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Madison County's leading newspaper.

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**TAX COLLECTOR SINGLED OUT**

## County audit: \$600,000 unaccounted

By **MICHAEL SIMMONS**  
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Madison County's borrowing ability could be impacted by an audit that has shown the Tax Collector has failed to keep adequate books as far back as 2017.

Madison County Adminis-

trator Greg Higginbotham told the Board of Supervisors on Monday that the audit could impact the county's borrowing ability because nearly \$600,000 is missing.

Higginbotham alerted supervisors to the audit that will result in a "qualified opinion," an auditing term

used to show material misstatements or omissions in a report.

"This could conceivably impact our borrowing going forward," he said.

Higginbotham said the audit firm of Bridges, Goodman, Baird, and Clarke PLLC, discovered deficien-

cies in Tax Collector Kay Pace's books going back to 2017 that has compounded over the years.

The total amount of money that is currently unaccounted for is around \$600,000, he told county supervisors.

Some of the findings by the audit include:

- The Tax Collector did not reconcile bank statements in an accurate and timely manner.

- The Tax Collector's office uses a largely manual spreadsheet for the tracking of collections and disbursements in place of accounting software. As such, the opera-

tion of the manual spreadsheet increases the likelihood of errors in opening balances, journal entries, and reconciliations. There are also less safeguards over the accounting process.

- During the course of the

See **AUDIT**, page A2

**WEATHER**

## Over 16K customers lose power in storm

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

Madison County continues to recover from a series of storms over the weekend and late last week that claimed the life of a Canton man and left about 16,000 without power, some for days.

A series of storms that battered the state were reported locally as early as Wednesday afternoon and proceeded through the weekend.

The National Weather Service reported winds as high as 80 miles an hour and golf-ball-sized hail.

This follows a storm on the previous Saturday, June 10, that knocked down trees and left 2,000 people in Madison County without power.

"We were impacted by back-to-back storms in Madison County," Entergy spokesman Sandy Powlett said. "At peak, we had approximately 16,000 without power in Madison County."

The outages were reported throughout the county, Powlett said. By Tuesday, Entergy had whittled the number of those without power down to 100 customers, largely around Canton, she said.

Canton Police Chief Otha Brown reported Wednesday that all roads were clear in Canton.

One death in Madison County related to the weather was reported when 67-year-old Wilbert Williams was fatally injured Friday morning when a tree fell on his carport while he was standing in it.

Downed trees, debris and power outages were reported throughout Madison County.

Ridgeland Public Works Director Alan Hart said cleanup

See **STORM**, page A3

**HOLIDAY**

## Madison Co. has plenty to do for the 4th

By **STAFF REPORTS**  
news@onlinemadison.com

Madison County's Fourth of July celebration kicks off Thursday with the Mississippi Championship Hot Air Balloon Festival in Canton and at Northpark mall on Friday evening.

Festivities continue in Madison on Monday with the annual Fireworks Show at Liberty Park.

See stories inside.



Ridgeland firefighters practice vehicle extrication during a series of training sessions held recently.

**FIRST RESPONDERS**

## Firefighters participate in intensive training sessions

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

**RIDGELAND** — Numerous training sessions, from physical fitness to extrication, dive, rope rescue, and ladder skills training, are helping the Ridgeland Fire Department better serve citizens.

"Our training program is the most vital part of our department," Fire Chief Matt Bailey said. "The amount of training we conduct ensures we meet the needs of our community — the safety of our citizens is our number one priority. We are not just firefighters — we are a multi-task agency skilled in many other disciplines, such as rescue and medical services."

The Ridgeland Fire Department conducts biannual physical fitness testing to ensure members can safely and effectively perform their duties, said firefighter Nathan Bell, RFD's training officer.

Testing is conducted in April and October each year and Bell oversees the coordination and planning for all training throughout the year. He said the many focus areas of training are crucial, but said the foundation is physical fitness.

During April, Ridgeland firefighters sharpened their skills reviewing a number of techniques including using airbags to lift a vehicle off a patient, struts to stabilize a vehicle on its side,



Ridgeland firefighters participate in dive training recently.

and the Jaws of Life to remove doors and roofs to gain access to trapped patients.

"We want to give a special thank you to Capital Towing for donating the vehicles and staging them for the three separate training scenarios and to Northpark for providing the location for the training," Bailey said.

Firefighters also worked on their rope rescue and patient packaging skills. They were given a scenario where a worker had a medical emergency on a roof. Firefighters had to use a ladder to get to and treat the patient, package the patient, and safely get the patient to the ground.

Finally, the team learned new diving techniques with the Public Safety Diver Survival Course designed to improve and elicit automatic responses in survival situations. Participants learn techniques to minimize the effects of emotional and physiological stress based on research on public safety scuba injuries and deaths over several decades, Bailey said.





## A Path To Healing

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# Madison fireworks July 3 at Liberty Park

By JOHN LEE  
john@onlinemadison.com

MADISON — The annual Madison the City Fireworks Show is returning to Liberty Park this year with live music, food, and fun for the whole family.

