



The Biden Affect

Vice President visits Mississippi

By Othor Cain
Editor

Don't call it a comeback, call it the Biden affect. Instead of the word momentum, how-about Jo-mentum?

The South Carolina primary was the first major test of the candidates' appeal among black voters. It was here Joe Biden, the former vice president of the United States, under President Barack Obama, scored a thundering victory on the strength of African-American support, a decisive win that forced moderate rivals out of the race and halted the progressive front runner at the time, Bernie Sanders.

Biden's win in South Carolina came at a crucial moment in his 2020 bid as he needed a major rebound after underwhelming performances in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada.

Then Biden's strong performance in states that engaged in Super Tuesday voting last week, suddenly transformed the Democratic Party's presidential field into a two-man contest.

Biden's campaign is embracing his renewed status as the



Biden

Democratic front runner and it was on full display in Mississippi, Sunday at Tougaloo College.

"Joe is the person you might be meeting at lunch at Pearl's Restaurant on Terry Road, the person you might meet at Bully's Restaurant on Livingston Road," Congressman Bennie

Thompson, Mississippi's only Democrat in Washington, said at a rally Sunday. "We're here today to put the marker down that this country is about to change. If you've had the three years like all of us have had, it's absolutely our time to change it... we're going to come together

Tuesday and speak with one voice as Democrats. And one person that can unite Democrats in this country is Joe Biden."

Thompson's rhythm, cadence, hand gestures and eye contact with the audience, were remi-

Biden
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Former V.P. Joe Biden worships at New Hope Baptist Church



Biden receives warm welcome from Pastor Young as Rev. Amos Brown from San Francisco looks on. PHOTO BY KEVIN BRADLEY

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Sunday, March 8, the worship service programs that were passed out to congregants entering New Hope Church, pastored by Dr. Jerry Young, looked the same as usual. What was unusual, however, worshippers began entering the sanctuary located at 1555 Beasley Road in Jackson as early as 8 a.m. for a service that was to begin at 9:30 a.m. The New Hope Baptist Church choir entered the choir room just as early,

while the ushers had been in place prior to 8 a.m.

There was an obvious air of excitement because the church was expecting former Vice President Joe Biden. The word had been out for a few days that Biden would be worshipping at New Hope and as a result, dignitaries, elected and appointed officials, visitors and friends from throughout the state and country came to worship at New Hope.

Rev. Amos Brown, pastor

New Hope
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Women's Council for Philanthropy honors former JSU President John Peoples and First Lady

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Jackson State University's Inaugural Women's Council for Philanthropy luncheon was held at the Country Club of Jackson, March 4. Dr. John A. Peoples, JSU's sixth president, and his wife Mary E. Peoples, were the honorees for the occasion.

Music was provided by Unfazed Band of Moss Point, MS. Many, including the honorees, enjoyed the musical stylings of the band..

The Women's Council for Philanthropy was created in 2007 to increase scholarship opportunities for students and to provide them with the added support of career mentors and support to prepare them for leadership roles in their chosen professions.

As a result of the luncheon fundraiser, organizers were able to present a check for more than \$31,000 to the JSU



The Peoples receiving gift from JSU Women's Council for Philanthropy members.

Development Foundation.

Rhea Williams-Bishop, secretary of the council, and Gailya Porter, council treasurer, served as Mistresses of Ceremonies. A video presentation comprised of special tributes to the honorees was presented by Gwendolyn Prater, chair of the council.

People's in a statement of appreciation for the tribute said, "It was overwhelming to have so many people say so many nice things about us." Peoples said he and his wife had such a good time and enjoyed dancing to the

JSU
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Dr. and Mrs. Peoples, seated, is surrounded by JSU Women's Council for Philanthropy members (L-R) Rhea Williams-Bishop, Gailya Porter, Gwendolyn Prater, Meredith Creekmore, Geraldine Brookins and Judge Patricia Wise.

Inside
Major south championship event comes to Hattiesburg



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Mount Burner M.B. Church’s 5th women’s ministry breakfast

By Jerry Komia Domatob
Guest Writer

As glowing sunshine captured southwest Mississippi’s glamor, an inspiring group of men and women converged at the multi-purpose building for Mount Burner’s fifth annual women breakfast Saturday.

Against the backdrop of the theme, Praying At All Times in the Spirit, guest speaker Claiborne County Tax Collector Diane Davaul held the audience spellbound with her presentation. Her brilliant reflection on the significance was entitled, “A Heart Condition.”

Reiterating the power of prayer under the acronym of ACTS, Davaul said it signifies adoration, compassion, thanksgiving and supplication. She said we must pray always, especially in this time of crisis, since in essence



Mount Burner's Women's Ministry breakfast program committee

it is communication with God. “Let’s pray in uncertain times like these.”

A delicious breakfast of grits, sausage, eggs, ham and all the works was served.

Mistress of Ceremony Donna McGloster did a superb job. LeTonyaSmith-Coleman read

the scripture and Ollie Shorter presented an insightful poem. Francine Sanford led prayers and Tameka Jackson welcomed all attendees.

Coleman, the women’s group leader, expressed her gratitude to all present and urged them to continue supporting the church. She

extended special thanks to Pastor Ray Coleman as well as all those who made the event a huge success.

Mount Burner Senior Church pastor is Ray Coleman. He-launched the program by congratulating church women on their fifth anniversary.

PHOTOS BY JERRY K. DOMATOB



Mt. Burner Pastor Ray Coleman

Gibson’s music legend.

Participants and observers left the place with broad smiles on their faces. “It was a great event,” concluded one of those present.

Jerry Komia Domatob, professor, photographer, poet, scholar, researcher and instructor.

Mississippi State Hospital, Hudspeth Center honor Frazier

Mississippi Link Newswire

Supporters of Mississippi State Hospital and Hudspeth Regional Center recently hosted an appreciation luncheon for the state’s legislators at Galloway United Methodist Church in Jackson.

Sen. Hillman Frazier, District 27, Hinds County, was one of the

attendees.

The legislative appreciation event is an annual program hosted by Friends of MSH and Friends of Hudspeth Center. The volunteer organizations are dedicated to raising funds and awareness for their respective programs and those Mississippi-

ans served through them.

Employees, volunteers, advocates and other members of the Friends groups hosted the event in order to thank lawmakers for their work in the legislature and for their continued support of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.



Pictured are (l to r) Hudspeth Unit Director Toni Moore, Sen. Hillman Frazier and MSH Clinical Director Robert Maddux.



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JSU

Continued from page 1

good music with the crowd of well-wishers. He said it is good to know that the Women’s Council was able to real-ize a sizable contribution toward the JSU Development Foundation for a scholarship fund.”

Prater, when asked for comments regarding the luncheon, shared the following remarks in a written staate-ment: “The Women’s Council for Philanthropy members are ecstatic that Dr. John and Mrs. Mary Peoples enjoyed themselves and were able to see and hear from their friends within and beyond Jackson State University. All who attended the luncheon, as well as many supporters unable to be present, appreciate their work at JSU and in the community. Those who attended were able to person-ally bestow best wishes and congratulatory messages to them. It was a beautiful ‘Dr. John and Mrs. Mary Peoples Day’ in the City of Jackson. All of this joy was achieved while raising scholarship funds for deserving JSU stu-dents.”

Biden

Continued from page 1

niscient of an effective Sunday morning call and response service that you would find at most baptist churches.

“The notion that he would dare to come to Mississippi, the notion that he would even think of coming to Touga-loo College, the notion that he could bring black and white Mississippians together,” Thompson said. “He’s the kind of person we all want as president.”

The audience and Mississippi agreed.

Tuesday, Mississippi Democrats delivered Biden a very decisive victory. In unofficial returns, Biden received 218,538 votes or 81 percent. The state rejected, for the sec-ond time, Bernie Sanders. Sanders received a little under 40 thousand votes Tuesday. In 2016 Mississippi Democrats gave Sanders even fewer votes. He received a little less than 37 thousand votes then.

Mike Espy, who is running for the United States Senate, captured his party’s nomination Tuesday with a sizable de-feat of two challengers, was excited to see Biden’s rise to the top.

“I feel really good with Joe Biden being at the top of the ticket in Mississippi,” Espy said to a cheering crowd at a watch party that quickly turned into a victory party. “I know Joe, I know him to be a man of competence and integrity.”

Biden’s team helped to relaunch a new found energy among Mississippi Democrats; an energy that was created by Espy’s campaign in 2018 but somehow was lost last year during the gubernatorial campaign. Espy knows that if he is to be successful this time around he will need an over-whelmingly majority of black support.

Biden is the only candidate that has delivered African-American voters this election cycle.

New Hope

Continued from page 1

of the Third Baptist Church and president of the San Franciso Branch of the NAACP flew in from California, and offered prayer. Brown, who has had a relationship with Biden since 1990, is a civil rights activist who was born in Jackson and at-tended Jim Hill High School.

Young in his message said that life has a way of placing peo-ple in predicaments that are painful and difficult to handle, but these difficulties can shape one’s future in a positive way. He told the congregation that God speaks to individuals in their conscience but shouts to them in their pain and if they keep on loving God things will work out in spite of their difficulties.

Young gave as an example of things working out for the good by referring to ‘king cotton.’ He said, when the boll weevil, a little black bug, destroyed the cotton crop in the south, farm-ers were devastated until George Washington Carver, promoted an alternative crop to cotton. It was through his invention of peanuts, a crop which the boll weevil could not harm, that farm-ers planted peanuts and became very well off financially. This catastrophe that black farmers suffered became the source of financial wealth. This example emphasized Paul’s teaching that all things work for the good in spite of difficulties along the way.

Young gave another example by referring to those that stated Biden’s campaign was dead. He said, “We are the Easter peo-ple, we died on Friday, but early Sunday morning we rose.” This statement brought thunderous applause from the congre-gation. He further said that Biden was not here for pomp and circumstance, but rather, to worship at New Hope. Biden told Young that he did not want the congregation to stand when he entered the church but Young reminded him that New Hope was his church, and he preferred the congregants to stand and honor the former vice president of The United States of America.

At the end of service, U. S. Congressman Bennie Thompson of the 2nd Congressional District introduced Biden with accla-lades of all he has done for the community and the country, to include the role he played in giving Mississippi, Judge Carlton Reeves, the ‘best federal judge in the Southern District.



Congressman Thompson

PHOTO BY KEVIN BRADLEY

Thompson, as Biden was approaching the podium, said, “I present to you the comeback kid.” The congregation stood and again, gave thunderous applause.

After thanking the congressman for the kind words, Biden said, “If I’m the comeback kid, it’s the African Americans all around the country that are responsible.” Biden let it be known that he was listening to Young’s address when he said, “We are in a situation where I am going to get clobbered for saying this, but we have a boll weevil we have to get rid of.”

Biden, a man seemingly of great faith referred to some of his own difficulties, such as the loss of his wife and daughter in a car accident and losing a son to cancer. He referred to a quote from a theologian named Soren Kierkegaard, from his Gospel of Sufferings, “Faith sees best in the dark.” Biden said, “with every loss I have faced, it was faith that saw me through.”

He referred to being victimized by things one cannot control. Biden said we should not let hate divide us as it has in the past. He said his mother always told him we are defined by our cour-age and redeemed by our work.



Biden, center, poses with First Family of New Hope Church.

PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON



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Mississippi State Hospital, Hudspeth Center honor Norwood

Mississippi Link Newswire

Supporters of Mississippi State Hospital and Hudspeth Regional Center recently hosted an appreciation luncheon for the state's legislators at Galloway United Methodist Church in Jackson.

Sen. Sollie Norwood, District 28, Hinds County, was one of the attendees.

The legislative appreciation event is an annual program hosted by Friends of MSH and Friends of Hudspeth Center.

The volunteer organizations are dedicated to raising funds and awareness for their respective programs and those Mississippians served through them.

Employees, volunteers, advocates and other members of the Friends groups hosted the event in order to thank lawmakers for their work in the legislature and for their continued support of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.



Pictured (l to r) Hudspeth Assistant Director Tim Drane, Sen. Sollie Norwood and MSH Clinical Director Robert Maddux.

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Contact: Angela Carson at 601-955-1132 or acarsonpga@gmail.com

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Canton Juneteenth Committee in partnership with the City of Canton, the Upsilon Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Pine Grove Association, the MS Volunteer Lawyers Project, Uplift, Inc. and Mississippi Plus America will host an Expungement Clinic in Canton, MS.

The clinic will give persons with criminal records an opportunity to meet with attorneys for assistance

in getting records expunged. Participants must bring their court records.

The event will take place Saturday, March 28, 2020 from 9 a.m. -1p.m. at the Canton Multi-Purpose Complex. The address is 501 Soldier Colony Road in Canton.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Angela Carson at 601 955-1132 or carsonangela@att.net.

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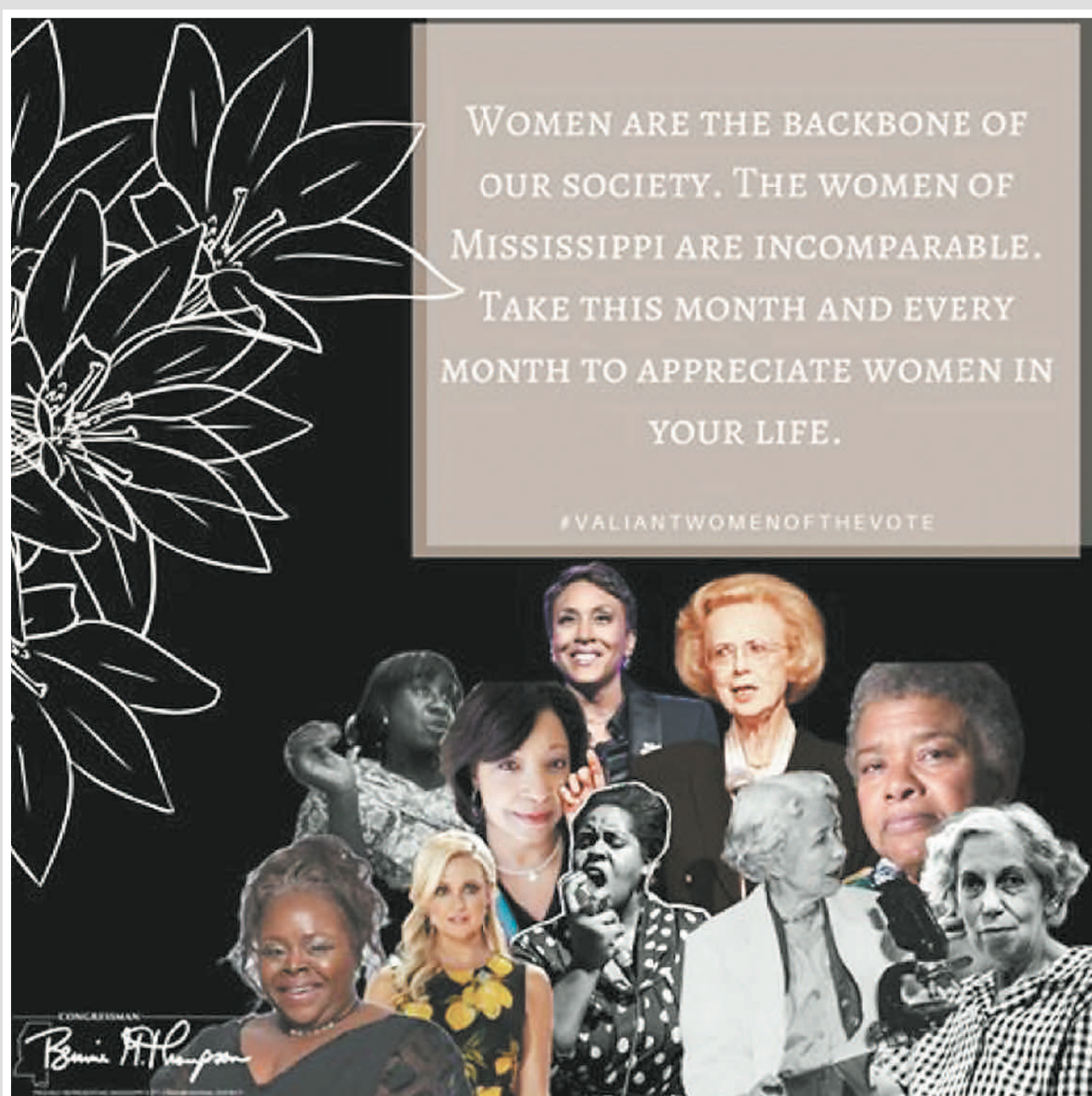
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U.S. Congressman Bennie Thompson wants to thank the voters of District 2 for their vote of confidence March 10 and reminds everyone to vote Nov. 3, 2020

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All seven JPS JROTC units earn top accreditation rating

Mississippi Link Newswire

All Jackson Public Schools JROTC units have achieved the highest possible rating of Honor Unit with Distinction on the JROTC Program for Accreditation. All JPS JROTC units earned the Honor Unit with Distinction rating by scoring 96% or higher across the board during the formal evaluation. The evaluation was conducted in February by an official with the U.S. Army 6th Brigade, Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia.

The U.S. Army conducts these evaluations once every three to four years to determine if units and schools are in compliance with program requirements.

The following seven areas are evaluated and the focus is primarily on the cadets:

- Continuous Improvement Program
- Service Learning Program
- Cadet Drill and Color Guard Unit Report (Recap of all activities in which the units are involved)
- Cadet and Instructor Portfolios

JROTC units may receive the following ratings/designations:

- 100-96% – Honor Unit with Distinction
- 95-70% – Proficient
- Below 70% – Unsatisfactory

With 1,813 cadets enrolled,

the JPS program is, by far, the largest in the state of Mississippi.

During the previous evaluation conducted in 2016, four of seven JPS units were rated Honor Unit with Distinction (Callaway, Lanier, Murrah and Wingfield) and three units were rated Proficient (Forest Hill, Jim Hill, and Provine).

Now that all JPS units are rated Honor Unit with Distinction, all cadets are authorized to proudly wear the “Gold Star” on their uniform as a visible symbol of their overall excellence.

This authorization will remain in effect until the next evaluation period in three to four years.



Lanier High School JROTC at the West Region All Service Drill Competition held in October 2019.

2020 JROTC Program Evaluation Results

School	Rating	Score	Cadets in Unit
Callaway High School	Honor Unit with Distinction	99%	292
Forest Hill High School	Honor Unit with Distinction	98%	394
Jim Hill High School	Honor Unit with Distinction	100%	253
Murrah High School	Honor Unit with Distinction	99%	241
Lanier High School	Honor Unit with Distinction	97%	173
Provine High School	Honor Unit with Distinction	99%	204
Wingfield High School	Honor Unit with Distinction	99%	257

No coronavirus in Mississippi but keep washing your hands



Photo courtesy CDC, Handwashing: A Family Activity

Mississippi Link Newswire

While there have been no reports of cases of coronavirus in the state of Mississippi, Jackson Public Schools is monitoring updates and following the recommendations of state health officials to keep students healthy.

At this time, there are no plans to disrupt the regular school schedule. Maintenance teams will continue their routine cleaning schedules in all of the district's schools and buildings.

Additionally, everyone is urged to practice general virus-prevention measures:

- Wash your hands with soap and water often, or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

- Cover your cough or sneeze into a tissue or sleeve.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Call your doctor if you are sick and let them know about your symptoms.

The well-being of our scholars and employees is paramount in Jackson Public Schools. Let's work together to keep everyone healthy.

You may also want to monitor the Centers for Disease Control website as they post current developments related to the coronavirus.

For more information, please contact the Mississippi Department of Health.

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Publisher.....Jackie Hampton

Editor.....Othor Cain

Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett

Graphics.....Marcus Johnson

Photographers.....Kevin Robinson & Jay Johnson

Contributing Writers.....Janice K. Neal-Vincent

Ayesha K. Mustafa

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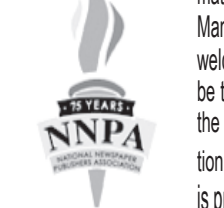


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Autism Conference Mississippi College March 27



Stratton-Gadke

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Autism impacts more than two million Americans. Each day, they face this developmental disability posing major social, communicative and behavioral challenges.

National experts are addressing a March 27 conference at Mississippi College to explore autism issues. The program’s theme is “Growing and Thriving on the Spectrum.”

The keynote speaker is psychology professor Kasee Stratton-Gadke of Mississippi State University. She is an internationally recognized children’s disabilities scholar. The researcher is known for her groundbreaking work with CHARGE Syndrome.

Stratton-Gadke serves as director of MSU’s T.K. Martin Center for Technology and Disability. Opening in 1996, the center is part of the MSU College of Education on the Starkville campus.

Other speakers include professors Sarah Bloom of the University of South Florida professor and Mark Dixon of Southern Illinois University. Mississippi Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann will also address the group.

MC School of Education leaders are teaming with Canopy Children’s Solutions of Jackson to co-sponsor the event.

The program at Anderson Hall will attract national experts as well as therapists, teachers, students and family members.

Autism can be diagnosed in children as young as 18-months-old. There are many types of this disorder caused by different combinations of ge-

netic and environmental influences.

The first Haley Rose Gunter Autism conference at MC was held October 2018. Generous donations by Haley Rose’s grandfather, former Mississippi Insurance Commissioner George Dale and Dale’s son-in-law, Dr. Chad Stokes, a Madison dentist, are making the programs possible. Thomas and Susan Colbert, J.L. Holloway and Canopy Children’s Solutions also provided strong support.

The inaugural conference began when a parent, Donna Dale Gunter of Madison, discussed the journey with her daughter, Haley, who has autism. Donna is the daughter of George Dale, an MC graduate from Clinton.

Conference participants seek to provide the best services and care for people with autism.

“Our idea is to truly journey together and learn from one another,” says Cindy Melton, dean of MC’s School of Education.

Mississippi lacks the number of professionals to provide services to people with autism. “Ongoing training and education for professionals and family members is important,” says Cynthia Johnson, who chairs MC’s Department of Psychology and Counseling.

Conference participants can obtain continuing education credits. Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m.

Registration costs \$50 for professionals and \$35 for parents.

For additional details, contact DeShanna Dixon of the MC Department of Psychology and Counseling at 601-925-3841 or ddixon@mc.edu

Spring Preview Day March 21 at Mississippi College



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Prospective students will attend classes, learn about school organizations and tailgate on the Clinton campus at Mississippi College’s Spring Preview Day.

The activities are set for Saturday, March 21, with an 8:30 a.m. check-in at the B.C. Rogers Student Center.

Typically, about 400 to 500 visitors from across the Southeast and other parts of the USA attend Preview Day events at the Baptist-affiliated university.

