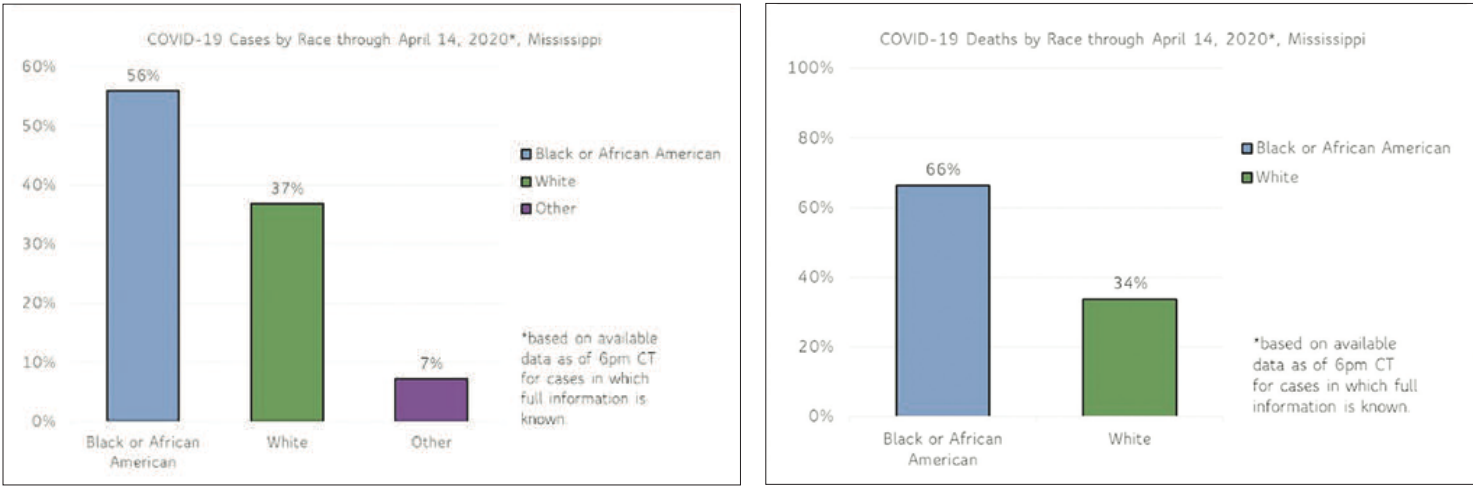


# COVID-19 mounts a ‘whopping, lopsided’ death rate among MS African Americans

## Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus’s DIGITAL DIALOGUE on the virus attracts hundreds



By Gail M. Brown  
Contributing Writer

“COVID-19, What It Means to You” was the title of an online video-conference-call forum called DIGITAL DIALOGUE organized and hosted by the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus recently.

“We received hundreds of calls,” said MLBC Chairperson Senator Angela Turner-Ford. “I was surprised by the overwhelmingly positive response.

“Caucus members and our colleagues have been bombarded with questions about the coronavirus, unemployment issues, the coronavirus stimulus package, etc.,” she said. “We thought it was important to assemble a panel of experts who could address specific issues in a manner that was succinct and easy for our constituents to understand.”

One of the issues that Turner Ford said the presenters did not shy away from is the “disparate impact COVID-19 is having on



Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus

African Americans.”

According to the most recent data before ML’s press time, April 15, the Mississippi State Department of Health (MDHS) reported 3360 confirmed cases

of COVID-19 and 122 deaths. Of those cases, 56% are African Americans, 37% white and 7% others. Of those death, 66% are African Americans and 34% are whites. (See tables from MDHS

website).

The first panelist to present was Thomas Dobbs, III, M.D., MPH, Mississippi State Health.

COVID-19  
Continued on page 13

# Easter storms sweep South



A stuffed lion rests among bagged clothing salvaged from the home of Ernie Harrell in Collins, Miss., Monday, April 13, 2020. Family and friends spent much of the afternoon helping him save tools from his engine shop as well as personal items from his home. Collins was one of many communities in Mississippi swept by a series of tornadoes Sunday afternoon and evening. AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
Associated Press

Severe weather has swept across the South, killing at least 20 people and damaging hundreds of homes from Louisiana into the Appalachian Mountains. Many people spent part of the night early Monday sheltering in basements, closets and bathroom tubs as sirens wailed to warn of possible tornadoes.

Eleven people were killed in Mississippi, and six more died in northwest Georgia. Three other bodies were pulled from damaged homes in Arkansas, South Carolina and North Carolina.

The storms blew onward through the night, causing flooding and mudslides in mountainous areas, and knocking out electricity for nearly 1.3 million customers in a path from Texas to Maine, according to [poweroutages.us](https://www.poweroutages.us).

Striking first on Easter Sunday across a landscape largely emptied by coronavirus stay-at-home orders, the storm front forced some uncomfortable decisions. In Alabama, Gov. Kay Ivey suspended social distancing rules, and some people wearing protective masks huddled

closely together in storm shelters.

