TO THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY O

### Page A4, Madison County Journal, September 12, 2013 Opinion & Editorials

Founded in 1982

MADISON COUNTY JOURNAL "To glorify God, and enjoy Him forever."

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Naysayers claim rates will

Romney and Ryan reformers

Mississippi's Republican

leaders are, with Romney,

Ryan and other GOP

reformers, part of

America's real hope

for change.

playing out in the states. Wiscon-

sin's Republican Governor Scott

Walker stood firm on fiscal

restraint without tax increases.

The result is spectacular success in

both Wisconsin's budget and busi-

ness climate. Contrast Illinois and

California, run totally by liberals:

higher taxes, higher spending, and

higher numbers of people and

reform in Mississippi's elected

Republicans. Real progress,

instead of the "progressive" status

know best: Secretary of State Del-

bert Hosemann has systematically

re-drafted the state's business laws,

making them more user-friendly

and pro-growth. With the Missis-

sippi Development Authority.

Hosemann is now methodically

looking at the State's economic

development incentives (among

other things), to make sure that we

are at least competitive with other

states. Policy wonks delight in this

stuff, but it matters to everyone.

Hosemann's reforms have biparti-

emizing Mississippi government.

Being flat broke helps motivate,

but these statewide officials accept

as given that "the way we have

always done it is not the way to

conduct the people's business.

ent with Governor Phil Bryant and

This is more and more appar-

Republicans have been mod-

san support.

That is healthy.

the room: Obama & Co. are the Republican-led Legislature.

increasingly shall, dishonest and Bryant is talking about big

We have seen the same thing larly in education. For thirty years,

Starting with the agency I

There is a similar mindset of

businesses fleeing both states.

#### EDITORIALS

## Kemper coal plant viable

Mississippi ratepayers historically have borne the cost of constructing base load electric power generating plants, and Mississippi Power's \$2.4 billion Kemper County lignite coal gasification plant is no different - and, in fact, will be lower.

Former Gov. Haley Barbour said so before a group of Madison County business leaders on Tuesday in an energy policy talk.

to Grand Gulf's 54%. The governor is right. Long-term, Kemper is good for Mississippi because it will produce cheaper,

cleaner electricity. Like starting up any major facility, Barbour expects some fine tuning and "bumps in the road," but believes the gasification technology

is viable. "I don't have any doubt about that. I don't have any doubt about that at all," he said.

When industries consider Mississippi in 15 years, Barbour maintains about electricity, they won't be asking "What does it cost?" but rather "Can we get it?"

Kemper is part of having that abundant supply of electricity to fuel economic development as the Obama administration cracks down more

and more on coal-fired plants. Unlike volatile natural gas pricing, the cost of lignite is relatively fixed because there's no demand for the low-grade coal. Nobody wants to pay to move it. Kemper County is said to be the Saudi Arabia of lignite coal and there's \$400 million worth there over 40 years, Bar-

CORY WILSON

Governor Romney's selection

of Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wisc.) to be

his running mate was a decision

that caught many off guard. In a

good way. Ryan, who is a seven-

term Congressman and who cur-

rently serves as the House Budget

Committee Chairman, has led in

proposing budgetary reforms and

fiscal discipline that would put the

country, gradually, on a sustainable

shown that this election, on the

Republican side at least, will be

about big issues. Ryan has drafted

concrete changes to entitlement

spending while preserving the

benefits seniors currently have.

Ryan gets math, he gets that we are

headed for a fiscal cliff, and he can

readily explain why Republicans

are the only folks in DC even try-

ing to tackle the huge challenges

we face. It's Ryan's budget versus

the Democrats' no-budget, limit-

Reform. Obama Democrats have

already vilified Ryan as literally

throwing granny out of her wheel-

chair and off a cliff, merely

because of Ryan's acknowledg-

ment that we cannot sustain

nuinous deficit spending forever.

