



Ronnie Crudup Jr. enters crowded 2017 mayoral race

Let's Rebuild Together
By Othor Cain
Contributing Writer

With a determined spirit, clear vision and a calling from God, south Jackson resident and non-profit worker Ronnie Crudup Jr. declared his intent Wednesday to run for what could be considered – outside of his norm – the top job

in Jackson. Crudup announced his quest for mayor the same day as businessman LeRoy Walker held a vision-casting session about Jackson's future in Madison County. Crudup believes that we must 'rebuild Jackson together.' "There's a lot of development happening in Northeast Jackson, Fonderm and Belhaven...I believe that we must ensure that West and South Jackson en-

joy some of these same benefits," Crudup said via phone. "We can do this together." Understanding that six people have declared their intentions so far and the possibility of more to come, Crudup said his work separates him from the pack. "I bring hope and possibility to this city," he said. "I've had businesses to move from West Jackson to South Jackson; I've got the connections and I

want to share those connections, not just in South Jackson, but all over Jackson." For the last few years, Crudup has been quietly helping to transform South Jackson. "We have been buying and rehabbing houses, we've



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'He Was Just That Anointed'

Remembering Gospel Star Joe Ligon

By Andrew Limbong
NPR All Things Considered

Gospel singer Joe Ligon died Sunday at the age of 80. He was the electric and vibrant frontman for the Grammy award-winning group Mighty Clouds of Joy, which helped bring gospel to the mainstream. Ligon was born in Troy, Ala. in 1936. He spent some time in Detroit, then moved to L.A., where he joined the Mighty Clouds of Joy and proved himself in the band. In an interview with the Malaco Music Group, Ligon revealed that he wasn't originally chosen as the group's lead singer. One night, as the group was rehearsing, the lead vocalist was having trouble with part of a song. "I showed him how to do the part," Ligon says. "And the old man who's really responsible for our career ... was listening. And he told me that night, 'From now on, you're gonna be the lead singer.'" Gospel star Pastor Shirley Caesar says Ligon brought a remarkable energy to his performances. "He was the type of singer that would never sit down until he had torn the house up," she says. "Just leave the house in a spiritual frenzy. Caesar adds that no gospel singers – herself included – ever wanted to follow Ligon and his Mighty Clouds of Joy. "By the time Joe and the Clouds would've finished singing, there was really nothing left – the people were really ready to go home," she says. Alabama-based music journalist



Joe Ligon of The Mighty Clouds of Joy performs in Nashville in 2013. "He was the type of singer that would never sit down until he had torn the house up," says gospel singer Pastor Shirley Caesar. RICK DIAMOND/GETTY IMAGES FOR IEBA

J. Matthew Cobb also noted Ligon's singular performance style. "He always gave a fiery, Sunday-morning preacher-like delivery," he says. "It allowed them to perform on Soul Train," Cobb says. "They were being played in discos. And they got a lot of flack for doing that." Flack aside, the song ended up charting on the Billboard Top 100. Despite the criticism he got for his crossover success, Ligon cer-

tainly maintained a base of committed fans. Caesar says that when Ligon walked into a room of gospel fans, he inspired a special sense of adoration. "Everybody wanted to get close to him," she says. "They wanted to touch him. He was just that anointed." See page 19 for a memorial in pictures.

After dropping 40 pounds from exercising, WJSU veteran broadcaster Gina Carter-Simmers revved up her car's engine for a shopping spree for new clothes; however, a sudden call from her doctor suggesting she may have breast cancer brought her plans to a screeching halt. On the other hand, it was a green light for the Jackson State University station general manager – with an aggressive form of Stage 3 cancer – to become the architect of an upcoming photo exhibit. The showcase next year will depict the scars of current patients and survivors in the battle to beat cancer. Carter-Simmers has triple-negative breast cancer, which is generally more responsive to chemotherapy. This means the offending tumor is negative for estrogen, progesterone and human epidermal receptor 2 (HER2), which is a less invasive growth protein. Her isolated cancer was anchored in her lymph nodes and right breast, forcing her to undergo chemotherapy, radiation and a mastectomy. When she thought her life was over, one of her doctors, a surgeon, told her not to be discour-

Diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer, JSU broadcaster reveals 'beauty' scars

The Mississippi Link Newswire

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Winter at the Hill



Jim Hill Concert Choir PHOTO BY KELVIN HAYES

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The Jim Hill High School Department of music presented a Christmas Concert titled "Winter at the Hill" It was held Sunday in the school's auditorium at 5:00 p.m. Morgan Bridgeman, a junior at Jim Hill, and a member of the concert choir said, "the concert went extremely well.

Bridgeman, who sings alto stated, "I love the diversity in songs which our choir director selected for the concert." "Everything," she said, "flowed well." Bridgeman gave the invocation prior to sophomore Joshua Burns extending a welcome to guests. Both Bridgeman and Burns were soloists. Bridgeman lead 'Rocking Around the Christmas Tree'

and Burns lead 'Jingle Bell Rock.' Other soloists included sophomore Kayla Quinn leading 'Ave Maria,' senior, Marquell Morrison leading 'O Holy Night,' Sophomore Jade Love, leading 'When Christmas Comes to Town'; senior,

Jim Hill
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Black unemployment rate falls to 8.1 percent in November

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Newswire Managing Editor



The Black unemployment rate improved from 8.6 percent in October to 8.1 percent in November, according to the latest jobs report from the Labor Department. The white unemployment rate ticked down from 4.2 percent in October to 4.1 percent in November, likely because white workers dropped out of the labor market. The labor force participation rate for white workers, which is the share of workers either employed or looking for jobs, continued a three-month slide and was 62.7 percent in November. Meanwhile, the labor force participation rate for black workers edged up slightly from

61.8 percent in October to 61.9 percent in November and the employment-population ratio, or the share of blacks that have jobs compared to the total population, also took steps in the right direction, increasing from 56.5 percent in October to 56.9 percent in November. Black men over 20 years old showed the most gains among the adult worker groups in November, but they were also in the biggest hole. The unemployment rate for black men improved from 8.7 percent in October to 7.7 percent in November. The share of black men who held jobs also increased from 61.7 percent to 62.3 percent. The unemployment rate for black men was still higher than the jobless rate for white men, white women, and black women. Last month, the jobless rate

for white men fell below 4 percent to 3.9 percent, but the labor force participation rate also ticked down from 71.9 percent in October to 71.7 percent in November. Employment prospects for black women over 20 years old showed small gains in November. The labor force participation rate for black women increased from 62.3 percent to 62.6 percent and the employment-population ratio also increased from 57.9 percent to 58.2 percent. The jobless rate for black women was 7.1 percent in November, unchanged since October. The unemployment rate for white women over 20 years old decreased from 3.8 percent in October to 3.7 percent in

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