Andrew Phillips crowded into a closet-sized “safe room” with his wife and two sons after watching an online Easter service because the pandemic forced their church to halt regular worship. Then, a twister struck, shredding their house, meat-processing business and vehicles in rural Moss, Mississippi. The room, built of sturdy cinder blocks, was the only thing on their property left standing.

“I’m just going to let the insurance handle it and trust in the good Lord,” said Phillips.

The National Weather Service tallied hundreds of reports of trees down across the region, including many that punctured roofs and downed power lines. Meteorologists warned the mid-Atlantic states to prepare for potential tornadoes, wind and hail Monday. The storms knocked down trees across Pennsylvania, and an apparently strong tornado moved through southern South Carolina, leaving chaos in its wake.

“Everything is up in the air.

Storms  
Continued on page 3

# Pastor Horton opens church doors Easter Sunday: “I am much more afraid of Christ than corona”

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

On Easter Sunday morning at approximately 9:30 a.m., local photographer Jay Johnson captured a photo of a few vehicles in the church parking lot at Emmanuel M. B. Church on Cooper Road. Johnson had driven by several churches on Resurrection morning where parking lots were empty.

Johnson said at that time, “it seems to me Rev. Horton is going to have a live service at his church this morning.”

Johnson’s photos were featured in this paper last week that captured the empty streets of downtown Jackson due to the shelter-in-place executive



Emmanuel M. B. Church PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

order from Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba.

“As I was leaving the scene,

I see a few more cars approaching the parking lot and it seems the people are dressed

for church service,” he said.

It turns out, Johnson was correct. In a phone interview

with the *Mississippi Link* publisher Monday Pastor Horton said his doors were open for



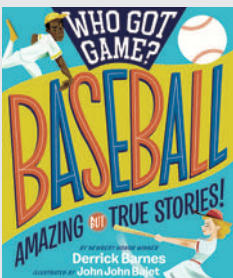
Pastor Horton PHOTO COURTESY OF EMMANUEL CHURCH

Christ  
Continued on page 12

Inside  
Ole Miss student advances to ‘Jeopardy!’ competition semis



Who Got Game?



Share this issue with a friend by mailing it to:



# Governor: Mississippi schools remain closed rest of semester



Reeves

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
*Associated Press*

Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves said Tuesday that public school buildings will remain closed the rest of the semester to slow the spread of the new coronavirus, but he wants schools to continue distance-learning efforts.

Reeves also said some school districts should look at an option of offering summer classes.

He praised teachers, administrators and parents, saying that he thinks most students have continued to take some classes online or through other efforts. He also thanked school bus drivers who have delivered meals and packets of school work to children in parts of the state.

But, referring to the recent school closures, Reeves said: “This hasn’t hit all students equally.”

He acknowledged that some parts of the state lack strong internet access and some residents don’t have access to computers.

Reeves, a Republican, issued an order March 19 for public schools to close through this Friday. Many schools have

semesters that end in mid-May. He said Tuesday that he consulted health experts before making the decision on extending the closure order.

Reeves also said Tuesday that he is appointing some of the state’s “top business minds” to examine it might be safe for Mississippi to start reopening businesses that have closed because of the pandemic.

The state had at least 3,087 confirmed cases and 111 deaths from the virus as of Monday evening, according to numbers released Tuesday by the state Health Department. That was an increase of 145 cases and 13 deaths from the previous day. The state’s population is about 3 million.

The Health Department said cases have been confirmed in at least 60 long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. But for others, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, the highly contagious virus can cause severe symptoms and be fatal.



Reeves on Tuesday toured parts of south Mississippi that were struck by tornadoes Sunday. At least 12 people were killed and hundreds of homes and businesses were damaged in 30 of the state’s 82 counties, according to the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

Reeves said the coronavirus remains “a real threat,” and storm recovery adds to the state’s problems.

Mississippi remains under the governor’s statewide stay-at-home order until at least early next week. Many businesses are closed, and tens of thousands have applied for state unemployment benefits. Reeves said he’ll continue to consult health experts about when a wide reopening of businesses might be safe.

“We not only have a public health crisis before us, we have an economic crisis before us, as well,” Reeves said. “It is incumbent upon all of us as leaders to do everything we can to get our economy back open as soon as possible and as soon as it is going to be allowable, given the public health challenges that exist.”

# Newk’s Eatery launches pantry program



## Mississippi Link Newswire

While many are looking for ways to fill their refrigerators and grocery store shelves are close to empty, Newk’s Eatery has launched Newk’s Pantry. The new service is offering guests and local communities a small footprint of grocery items and meal kits in-store, available through curbside pickup and delivery.

### Newk’s Eatery Family Lunch Essentials Kit

Newk’s Pantry will provide guests with a solution to shop for key groceries from Grab & Go coolers while picking up entire family meal kits from Newk’s. Fresh offerings will include:

Newk’s Grab & Go items (A la Carte sliced meats, cheese & bread, proteins, soups, salads, etc.)