Amy Cummins, director of Madison the City Community Partners, said the city is hosting the show on Monday, July 3 since that was the night fireworks were available, and it gives families another night of celebration on top of July 4.

“After the show, people can continue to celebrate and spend time with families on July 4 and go to other events,” Cummins said.

Food trucks will be on site at 5 p.m. and will sell foods like chicken on a stick, barbecue, snow cones, and more. Admission to the show is free, but vendor prices vary.

Cummins said the event has a new addition this year, which is a live band, The Dukes of Country.

“They will be set up on the soccer fields closest to Madison Avenue,” Cummins said.

They will start playing at 6 p.m. and perform up until the fireworks at 9 p.m.

“We wanted to add another aspect to what is already a great event since people have asked for music. It’ll give everyone something else to do while waiting for the fireworks,” she said.

Parking will be at Liberty Park, and participants are encouraged to arrive early with blankets and chairs since parking will fill up fast. Guests are also encouraged to

walk to the park. Once all parking spots are filled, the park will be closed off to cars.

“This will be a fun, family-friendly event to celebrate Independence Day,” Cummins said. “Adding the band this year will be a nice touch to the evening. The playground and restrooms will also be open.”

For more information, contact Cummins at (601) 856-7060.

# Mustache the Band to play annual Balloon Glow

By JOHN LEE  
john@onlinemadison.com

RIDGELAND — The annual Celebrate America Balloon Glow is returning to Northpark mall on Friday, June 30 with music, food, and other fun activities for the whole family.

Wendy Bourdin, special events coordinator for the City of Ridgeland, said the Balloon Glow is the city’s annual Fourth of July celebration, which began in 1990.

“People are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets, and they will have places to set up their things and watch the balloons and entertainment,” Bourdin said.

“This is also in conjunction with the Mississippi Championship Hot Air Balloon Fest,



The Celebrate American Balloon Glow is June 30.

which will be on July 1 and 2.”

Bourdin said not only is the Balloon Glow free to the public, but the Kids’ Corner, which is open from 5 p.m. to

8 p.m. during the event, is also free this year.

“Come out and enjoy the entertainment,” Bourdin said. Festivities begin at 5 p.m., and event participants can

enjoy food vendors, the kids’ corner, and live music from DJ Trix, Mustache the Band, and the Molly Ringwalds. Temperance Babcock will share patriotic music during the fireworks show.

Starting at 7:30 p.m., families can enjoy 15 different hot air balloons lighting up the sky along with a fireworks show at the end of the night.

Fireworks begin at 9:35 p.m., and Temperance Babcock will end the night with their patriotic music performance during the fireworks.

Admission is free. For more information about the balloon glow, visit the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Facebook page or the City of Ridgeland website at www.ridgelandms.org.

# Audit

Continued from page A1

cash count, we were unable to tie the reported numbers from the tax collector to the source documents provided, which

draws into question the accuracy of the amounts settled by the Tax Collector to the County and other external entities.

• During the course of our test work, we found that the collections per the computer system did not match the deposits made at the bank with seven exceptions noted out of the month tested.

Attempts to contact Tax Collector Kay Pace for comment were unsuccessful and

she was not present at Monday’s meeting, despite being contacted by supervisors to discuss the issue.

Board President Gerald Steen said on Monday that Pace told the board she would be out of town for the meeting but she has since been in contact with outside CPA firms to come in and help clean up the mess.

Higginbotham told supervisors that the audit report was a “fancy way of saying they’re not balancing their checkbook.”

He said the issue boils

down to improper bookkeeping, theft, or a combination of the two.

“I’m not lobbying allegations of theft on anyone,” he said. “Those are the only two ways the cash count gets off. Not recording something correctly or money is walking out the door.”

Higginbotham said the office’s manual spreadsheet process was rife for error.

Steen said the board has tried for years to get Pace to upgrade software.

“We have talked about this several times with the Tax Collector upgrading,” he said. “She does have the say as far as to upgrade or not. This board has been willing to look at an upgrade for that office.”

Higginbotham said that’s one of the steps needed for the future, which will ultimately require buy-in from the next Tax Collector.

Pace is not seeking reelection and her term ends Dec. 31.

As far as next steps, Higginbotham said he hoped to have an engagement letter with a CPA firm by the next board meeting, but outside of that there was nothing immediate that could be done. He said a lot of time is needed to unwind and figure out where things went wrong.

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## Meet the Candidates

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

**Tax Collector**  
Shelton Vance  
(Republican)

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

(USPS 687-570)  
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### Herring book reception

The Madison County Republican Party held a reception last week in Canton honoring Jim Herring for his book "The Switcher" that gives a unique perspective on a transitional time in Mississippi politics by the only former member of the Mississippi Democratic Party State Executive Committee to later serve as Chairman of the Mississippi Republican Party. Herring of Canton takes the reader through his political activity as a Democrat from the mid-1950s up into his switch to the GOP during the first term of President Ronald Reagan and provides a behind-the-scenes look at his work as state Republican Chairman. Above, Herring and his wife Beverly.