Speakers at the 9 a.m. welcome session at Anderson Hall will include students Sam Hughes of Denham Springs, Louisiana and Josh Thomas of McComb. Ninety minutes

later, prospective students can sample a class of their choice.

Parents won’t be ignored. Professors Ivan Parke of Christian Studies, Melinda Gann of the Mathematics Department and Chris Smith of the School of Business, will team up for a faculty panel discussion aimed at parents. School of Education Dean Cindy Melton will join the group.

An MC student panel group booked for Preview Day will include Jordan Ball, Kaylen Hamilton, Olivia Grace Brookins of Birmingham, Alabama and Bryan Rivers of Meridian. Brookins and Rivers are biology-medical sciences majors.

Sharing their insights as MC parents will be Art and Becky

Stephens of Ridgeland.

Other activities include an 11:30 a.m. academic marketplace at Alumni Gym. Faculty members will staff tables loaded with brochures to tell visitors about MC’s academic programs.

At the same time, in the Quad, visitors can learn about dozens of campus organizations and enjoy delicious tailgate food.

There will be plenty of time to stop by the Mississippi College bookstore, tour the campus, see the Cadaver Lab and meet university leaders.

For students interested in the MC equestrian, archery, bass fishing and clay shooting teams, there will be a 1 p.m. open house at Providence Hill

Farm. The spacious 2,000-acre facility is located 20 minutes from the Clinton campus. That event wraps up at 2:30 p.m.

Sports fans are invited to see the MC Choctaws baseball team face Christian Brothers University in a doubleheader on the diamond at Frierson Field. The Gulf South Conference baseball games are set for 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Supporters of the Blue & Gold can also see the Lady Choctaws battle Christian Brothers in softball games at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. The GSC games will be played at the MC Softball Complex.

For additional information, contact the MC admissions office at 601 925-3800.

Hinds CC names Eagle Beauty Revue winners



Winners of Hinds Community College’s Eagle Beauty Revue are, from left, Brianna Shaw, Katelyn Foster, Most Beautiful Kaley McGuffee, Daeyona Owens and Emily Gray.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Kaley McGuffee of Utica was named Most Beautiful in Hinds Community College’s annual Eagle Beauty Revue pageant March 5 on the Raymond Campus.

Selected as beauties were Katelyn Foster of Florence, Emily Gray of Vicksburg, Daeyona Owens of Jackson and Brianna Shaw of Madison.

McGuffee is the daughter of Russ and Michelle McGuffee and is a graduate of Central Hinds Academy. She is a freshman at the Raymond Campus who plans to study dental hygiene. At Hinds, she has been the recipient of an ACT scholarship

and was selected for a Foundation Scholarship. Her goal is to graduate from Hinds and continue her education in dental hygiene at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Foster is the daughter of Chris and Donna Foster and attended Hillcrest Christian School. At Hinds, she is a sophomore at the Raymond Campus studying fine arts and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She was chosen by the art faculty to receive an art scholarship based on her character. She plans to go to Mississippi State University to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a focus in graphic design.

Gray is the daughter of Shan-

tay Ransom and Emie Gray and is a graduate of Warren Central High School where she was a member of the Color Guard and the Math Honor Society. She is a sophomore at the Raymond Campus. She is a President’s Scholar, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Hi-Steppers, Montage Theatre of Dance and the Concert Band. Her goals are to become a nurse with a specialty in OB-GYN so she can help deliver babies.

Owens is the daughter of Litorylas (Toya) Owens and is a graduate of Callaway High School. She is a freshman at the Raymond Campus. Her goal is to graduate from Hinds, enroll

in Jackson State University and major in social work.

Shaw is the daughter of Kevin and Melody Macon and the late Rodney Shaw. She is a graduate of Grenada High School. At Hinds, she is a freshman at the Raymond Campus who plans to study nursing. She is a President’s Scholar and was selected to the Homecoming Court. She is a cheerleader, member of Hinds Connection, Fellowship of Christian Athletes Leader, Diamond Darling, Phi Theta Kappa and the Honors Program. Her goal is to attend the University of Southern Mississippi to obtain a master’s degree in neonatal nursing.

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The Mississippi Link Newswire

The University of Mississippi Medical Center is closely monitoring novel coronavirus cases throughout the world and in the United States.

COVID-19, which originated in Wuhan City in China's Hubei Province, has caused 4,373 deaths worldwide as of noon March 11. The vast majority – 3,046 – were in mainland China, statistics from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention show. Twenty-nine deaths have occurred in the United States, two in Florida, two in California, one in New Jersey, one in South Dakota and 23 in Washington state. It has infected 121,564 people globally, 1,050 of those in the United States and 80,969 in mainland China. The World Health Organization on March 11 declared COVID-19 a global pandemic.

Most acute care hospitals in Mississippi have the facilities necessary to screen, isolate and care for COVID-19 patients. The Medical Center currently is not caring for any COVID-19 patients. If this changes, we have a highly skilled medical team trained to respond.

UMMC has taken action in recent weeks to protect patients, their families and employees that includes:

Working hand in hand with the Mississippi State Depart-



Dr. Bhagyashri Navalkale, who specializes in infectious diseases, answers questions about COVID-19 during a recent press conference.

ment of Health (MSDH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we have processes in place to identify who should be screened for COVID-19, as well as answer questions from the public. If testing is needed, patient samples will be forwarded to MSDH.

A Medical Center leadership team is spearheading preparations and response, and UMMC's approximately

10,000 employees are being educated on COVID-19 protocol, measures they should take if they have contact with a potential COVID-19 patient, and steps they and the public can take to avoid infection.

We are asking all patients who come to our clinics and hospitals about their travel history and possible or confirmed contact with someone with a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis, and we are

directing patients at all clinic locations to use a facemask if they have a fever and cough.

The influenza season remains very active in Mississippi, and Medical Center infectious diseases specialists say that's the immediate threat to residents. They urge anyone who has not been immunized against the flu to do so, and emphasize that it's not too late in the season to get the vaccine.

Answers to frequently asked questions about coronavirus globally and in Mississippi:

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The questions will be frequently updated to reflect current information related to the coronavirus and COVID-19.

(Sources: UMMC Division of Infectious Diseases; UMMC Infection Prevention; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; World Health Organization)

Q: If I live in Mississippi, am I at risk for getting COVID-19?

A: There is low risk to Mississippians at this time, and no confirmed cases in the state. But, this is a rapidly evolving situation, and the risk assessment can change daily.

Q: Who should be screened for COVID-19?

A: As COVID-19 spreads through communities, guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on who should be screened are changing and may continue to change.

Screenings will take place on someone experiencing fever and signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (cough, shortness of breath), and, in the last 14 days before symptoms appeared, had either a history of travel from any of five geographical areas outside the United States: China, Japan, South Korea, Italy and Iran; or close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient.

In addition, given the increased evidence of community spread within the United States, CDC updated its guidelines on March 4 to say a physician's suspicion for COVID-19 is sufficient indication for testing for what appears to be a milder case not requiring hospitalization. They will base this on the local outbreak situation, and evaluation of those with severe respiratory illness of unclear origin.

Q: If I believe I have symptoms of COVID-19 and believe I meet one or more of the con-

ditions that warrant screening or testing, should I come to UMMC?

A: Most acute care hospitals in the state are prepared to receive COVID-19 patients, including screening, isolation and care as needed. Unlike in the Ebola crisis of a few years ago, COVID-19 patients do not receive added benefit from a higher level of care offered by medical centers that are tertiary, meaning those that treat more severe conditions that require specialized knowledge and more intensive health monitoring.

Q: Regardless of where I might seek care, what should I do first?

A: Call ahead to a health care provider or emergency department and tell them if you are having symptoms that might be caused by COVID-19. By calling ahead, you allow providers time to take steps to keep other people from potential exposure before your arrival. Providers will use a screening tool to determine if you need to be isolated and tested for the virus.

If you are at home, as much as you can, stay in a specific room away from other people and pets. Use a separate bathroom if you can. Stay home except to get medical care. Wear a facemask if you are around other people in a room or vehicle, around pets, or in a provider's office.

Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, throw away the tissue, then immediately wash your hands. Avoid sharing personal household items with people or pets, and clean all high-touch surfaces daily.

If your symptoms worsen, including difficulty breathing, seek prompt medical attention. If you have a medical emergency and need to call 911, tell the dispatcher that you have or are being evaluated for COVID-19.

If possible, put on a facemask before help arrives.

Q: Is anyone more susceptible to COVID-19 compared with the general population?

A: Any person, of any age, can be infected with COVID-19. Those with serious health conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cancer or other illnesses that compromise the immune system are more likely to experience complications from COVID-19, flu or pneumonia. The very young and the very old also are often more at risk.

Q: How deadly is COVID-19?

A: We don't fully know, but signs suggest many people have had mild cases and recovered without special treatment. The head of the World Health Organization said on Tuesday that the global mortality rate for COVID-19 was 3.4 percent, which is higher than previously estimated. It is a figure that primarily reflects the outbreak in China, where the vast majority of cases are. The figures are expected to change over time and vary from place to place, WHO says.

In comparison, the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, coronavirus outbreak of 2003 had a fatality rate of 9.6 percent. Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, or MERS, coronavirus has a 34.4 percent fatality rate, with cases still occurring since an initial outbreak in September 2012, WHO estimates. The fatality rate for the seasonal flu, based on much more complete data, is less than 1 percent.

Q: Is there an immunization or anti-viral drug for COVID-19?

A: There's no vaccine and no drug. Patients can use over-the-counter medications to relieve symptoms, such as cough syrup or ibuprofen/acetaminophen for fever. A number of biotech and pharmaceutical firms in several countries are developing a vaccine, but even if clinical trials

are successful, further testing and regulatory action would be needed before a vaccine could become available. That could take a year to 18 months, officials with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases say.

Q: What are the main symptoms of COVID-19? Are they the same for the flu?

A: Patients with confirmed COVID-19 have mild to severe respiratory illness accompanied by fever, cough and shortness of breath, and that can be true with flu. Just as with the flu, the symptoms of COVID-19 may or may not be mild.

Q: What is the incubation period for COVID-19?

A: The length of time between exposure to the virus and developing symptoms is estimated at anywhere from two to 14 days.

Q: How does COVID-19 spread?

A: The virus is spread by droplets created by coughing or sneezing, the same way the flu is spread. Someone can inhale the droplets and be infected, or touch their eyes, nose or mouth fingers that have been exposed to droplets. Spread can also occur from touching a contaminated surface and introducing the virus to your nose or mouth. How easily a virus spreads person to person can vary, and it's not clear how easily COVID-19 spreads from person to person.

Q: What will UMMC do if someone who might have COVID-19 comes to the Emergency Department or another outpatient area?

A: The Medical Center is questioning all patients arriving at the Emergency Department or any other outpatient areas, about their history of travel outside this country, and their exposure to any person who has traveled outside of the United States or who has a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.

Coronavirus Epidemic: What are viruses anyway?

By Glenn Ellis
TriceEdneyWire.com



During the current coronavirus epidemic, the CDC recommends that we wash our hands long enough to sing Happy Birthday two times.

But, were they talking about the traditional version or the Stevie Wonder version? Every black person I know now, and every birthday celebration I've been a part of, for years, sings the Stevie Wonder version.

The lack of clarity on this by the CDC lets me know that there is a need for different sets of information needed for different communities and cultures (according to their needs and interests) in communicating and providing information during this current epidemic.