Produce – bell peppers, carrots, tomatoes, cucumbers, lemons & more

Dry & Paper Goods – toilet paper, paper towels, pecans, dried cranberries & more

Desserts – cake slices, brownies, crispies

Dairy – cheddar, swiss, gorgonzola, hard boiled eggs

Breads

Wine & beer

Meal Kit offerings from Newk’s will include all of the quality ingredients you need to make your favorite Newk’s dishes at home with your family:

### Soup & Sandwich Kit (lunch meat and cheese, bread, soup)

Family Lunch Essentials (lunch meat and cheese, bread, mac & cheese, Newk’s chips, brownie’s, applesauce packets)

### Family Meal Kit (soup, salad, protein, bread, beverage)

Build Your Own Pizza Kit (ingredients for your pizza choice – pepperoni & sausage, pepperoni or margherita – choice of regular or cauliflower crust)

### Take & Bake Mac and Cheese

### Mac & Cheese Bar Family Meal Kit

Newk’s is proud to continue offering fresh, quality ingredients through curbside pickup and delivery at most locations.



bringing  
wellness  
home



BlueCross BlueShield  
of Mississippi

It’s good to be Blue.

www.bcbsms.com

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi, A Mutual Insurance Company is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.  
© Registered Marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an Association of Independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans.



## Storms

Continued from page 1

Power lines are down, trees are all over the place. It’s hard to get from one place to the other because the roads are blocked,” Hampton County Sheriff T.C. Smalls said.

A suspected twister lifted a house, mostly intact, and deposited it in the middle of a road in central Georgia. In Louisiana, winds ripped apart a metal airplane hangar.

Deaths were tallied in small numbers here and there, considering the storm front’s vast reach and intensity.

Mississippi’s death toll rose to 11 early Monday, the state’s emergency management agency tweeted, promising details later in the morning.

In northwest Georgia, a narrow path of destruction five miles long hit two mobile home parks, killing five people and injuring five more, Murray County Fire Chief Dewayne Bain told WA-GA-TV. Another person was killed when a tree fell on a home in Cartersville, the station reported.

In Arkansas, one person was killed when a tree fell on a home in White Hall, southeast of Little Rock, the Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management said. In South Carolina, a person was found dead in a collapsed building near Seneca as an apparent tornado struck, Oconee County Emergency Management Director Scott Krein said. And in North Carolina, a person was killed by a falling tree in Davidson County, northeast of Charlotte, as high winds were blowing through, Sheriff’s Capt. Mike Burns said.

Apparent tornadoes damaged dozens of homes in a line from Seneca to Clemson. Emergency officials also were working to open shelters in the North Carolina mountains after heavy rainfall there.

In Chattanooga, Tennessee, the National Weather Service confirmed a tornado struck, damaging at least 150 homes and commercial buildings. More than a dozen people were treated, but none of their injuries appeared to be life-threatening, Chattanooga Fire Chief Phil Hyman said.

The deaths in Mississippi included a married couple – Lawrence County sheriff’s deputy, Robert Ainsworth, and a Walthall County Justice Court deputy clerk, Paula Reid Ainsworth, authorities said.

“Robert left this world a hero, as he shielded Mrs. Paula during the tornado,” said a Facebook message by the sheriff’s office.

“This is not how anyone wants to celebrate Easter,” said Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves. “As we reflect on the death and resurrection on this Easter Sunday, we have faith that we will all rise together.”

There were no immediate reports of serious injuries in Louisiana, even though the storm damaged between 200 and 300 homes in and around the city of Monroe, Mayor Jamie Mayo, told KNOE-TV. Flights were canceled at Monroe Regional Airport, where airport director Ron Phillips told the News-Star the storm caused up to \$30 million in damage to planes inside a hangar.

*Associated Press writer Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama, and AP photographers Rogelio V. Solis in Carson, Mississippi, and Brynn Anderson in Chatsworth, Georgia, contributed to this report.*

## Christ

Continued from page 1



Cade Chapel M. B. Church with empty parking lot. PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

10 a.m. worship service. He said everyone in attendance wore masks and each practiced social distancing. Horton confessed, “I am much more afraid of Christ than I am of corona. I am more afraid of not serving Him.”

Horton said it is essential that the church doors are open and if stores like Lowes are considered essential, how can opening the doors of the church not be considered essential? This pastor said the church is his life and people should have the choice of going to worship service. Horton said he realizes there are other pastors and individuals that differ with his opinion but this should not result in warfare with one another based on opinions and convictions. He said God gives everyone free will to do what they believe is right and for him, keeping his church doors open is the right thing to do, even during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Horton, whose service was also live streamed on Face Book said, “The doors ought to be open for anyone who

wants to be in the church building for service.”

He strongly encouraged his elderly members, and those with health issues, to stay at home during this pandemic, noting they too have free will to do as they see fit.

On Sunday morning Pastor Horton chose to speak on the subject “We can trust in the word of Jesus.” His scripture lesson was taken from Matthew 28:18, “And Jesus came and spoke unto them saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” Horton told his listeners in the sanctuary, and watching on Face Book Live, that Jesus has the power over corona and if we believe in His word, we can call on him.”

When asked if the doors of Emmanuel would be open for activities during the week, Pastor Horton replied, “Yes, as a matter of fact I will be leaving in a few minutes for Monday night Bible Class.”