## Canton hosting Balloon Fest

By JOHN LEE  
john@onlinemadison.com

CANTON — The Mississippi Championship Hot Air Balloon Fest returns for its 38th year this week offering tons of fun for the whole family.

JoAnn Gordon, executive director of Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau and Film Office, said the Balloon Fest is the oldest balloon festival in the state.

"We started out with 11 balloons in 1986 and the festival has continued to grow and be a family tradition," Gordon said.

"We encourage families to come out over the Fourth of July weekend and see the majesty of these balloons. If you have never seen a hot air balloon, it is unbelievably beautiful. We're very proud of the festival, as it has not only maintained its popularity but also maintained its tradition of being for families and being together."

The festival begins on Thursday, June 29, and runs through Saturday, July 1.

Laura Prince, events coordinator for Canton Tourism, said new children's activities are planned this year along with new food vendors, new activities, different forms of entertainment, and more.

"We're trying to provide everyone with a wonderful and fun few days," Prince said. "The launch party will be a lot of fun."

The Launch Party will be on the historic Courthouse Square in Canton on June 29 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., where participants can enjoy shopping, food and beverage trucks, and live music from Doug Hurd and Larry Brewer.

Food vendors for Thursday include Funny Face Foods, Marlo's Backyard BBQ, Green Ghost Tacos, Boosted Bean Coffee Co., and Crunch Time Concessions.

Festivities continue on Fri-

day, June 30 at 6 a.m. with a Competition Flight at the Canton Multipurpose Center on 501 Soldiers Colony Road. Canton Tourism is partnering with Ridgeland Recreation and Parks for their annual Celebrate America Balloon Glow at 6 p.m.

Saturday, July 1 is the day of the main event. The festival begins at 5 p.m. at the Canton Multipurpose Center and ends at 9 p.m. The festival includes live music from the Travelin' Jane Band, a balloon chase run/walk, balloon glow, Good Samaritan's Golf Ball Drop Fundraiser, and fireworks to end the night.

Food vendors for July 1 include Funny Face Foods, Crunch Time Concessions, Green Ghost Tacos, Boosted Bean Coffee Co., and Incredible BBQ & Soulfood.

For more information, visit [www.cantontourism.com](http://www.cantontourism.com) or call (601) 859-1307.

## Tree kills man during storms

By DUNCAN DENT  
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CANTON — A man here died after a tree fell on him in his carport during severe weather last Friday morning, the authorities said.

Canton Police Chief Otha Brown identified the victim as 67-year-old Wilbert Williams.

Brown said Williams was found dead when officers arrived at his Douglas Street home. Brown said Williams was in his carport when a tree fell on the house.

Gov. Tate Reeves acknowledged the death in a June 16,

release. "Sadly," Reeves said. "We have received a report of a fatality in Canton as a result of Friday's early-morning severe weather. Please join me in praying for the family during this difficult time."

Brown said Williams had a good reputation in the community and was a long-time employee of the Canton Country Club.

"He was a well-known man in the community," Brown said. "He was a good man."

Members of the Canton Country Club have put together an online fundraiser for his

family. "We are beyond heartbroken at the loss of our Wilbert," The description reads. "Words cannot express how much he was loved at the CCC. He dedicated his life to this place. He knew every inch of this place by heart and if you needed to know anything, he was the man to ask."

It goes on to say, "There is a hole in our collective hearts that will never be filled. Not a day went by that he didn't have a smile on his face and a hearty wave to everyone he saw."

The fundraiser can be found at [gofundme.com/f/wilbert-williams-fundme](https://www.gofundme.com/f/wilbert-williams-fundme).

## Storm

Continued from page A1

crews worked all day on Friday. "Our crews worked well into the evening on Friday beginning at daybreak after the storms cleared the area," Hart said.

He said the last blocked road was cleared on Monday.

Ridgeland Mayor Gene F. McGee said a number of Ridgeland departments worked tirelessly on the cleanup efforts.

"It's been a harsh few days as severe storms have swept through so many areas in the southern portion of the U.S. I'm grateful for our dedicated city employees, crews, Recreation and Parks, and Ridgeland's Police and Fire Departments for working so diligently during this time," McGee stated.

Hart said Public Works crews worked closely with Entergy to clear debris on power lines.

"Our Public Works crews

initially worked to remove trees that were blocking roads where there were no power lines tangled in the downed vegetation," Hart said. "Once lines were verified as deactivated by Entergy, we worked quickly to remove trees and limbs from the right-of-way of the remaining streets."

The city was hit with another round of weather late Saturday, Hart said. Crews worked during the late evening hours assessing and removing additional trees.