According to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, only 12 percent of adults in the United States have a high level of health literacy, according to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy. In other words, nearly nine out of 10 adults lack the skills needed to fully manage their health care and prevent disease. Public health officials and the medical community assume patients understand and can manage their own health care. If a patient doesn't have the literacy skills necessary to comprehend basic words, it is unlikely that he or she will be able to engage with their care, which is typically made up of complex directions and complicated terminology.

That means that on a good day, most of us have no idea what the basics are for being healthy; not to mention understanding strains of viruses, transmission and vaccine development, incubation, etc.

Wouldn't you think that at some point in this current coronavirus crisis, government or public health officials would have provided us with a basic understanding of exactly what viruses are; how they work; and why they are so potentially deadly?

Let me give it a try...

A virus is a tiny, infectious particle that can reproduce only by infecting a host cell. Viruses "commandeer" the host cell and use its resources to make more viruses, basically reprogramming it to become a virus factory.

Viruses prey upon all living organisms, turning them into virus Xerox machines.

Unlike a bacterium or a cell of an animal, a virus lacks the ability to replicate on its own. A virus does contain some genetic information critical for making copies of itself, but it can't get the job done without the help of a cell's "duplicating" equipment, borrowing enzymes and other molecules to create even more virus.

Even though the smallest viruses are only about one-millionth of an inch long, they live up to their Latin namesake – poison. They are capable of infecting and hijacking a human body, creating health hazards as minor as the common flu and as disastrous as the AIDS epidemic.

Now, let's tackle one of the basic questions many people have. How many different viruses are there on planet Earth?

Seems like every time we turn around, there's a "new" virus circulating around the globe. Scientist then start scrambling to identify it and find a treatment and/or vaccine for it. Invariably, this leads to everything from outright fear to conspiracy theories. In the absence for more (and sometimes different) messaging to targeted populations, controlling the spread of the virus and protecting people will continue to be an uphill climb.

Let me just remind some and inform others; there are far more viruses on this planet than there are people. You can't see them or feel them, but millions of airborne viruses are wafting around you each day, and billions more microbial travelers are descending everywhere on Earth, after riding air currents around the world.

Think about this: Scientists estimate that there are roughly 1,031,103,110 viruses at any given moment on earth. If you were somehow able to wrangle up all 1,031,103,110 of these viruses and line them end-to-end, your virus column would extend nearly 200,000,000 light years into space. To put it another way, there are over ten million times more viruses on Earth than there are stars in the entire universe.

We didn't always have the need as a society to be reminded of such fundamental hygiene practices. I remember as a kid, coming in the house after playing outside with my friends. The very first thing I would hear would be, "wash your hands." Hygiene and family/community protection were second nature. Without any empirical data, I have to wonder if there is a connection between the loss of this general consciousness in our communities and the increase in both the rise of drug resistant bacteria and the rise of deadly viruses.

At the end of the day, with proper information delivered to respective communities based on their unique needs and abilities, we will find out that the basic behaviors needed to stay healthy, in general, are the same behaviors we should all be adopting in the face of any viral epidemic, including coronavirus.

Washing your hands; Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; stay home if you are sick. We all know the advice on protecting ourselves from the coronavirus.

Oh yeah, you only need to wash your hands long enough to sing the Stevie Wonder version of Happy Birthday once.

Remember, I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one.

Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible!

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. I do not dispense medical advice or prescribe the use of any technique as a replacement form of treatment for physical, mental or medical problems by your doctor either directly or indirectly.

Glenn Ellis, is Research Bioethics Fellow at Harvard Medical School and author of *Which Doctor?*, and *Information is the Best Medicine*. Ellis is an active media contributor on *Health Equity and Medical Ethics*. For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com

Major south championship event comes to Hattiesburg

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Winter Guard International (WGI) centers will provide a venue for young people to pursue excellence in both performance and competition through nationwide indoor color guard, percussion and winds competitive events.

The South Power Regional brings together premier percussion and winds ensembles in the region to compete for top honors. For a full list of participating groups, please visit:

<https://wgi.org/events-list-units/?eventid=901&showid=2400&typePercussion=&access=user> (Percussion Ensembles)

<https://wgi.org/events-list-units/?eventid=901&showid=2402&typeWinds=&access=user> (Wind Ensembles)

WHERE:
Reed Green Coliseum
University of Southern Mississippi
MK Turk Circle
Hattiesburg, MS 39406

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, March 21-22, 2020

Full schedule available three weeks prior to event at wgi.org. Visit https://wgi.org/individual-events/?single_event=south_power_regional_901 for more information.

Ticket information for the South Power Regional is

available online at wgi.org or by calling (937) 247-5919. Pricing is as follows:

Saturday: \$20
Sunday: \$23
Saturday and Sunday: \$34.

Cash and credit cards accepted. Saturday ticket includes prelims at both venues and Scholastic A semi finals on Saturday evening. Sunday ticket includes finals only. Combo ticket includes all events at both venues on both Saturday and Sunday

WGI Sport of the Arts is the world's premier organization producing indoor color guard, percussion and wind ensemble competitions. It is called the Sport of the Arts because it brings music to life through performance in a competitive format.

As a non-profit organization, the sport continues to evolve and grow every season.

In 2020, there will be more than 30,000 participants at the regional level, and more than 15,000 participants at the WGI World Championships in April 2020.

For more information, visit www.wgi.org or find us on Facebook (@WGIsportofthearts), Twitter (@wgitevents), and Instagram (@wgisportofthearts).



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MAID SERVICES AVAILABLE

Mississippi State Hospital and Hudspeth Center honor Crudup



Pictured are (l to r) Hudspeth Director Jerrie Barnes, Rep. Ronnie Crudup and MSH Clinical Director Robert Maddux

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Supporters of Mississippi State Hospital and Hudspeth Regional Center recently hosted an appreciation luncheon for the state's legislators at Galloway United Methodist Church in Jackson.

Rep. Ronnie Crudup, District 71, Hinds County, was one of the attendees.

The legislative appreciation event is an annual program hosted by Friends of MSH and Friends of Hudspeth Center.

The volunteer organizations are dedicated to raising funds and awareness for their respective programs and those Mississippians served through them.

Employees, volunteers, advocates and other members of the Friends groups hosted the event in order to thank lawmakers for their work in the legislature and for their continued support of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.

MSH, a program of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and helps the individuals it serves achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promoting safety and supporting recovery.

The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

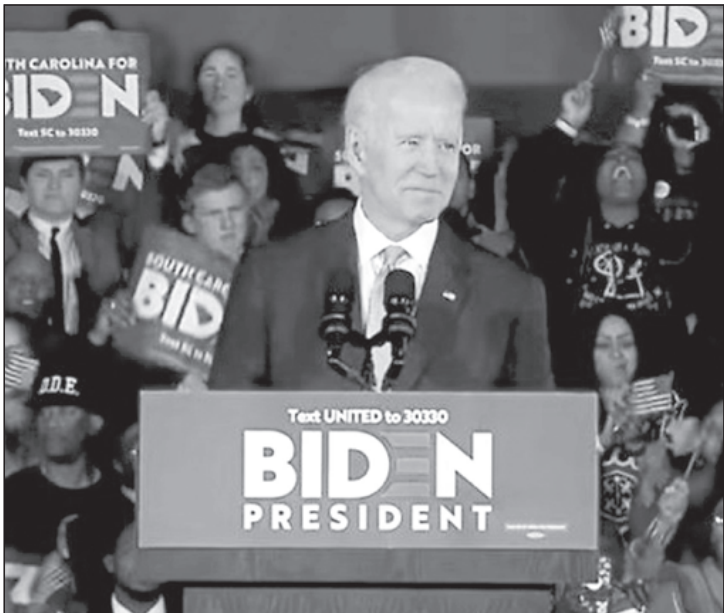
Black voters bring landslide for Biden on Super Tuesday

By Hamil R. Harris
TriceEdneyWire.com

African Americans across the South went to the polls on Super Tuesday and gave former Vice-President Joe Biden front runner status in what is now a two man race between him and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.).

“Just a few days ago, the press and the pundits had declared the campaign dead, and then came South Carolina and they had something to say about it. We were told “Well, when you got to Super Tuesday, it would be over.” Well, it may be over for the other guy. Tell that to the folks in Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Minnesota, and maybe even Massachusetts.”

By daybreak Biden would win in Texas and loose California, but by Wednesday afternoon Elizabeth Warren, who was once a front runner, and Michael Bloomberg would be out of the race joining South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, billionaire Tom Steyer and Senator Amy Klobuchar. Though Warren and Steyer have not endorsed yet, Bloomberg, Buttigieg and Klobuchar all endorsed Biden as well as



Biden

former candidate Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), joining the powerful voice of U. S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, whose endorsement prompted a landslide for Biden in South Carolina.

But the war for delegates continues. On Sunday, two days before the all important Michigan primary, Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. endorsed Bernie Sanders for President and in a tweet Jackson wrote, “We look to our youth for energy, expansion and inclusion which leads to growth. The youth that come to these rallies represent hope,

healing and promise for our nation. It’s a joy to ‘feel the Bern’ with Bernie. Keep hope alive!”

Prominent voices in the black community are encouraging African Americans to go to the polls in record numbers as the contests continue across the nation as Biden and Sanders make their cases.

“This was a tremendously important event. Presidential campaigns spoke directly to African Americans about how they would improve our quality of life, create racial equity and provide opportunities for our

communities to succeed,” said Charles Steele, Jr. the president and CEO of the SCLC which hosted a forum in South Carolina.

Trey Baker, director of African-American Engagement for Vice President Biden, told the audience that, as president, Biden would aggressively use executive orders to counter policies and practices enacted by President Trump.

Noting that Biden would “protect the absolute right to vote,” Baker said Biden would “turn back some of the damage that Donald Trump has done to our government, to our bureaucracy and to the Constitution. He will do this through executive orders.”

Moreover, Baker said that Biden’s history demonstrates that he gets things done. “People are confused,” he said. “Being progressive isn’t so much about being liberal; being progressive is getting things done.”

Baker took direct aim at the 2010 Citizens United Supreme Court decision determining that during elections, government cannot restrict independent expenditures by corporations, associations, nonprofits and labor unions. “What Citi-

zens United did was bring all this flow of money into campaigns,” said Baker, adding that Biden would seek a Constitutional Amendment to overturn the ruling.

Combat veteran Joseph Metty, represented presidential candidate Rep. Tulsi Gabbard in the forum and she is still in the primary even though so far she has performed poorly in the primary. He said her platform includes reducing the money spent on endless wars and using it to help the Americans.

“We spent trillions of dollars since 9/11 on unnecessary wars,” Metty said. “Why? When we have communities in our state and across the nation that don’t have drinking water, people in many states who have two and three jobs just to keep the lights on, people who are essentially drafted into military service – it’s not an actual draft, but they can’t afford tuition for college or gas for their car to get to work, so that’s why they enlist.”

The African-American vote will be critical in the 2020 race.

On March 10 voters in six states were set to go to the polls to elect 406 delegates. Those states included Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Da-

kota, Idaho and Washington state. Michigan is the biggest prize with 125 delegates.

Biden currently has 664 delegates, Sanders has 573 delegates. In order to secure the Democratic nomination the candidate must have 1,979 delegates.

For context, there are 3,979 pledged delegates in the Democratic contest, and 1,499 will have been allotted after Super Tuesday, with 2,480 remaining.