College Hill M.B. Church, nearing completion of construction, with empty parking lot. PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON



# If it were up to me, we’d have all the healthcare we need.

The 2020 Census informs funding for walk-in clinics, Medicare and all types of health services. Rest assured your answers are safe and secure.

Learn more at:

**2020CENSUS.GOV**

Paid for by U.S. Census Bureau.

Shape  
your future  
START HERE >

United States®  
**Census**  
**2020**



# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

## HCSD Shares Tips on How to Slow or Prevent the spread of COVID-19

As with other respiratory infections like the flu or the common cold, public health measures are critical to slow the spread of illnesses. Based on the latest guidance from MSDH, individuals should adhere to the following:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick and stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol based hand rub with at least 70% alcohol.
- Avoid any gatherings with more than 10 people.

## HCSD to Provide Weekly To-Go Breakfast and Lunch for Students

The Hinds County School District (HCSD) is now serving to-go meals for students weekly. Students will be given a To-Go Lunch for the day and a breakfast for the following morning. Meals will be provided for children age 18 and under, Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the following school sites:

- BEEMS at 9700 I-20, Bolton, MS 39041
- GRE at 7255 Gary Road, Byram, MS 39272
- RES at 417 Palestine Road, Raymond, MS 39154
- THS at 235 West Beasley Road, Terry, MS 39170
- UEMS at 260 Highway 18 and 27, Utica, MS 39175

The student must be present in order to receive the meal.

## High Speed Internet Access Survey

The HCSD is asking all parents to go to the district website at [www.hinds.k12.ms.us](http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us) and take the High-Speed Internet Survey. The information from the survey will allow the district to determine your home internet capability for various devices (desktop computers, laptop computers, and tablets).

## Update Your Contact Information Survey Request

The HCSD is asking any parents who have relocated and/or changed their contact information to go to the district website at [www.hinds.k12.ms.us](http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us) and take the Update Your Contact Information Survey. This will allow the district to better communicate with its parents and mail students their “Blended Study at Home Course Work” during our school closure.





# Ingenuity in action

*Methodist O&P in Flowood answers call to create face shields during COVID-19 crisis*



Methodist Orthotics & Prosthetics in Flowood, a division of Methodist Rehabilitation Center in Jackson, added making face shields to its normal job of building prosthetic limbs and braces. Staff involved in the project include, from left, Jesse Oaks, Pam Liberatore, Luly Johnson and director Chris Wallace.

By Susan Christensen  
Health and Research News Service

Most days, the staff at Methodist Orthotics & Prosthetics in Flowood focuses on building prosthetic limbs and orthopedic braces.

Now, they're also creating personal protective gear for workers on the frontlines of the COVID-19 crisis.

It all started when Mark Adams, the CEO of Methodist Rehabilitation Center in Jackson, saw a YouTube video about a New York City hospital using 3-D printing to fashion desperately needed face shields.

"We don't have a 3-D printer," Adams said. "But I thought the injection molding process used by our orthotics and prosthetics division might be an option to produce shields. I called Chris Wallace, director of Methodist O&P, and he said our Flowood clinic was already working on a prototype."

"We came up with three or four versions and kept refining them," Wallace said. "I think we can do about 50 a day once we're ramped up."

Wallace said the effort has been an "all-hands-on-deck" project. And it's not the first time staff has gotten creative for a good cause.

Wallace once created a ball cap liner for a young pitcher who needed protection after a skull fracture, but refused to wear a helmet on the mound. Staff also answered a call to outfit a three-legged dog with a prosthetic limb.

The first batch of shields went to protect residents and staff at Methodist Specialty Care Center, MRC's long-term care facility in Flowood. The center is home to 60 severely disabled residents, who could be especially vulnerable to infections due to conditions such as quadriplegia and ALS.

Methodist O&P also began offering extras to other local entities. A call to Flowood Mayor Gary Rhoads' office gave MRC an opportunity to provide some help outside its four walls during the pandemic.

On Wednesday, Flowood Emergency Operations Director Nathan Harvell was given 50 shields that



Flowood Emergency Operations Director Nathan Harvell said he's appreciative of the 50 face shields donated to the city by Methodist Orthotics & Prosthetics.



Luly Johnson of Methodist Orthotics & Prosthetics models the face shields being built in the Flowood clinic's lab.

will be used by the city's police department during the COVID-19 crisis.

"I think this was a great gift," Harvell said. "While this is going on, we are being extra cautious. And this is an extra tool we can use to protect our officers. It really helps and we appreciate that."

Adams said the effort shows

MRC can be flexible to benefit patients and the community, and he's proud of the O&P staff's ingenuity.

Wallace, in turn, said it has buoyed his staff's spirit to be of service. "It has been a tremendous morale boost because we have something we can do to contribute to the fight."

## How to stay healthy while social distancing

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

COVID-19 has the public rethinking how they stay healthy – both physically and mentally. Even those in good health can start to feel anxious and fearful when the words 'pandemic' and 'social distancing' are mentioned.

But can you stay active and mentally healthy while social distancing? The answer is a resounding yes.

While routines have changed, it's critical that people keep exercising and eating nutritious meals, since the body is often able to better fight off illnesses when it's healthy and strong. Taking these steps helps fight off stress, which most people are experiencing right now in one way or another.