"We are now making our way around the city picking up all the piles of limbs," Hart said on Tuesday. "I thought it was great how all the city departments worked together along with many residents. We appreciate the continued patience while we make our rounds to pick up all the extra limb debris that is being brought to the curb by homeowners."

Hart noted any contractor that works to remove trees and limb debris in the City of Ridgeland is required to remove the vegetative debris from the property and legally

dispose of it.

Madison Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler said large swaths of town lost power on Friday with the last house coming back online Monday. She said a number of large subdivisions in north Madison were out of power for almost two and a half days, coming back online as late as Sunday evening.

Hawkins-Butler said the roadways are clear, although the city still has a good bit of work to do as contractors are working their way into the subdivisions this week picking up debris.

"We are working as hard and as fast as we can to put everything back together again," she said.

In Gluckstadt, Mayor Walter Morrison said all roads are clear. Major blockages were reported on Gluckstadt Road just east of Bozeman Road, Clarkdell Road and Catlett Road as well as Highway 51 just south of the Chevron.

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Dr. Chad Washington, left, and Dr. Shashank Shekhar chat with patient Judy Herrington during a clinic visit in 2020.

## UMMC receives top marks for stroke care

By RUTH CUMMINS  
rcummins@umc.edu

Judy Herrington is a stroke survivor whose caregivers affectionally call their “miracle patient.”

Nurses at the University of Mississippi Medical Center zeroed in on a change in her neurological status while Herrington was recovering from an elective procedure. “They immediately activated our stroke care team,” said Neal Kiihnl, manager of UMMC’s stroke outreach program.

The Madison resident was quickly given a clot-busting medication for ischemic stroke after the stroke team consulted with her primary care providers. Her full neurological workup included scans, “and the stroke team saw the clot could be removed from her brain. She was taken to Interventional Radiology for surgery,” Kiihnl said.

“From the time that the stroke alert went out, in under an hour and a half she’d already had the procedure to remove the clot from her brain,” he said. “Time is brain. You want to eliminate that clot as soon as possible.”

Herrington’s care at the state’s only academic medical center was provided through UMMC’s advanced Comprehensive Stroke Center. That new designation, recently awarded by The Joint Commission, is a significant step up from Primary Stroke Center, a designation UMMC held during Herrington’s hospitalization in 2019.

The Comprehensive Stroke Center classification is “the most demanding stroke certification ... designed for those hospitals that have specific abilities to receive and treat the most complex stroke cases,” The Joint Commission says.

“This is recognition and validation of the high level of multidisciplinary care that we provide, and have been providing for a long period of time,” said Dr. Chad Washington, chair of the Department of Neurosurgery.

“This demonstrates that we have the processes at UMMC to make sure we continue to evolve our care,” said Washington, who also is Comprehensive Stroke Center director.

“With our entire continuum of care, we have a specialty expertise that is unmatched in the state of Mississippi,” said Britt Crewse, chief executive officer of UMMC Adult Hospitals. “We are extremely proud of the care that we are providing and that we will provide as a Comprehensive Stroke Center.”

“It would have been a devastating stroke had I not gotten the good care that I did,” said Herrington, who was well enough to return home three or four days after she was admitted and went back to her metro-area job as a physical therapist and director of rehabilitation in about six weeks.

As a Comprehensive Stroke Center, UMMC deploys a wide range of advanced care, beginning even before a patient arrives at the Emergency Department. Patients are quickly diagnosed and treatment plans created following brain imaging scans and neurological evaluations, and they receive clot-busting medications and surgery when needed.

When a stroke patient is being transported by ambulance, Mississippi MED-COM “notifies UMMC prior to their arrival, and our stroke team is waiting for that patient,” Kiihnl said. “EMS companies are going to take patients with stroke symptoms to a Compre-

hensive Stroke Center first.

“The patient will go directly to CT imaging, and if they have a brain bleed, neurosurgery is consulted. If there is not a bleed, neurology will begin treatment,” Kiihnl said. “Processes immediately are activated to notify the proper teams who will take care of that type patient.”

An ischemic stroke occurs when a blood clot, known as a thrombus, blocks or plugs an artery leading to the brain. That prevents the brain from getting oxygen and nutrients, and brain cells begin to die within minutes. It’s the brain’s version of a heart attack.

Medical Center stroke team experts also treat hemorrhagic stroke, an especially severe event occurring when a blood vessel in the brain ruptures and bleeds, sometimes uncontrollably, disrupting normal circulation of blood in the brain.

The Comprehensive Stroke Center is supported by state-of-the-art technology and facilities, including a six-bed dedicated stroke unit and a 20-bed neurosciences intensive care unit. Caregivers include neurorehabilitation specialists and nurses who have special certifications in stroke treatment. All of the physician providers have had subspecialty fellowship training specific to stroke care.

The Medical Center is the recipient of the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association Get With the Guidelines Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus Award and has met criteria for the Get With the Guidelines Gold Plus Achievement Award for 10 consecutive years. The honors recognize stroke centers for their commitment to providing patients with rapid diagnosis and treatment according to the latest evidence-based standards and guidelines.