They will savage Romney and

Ryan again this year, just as disin-

genuously. But optimistic, adult

conversation from Romney-Ryan

can trump cynical scare tactics. If

not, the GOP will at least go down

renewal in the GOP. Americans

are hungry for leaders who will

take on big ideas and treat voters

seriously. Something besides busi-

ness as usual. The GOP platform

just became a discussion about

how we move beyond the depend-

ency social model of LBJ's Great

Society into a safety net both real

Republicans are the adults in

Ryan's pick is evidence of

It's really Romney, Ryan and quo.

less spending.

swinging.

and affordable.

intellectually bankrupt.

By picking Ryan, Romney has

As for rates, the PSC earlier this year approved a 15-percent rate increase for Mississippi Power Co., and the commission has promised another 3-percent increase next year to help the company cover costs for the Kem-

per County plant. The company also says it will need another 4percent increase to pay off nearly \$1 billion in bonds for the shoot up 60%, but Kemper increase is 22%, compared

project. Altogether, those changes would be a 22-percent increase for Mississippi Power customers, who are in

the southern part of the state - far less than the 54 percent Entergy charged for Grand Gulf in the 1980s or Mississippi Power's 34 percent for Plant Daniel.

Naysayers claim rates will shoot up 60 percent, but they have presented no evidence to back up those claims

Barbour challenged the notion that cost overruns will be borne by ratepayers when Southern Company, parent company of Mississippi Power, has said its shareholders will eat those costs.

We dismiss Barbour critics who say he's doing Mississippi Power's bidding because his lobbying firm represents Southern Company.

Facts are facts and we believe Barbour's. He's an intelligent man and he isn't going to stake his reputation now on a boondoggle.

It's a shame Kemper has become so politicized and the liberals have turned on a "green project" that is so good for Mississippi.

education spending per student has

steadily increased. Good. But

while spending has increased,

achievement for students has

remained flat, or gone down. We

are not getting increased return for

to their credit, are saying so. Last

week, Bryant hosted former Flori-

da Governor Jeb Bush, to tout edu-

cation reform. Someone of Bush's

stature shines a national spotlight

here. But it also is telling that Mis-

sissippi this year already enacted

One example is the new A to F

grading of schools. Instead of

dubbing a school "successful" for

being C-rated, parents will now

understand that in bureaucracy-

speak, "successful" meant only

Charter schools were the rage

last Session, failing on a close

House committee vote. The pro-

posal will be back. Bryant, Lt.

Governor Tate Reeves, and House

Speaker Philip Gunn have all said

that charter schools will become

reality in Mississippi. Bryant is

also proposing ment pay for teach-

ers and workforce development

programs directly relevant to the

On education, long the third

rail in Mississippi politics, Repub-

licans are rowing in the same

direction, despite making waves

and even if their paddles are not

always totally in synch. On fiscal

policy, they have shown common

sense restraint, insisting on rainy

day funds and managing our debt.

stands, and success will be uneven.

But Mississippi's Republican lead-

ers are, with Romney, Ryan and

other Republican reformers, part

of America's real hope for change.

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an attorney with the firm of Hei-

delberg Steinberger Colmer &

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changes and sacred cows, particu- Burrow. To contact Cory, email

They may take hits for tough

jobs we want to attract.

some of Bush's suggestions.

average, at best.

Bryant and other Republicans,

increased investment.

### BRIAN PERRY

## Thompson's animon

As part of the coverage of the of the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom at which the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech, the national newspaper USA Today asked former Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour to write about the changes in race relations in Mis-

Barbour notes in his column, "Mississippi today has more African-American elected officials than any other state, 1,075. The percentage of African Americans in our state registered to vote compared with the black voting-age population is 90.2%, compared with 62.1% in New York, and turnout among African Americans has exceeded that of whites in recent elec-

He writes, "While these achievements occurred at somewhat evolutionary pace, it is unrecognized that many white Southerners accepted them rather quickly" and gives as examples the prosecution of Byron De La Beckwith by Hinds District Attorney Bill Waller (later governor) for the murder of Medgar Evers, and the work by Laurel prosecutor Charles Pickering (later federal judge) in testifying against Ku Klux Klan leader Sam Bowers.

