman said Madison the City had no significant reports of property damage within the city, though a downed tree was obstructing the roadway on North Old Canton near Hoy Road.

“Other than the large tree on North Old Canton Road, we had no other note-worthy incidents,” Newman said Tuesday afternoon.

North Old Canton Road was reopened to traffic at approximately 6:00 p.m. Monday evening, according to Newman.

Canton Police Chief Otha Brown said few issues arose from the storm in Canton as well.

“We have had nothing reported related to the storm,” Otha Brown said. “Thank God for that.”

Ridgeland Public Works Director Mike McCollum said he saw reports of power outages in sections of Bridgewater, Overlook Point and Greenwood Crossing.

Other than power outages, McCollum said the city had some reports of downed trees, which were cleared, but no other significant reports of storm-related damage. He said city workers took extra precautions in the water system to ensure service continues throughout the storm.

“People should know that Ridgeland has backup power on the water system so it is unlikely we would have disruption of service. So far, so good,” McCollum said Monday.



A lineman hacks his way through a tree that fell on North Old Canton Road in Madison Monday, knocking out power to approximately 1,200 houses.

Entergy Customer Service Representative Sandy Powlett said that all power was restored to Madison County customers who lost power in relation to Ida by just before 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 31. She said that roughly 2,695 customers were without power in the county at peak outages.

As of Wednesday, Sept. 1, she said Entergy was reporting roughly 10,658 customers without power in the state, mostly in the southwest region.

The National Hurricane Center downgraded Ida to a tropical storm overnight as it moved inland after making landfall near Grand Isle, Louisiana, Sunday morning and causing severe damage in southern Louisiana and along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Millions of people in Louisiana and South Mississippi are still without electrical service.

Ida made landfall on Sunday with 150 m.p.h. winds, the fifth strongest to ever hit the US

mainland.

Ida — a Category 4 storm

— hit on the same date Hurricane Katrina ravaged Louisiana

and Mississippi 16 years earlier.

## NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX LEVIES FOR THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR FOR CITY OF MADISON, MISSISSIPPI

The City of Madison, Mississippi will hold a public hearing on its proposed budget and proposed tax levies for fiscal year 2022 on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Madison Justice Complex, located on Crawford Street, Madison, Mississippi 39110.

The City of Madison, Mississippi is now operating with projected total budget revenue of \$46,968,693. (28 percent) or \$12,941,750 of such revenue is obtained through ad valorem taxes. For the next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$49,237,516. Of that amount, (27 percent) or \$13,147,500 is proposed to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

The decision to not increase the ad valorem tax millage rate for fiscal year 2022 above the current fiscal year’s ad valorem tax millage rate means you will not pay more in ad valorem taxes on your home, automobile tag, utilities, business fixtures and equipment and rental real property, unless the assessed value of your property has increased for fiscal year 2022.

Any citizen of the City of Madison, Mississippi is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed budget and tax levies for fiscal year 2022 and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.

s/Susan B. Crandall \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan B. Crandall, City Clerk  
Director of Administration & Finance

August 26, 2021  
September 2, 2021

## NOTICE OF A TAX INCREASE AND A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX LEVIES FOR THE CITY OF GLUCKSTADT, MISSISSIPPI

The City of Gluckstadt will hold a public hearing on a proposed ad valorem tax revenue increase for fiscal year 2021-2022 and on its proposed budget and proposed tax levies for fiscal year 2021-2022 at 6 p.m. on September 7, 2021, at Germantown High School, in the Cafetorium, 409 Calhoun Station Pkwy, Gluckstadt, MS 39110.

The City of Gluckstadt is now operating with projected total budget revenue of \$360,500. Zero (0) % or \$0 of such revenue is obtained through ad valorem taxes. For next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$3,584,027. Of that amount, 37.97% or \$1,360,793 is proposed to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

For next fiscal year, the City of Gluckstadt plans to increase your ad valorem tax millage rate by 12 mills from 0 mills to 12 mills. This increase means that you will pay more in ad valorem taxes on your home, automobile tag, utilities, business fixtures and equipment and rental real property.

Any citizen of City of Gluckstadt is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed ad valorem tax increase, and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken. The proposed 2021-22 budget is available for inspection at 113 Dees Dr., Suite C, Gluckstadt, MS 39110



**RIDGELAND ... STANDING STRONG TOGETHER**



**CITY OF RIDGELAND  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

www.ridgelandchamber.com | admin@ridgelandchamber.com | 601.991.9996

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the City of Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce is to encourage an economic environment conducive to the continuing development of new and existing business.

THE CITY OF RIDGELAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
*presents*

*Women to Women:*  
**A CELEBRATION LUNCHEON**

*Thursday, October 21*  
10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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|---|---|

TICKETS: \$40 PER PERSON.  
ALL GUESTS RECEIVE A SPECIAL FAVOR.  
CALL THE CHAMBER FOR MORE INFO  
601-991-9996.

**WHAT TO DO &  
WHEN TO DO IT**

**Thursday, September 2 • 10:30 A.M.**  
**Ribbon Cutting**  
Integrative Skin Care of Mississippi  
731 S. Pear Orchard Road, Suite 16

**Monday, September 6**   
**Labor Day**

**Wednesday, September 8 • 11:30 A.M.**  
**Board of Directors Virtual Meeting**

**Thursday, September 9 • 10:30 A.M.**  
**Ribbon Cutting**  
Red 8 Kitchen  
910 Highland Colony Parkway

**Friday, September 10 • 8:00 A.M.**  
**Diplomats First Friday**  
Hampton Inn & Suites  
600 Steed Road

**Thursday, September 23 • 5 – 7:00 P.M.**  
**Business After Hours**  
The Rose Garden at The Orchard  
600 S. Pear Orchard Road

**Monday, September 27 • 10:30 A.M.**  
**Ribbon Cutting**  
Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux  
720 Highland Colony Parkway

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

11:30 A.M. TO 1 P.M. @ EMBASSY SUITES OF RIDGELAND

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WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
**RYAN MILLER**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT,  
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

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Photo credit: Chris Todd, Chris Todd Photography

**GROUND BREAKING**



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720 Highland Colony Parkway  
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Photo credit: Chris Todd, Chris Todd Photography

**WANTED!!!**

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

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

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Young Wells Williams, P.A.

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**DIPLOMAT  
OF THE  
MONTH  
JULY 2021**



**HILL  
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**BECOME A JUNIOR  
DIPLOMAT**

Do you want to get involved, make new friends and learn about your community? Then the Ridgeland Chamber's 2021-2022 Junior Diplomat Program is for you!

Who's eligible? 11th and 12th grade students who are Ridgeland residents and attend Ridgeland High School, Madison Ridgeland Academy, St. Joseph Catholic School, Jackson Academy, Jackson Prep and St. Andrew's Episcopal School.

Applications may be accessed online at www.ridgelandchamber.com, picked up at the Ridgeland Chamber office or at participating schools.

**DEADLINE EXTENDED** - Friday, September 10, 2021. Call the Chamber office at 601-991-9996 for more information.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
THE RIDGELAND CHAMBER  
from the Better Business Bureau of Mississippi**

Better Business Bureau Accreditation is an honor. For nearly a century, the Better Business Bureau of Mississippi has set and upheld high standards for fair and honest business behavior. Not every company is eligible for BBB Accreditation, so be proud of what your Chamber for 23 years has offered our marketplace. You've earned it!



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