Quickly identifying a patient who’s having a stroke is so important that Medical Center employees who work with and around patients on the Jackson campus are trained to recognize symptoms, Kiihnl said.

A stroke patient can expect not just aggressive medical treatment and rehabilitation, but education and prevention measures to help them reduce

the risk of a second stroke.

“Stroke patients receive all of the expertise needed through the continuum of care,” Washington said. “It’s all under one roof.”

Herrington did have a second stroke, but milder than the first. After becoming nauseated during the night, her vision and depth perception was off. “I went to an urgent care, and they told me it was a stomach bug and probably not a stroke,” Herrington said. “But my vision never came back.

“When it didn’t clear up, I called Dr. (Shashank) Shekhar,” an assistant professor of neurology at UMMC. “He found another clot that was at my vision center.”

Today, Herrington is semi-retired at 62 and works at the office of her husband, Dr. Jimmie Herrington, a dentist. “There were lots of things that were miraculous about my stroke,” she said. “The recovery was miraculous for sure. And it happened on a holiday weekend, and Dr. Chad Washington was on call. They were able to take care of me so brilliantly and so fast.

“I always knew that if I was really, really sick, UMMC was where I would want to go,” she said. “I was really impressed with everyone in the organization.”

“We’ve had incredible leadership from Dr. Washington, Neal and so many others who touch this program. There have been hundreds of employees who have been instrumental in getting us to this point,” Crewse said.

“This has been a several-year journey, but a journey to excellence.”

Herrington’s recovery “is the outcome that we want all of our stroke patients to have,” Kiihnl said. “Our goal is to do everything we can to give them their best chance to get back to their best life.”

“I want to call out Dr. Washington and Dr. Shekhar. They have been amazing to me,” Herrington said.

“Today, I was decorating a cake with my granddaughter, and she’s 9. We were making a heart-shaped cake.

“I’m able to do that because of what UMMC did for me.”

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES/J. Ligon Duncan III

## The destruction of Jerusalem

Please turn with me in your Bibles to Matthew 24:15-23. Now today in our passage, here in verses fifteen and following, Jesus specifies His instructions for His followers in Jerusalem who were about to undergo a severe testing. But in the process, He also teaches us truths which are relevant and important for Christians in all generations. When you pick up a passage about the end times, whether it refers to things far off, or whether it refers to things that have already been fulfilled, you are tempted to think, well, that doesn’t apply to me because I didn’t live then and I’m not going to live then. But the word of God is profitable for instruction. And this word is just as applicable to us as it was to the people that Jesus primarily spoke it to. So, let’s look at five things in this passage that I’d like you to see today. First, even the Christian’s trials are in accordance with the plan of God revealed in His word. Second, Christians must be ready to be persecuted for righteousness’ sake but are not to court conflict. Third, Christians must not be surprised at the intensity of our trials and must pray for God’s strength to endure. Fourth, Christians must never forget God’s special watch care over them. Fifth, Christians must be careful not to be deceived by false christs.

### I. Even the Christian Trials are in Accordance with the Plan of God Revealed in His Word.

In verse fifteen you’ll see the first one. Jesus, in verse fifteen, indicates that the siege and destruction of Jerusalem is a fulfillment of prophecy. Jesus is telling the Jewish Christians that the Roman siege, which is going to occur around Jerusalem in about thirty years is a fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecy. In other words, Jesus is saying to these Jewish Christians, when you see the armies of Rome surrounding Jerusalem, when you hear of them coming, and when you see the imperial banners planted here, as it were, on holy ground, and when you see on those banners the declaration that the Roman emperor is divine, and when your heart feels like the very holy ground of Jerusalem has been blasphemed by the claims of a mortal man to be the divine god, then you know that the fulfillment of prophecy is in place.

But that word is also rel-

evant to us. Because even the Christian trials that we face are in accordance with the plan of God revealed in His word. The word of God warns us for trials, just as Jesus warned those Jewish Christians about trials, and so trials in this life do not disprove the sovereignty of God. They prove the sovereignty of God. If the Bible tells us we’re going to face trials as Christians, and we don’t, then the Bible is wrong. And so, when you do face trials, you’re seeing a fulfillment of the faithful word of your Lord in scripture. Troubles prove god’s truthfulness.

### II. Christians Must be Ready to be Persecuted for Righteousness’ Sake but are not to Court Conflict

In verses 16-18 Jesus tells these Jewish Christian believers in Jerusalem that when they see the abomination of desolation, they are to flee Jerusalem. And so, we learn as believers from this passage that Christians need to be ready to be persecuted for righteousness’ sake, but we are not to court conflict or martyrdom. This is very important because many Christians in the wake of Jesus’ ascension actually exalted martyrdom to the point that they actually tried to get people to martyr them so that they could be numbered among those who had given their lives for the faith. But isn’t it interesting that Jesus gives the practical instruction to the Christians in Jerusalem—don’t sit there and be slaughtered with everybody else. Get out! Run away! Flee the destruction! Spread the word somewhere else. So, Jesus makes it clear that though we are to be ready to be persecuted, we’re not to seek it. We’re to use wisdom and common sense as we approach our conflict with the world.