The lone Democrat in Mississippi's federal delegation, Rep. Bennie Thompson, took issue with Barbour's comments on Mississippi and responded in

a column in the Clarion Ledger. I'm sure Thompson's wounds from racism and discrimination are a trauma not easily healed. But in 2003, watched Thompson work with then U.S. Rep. Chip Pickering to pass a resolution in Congress honoring Evers, after both stood graveside at a ceremony recognizing the 40th anniversary of his death at Arlington National Cemetery. I watched Thompson and Pickering lead a bipartisan "Congressional Pilgrimage" to Mississippi to visit civil rights shrines. I watched Thompson share the stage with Barbour at the 40th anniversary of the killing of the civil rights workers in Philadelphia, where Bar-

Bennie Thompson responded with disdain to Barbour's reflections on racial strides.

bour denounced the evils and sins of the past and compared the "extreme hateful intolerance" of segregation to "today's evil of fanatical Islamic terror-

So I was frustrated reading Thompson's animus toward Barbour.

Thompson writes, "Even after the [Voting Rights Act] was approved in 1965, white politicians in our state have used redistricting to deny blacks the opportunity to hold office." Much of those past fifty

years, those "white politicians" were Democrats. But if we're talking about change, we can look at last year when under Republican leadership, redistricting was used to increase the number of majority black state Senate districts from 12 seats to 15 seats.

Thompson continues, "In addition, not one of the black elected officials [Barbour] raves about is a Republican, nor did he endorse any of them for municipal, county, state or federal office.'

Republicans do need more black elected officials. Barbour has supported and endorsed a number of black Republicans for office, but they haven't won. Thompson is glad some of those black Republicans didn't win . they ran against Thompson. I imagine Barbour did endorse the other black candidates not because they're black, but because they're not Republicans. In fact, had Barbour endorsed them, Thompson may have used that against them. This year in Canton and Jack-Thompson publicly attacked Democrats in their primaries that he believed had support of Republicans.

do, however, recall the thengovernor's support for Judge Charles Pickering's nomination to the Fifth Circuit - a move opposed by every major civil Twitter.

labors and pains in the book tabors are show us how God

Roman with sin through Jesus It sin cannot separate dians from God what is The left out there to separate

rights work in the looking at verses 35 to

Pickering: Ide Christians from God's

al makes it clear that the ian need never fear sepaour loving eemer. Again, he's speaking relational terminology the forensic or the legal ter-

rology used in verses 33 and every race in it's another way of looking right, so they he same truth. It's another look like US alt of what God has done for blo in Jesus Christ. And Paul's and Madisons, pose for piling up this list of the other soci Henges to Christians' securithis race, I have the end of verse 35 is to ce it clear that no earthly

tingency, no earthly circum-"Polytice, no earthly exigency can Mississippi at de us from God's saving

is better of far His list perhaps is not comadmit that the hensive, but it is meant to no racism 7 and comprehensibly never be any cything out there in earthly tion in the Somerience which might unsetelse is une our sense of God's love for

Indeed it the The emphasis here is on ist's love for believers. If Christ, and Pa irance depended ultimately Brian Pem he consistency and the qual-Thompson further writes, "I for the Madison of the Christian's love to

and a parme ist, no one would ever be at reasonable and is not saying if you love ryms or @Conist. if you love Him rightly, on love Him enough, if you Him with perseverance,

you will have assurance. is saying I want you to stop, istian, and I want you to template His love for you. It is Christ love, Paul says,

you alienate fre to. Assurance depends upon And then tounchangeableness of God's match betweening love.

means. The min II. Christians are con-American waterors not in spite of but moralistic and anally in all these things. tic, which is why Many Christians we will hard ti are always com

Hitler. John Kr Assad has joined poison gas. Mil Leader Harry Ray Holocaust in his ing. But if we may fronted with we seek ment ing him continu

by means we credibility that is move Henry Kill

A military strike to change Assad's options in breakfast flatware is even less stirring than Kerry's assurance of unbelievable smallness. At the beginning of what is supposed to be the administration's full-court press for a strike, it has done more to pyre, threw his open itself to mockery than to persuade, more to set back its

simple incompetence, is that the administration has dual, and conflicting, audiences. The president's political base wants a strike to be as symbolic as possi-"unbelievably small." Surely, possible. Please one side and view.com.