Both Biden and Sanders still have a ways to go.

Of the 4,765 total Democratic delegates, 714 (approximately 15 percent) are super-delegates, which are mostly Democratic members of Congress, governors, former presidents and other party leaders and elected officials.

In 2018, Democratic party officials changed the rules that prevent superdelegates from voting on the first ballot unless neither candidate had enough votes.

Though Sanders won Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and California, he said, “Of course I am disappointed” after Biden swept Super Tuesday. But he and his dedicated followers are fighting on and anything is possible.

Credit denials limit wealth-building for black consumers and businesses

The Mississippi Link Newswire

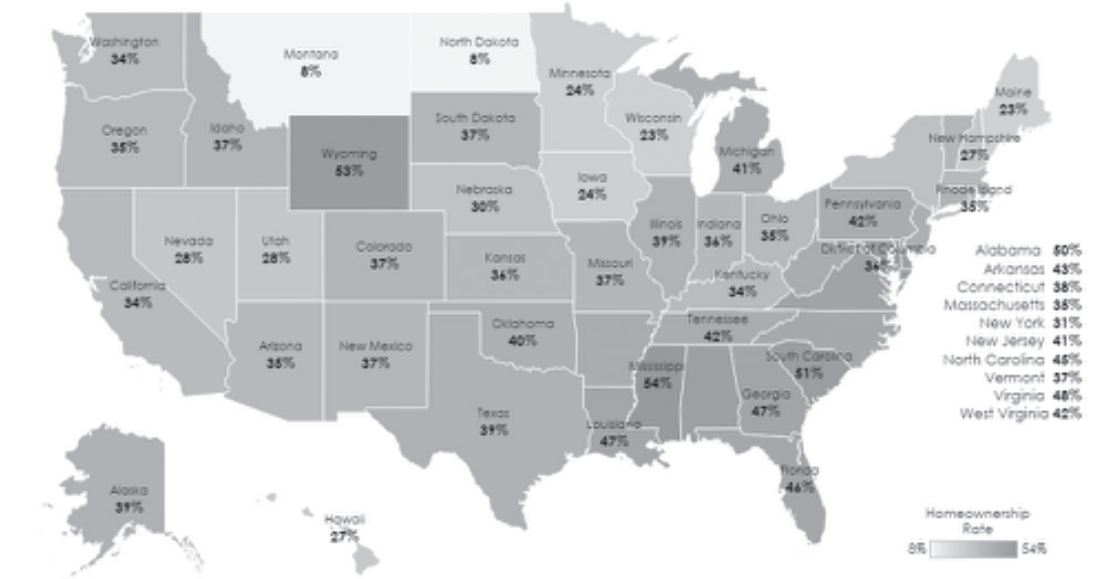
For much of Black America, access to fair and responsible credit has been an elusive promise. Whether as consumers seeking the pride of homeownership or businesses seeking to begin or expand, securing credit remains an age-old, arduous and often frustrating pursuit – despite a slew of federal and state laws enacted to overcome these long-standing racial disparities.

But on February 26, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) settled a federal lawsuit brought by small business owners and advocates who together challenged CFPB’s lack of enforcement of anti-discrimination laws that protect minority-owned and women-owned businesses from unequal access to financial products and services. The lawsuit charged the CFPB with failure to issue required regulations that mandate financial institutions to collect and maintain important data for these two types of businesses.

The settlement sets out specific, time-lined goals as well as an ongoing review process. Although its terms require federal court approval before it can take effect, plaintiffs were jubilant in their ability to force CFPB into collecting and disclosing data.

“It’s safe to say that without this lawsuit, the Trump administration would be content to continue its unlawful refusal to protect women, minority and small business owners from discrimination,” said Anne Harkavy, executive director of Democracy Forward that represented the plaintiffs. Based in the District of Co-

Homeownership Rate for African American alone by state



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2018)

lumbia, this nonprofit organization has a two-pronged purpose: publicly speaking about unlawful government acts and empowering those who have been harmed to fight back.

Plaintiffs in the case include the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB), and small businesses located in Waterloo, Iowa and in Portland, Oregon.

Paulina Gonzalez-Brito, executive director of the California Reinvestment Coalition, also reacted.

“For nearly a decade since Dodd-Frank became law, our members throughout California have been on the frontlines pushing for this rule to move forward,” noted Gonzalez-Brito. “This settlement is a victory for impacted communities and small business owners of color striving to build wealth

and a better life.”

Key actions that CFPB has agreed to include:

By September 2020, publicly release a draft proposal for collecting small business data;

By October 2020, establish a Small Business Advocacy Review panel that will offer direct input on behalf of the small business plaintiff groups;

In negotiation with plaintiffs establish deadlines for each stage of rulemaking – including a final data collection rule;

Every 90 days, submit status reports detailing CFPB’s progress toward the data collection rule; and

Accept court-ordered deadlines if parties fail to agree.

Strong and credible data collection can and often does make the difference between anecdotal critiques and eventual court actions. Particularly

for black businesses, the vigilant and long-term struggle for access to credit has often translated into home equity loans for financing new businesses or expansion. But without access to affordable credit and an absence of home equity, the likelihood of black businesses being under-capitalized runs high.

At the same time, ample data paints a picture of drastic disparities when it comes to blacks buying a home.

On February 25, a day before the CFPB settlement, the National Association of Realtors (NAR), that represents over 1.4 million members in every aspect of residential and commercial real estate, released new research on the difficulties consumers of color continue to confront when buying a home. Analyzing data from 2008 to 2018 that was

gathered by the U.S. Census’ American Community Survey, and its 2019 Profiling of Home Buyers and Sellers, findings are once again stark.

From 2016 to 2019, according to NAR, homeownership rates among whites has consistently exceeded 71 percent. Homeownership rates for this demographic were highest in the Midwest and Deep South, ranging from a statewide high of 78% in Mississippi, followed by 77 percent in Michigan and South Carolina and 76% in both Minnesota and Alabama.

But black homeownership rates in these same years and states reveal eye-opening comparisons. While black homeownership is 41 percent nationwide, it is 50 percent or more in only three states: Mississippi (54 percent), South Carolina (51 percent), and Alabama (50 percent).

Further, in 17 states, the black homeownership rate is less than 40%, with some of the lowest rates occurring in Wisconsin (23 percent), Minnesota (24 percent), and Nevada (28 percent).

Even lower levels of homeownership in states with sizeable black populations were found in California (34%), District of Columbia (36 percent), Illinois (39 percent), Missouri (37 percent), and Texas (39 percent).

Rates of rejections on mortgage applications continue these racial disparities. While white applicants were rejected at a rate of 5 percent, black applicants were rejected nearly triple that of whites at 13 percent. First-time homebuyers, an important indicator of mar-

ket performance, are frequently black at 51%. By contrast, 87 percent of white homebuyers previously owned homes.

Additionally, among black homebuyers, less than half – 49 percent – were married couples and the number of single black women purchasing homes (34%) was double that of single white females (17 percent). The reasons for purchasing homes also diverged: 46 percent of blacks cited a desire to own, while only 26 percent of whites shared that same sentiment.

So, what do these and other data points reveal?

Despite lower incomes, black consumers have a pronounced desire to own their own piece of America. As many black females delay marriage, they are becoming homeowners at a rate more than three times that of black males (9%). It’s also a clear indication of a growing trend among black females who are asserting financial independence. Homeownership for many of these women no longer is tied to marriage as it once was for generations past.

But more importantly, whether as a business owner or a consumer, access to credit remains difficult and daunting for Black America. Our quest for financial justice remains a journey.

“When the CFPB complies with this court order and collects data on small business lending, the marketplace will be more efficient and fairer,” said NALCAB’s Executive Director Noel Andrés Poyo. “Transparency is the ultimate antidote to discriminatory and predatory lending.”

REPRINT

The World around You is in Desperate Need!

By Pastor Simeon R. Green III
Special to The Mississippi Link



When you became a Christian, God had more in mind than just getting you saved. He wants you to influence people. He did not say that you are the salt of the Church. He did not say you are the salt of your Sunday School class. He did not say you are the salt of your fellowship. God said you are the salt of the earth. We read in Matthew 5:13-16 these words: “Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it

under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” When God calls you to go anywhere, He wants you to operate with integrity, purity, honesty and fairness. The world around you is in desperate need of salvation. Their answers are not working, but God has an answer for every possible situation, and His answers still work. Just a few grains of salt can make a whole glass of water salty. It is important that God called us “the Salt of the Earth”, because He wants us to be in direct contact with people who need to be salted. How do you salt your eggs? Do you move the salt shaker close to your eggs? No, you have to sprinkle salt on the

eggs. That is what you have to do with people, spiritually speaking. Notice the prayer of Jesus in John 17:15, which reads, “I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.” God wants us to be the salt of the earth. He did not pray that we would be taken away from the sinners. He prayed that we would be kept from the corruption that is in the world. Getting comfortable among our Christian friends and forgetting about being in direct contact with the world that needs Jesus Christ is easy. Having a relationship with the local congregation is important for every Christian. Everybody needs a pastor and a relationship with the local congregation. The local church is where the Christian is nurtured, challenged,

taught, corrected and encouraged. The church is where he grows and finds fellowship. Our vision has to be much bigger than just going to church. The church should be the launching pad for reaching the world for Jesus. It should be the home base, not a retirement village. Until the sheep and the shepherd understand this, we will not be able to rise to the occasion of God’s call for this generation. We are not to withdraw ourselves from contact with sinners. The only way we can be salt of the earth is to be rubbed into that corrupting thing. Are you helping to rescue those who are perishing? Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton VA 23669. He is a member of the National Association of Evangelism Church of God, Anderson, Ind.

PRESERVED

A Word for Seasoned singles


By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Even though it happened nearly 9 years ago, I remember clearly how confused I was when I heard my four-year-old great nephew Hosea say emphatically, “I’m scared!” He was visiting my parent’s house at Christmas time and up to this point had walked boldly around the house. When I asked him to repeat himself, he was silent. After a few seconds, my mother repeated what he said and whispered, “He’s afraid of going into the kitchen.”

When my mother asked him again to go into the kitchen and throw the trash away, he not only said, “I’m scared,” a little louder, but he also stopped dead in his tracks. It surprised me that the energetic child I’d seen most of the Christmas holiday fearlessly jumping on and off beds/sofa cushions was afraid of walking into the well-lit kitchen that was barely 10 feet away. For a few minutes, myself, his mother and my mother tried to convince him that no one was in the kitchen and nothing would happen to him. He looked at all of us and said more emphatically, “I’m scared!” I finally got up and told him that I’d take him into the kitchen. He grabbed my hand and we began walking towards the kitchen. As we walked, I reassured him that there was no one in the kitchen and all the lights were on. When we entered into the kitchen, he dropped my hand, darted towards the trash can, dropped the trash in and sprinted towards the den. This all happened in a matter of seconds...he looked like a little black flash running past

me! By the time I made it back my seat on the couch in the den, he was back to fearlessly jumping off the couch cushions. It puzzled me how he was afraid of some unknown “thing” in the kitchen but was not afraid of the very real spankings that came when he jumped off the couch. His actions reminded me so much of how we deal with fears. For example, the fear of losing a limb to diabetes hasn’t stopped some of us from eating too many sugary sweets. However, the fear of being alone forces some of us to remain in unhealthy relationships. In many ways, we are the sum of our fears. I’ve though a lot about how so many of us are motivated by our fears with the recent news about the coronavirus. Some are fearful about getting and or spreading the virus. But those of us who are people of faith know that during uncertain times like this, relying on our faith in God and not our fears are vital to staying encouraged. God allows healthy fear however, he doesn’t want us paralyzed by our fears. 2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us that “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” With so much in our world being influenced by fear, I think it’s time we stopped letting our actions be the result of the sum of our fears and instead let our actions become the sum of our faith in God. Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of “Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.