### III. Christians Must not be Surprised at the Intensity of Our Trials and Must Pray for God’s Strength to Endure

Then in verses 19-21 Jesus says a third thing. He tells these believers in Jerusalem to brace themselves for hardship and to pray for their endurance. These verses make it clear that Jesus is speaking about the coming destruction of Jerusalem in His generation, and they show us the practical counsel that Jesus has given for those Jewish Christians. They need to understand how intense this persecution is going to be. So, the Lord Jesus in His

love for His people is even thinking about what His people are going to have to go through in a time of trial and tribulation. The Lord Jesus shows concern for the difficulties that His people are going to have to go through. And yet again, we learn in this passage that Christians ought not to be surprised at the intensity of our trials. We need to pray for god’s strength to endure.

### IV. Christians Must Never Forget God’s Special Watch Care Over Them

Then in verse 22 Jesus reminds believers in Jerusalem of God’s special providence over His chosen people. Look what He says: Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved, but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. The Lord Jesus wants His disciples to know just how hard it is, but at the same time He also wants them to know that God has put a limit on the duration of that trial because of His love for His people. Now there is such an important lesson in that for us, because Christians must never forget God’s special watch care over them. God is saying in the way He works out the very history of nations, He always bears His children in mind in what He does. He’s saying that He even limited the amount of the destruction of Israel for the sake of the people that He loves.

### V. Christians Must be Careful not to be Deceived by False Christs

You’ll see it in verses 23-24 Jesus warns the believers in Jerusalem against false messiahs. There would be many false messiahs in the time of the destruction of Jerusalem, and Jesus warns His people not to be deceived. This is a major warning from the Lord Jesus Christ. He’s deeply concerned that these Jewish Christians may be misled by the many, many people who came and presented themselves to be the messiah. And He’s saying, don’t be deceived by them. If we ever are asking ourselves if someone is the Christ, then we have our answer, for when Christ appears, we will know it. May God bless His truth to our hearts.

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

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Getting the Message/Rev. Chris Shelton

The amazing grace in Christ

In John 13, we have the story of Jesus washing the feet of His disciples. The Lord Jesus knew the time had arrived for Him to offer up Himself as an atoning sacrifice for sin.

There are prophecies in the Old Testament prophets of the necessity of being cleansed from sin. One of those is in Zechariah 13: "There will be poured out in the house of David a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy when they look on me whom they have pierced... On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness."

Jesus washes the feet of His disciples to give a powerful illustration of the cleansing only He can do. In those days, it was common for the one who hosted a supper to provide water or a servant to wash the feet of his guests.

In Luke 7, Jesus rebuked the Pharisee who had invited Him to a meal for not being courteous enough to provide water to wash His feet.

John describes the Lord's actions in detail. He "rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him" (verses 4-5).

Jesus is doing the work of a humble servant, pointing to the glory of God in the salvation of men. In John 12, we see the glory of Jesus is hidden from the people, "though he had done so many signs before them" (John 12: 37). John then quotes the prophet Isaiah twice with respect to the blindness of sinful man to the glory of God.

One of the quotes comes from Isaiah

chapter 6. In that chapter Isaiah has a vision of the Lord, "high and lifted up." Angels are singing, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of his glory." Isaiah is instantly convicted of the incongruence of man's disregard for God's glory and how glorious and holy God actually is.

The second quote comes from Isaiah 52: "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" This verse refers to the promised Messiah, who in Isaiah 53 we learn is to be stricken, smitten, and afflicted, a "man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."

The humble, afflicted person in Isaiah 53 is the same person who is high and lifted up in Isaiah 6! When Jesus took off His outer garment to wash the disciples' feet, He illustrated leaving His glory above to take the form of a servant in order to cleanse us from our sin.

You can never understand how great a salvation God gives until you see how great a Savior Jesus is. Hebrews 1 says about Jesus, "After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of majesty on high."

If God Almighty, the glorious and holy God, washes your feet, it must be a great thing. If He takes your nature in order to serve you by suffering and dying as a sacrifice for the judgment you deserved, the only conclusion you can make is that it is amazing grace.