Here is some advice from Cigna chief nursing officer, Mary Picerno, to help stay healthy, both physically and mentally, during this time.

- **Get outside:** While it's important to limit physical interactions, getting outside for a run, walk or bicycle ride is a great way to boost endorphins and enjoy fresh air. Just make sure to maintain six feet between yourself and others. If weather or other reasons limit your ability to go outside, many companies and gyms are offer-

ing free online exercises right now. Endorphins have been found to reduce stress, increase feelings of happiness and help fight against depression.

- **Get proper nutrition:** Add fruits and vegetables to your plate for colorful, nutrient-rich meals. Vegetables also are a good source of fiber. Eating well will help you feel better and give you energy to keep moving. Now is a great time to try that new recipe or food subscription box.

- **Stay hydrated:** Drinking plenty of water can help prevent dehydration. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, dehydration can cause unclear thinking and mood swings. Not sure how much to drink? Many medical professionals suggest following the 8x8 rule, eight ounces of water eight times a day.

- **Stay connected:** Just because you can't be with friends and family in person doesn't mean you can't stay in touch. Set up time to connect with video chats, phone calls and emails. Staying connected doesn't have to be high-tech. Have kids or just a kid at heart? Write encouraging messages on your driveway or in your windows for your neighbors, and postal and delivery work-

ers.

- **Know your options:** One of the best ways to prepare is knowing what to do if you start to show symptoms. Cigna and many other health insurers are now waiving the costs of doctor visits related to a COVID-19 diagnosis as well as the cost of COVID-19 FDA-approved testing. To minimize your exposure, call or email your doctor or a local health system about a telehealth visit to be screened for COVID-19. The provider will then identify what steps you should take next.

- **Get support:** Talking through concerns and fears can help put them in perspective and make you feel calmer. You may want to reach out for professional support if you're struggling. Cigna offers many resources and tools, including a 24-hour toll-free help line (1-855-287-8400) to speak with qualified behavior health clinicians, a webinar focused on managing anxiety, fears and concerns and mindfulness podcasts (available in English and Spanish) focused on improving resiliency and stress management.

During this challenging time, taking care of your health should be a priority.

## MOORE & MOORE Cleaning Service

OFFERING \$1000  
REFERRAL BONUS TO THE PERSON  
THAT CAN SEND THE MOST REFERRALS IN  
A MONTH. PLEASE CALL  
601-317-2735 FOR DETAILS.



**Craig Moore**  
Owner/Operator

*All Types of Cleaning Services  
Over 30 Years of Experience  
Free Estimates  
Licensed & Bonded*

### Moore & Moore Cleaning Services

*Commercial & Residential Cleaning*

*We clean: Office Buildings, Schools, Daycares  
Churches, Restaurants - whatever you need.*

*Floor Stripping & Waxing, Carpet Cleaning,  
Restrooms & All Other Janitorial Services  
with Professional Results*

**601.317.2735**

Email: [craig.moore78@yahoo.com](mailto:craig.moore78@yahoo.com)

[www.mooreandmoorecleaningserviceandautosalesllc](http://www.mooreandmoorecleaningserviceandautosalesllc)

*2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213*

*The person that sends us the most referrals will  
receive a \$200.00 referral fee.*

**MAID SERVICES AVAILABLE**



## COVID-19 financial warning: Consumers and banks should stay away from payday loans

By Charlene Crowell  
NNPA News Wire Columnist



For the foreseeable future, ‘normal’ life will be indefinitely suspended due to the global pandemic known as the coronavirus.

Record-breaking employment layoffs in the month of March resulted in the Department of Labor reporting that 10.4 million consumers lost their jobs and filed for unemployment compensation. As medical experts continue to track the virus, the *New York Times* reported at least 214,461 known infections and at least 4,800 related deaths.

Beyond these statistics, untold numbers of additional school and retail closures, and an expanding army of people working from home have also been directly affected by the virus.

Consumers both young and old have passed as the virus continues to spread across the country. Its viral wrath has spawned hot spots from the Pacific Northwest’s Seattle, to the Gulf Coast’s New Orleans, the Midwest’s Detroit and the nation’s largest urban metropolis, New York City.

Zeroing in on the economic impacts of the crisis, people everywhere are struggling with competing needs in their lives. When living costs exceed available financial resources, tough times lead to tough decisions about how to feed families, keep a home to live in, ways to keep utilities working and a myriad of other day-to-day needs.

Despite a \$2 trillion federal rescue enacted with bipartisan support, checks of \$1,200 promised to taxpayers, along with an additional \$500 per child will arrive too late for first of the month April payments for bills like mortgages and rental payments. Many leaders also warn that despite its size or range of areas addressed, the legislation was not enough.

In a March 27 House floor statement, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, chairwoman of the House Financial Services Committee, warned colleagues that their job was not yet complete.

“[I] must make clear that the legislation is far from comprehensive, and that there are issues it leaves unaddressed and areas where it falls short. The American people need help now and this bill represents a down payment on that relief,” said Waters.

A similar reaction came from AARP chief executive Jo Ann Jenkins.