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Church: 601-807-2838

Honoring our own mothers

By E. Faye Williams
Trice Edney Newswire



Just like Black History month, Women's History Month started our as only a week. Along the way, we were ultimately honored with an International Women's Day. Women around the world are celebrated that day. There's an African proverb that tells us, "It is the women who hold the sky up." I can vouch for that in the black community.

So many black women grew up without the benefit of fathers in our homes, but rarely do we use that as an excuse for our not doing things that should be done to protect our families and communities. I've known some of the greatest female activists in the black community who take on monumental roles.

Every year in March, we do a special celebration of women. Some celebrate women every day of our lives. On a personal note, my mother is just a few months away from being 98 years old. She's fine in most ways, but just a bit hard of hearing and having a bit of a challenge remembering things. Though she has lost a bit of her ability to live in her home alone — she wants to live there, and as a family we are making that possible.

When my brother passed away a few months ago, my sisters and I decided to take her to live with one of our sisters a distance of about three and a half hours from where mother has lived alone all of her life since her 9 children left home to strike out on our own. A few weeks ago, she informed us she wanted to return to her home. We reluctantly took her there. I spent a week with her once she was back. Another sister spent a week. Another sister spent two weeks with her to this point. A niece is on her way to spend a few days with her grandmother. Another sister is coming from Los Angeles to spend a month with her. We'll then start the cycle all over again. Some might think the scheduling is a bit of a challenge since we are all many miles away, but my sisters and I thought about all the sacrifices our mother has made for us, and if she wants to live in her home, we're going to make it possible.

While you have indulged me with a personal story, that is the history of so many black women with their families. I salute all of the black women who've done, and would do the same for their mothers.

Every year women in this country get a Presidential proclamation honoring women. The women mentioned are generally women who've made the history books and have had public honors, but so often the women, like my mother, and their caretakers who are just ordinary women who've often done extraordinary things to nurture their families and the families of many in their areas, but they never get any special recognition.

I know that we have Katherine Johnson of Hidden Figures fame, Ida B. Wells-Barnett — our anti-lynching crusader, Sojourner Truth who first sued a white man successfully to get her son back, Rosa Parks who sat on a bus for our rights, Harriet Tubman who brought a lot of our people from slavery to freedom, Fannie Lou Hamer who took beatings to gain our right to vote and others too numerous to name, but for this Women's History Month, let us vow to honor our own mothers who may not be in a history book, but their greatness comes from what they've done for their families and their communities without fanfare and deserve to have their own children honor them.

E. Faye Williams is president of the National Congress of Black Women. She hosts "Wake Up and Stay Woke" on WPFM-FM 89.3 radio.

Urgent phase of Census begins with arrival of information by mail beginning March 12

By Marc H. Morial
Trice Edney Newswire



"The money that pays for hospitals, that pays for affordable housing... If our people are not counted, they literally do not receive the resources necessary. And as a consequence, we have weaker infrastructure, we have terrible hospitals, we have doctor shortages, we have overcrowded schools. All of those things happen because of the Census." — Stacy Abrams, founder of Fair Count and former Georgia gubernatorial nominee

Beginning March 12, households across America will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail.

This marks the first phase in the most urgent imperative of the decade. More than just a head count, the decennial census determines how legislative districts are drawn, how voting power is distributed among communities, and how \$675 billion in federal dollars will be allocated and invested.

If black people are undercounted by 1.7 million, as many forecasts predict, it will cost states 3.4 billion dollars a year.

As soon as households receive this invitation in the mail, they can respond online, by phone or by mail. This is the first time in history Americans can respond to the Census online. The information arriving in mailboxes next week will list a website listed and a Census ID, which can be used starting March 12.

All responses, whether given online, by mail or in person, are

confidential under federal law.

To prepare for the launch of Census 2020, National Urban League has gathered key civil rights leaders and mayors from across the nation for National Tele-Town Hall Tuesday, March 10, at 8 p.m. Eastern Time, to discuss how to make sure our communities are fairly counted. Martin Luther King III, co-chair of New York State's Complete Count Committee, is the keynote speaker. We'll be joined by the mayors of Dallas, New Orleans, Buffalo and other cities.

I can't overstate how important it is for black Americans to participate in the Census. This will be the 24th Census undertaken in the history of the nation, and for the first eight, most African Americans counted as only three-fifths of a person.

Historically, African Americans have been undercounted.

In 1970, my predecessor Whitney M. Young testified to Congress that there had been a 15 percent undercount of black families, though official Census statistics place the figure near 8 percent.

"The extent to which the 1960 undercount has short-changed inner-city residents of the political representation and economic assistance to which they are entitled is incalculable," Young testified. "Two million blacks missed in 1960 could symbolize the loss of five congressmen and scores of state legislators to the black community."

In response to the failures of the Census to accurately count African Americans, Young launched the first Make Black Count campaign with a coalition of other civil rights organizations. To prevent another historic undercount, we have revived this historic campaign.

April 1 is Census Day. Every household in America will have received an invitation to participate by this date. Whether you're living April 1 is what you will report as your address. Whoever is living at that dwelling on that date — every single person, whether related or not — should be counted as a member of that household.

During April, census-takers will begin visiting places where large groups of people live, such as college campuses and senior-citizen centers.

Throughout the summer, census-takers will visit homes who have not responded online or by mail.

The Census Bureau will deliver the count to Congress in December.

The next few months are critical if we want our communities fairly represented. Join the Tele-Town Hall to find out how you can help.

Sisters in STEM - challenges and triumphs

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Few in these United States had heard of Katherine Johnson, the gifted mathematician who finished high school and college at 18. How could we know when scientists are often stereotyped as old white men wearing white lab coats, with glasses sliding down their noses? You might not have known unless you'd picked up Margot Lee Shetterly's book (2015), *Hidden Figures: The Story of the African-American Women Who Helped Win the Space Race*, or saw the movie *Hidden Figures*, which was loosely based on the book. Thanks to the film, more people know of Katherine Johnson's outstanding work.

Johnson made her transition at the end of February at the robust age of 101, on the cusp of Women's History Month. Because of the film and the heightened awareness of the many black women who were scientific pioneers, President Barack Obama awarded her the Medal of Freedom in 2015. A building is named after her at

the Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia. Hopefully, thousands of young black girls who aspire to careers in science are inspired and motivated by her.

Johnson was classified as a "sub-professional," ranking only slightly higher than janitors and clerical workers. Yet she was the "computer" (which is what she was called) that astronaut John Glenn asked to check the math that a mainframe computer had done. Her work is still being used today.

Johnson graduated from an HBCU at 18. She was mentored by William Schiefelin Claytor, reportedly only the third African American to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics. She and Claytor may not have crossed paths had not segregation limited Claytor's choices. Most blacks who earned doctorates taught at HBCUs because others would not hire them, or if they were hired, they were treated differently, and often disrespectfully.

If black girls (and the rest of us) are excited by the legacy of the late Katherine Johnson, they will be further inspired by a new book by Tanya Bolden. *Changing the Equation: 50+ Black Women in STEM* (Abrams

Books) that highlights black women scientists in an array of fields, including medicine. It is being marketed as a children's book, but anyone can pick up this book and learn more about the women who forged a career path that few women and even fewer black women have attempted.

Changing the Equation was meticulously researched and includes a glossary of terms and career descriptions. Not only is it a perfect gift for aspiring scientists, but it is also a necessary resource for librarians and science teachers.

Most of the women in this book are not widely known, which makes this book all the more valuable.

Dr. Rebecca Lee (Davis) Crumpler was the first black woman to earn a medical degree. She attended the New England Female Medical College and graduated in 1864. She worked, for a time, at the Freedman's Bureau, the organization charged with addressing the needs of people who were formerly enslaved.

Also in the medical field, Dr. Myra Adele Logan was the first woman and only the ninth person to perform open-heart sur-

gery in 1943.

Today, just two percent of our nation's physicians are black women, and despite the need for more medical professionals, that low number has not improved. In 2016, Dr. Tamika Cross attempted to assist a patient in distress on a flight, while flight attendants asked her if she was "an actual physician." Two years later, in a similar situation, Dr. Fatima Cody Stanford attempted to offer medical assistance on a flight and had several requests for ID.

Many do not consider physicians when they look at folks in the STEM fields, but one might argue that they must master the same rigorous coursework that doctors undertake.

Bolden chooses to include physicians in her book, and that is an enhancement, not a distraction, from the message that black women "Change the Equation" when they choose to study math, science and medicine.

Bolden showcases women who have made their mark in history, and others who will continue to make history.

Shirley Ann Jackson was the first black woman to earn a Ph.D. from MIT in 1973. She

is the inventor of call waiting and caller ID. Today she serves as president of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She served on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the Clinton Administration and was awarded the National Medal of Science by President Obama.

The women Tanya Bolden highlights include engineers, biologists, robotics specialists and others; amazing women who, while "hidden" from the public eye, make significant contributions in medicine and the other STEM fields.

All too often, Women's History Month tends to focus on women in the humanities or politics, sending the signal to our young women that the sciences do not deserve attention. *Changing the Equation* reminds us that there are trailblazing women in the sciences that can serve as inspiration and virtual role models for all of us.

Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, media contributor and educator. Her latest project *MALVEAUX! On UDCTV is available on youtube.com*. For booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.juliannealveaux.com

No, President Trump, the never-ending war in Afghanistan is not ending

By Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.
Founder and President of Rainbow PUSH Coalition



Don't fall for the hype. That is the one lesson that we all should have learned about President Donald Trump. He's a salesman, not a statesman. He offers up fantasies, not facts. The most recent agreement with the Taliban in Afghanistan is a clear example of this.

In the 2016 campaign, Trump had the good sense to promise to end America's forever wars and bring the troops home. Afghanistan, our longest war now in its 19th year, is a classic example. We invaded Afghanistan to get Osama bin Laden and punish his forces for their attack on America on 9/11. We threw the Taliban out of power. Under Obama's watch, bin

Laden was found and killed. Yet we didn't get out. We have squandered trillions of dollars and lost thousands of American lives in an unending war in an impoverished nation on the other side of the world.

We don't care enough to send the troops and invest the trillions needed to occupy the country. Yet no president has had the courage to get the troops out and end the folly. Trump promised that he would do it. Now, he's cut a deal with the Taliban that he will use to claim that he's fulfilled his promise.

Don't fall for the hype. The deal Trump made with the Taliban will bring U.S. forces down — but only to the approximate level that existed at the end of the Obama administration. He's essentially agreed only to reverse the buildup that he had ordered over the last three years. Further reductions are said to

be dependent on the Taliban making a deal with the existing government. But the Afghan government already objects to the agreement that Trump made. It doesn't want to face the Taliban without U.S. soldiers. After nearly two decades, it has been unable to create a legitimate government and a coherent military that can consolidate its position. If we wait for the Afghan government to agree for U.S. soldiers to leave, the forever war will continue, well, forever.