Area Churches

Table listing churches: APOSTOLIC (VIRGIN MARY APOSTOLIC, TURNING POINT ASSEMBLY OF GOD, BIBLE FELLOWSHIP BIBLE, OPEN DOOR BIBLE, NORTHEAST CHRISTIAN, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE, CHURCH OF CHRIST, CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST), CATHOLIC (SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC, ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC), EPISCOPAL (CHAPEL OF THE CROSS EPISCOPAL, GRACE EPISCOPAL, ST. COLUMB'S EPISCOPAL), JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES (KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH WITNESSES), METHODIST (CANTON UNITED METHODIST, CHINA GROVE A.M.E., FIRST UNITED METHODIST), PARKWAY PENTECOSTAL (201 Reunion Parkway, Madison 853-2607), PRESBYTERIAN (FIRST PRESBYTERIAN, GRACE CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN, HIGHLANDS PRESBYTERIAN, OLD MADISON PRESBYTERIAN, PEAR ORCHARD PRESBYTERIAN, SHILOH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)), SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST (CANTON SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST), OTHER (THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT, FAITH TABERNACLE, GREATER FAITH CALVARY, GREATER REFUGUE, GREATER SIMS CHAPEL AMEZ, KEYPOINTE CHURCH INT'L, LIFE WAY CENTER, MIRACLE OF FAITH TEMPLE, NEW MOUNT ZION, NEW TESTAMENT FELLOWSHIP, OLDE TOWNE COMMUNITY CHURCH, RIDGELAND FAMILY CHURCH, RIVER OF LIFE, STILL WATER CHURCH, UNITED BELIEVERS CENTER, WORD OF FAITH MINISTRIES INC, WIGGINS UNITED METHODIST, ZION CHAPEL METHODIST)

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"With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love." — Ephesians 4:2 (ESV)

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"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." — Proverbs 16:3 (ESV)

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"Let all that you do be done in love." — 1 Corinthians 16:14 (ESV)

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

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NOTICE OF BUDGET AMENDMENT OF THE CITY OF GLUCKSTADT, MISSISSIPPI

You are hereby notified that pursuant to Mississippi Code Annotated §21-35-25, the City of Gluckstadt adopted a RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET on June 13, 2023 at its regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

The adopted Resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, the City of Gluckstadt adopted its municipal operating budget in September 2022 and set forth therein the anticipated revenues to be collected and expenditures to be expended throughout the ensuing fiscal year; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Gluckstadt has twice previously amended its annual operating budget in February 2023 and in March 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Gluckstadt now finds that it is necessary and desirable to make certain budget amendments to reflect the evolving nature of municipal operations and the reality of revenues and necessary expenses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the fiscal year ending 2023 municipal general fund operating budget be and is hereby amended in accordance with the details set forth as follows:

- 1) That the budget category of intergovernmental revenues (federal grants) be amended by increasing the amount by \$22,692.00 to reflect receipt of a coronavirus PPE subgrant to be used to reimburse the city's expenditures for supplies and equipment related to public safety and health.
2) That the budget category of contractual services in the Financial/City Clerk department be amended by increasing the amount by \$13,000.00 to provide additional funds for the FYE2022 financial audit.
3) That the budget category of contractual services in the General Administration department be amended by increasing the amount by \$22,000.00 to provide funds for grant writing services.
4) That the budget category of supplies in the Police Department be amended by increasing the amount by \$15,855.00 for the purchase of supplies related to the coronavirus PPE subgrant.
5) That the budget category of capital outlay in the Police Department be amended by increasing the amount by \$19,837.00 for the purchase of equipment (\$6,837.00) related to the coronavirus PPE subgrant and for the purchase of a police canine/drug dog (\$13,000.00).
6) That the budget category of contractual services in the Street Department be amended by increasing funding for professional fees (contract labor) in the amount of \$80,000.00 to provide funds for the Bear Creek culvert cleanout project. These funds will be transferred from Street Department capital outlay.
7) That the budget category of capital outlay in the Street Department be amended by decreasing funding for capital outlay (streets) in the amount of \$80,000.00 to provide funds for the Bear Creek culvert cleanout project. These funds will be transferred to Street Department contractual services.
8) That the budget category of intergovernmental revenues (state grants) be amended by increasing the amount by \$750,000.00 to reflect receipt of a legislative appropriation received by the city for its police facility.
9) That the budget category of contractual services be amended by increasing the amount by \$200,000.00 to provide additional funding for architectural fees, engineering fees, and services associated with design and construction of the Gluckstadt police station.
10) That the budget category of capital outlay be amended by transferring \$200,000.00 out of said category and placing said funds in the contractual services category for the purpose of providing funding for architectural fees, engineering fees, and services associated with design and construction of the Gluckstadt police station.
11) That the budget category of capital outlay be amended by increasing the amount by \$750,000.00 to account for the expenditure of the legislative appropriation received by the city for its police facility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to the foregoing the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023 budget as restated is as follows:

Table showing City of Gluckstadt General Fund RECEIPTS. Columns include: Final Budget as Adopted, First Amended Budget as Adopted, Second Amended Budget as Adopted, Proposed Amendments, and Budget Including Adopted Amendments. Rows include Licenses & Permits, Franchise Fees/Taxes, Intergovernmental Revenues, Fines and Forfeits, Interest, and Miscellaneous.