“Older Americans face the one-two punch of coronavirus’s health and economic consequences, and many need immediate relief and ongoing help and support to cope with the pandemic,” noted Jenkins. “Those needs are only set to grow in the weeks and months ahead.”

What can really make a difference between life’s success and failure is not just what leaders do but also what they didn’t do when they had the chance. The recent legislative package was silent on interest rates, as well as forgiveness of federal student loans, negative credit reports or bans on private evictions for late rental payments.

As the cost of living has risen faster and higher than most consumer incomes for more than a decade, the likelihood of a savings account large enough to cover

household expenses for a month or more is slim to none.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), the agency tasked with protecting consumers from unscrupulous lenders has been conspicuously subdued. Instead of forceful and timely agency alerts via multi-media communications warning consumers about opportunistic scam artists, CFPB has offered a modest tip sheet on how consumers – not government – can protect themselves. Fortunately, as the viral saga unfolds, some news outlets are reporting on the potential harms of consumers turning to payday and car-title loans.

A joint response by five federal regulars – Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) – came March 26 in a statement that encouraged banks, savings and loans and credit unions to offer “responsible small dollar loans” to consumers and small businesses during the pandemic.

According to the regulators, “responsible small-dollar loans can play an important role in meeting customers’ credit needs because of temporary cash-flow imbalances, unexpected expenses or income disruptions during periods of economic stress or disaster recoveries.”

Without any specifics defining “reasonable small dollar loans,” the regulators’ statement could be an inducement to join triple-digit lenders’ financial exploitation.

For Black America and other communities of color, predatory short-term loans of \$500 or less began decades ago when payday and car-title storefronts took prominent residence in our neighborhoods across the country. Loans that were marketed as quick fixes for millions of consumers morphed into long-term financial nightmares that deepened debt with every renewal. In many cases, the interest paid on these loans was often double or triple the amount of principal borrowed.

A coalition of civil and consumer rights organizations released a joint statement warning of the possible spike in high-cost lending by the nation’s depository institutions – banks, credit unions and savings and loans.

“This is the worst possible time for banks to make predatory payday loans,” said Americans for Financial Reform Education Fund, the Center for Responsible Lending, Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights, NAACP, National Consumer Law Center.

“Around the time of the last recession, a handful of banks issued ‘deposit advances’ that put borrowers in an average of 19 loans a year at over 200% annual interest,” continued the leaders. “These bank payday loans disproportionately harmed the financially vulnerable and badly damaged banks’ reputations. Since 2013 when regulatory guidance warned against this form of credit, banks have mostly stayed away. We trust that they will continue to do so as they do not want to repeat mistakes of the past.”

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).

# Save black lives from COVID-19

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent



With evidence growing that shows African Americans disproportionately affected by the novel coronavirus, just nine states and the District of Columbia have released a racial breakdown of those diagnosed with the disease.

Concerned health experts, members of the U.S. Congress and civil rights organizations have ramped up their call for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), to provide a detailed report.

“We know that there’s a disproportionate rate of infections and death nationwide,” Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Chair Karen Bass (D-Calif.) stated in a conference call with the Black Press of America represented by the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) April 7.

“It’s happening in all of our [African American] communities nationwide. We feel that it’s an emergency that needs to be addressed right away, and, importantly, we need data, and the CDC is not compiling data,” Bass added.

Rep. Robin Kelly (D-Ill.), the chair of the CBC’s Health Braintrust, agreed that statistics along racial lines are vital.

“The data already released shows troubling trends for African Americans that must be addressed to ensure public health,” Kelly stated.

African Americans make-up about 18 percent of the population in Michigan but account for approximately 40 percent of coronavirus-related deaths, according to Rep. Brenda Lawrence (D-Michigan).

“I am speaking as just one part of the major piece of concern, and that’s the alarming way in how this pandemic is having an impact on our black community,” Lawrence said.

“We are the number one target for this disease. We have pre-existing conditions, and yet we’re told to go home when we visit the emergency room. We know that there must be some form of regulation in place for testing and getting testing sites and equipment into the community,” Lawrence added.

A published report this week noted that the Louisiana Department of Health revealed that 70 percent of coronavirus deaths in the state are African American, despite black people making up just 32 percent of the population.

In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, African Americans reportedly accounted for nearly half of coronavirus cases and more than 80 percent of deaths related to the disease.

“I have seen in my waiting room mostly black and brown patients who are essential workers and service workers who can’t afford to stay home,” Uche Blackstone, the CEO of Advancing Health Equity, told *The Hill*.

“These are the ones that I see presenting to the clinic with COVID-19 symptoms,” Blackstone stated.

Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) led a group from Congress recently in demanding that the federal government release data about racial disparities in America’s response to the pandemic.

Pressley said she and her colleagues made clear in the letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar that the government is failing to collect and publicly report on the racial and ethnic demographic information for coronavirus tests and patients.

“Without demographic data, policymakers and researchers will have no way to identify and address ongoing disparities and health inequities that risk accelerating the impact of the novel coronavirus and the respiratory disease it causes,” the letter said.