(E)ven to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made I will carry and will a

know God has helped me endure some of the most diff cult trials of life." And Pa wants to say, "Um, I'm saying little bit more than that." A the something more is this. T you are more than conque in all these things.

Verse 36 is a quotation f Psalm 44, verse 22. And psalm and that quot remind us that it has all been the lot of God's peop suffer. God's people an strangers to suffering. because you love the on God doesn't mean you experience suffering. F more, it doesn't mean th don't experience su never rejected L. No earthly circumstance, we are being contingency can which is explicitly fo being led to the slaugh

And we must pau and contemplate the n bility of soon, of near tion, even in the wester But we also must pa think of persecution thing that is part of a It's part of Roman Christians to lions. Also, remember

the twentieth cen Christians died for than in all the nin turies prior put togg secution is not a misty path for me in two-thirds of may be for us, but be for long. And is saying that we saints of old mu stand and fall as

Paul is remin that persecution believers bearing of Christ. You's ers are persect again that they fellowship of l It's a sign

had been inve cution of St met him on t cus, who sai do you perse secution of mately a po

Because be are united in their bel

> to get th secution

even in

#### RICH LOWRY

# Kerry's gaffe and the Russial It is Christ love, Paul says,

Now that John Kerry is the secretary of state, his gaffes can launch major diplomatic initiatives.

A reporter in London asked what Syrian President Bashar al-Assad could do to avoid war. Kerry responded: "He could turn over every single bit of his chemical weapons to the international community in the next week - turn it over, all of it without delay and allow the full and total accounting. But he isn't about to do it, and it can't

be done." The State Department quickly noted that the secretary was merely making a rhetorical point. But the Russians immediately embraced the Kerry flourish as a serious proposal. It was "welcomed" by Damascus and spoken of warmly by the U.N. secretary-general and the British and French governments.

In her highly anticipated remarks on the Syria crisis, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said action on the Kerry gaffe-turned-plan would be an 'important step." In his briefing, White House press secretary Jay Carney triumphantly noted that there wouldn't have been so much diplomatic progress absent the "credible threat" of force.

Never mind that Kerry punctuated the launch of his unintended Syria peace plan with the words "it can't be done." In a storm, any port will do, and during a catastrophic meltdown of an administration's case for war, so will any diplomatic fig leaf.

Not all of Kerry's gaffes in game-changing diplomacy. He ing number of Republican sup-London rose to the level of ble, while the rapidly diminishsaid the strike on Syria would be porters want it to be as robust as

I will carry and will save.

BIBLE SELECTION

Kerry was making another one of his rhetorical points, that compared with, say, Dresden or "Shock and Awe," the strike on Syria would be a much more circumscribed affair. But "unbelievably small" is not a rallying

The case for a strike

comes down to a matter

of national credibility

that is more likely to

move Henry Kissinger

than the public.

An anonymous administration official resorted to an analogy to children's cereal. As USA Today paraphrased his explanation: "If Assad is eating Cheerios, we're going to take away his spoon and give him a fork. Will that degrade his ability to eat Cheerios? Yes. Will it deter him? Maybe. But he'll still be able to eat Cheerios."

case than to advance it.

Part of the problem, besides

The case III mood for any m before a hour always easier of your comme when you are in howling heat opposition. If he's not whether to it sidering the pa

> orth Madison County Ex innie Hamlin-April, own cognition of their qualific Excel By 5 is an innova s young children. It en s play in the lives of ch

(USPS 687-570)

The Medison County Journal is published every Thursday by the Medison County Publishing Co., Inc., 293 Commerce Park Drive, Ridgeland, MS 39157. James E. Prince III, president. Gubacoptions are: \$28 per year in Medison and Hinds counties; \$32 in-state, \$35 out-of-state. Single drapy perce is 75c. Periodicals postage poid at Ridgeland, 465

The Medicon County Journal reserves the right to edit or reject any or all advertising. POSTMASTER Send across changes to: The Madison County Journal, P.O. Box 219, Ringsland, MS 39158.