Table showing City of Gluckstadt General Fund DISBURSEMENTS. Columns include: Final Budget as Adopted, First Amended Budget as Adopted, Second Amended Budget as Adopted, Proposed Amendments, and Budget Including Adopted Amendments. Rows include Legislative - Board, Judicial - Municipal Court, Executive - Mayor, and various departmental services.

Table showing City of Gluckstadt General Fund DISBURSEMENTS for Administration - Financial, Planning & Zoning, Administration - General, Police Department, Fire Department, Building Inspection, Street Department, and Transfers.

Table showing Police Station Capital Project Fund RECEIPTS and DISBURSEMENTS. Columns include: Final Budget as Adopted, First Amended Budget as Adopted, Proposed Amendments, and Budget Including Adopted Amendments. Rows include Intergovernmental Revenue, Transfers In, Total Disbursements, and Total Disbursements and Ending Balance.

Table showing Police Station Capital Project Fund RECEIPTS and DISBURSEMENTS. Columns include: Final Budget as Adopted, First Amended Budget as Adopted, Proposed Amendments, and Budget Including Adopted Amendments. Rows include Intergovernmental Revenue, Transfers In, Total Disbursements, and Total Disbursements and Ending Balance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Miss Code Ann. §21-35-25 the City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish the foregoing amendments to the municipal budget within two (2) weeks of the adoption of this resolution.

The foregoing resolution having been first reduced to writing was moved for adoption by Alderman Powell, and seconded by Alderman Slay, with the vote thereon being as follows:

- Alderman Miya Warfield Bates voted: yes
Alderman Jayce Powell voted: yes
Alderman Richard Wesley Slay voted: yes
Alderman John Taylor voted: yes
Alderman Lisa Williams voted: yes

SO RESOLVED this the 13th day of June, 2023.

Walter Morrison, Mayor

Lindsay Kellum, City Clerk

New Stage campers win scholarships

By JOHN LEE john@onlinemadison.com

Two girls from Madison County were recently selected to participate in New Stage Theatre's 2023 Broadway Junior Summer Camp Intensive to learn a wide variety of theatre skills, including stage combat, storytelling, and more.

Khloe Lenoir of Madison and Ella Young of Ridgeland were selected along with 13 other students across the state for the scholarship, and are both looking forward to what the camp, which began on June 19, has in store for them.

From June 19 to July 16, campers will receive daily theatrical instruction from experienced acting, dance, and voice teachers, as well as taking master classes in stage combat, voice/diction, directing, sound design, storytelling, and mask making.

Additionally, students will integrate what they learn in the classroom into a final production of "Mean Girls, Jr." The performances are July 13-16 at New Stage Theatre, and all participants in the camp are cast in the play.

Lenoir said she is looking forward to getting to know all of her cast mates and making new friends at the camp.

"I love acting like something I'm not," Lenoir said. "The show is about mean girls, and I'm not a mean girl, but I like that I get to play one."

Young said this is her third camp at New Stage and she is most excited about rehearsing the show.

"I love learning the choreography for the show and diving into the characters of 'Mean Girls, Jr.," Young said. "I love that I get to see my friends from other schools at camp."

Fifteen full-tuition scholarships were awarded for the Broadway Junior Summer



Ella Young of Ridgeland (left) and Khloe Lenoir of Madison (right) were chosen for the 2023 Broadway Junior Summer Camp Intensive scholarship along with 13 other students across the state. The program began on June 19 and runs through July 16, ending off with a final performance of "Mean Girls, Jr."

Camp Intensive, helping Mississippi students attend the camp who would otherwise not have a chance. The scholarship

ships were provided by The Walker Foundation and The Field Co-Operative, Inc.

Scholarships were based on an audition, letters of recommendation, and an essay written by the potential recipient.

Other students who received the scholarship along with Lenoir and Young include Johnecia Reniece Campbell (Jackson), Kya Danielle Jackson (Clinton), Charlie Perna (Clinton), Lauryn Smith (Jackson), Katelyn Williams (Brandon), Paige Barker (Jackson), Brooklyn Bailey (Jackson), Kennedy Carruth (Flowood), Naomi Willis (Flowood), Harlie Hamilton Hunt (Flowood), Brooklynn Jefferson (Jackson), Jacob Jefferson (Jackson), and Seneca Kelly (Byram).

The New Stage Theatre Arts-in-Education department strives to bring professional, progressive acting instruction to youth throughout Mississippi with its summer camps, year-long acting classes, and touring workshops. The Broadway Junior Summer Camp Intensive provides a comprehensive theatrical learning experience for ages 11-18.

New Stage Artistic Director Francine Thomas Reynolds said education is an integral part of New Stage's mission.

"The Broadway Junior camp is one of the most exciting times around the theatre," Reynolds said. "Not only are the students experiencing the best theatre education and training available in the state of Mississippi, but they are also learning important life-long skills such as problem-solving, self-confidence, and teamwork."

For more information on the New Stage Theatre Education Programs, call (601) 948-3533 ext. 232, or email education@newstagetheatre.com.



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