Trump wants credit for ending the war — and fulfilling his campaign promise — without ending it. He wants to get out, but he doesn't want to be blamed for losing. What's needed is a clear commitment to get out — not dependent on what the Afghan government or the Taliban do. Trump has failed to produce that, violating the campaign pledge he

made to the American people. The sad reality is that we have no reason to be in Afghanistan. The country is impoverished, not strategic. The Taliban are oppressive and violent.

The Afghans should be uniting to defeat the Taliban and keep them from coming to power. But this is the responsibility of the Afghans, not of the United States. The architects of the forever war warn that we will lose credibility if we get out and the government collapses. But what could be a greater loss of credibility than fighting futilely for nearly two decades without victory and without end? They warn that without U.S. forces, Afghanistan could become a launching ground for terrorists. But, as we've seen, terrorists have many places to train in failed states — including those we've helped create like Libya.

We would be far better off — and far more secure from ter-

rorists — if we stopped destabilizing the Middle East, ended the forever wars, stopped sponsoring regime changes, and addressed the threat of terrorism as a matter for intelligence, international cooperation and aggressive policing.

At the very least, we should stop wasting trillions of dollars and thousands of American lives on wars that we have no plan or commitment to win.

Trump was right in 2016: Great powers do not fight endless wars. He is wrong to pretend that he's bringing the troops home from Afghanistan when all he's agreed to is to bring them back down to the level they were at when he took office. Americans are right to want an end to the endless wars. We need a president who has the courage and common sense to end them. Trump has proven once more that he is not that president.



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Advertisement for Electronic Bid
Bid 3126 Boyd Elementary School Exterior Concrete Repairs

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 16, 2020, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project Boyd Elementary School Exterior Concrete Repairs will be held at Boyd Elementary School, 4521 Broadmeadow Drive, Jackson, MS 39206, on March 31, 2020 at 1:30 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsmsprojects.com. A \$100.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each printed set of bid specs/documents. A \$75.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each digital PDF set of bid specs/documents. Documents must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, One Churchill Street, Hattiesburg, MS 39402, Phone (601) 336-6378, or Email: info@planhouseprinting.com. Questions regarding bid documents, please contact Jennifer Seymour at Eley Guild Hardy Architects, Phone: 228-594-2323, or Email: jseymour@egh.ms.

3-12-2020, 3-19-2020

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SECTION 901

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

City of Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi
South Jackson Traffic Signal Project
Federal Aid Project No: STP-0250-00(049)LPA/107545-701000

The City of Jackson, Mississippi will receive bids for the South Jackson Traffic Signal Project, Federal Aid Project No. STP-0250-00(049)LPA/107545-701000 no later than 3:30 p.m., local time, Tuesday, April 7, 2020, in the City Clerk's office of Jackson, at which time said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the City Hall located 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

The work shall consist essentially of the following items:

Installation of a mast arm traffic signal at the intersection of Mississippi Highway 18 and McDowell Road Extension, installation of a mast arm traffic signal and ADA improvements at the intersection of State Street and Silas Brown Street and all other related items of work required to complete the project as shown as specified in the contract documents.

The contract time is 110 working days.

The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the contractor to perform all work and furnish all plant, labor, equipment and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein.

The attention of bidders is directed to the Contract Provisions governing selection and employment of labor. Minimum wage rates for Federal-Aid projects have been predetermined by the Secretary of Labor and are subject to Public Law 87-581 Work Hours Act of 1962, as set forth in the Contract Provisions.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all Bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged and women's business enterprises will be afforded the full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The award of this contract will be contingent upon the Contractor satisfying the DBE/WBE requirements. The DBE goal will be 2%.

Plans, specifications and contract documents are on file and open to public inspection at the Office of Stantec Consulting Services Inc., 200 North Congress Street, Suite 600, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201 and at the Engineering Division of the City of Jackson, 200 South President Street, Room 424, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201. One (1) copy of the Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents may be procured upon payment of \$200.00 (by check, made payable to "Stantec Consulting Services Inc.") from 200 North Congress Street, Suite 600, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201. The payment is non-refundable.

The Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents may also be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Cashier's check, Certified Check on a solvent bank or a Bidder's Bond issued by a Surety Company licensed to operate in the State of Mississippi, in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid price, payable to the City of Jackson as bid security. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Payment bond each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount.

The proposal and contract documents in its entirety shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and deposited with the City Clerk, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date above designated. Stripped Proposals will be rejected. Bidders may not withdraw their bid within sixty (60) days after the date of the actual bid opening without consent of the City of Jackson.

Work to be performed shall be in accordance with the "Mississippi State Highway Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, 2017", together with all amendments and/or special provisions and/or addenda to the standards duly approved and adopted, unless otherwise noted in these specifications.

The attention of Bidders is directed to the provisions of Subsection 102.07 pertaining to irregular proposals and rejection of bids.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities.

Robert K. Miller
Director
Department of Public Works

3-5-2020, 3-12-2020

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Advertisement for Electronic Bid
Bid 3125 Green Elementary School Renovations

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 14, 2020, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project Green Elementary School Renovations will be held at Green Elementary School, 610 Forest Avenue, Jackson, MS 39206, on March 25, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsmsprojects.com. A \$150.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each printed set of bid specs/documents. A \$75.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each digital PDF set of bid specs/documents. Documents must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, One Churchill Street, Hattiesburg, MS 39402, Phone (601) 336-6378, or Email: info@planhouseprinting.com. Questions regarding bid documents, please contact Jennifer Seymour at Eley Guild Hardy Architects, Phone: 228-594-2323, or

3-12-2020, 3-19-2020

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NOTICE OF INTENT
TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS
FOR THE SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY BY
THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority "JMAA" requests Sealed Bids for the purchase of items identified for disposal.

JMAA will receive Bids for the property at JMAA's administrative offices, Suite 300, Main Terminal Building, Jackson Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208 until 2:00 p.m. central time on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 (the "Deadline"). The outside of the envelope must be marked "Bid for the Purchase of JMAA Personal Property".

A site visit is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. central time at the address indicated above. Any parties interested in viewing the Items/Lots for sale are welcome to attend. No additional times will be allotted to view the Items for sale. All sales are "final" and "as is". Each Respondent must submit a separate amount and description for each "Lot" they are bidding on.

Lot 1: "Computer Equipment, Telephone/Cellphone Lot and Other Types of Equipment" consists of one hundred forty seven (147) pieces of communications equipment such as vehicle radios and charging stations, ninety-three (93) pieces of computer equipment such as laptops, printers, monitors, iPads and switches, forty-four (44) cell phones, five (5) cell phone accessory items, twenty (20) offices phones and office equipment, and three (3) other pieces of equipment.

Lot 2: "Other Furniture, Electoronics, & Appliances" consists of nine (9) pieces of furniture such as leather chairs, desk, and file cabinets, eight (8) pieces of electronics such as televisions and dvd players, and six (6) appliances such as microwaves, refrigerator and ice maker.

Lot 3: "Lawn Equipment and Heavy Machinery" consists of nine (9) pieces of lawn equipment such as tractor, bulldozer, and bushhog, etc.

Lots WILL NOT be split for any reason.

Interested persons may obtain a copy of Bid Tab sheet for the property by going to JMAA's website at www.jmaa.com/resources/rfprfb-center/.

JMAA will not consider any Bids received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Any questions regarding the sale of these Items are to be directed to Mr. Ricco Owens, Accountant, contact information is as follows:

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority
100 International Drive, Suite 300 (39208)
Post Office Box 98109
Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109
Attention: Ricco Owens, Accountant
Telephone No.: (601) 939-5631, ext. 297
Facsimile No.: (601) 939-3713
E-Mail: rowens@jmaa.com

3-12-2020, 3-19-2020, 3-26-2020

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Advertisement for Electronic Bid
Bid 3127 Jim Hill High School Gymnasium Improvements

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 20, 2020, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project Jim Hill High School Gymnasium Improvements will be held at Jim Hill High School Gymnasium Improvements, 2185 Fortune Street, Jackson, MS 39204 on March 30, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsmsprojects.com. A \$100.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each printed set of bid specs/documents. A \$75.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each digital PDF set of bid specs/documents. Documents must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, One Churchill Street, Hattiesburg, MS 39402, Phone (601) 336-6378, or Email: info@planhouseprinting.com. Questions regarding bid documents, please contact Anderson Ervin, Durrell Design Group at 601-708-4788 or E-mail: aervin@durrelldesigngroup.com

3-12-2020, 3-19-2020

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Advertisement for Electronic Bid
Bid 3124 Forest Hill High School Improvements

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 08, 2020, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project Forest Hill High School Improvements will be held at Forest Hill High School, 2607 Raymond Road, Jackson, MS, on Thursday, March 16, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsmsprojects.com. A \$100.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each printed set of bid specs/documents. A \$75.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each digital PDF set of bid specs/documents. Documents must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, One Churchill Street, Hattiesburg, MS 39402, Phone (601) 336-6378, or Email: info@planhouseprinting.com. Questions regarding bid documents, please contact Chris Myers at CDFL Architects, Phone: 601-366-3110, or Email: cmyers@cdfll.com.

3-12-2020, 3-19-2020

LEGAL

SECTION 901

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

City of Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi
CAPITOL STREET PHASE II IMPROVEMENTS (Lamar Street to West Street)
Project No. TCSP-8312-00(002)LPA/106058-802000

The City of Jackson will receive bids for the construction of the CAPITOL STREET PHASE II IMPROVEMENTS Federal-Aid Project No. TCSP-8312-00(002) LPA/106058-802000, no later than 3:30 P.M., Local Prevailing Time, April 14, 2020, in the City Clerk's Office located at 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All bids so received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The work shall consist essentially of the following items: Sidewalk Improvements, conduit for street lighting, Landscaping Improvements; Drainage Improvements.

The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the Contractor to perform all work and furnish all plant, labor, equipment and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein.

Contract time shall be 77 working days from the effective date shown in the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed for each consecutive calendar day the Work has not achieved Final Completion. Liquidated Damages will be assessed in accordance with the Schedule of Deductions table in Section 108.07 of the 2017 Edition of the Mississippi Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction.

The attention of bidders is directed to the Contract Provisions governing selection and employment of labor. Minimum wage rates for Federal-Aid projects have been predetermined by the Secretary of labor and are subject to Public Law 87-581 Work hours Act of 1962, set forth in the Contract Provisions.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all Bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged and women's business enterprises (DBE/WBE) will be afforded the full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The award of this contract will be contingent upon the Contractor satisfying the DBE/WBE requirements. The DBE goal will be 3%.

The plans, contract documents and special provision, and proposal forms are on file for public inspection at the following locations:

City of Jackson Engineering Division, 200 S. President Street Suite 424, Jackson, Mississippi 39201.
Neel-Schaffer, Inc, 125 South Congress Street, Suite 1100, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201.

All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained from Neel-Schaffer, Inc, 125 South Congress Street, Suite 1100, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201. (Mailing address: P.O. Box 22625 Jackson, MS 39225-2625) upon payment of \$150.00 for each set, which will not be refunded.

The Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents may also be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified Check on a solvent bank or a Bidder's Bond issued by a surety Company licensed to operate in the State of Mississippi, in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid price, payable to the City of Jackson as bid surety. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Contract bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount.

The Proposal and Contract documents in its entirety shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and deposited with the City Clerk, 219 South President Street Jackson, MS prior to the hour and date above designated. Stripped Proposals will be rejected. No bidder may withdraw his bid within sixty (60) days after the date of actual bid opening, without Owner's consent.