“Although COVID-19 does not discriminate along racial or ethnic lines, existing racial disparities and inequities in health outcomes and health care access may mean that the nation’s response to preventing and mitigating its harms will not be felt equally in every community.”

Dr. Ebony Hilton and Dr. Taison Bell, of the Virginia Medical School, have publicly demanded the release of racial data surrounding the virus.

“Release the data,” stated Dr. Hilton, who continuously posts that message on social media sites like Twitter.

“We see in states that aren’t reporting on racial demographics that there’s been a surge in patients dying from respiratory distress and respiratory failure,” Dr. Bell stated.

The NNPA and its Coronavirus Task Force was the first media related entity in the U.S. to declare a “State of Emergency for Black America” as the fatalities among Black Americans continue to rise across the nation.

Using social media to increase public awareness about COVID-19, the NNPA is encouraging the use of the following hashtags: #SaveBlackLives and #NNPACoronavirusTaskForce.

## A subdued Trump confronts COVID-19 reality: Over 100,000 deaths possible in “Best” scenario

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Newswire Contributor



On March 31, President Trump appeared in the White House Briefing room flanked by Vice President Pence, Dr. Anthony Fauci and Deborah Birx, the Coronavirus Response coordinator for the White House Coronavirus Task Force.

By April 1 over 211,000 COVID-19 cases have been diagnosed in the U.S. with 4,700 deaths.

Onlookers were stunned at what they heard next. Using modeling that displays their 30-day recommendations to avoid gatherings and travel Dr. Birx displayed a chart that revealed the possibility of up to 2.2 million COVID-19

deaths in the U.S. in a worst-case scenario.

Dr. Birx added that she is, “very worried about every city in the United States” and projected 100,000 to 200,000 American deaths in a “best” case scenario. The next day on April 1, the most deaths in one day announced so far, 835, was announced by the U.S. government.

The day before during a television interview, she said “I think everyone understands now that you can go from five to 50 to 500 to 5,000 cases very quickly. I think in some of the metro areas we were late in getting people to follow the 15-day guidelines.”

The news was sobering, and the data echoed what was relayed by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo during the second week of March. At that time there was much

skepticism about Gov. Cuomo’s predictions until news from Italy appeared to demonstrate how quickly coronavirus could spread and become lethal.

After weeks of public denial that were followed by the failure of President Trump to read and prioritize an intelligence report placed on his desk in January, the COVID-19 infection numbers slowly grew until a national emergency was declared March 13.

Even after the stunning statistics relayed on national television by medical professionals, some in government continue to declare a premature need to get back to business as usual.

“Let’s stop looking at the death counters and let’s talk about how we can keep as many people employed as

possible,” Rep. Devin Nunes told Fox anchor Laura Ingraham March 31. “That’s the key right now, Laura, because if you don’t, what you said earlier is correct. When you have people staying at home, not taking care of themselves, you will end up with a hell of a lot more people dying by other causes than you will by the coronavirus,” he added.

The reality of mounting fatalities is likely to change the minds of the few who are not convinced that COVID-19 is a serious threat to the U.S.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast *BURKEFILE*. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at [LBurke007@gmail.com](mailto:LBurke007@gmail.com) and on twitter at @LVBurke

GET YOUR CURRENT NEWS AND WATCH AP VIDEOS ONLINE AT:  
[www.mississippilink.com](http://www.mississippilink.com)



# Ole Miss student advances to ‘Jeopardy!’ competition semis

*Londyn Lorenz delivers strong performance in first round of college championship*

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

University of Mississippi sophomore Londyn Lorenz skated through the first round of the Jeopardy! College Championship April 9, securing her spot in the semifinals and \$10,000 in prize money.

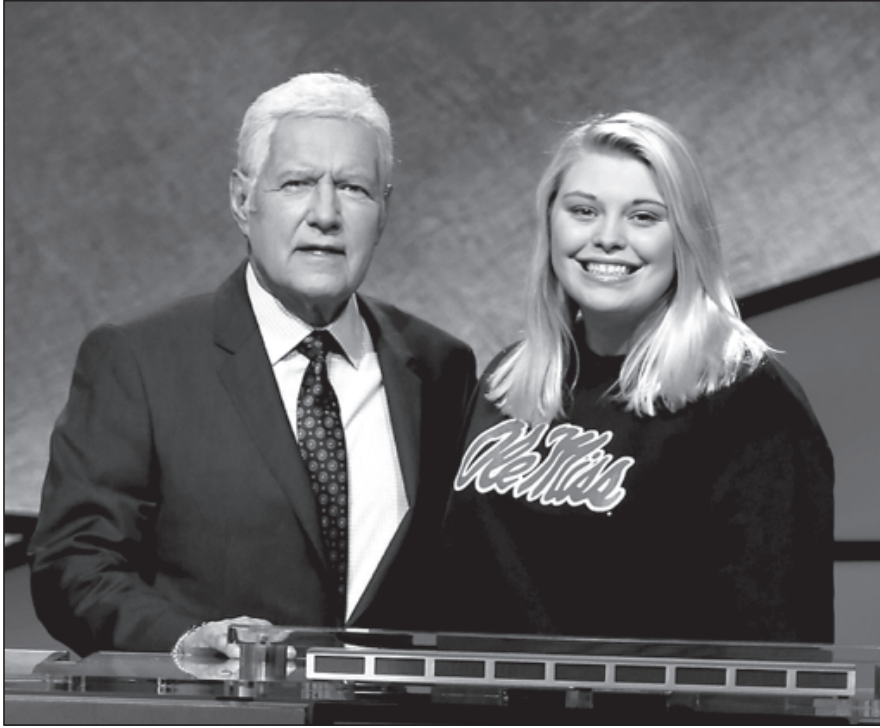
Though her competitors got off to a fast start, she quickly jumped from third to first place just before the first commercial break and held her lead until the end, beating her closest competitor by more than \$18,000. She also was the only player to correctly identify author Harper Lee as the answer of the Final Jeopardy question.