Work to be performed shall be in accordance with the Mississippi Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction (the 2017 edition) together with all amendments and/or special provisions and/or addenda to the standards duly approved and adopted, unless otherwise noted in these specifications.

The attention of Bidders is directed to the provisions of Subsection 102.07 pertaining to irregular proposals and rejection of bids.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all informalities.

BY Charles Williams, Ph.D., P.E.
Department of Public Works

3-12-2020, 3-19-2020

LEGAL

**Advertisement for Electronic Bid
Bid 3123 Murrah High School Entry Walkway**

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 2:00 P.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 06, 2020, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Murrah High School Entry Walkway will be held at Murrah High School, 1400 Murrah Drive, Jackson, MS on March 23, 2020 at 1:30 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsprojects.com. A \$75.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid specs/documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Preston McKay at M3A Architecture, PLLC. Phone: 601-981-1227 or Email: pmckay@m3aarch.com.

3-5-2020, 3-12-2020

LEGAL

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
SIGN VARIANCE FOR CAMPBELL'S CRAFT DONUTS**

THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SIGN VARIANCE FOR CAMPBELL'S CRAFT DONUTS TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE CITY HALL BUILDING, 219 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MS, 39201. INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. PLEASE CONTACT THE SIGNS & LICENSE DIVISION (601) 960-1154 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

3-5-2020, 3-12-2020

LEGAL

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
SIGN VARIANCE FOR NURSERY RHYMES**

THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SIGN VARIANCE FOR NURSERY RHYMES TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE CITY HALL BUILDING, 219 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MS, 39201. INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. PLEASE CONTACT THE SIGNS & LICENSE DIVISION (601) 960-1154 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

3-12-2020, 3-19-2020

LEGAL

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF BUILDING, GROUNDS AND
REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI**

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received electronically via MAGIC or physically delivered to the office of the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 04/07/2020 , for:

RE: GS# 609-031 Marina Improvements
J. P. Coleman State Park
RFx #: 3160003513

at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Contract documents may be obtained from:

Professional: Dean McRae Engineering, Inc.
Address: Post Office Box 573
Iuka, Mississippi 38852
Phone: 662-423-9104
Email: kmcrae@deanmcrae.com

A deposit of \$125.00 is required. Bid preparation will be in accordance with Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. NOTE: Telephones and desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

Calvin R. Sibley, Bureau Director
Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management

3-5-2020, 3-12-2020

LEGAL

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF BUILDING, GROUNDS AND
REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI**

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received electronically via MAGIC or physically delivered to the office of the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 04/07/2020 , for:

RE: GS# 354-050 Tenant Improvement-DMH
(Eighth and Ninth Floors)
Robert E. Lee Building
(Office of Capitol Facilities)
(Department of Finance and Administration)
RFx #: 3160003512

at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Contract documents may be obtained from:

Professional: Burris/Wagnon Architects, P.A.
Address: 500L East Woodrow Wilson Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi 39216
Phone: 601-969-7543
Email: info@burriswagnon.com

A deposit of \$100.00 is required. Bid preparation will be in accordance with Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. NOTE: Telephones and desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

Calvin R. Sibley, Bureau Director
Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management

3-5-2020, 3-12-2020

LEGAL

**LEGAL NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that Proposals will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi until 3:30p.m., Tuesday, March 31, 2020. The City of Jackson, Mississippi requests proposals from art groups and other community development groups providing services to the citizens in the City of Jackson.

Financial assistance is available to support arts and community development activities designed to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of the arts and improve the quality of life among the citizens of Jackson. This solicitation seeks proposals with an emphasis on community exposure, history and education.

Grant awards offered by the City of Jackson shall only represent supplemental funding in support of arts projects and community development based projects. To be eligible for funding, proposing organizations must have verifiable cash match contributions that equals to at least 50% of project cost.

A workshop on the Request for Proposals packet is scheduled for MONDAY, March 23, 2020 beginning promptly at 2:00pm. It will be held at the Municipal Art Gallery located at 839 North State Street Jackson, MS 39202. Those interested in submitting proposals should attend this Workshop.

For the Request for Proposals packet, please contact Beverley Johnson-Durham at 601 960 0383. All proposal must be sealed and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: Proposal for general funds Arts and Community Based Grants. Proposal packets must be received by the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 219 South President Street by 3:30pm on March 31, 2020. The city reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Request for proposal documents can be downloaded from the City of Jackson website: www.jacksonms.gov and may be picked up at the City of Jackson Department of Human and Cultural Services located at 1000 Metrocenter Drive Suite 101, Jackson MS.

By: Adriane Dorsey-Kidd, Director
Department of Human and Cultural Services

3-5-2020, 3-12-2020, 3-19-2020, 3-26-2020

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Growing Mississippi’s economy—together.

We live and work in the communities we serve, and we’re invested in growing this place we all call home. So we’re always looking to partner with local suppliers and contractors to help us bring safer, more reliable energy to the people of Mississippi.

So if you’re a Mississippi-based supplier or contractor, we’d like to include you on future proposals for projects. Because no one knows how to better serve the people of this state than you.

If you’d like to learn more about our qualification and insurance requirements, bid and contracting processes and other details, reach out to us at Supplier@SpireEnergy.com, or visit us at SpireEnergy.com/Doing-Business-Spire.

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DOLLAR GENERAL
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DOLLAR GENERAL
2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
4331 Highway 80W
DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
2855 McDowell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
104 Terry Rd
J & A FUEL STORES
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.
LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST
2325 Livingston Rd.
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MCDADDE’S MARKET #2
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Jackson Medical Mall
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue
SHELL FOOD MART
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SPORTS MEDICINE
Fortification and I-55
MURPHY USA
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)
REVELL ACE HARDWARE
Terry Rd (South Jackson)
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CANTON
A & I
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B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
BOUTIQUE STORE
3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS
BULLY’S STORE
Church Street - Canton, MS
COMMUNITY MART
743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS
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HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS
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K & K ONE STOP
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421 Peace Street - Canton, MS
SOUL SET BARBER SHOP
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Terry Road

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SERVICE STATION
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West Cunningham Avenue

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HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELCOME CENTER
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LOVE FOOD MART
120 E. Main Street, Raymond, MS
RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY
126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS
RAYMOND CITY HALL
110 Courtyard Square, Raymond
RAYMOND COURTHOUSE

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HUBBARD’S TRUCK STOP
Mississippi Hwy 18
PITT STOP
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Week of March 08, 2020

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9					10			
11					12			
13				14			15	
			16			17		
18	19	20						
21				22			23	24
25			27			28		
29						30		
31						32		

ACROSS

1. Mongolian desert
5. Capital of Norway
9. Eve's garden
10. Capital of Senegala
11. Lading
12. Aflame
13. Factuality
15. Self-esteem
16. Country Island group in Indian ocean
18. Put in the middle
21. Hoopla
22. Decrees
26. Riot
28. Tropical island
29. Nail filing board
30. Old
31. Fib
32. Perceives with eye

DOWN

1. Money
2. Smell
3. Swain
4. Charge formally
5. Lout
6. Snow slider
7. Slow
8. Sandwich cookies brand
10. Stopped up
14. Resentfully
17. Abominable
18. Insertion mark
19. Water retention
20. New
23. Court suit
24. Biblical "you"
25. Lager
27. Before, poetically

© Feature Exchange

Crossword Solution

G	O	B	I		O	S	L	O
E	D	E	N		D	A	K	A
L	O	A	D		A	F	I	R
T	R	U	I	S	M	E	G	O
			C	O	M	O	R	O
			C	E	N	T	R	E
A	D	O		E	D	I	C	T
R	E	V	E	L		O	A	H
E	M	E	R	Y		U	S	E
T	A	L	E			S	E	S

© Feature Exchange

Joe Biden - Jackson Rally

New Hope Church and Tougaloo College • Jackson, MS • March 8, 2020

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences to host annual Ag High School Day to help students discover agriculture

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Alcorn State University School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences will have its annual Ag High School Day Tuesday, March 24, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Morris-Boykin Agricultural Science Building, Lorman campus.

Held by the Office of Student Services, Ag Day is a recruitment effort that aims to provide potential students with valuable information about the numerous career opportunities and academic programs offered in agriculture.

High school students from across the state of Mississippi are invited to attend. They will have the opportunity to interact with representatives from private corporations and governmental agencies as well as see the correlation between academic preparation, personal development and employment access.

“Our goal is for high school students to become aware of the many opportunities available within our school, as well as the career opportunities available in agriculture,” said De’Onqua Isaac, student recruitment specialist. “We look forward to meeting and connecting with prospective students.”

To register for this event, visit <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeH79QOSpmzWWa0pKYCIBoyGdJbWd4R86-XhiOquBoWKK1nSw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1T>.

For more information, contact Isaac at 601 877-2407 or deonqua@alcorn.edu.



Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

HCSD hosted Community Engagement Luncheon

The Hinds County School District hosted its Community Leaders and Parents Luncheon Sunday, February 23, at Utica Elementary Middle School. The theme for the event was “Acting for Impact” – Schools, Churches, Parents and Communities Collaborating for Success. District leaders also shared updates about student performance and ongoing projects.

Superintendent Delesicia Martin said, “The success of our schools and our district is directly related to the level of engagement of support from students and community members, so this luncheon is an important way for us to keep everyone engaged as we share our plans to finish the school year out strong. We’re also excited about our plans for the upcoming school year as we continue to build on the momentum and success we’ve experienced over the past five years.





ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. BOX 327
Jackson, MS 39205
Phone: (601) 966-6628
Fax: (601) 973-5547

Jury Duty Recording:
First Judicial District
(601) 969-0052

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. Box 999
Raymond, MS 39154
Phone: (601) 857-8038
Fax: (601) 857-0535

Jury Duty Recording:
Second Judicial District
(601) 857-8869

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday
(Except on legal holiday)

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- Marriage License
- Medical License
- Voter Registration/Absentee Voting

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- You must be registered 30 days before the Election.
- Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election

MARRIAGE INFORMATION

- Marriage License: \$36.00
 - Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to apply
 - Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.

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JSU Women's Council for Philanthropy Luncheon

Country Club of Jackson • Jackson, MS • March 4, 2020

PHOTOS BY DAREK ASHLEY OF ASHLEY'S PHOTOGRAPHY





children's defense fund southern regional



Marian Wright Edelman, President of Children's Defense Fund

Leave No Child Behind®

Started by civil rights pioneer Marian Wright Edelman over 45 years ago, the Children's Defense Fund Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child **a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start* and a *Moral Start*** in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

CDF provides a strong, effective and independent voice for *all* the children of America who cannot vote, lobby or speak for themselves. We pay particular attention to the needs of poor children, children of color and those with disabilities. CDF educates the nation about the needs of children and encourages preventive investments before they get sick, drop out of school, get into trouble or suffer family breakdown.

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit child advocacy organization that has worked relentlessly for more than 40 years to ensure a level playing field for all children. We champion [policies](#) and [programs](#) that lift children out of poverty; protect them from abuse and neglect; and ensure their access to health care, quality education and a moral and spiritual foundation. Supported by foundation and corporate grants and individual donations, CDF advocates nationwide on behalf of children to ensure children are always a priority.

A child is killed by a gun **every 2 hours
and 48 minutes** in the United States.



Together, we can help children live, learn, and grow up free from violence and fear.
Sign up now at www.childrensdefense.org