“I was nervous; Kylie (Weaver, from Penn State) and Alistair (Gray, from UC San Diego) were doing good and I never got a Daily Double, so I couldn’t capitalize on that,” Lorenz said. “It was scary because I could feel them getting close but luckily, the categories were Drake and history.”

Lorenz, from Perryville, Missouri, is an Arabic and international studies major, so she said she was sad to see an Arab Spring category on Friday’s episode of the tournament.

Hearing “Jeopardy!” host Alex Trebek recite Drake lyrics was hilarious, Lorenz said.

Her semifinals episode airs Tuesday (April 14), with her competing for a



Host Alex Trebek and Londyn Lorenz on the set of Jeopardy! College Championship

spot in the final round of the tournament and a shot at the \$100,000 prize.

The Jeopardy! College Championship has filled a void for many college sports fans looking for other forms of competition and entertainment. Lorenz said the support and feedback has been exciting.

“It was so hard not to tell anyone

how far I got,” she said, because the tournament was filmed in February. “I was able to keep it from my mom and my friends this long. I’m just glad I can talk about it now. But now, everyone assumes I won the whole thing, and I can’t say if I did or not.”

Check local listings for the times and stations airing “Jeopardy!” in your area.

## MVSU among testing sites set for mobile COVID-19 testing for Leflore, Holmes/ and Wilkinson Counties

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Residents of Holmes, Leflore and Wilkinson counties and surrounding communities can be tested this week for COVID-19 as the University of Mississippi Medical Center and Mississippi State Department of Health continue efforts to stem virus transmission statewide by setting up one-day, drive-through collection sites.

The locations for the latest appointment-only collection sites are:

Wednesday, April 15, Leflore County: Mississippi Valley State University, Rice-Totten Football Stadium, 14000 Highway 82 West, Itta Bena

Thursday, April 16, Holmes County: City of Lexington Multi-Purpose Complex, 22521 Depot St., Lexington

Thursday, April 16, Wilkinson County: Emergency Management Agency, 1495 U.S. 61 South, Woodville

Testing locations for Tuesday, April 14, announced previously:

Chickasaw County – Chickasaw County Agri Center, 800 Starkville Road in Houston

Jefferson County – Fayette High School, 2277 Main St., Fayette

Hundreds of people in Mississippi communities have taken advantage of the UMMC/MSDH drive-through collection sites. Those numbers include 85 people in Olive Branch, 25 in Clarksdale, 55 in Vicksburg, 49 in Greenwood, 61 in Meridian, 110 in Natchez, 57 in Carriere, 33 in Ripley, 59 in Moss Point, 18 in Raleigh, 25 in Eupora, 50 in Clinton, 25 in Tunica and 1,903 as of early Friday at the Mississippi Fairgrounds in Jackson.

The Mississippi Emergency Man-

agement Agency and the Mississippi National Guard are partnering with UMMC and MSDH to coordinate mobile testing sites.

Anyone experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, including fever, cough, shortness of breath or sore throat, who feels they should be tested must first go through a free screening from a UMMC clinician through the C Spire Health UMMC Virtual COVID-19 Triage telehealth smartphone app. UMMC and C Spire have partnered to make the screening free to all Mississippians.

Mississippians who are screened as being at high risk for having COVID-19 are given an appointment at a testing site to provide a specimen sample, via a nose swab, without exiting their vehicle.

The fastest and easiest way to get screened and tested is with the C Spire Health app. It’s available daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Those using the C Spire Health app will be given an appointment if a medical provider determines their level of risk for COVID-19 is high. They’ll be asked questions about symptoms, including fever, cough, shortness of breath or sore throat. UMMC will contact those tested with their results.

Those without smartphones can call 601 496-7200. Anyone not experiencing symptoms is asked not to use the app or call.

Anyone determined to be at low risk for infection will receive instructions on social distancing, home isolation and self-care – and told to call back if symptoms worsen.

## U-RENTAL Van Company



- New fleet of vans
- 12 & 15 passenger vans
- Unbeatable prices
- Unlimited miles
- Church / business trips
- Family vacation & more
- Cash or credit cards



3840 ROBINSON ROAD - JACKSON, MS 39209 - PHONE: 601-398-1162



**Thank you for your order. Order a subscription for a friend!**



# The Word of God sets the standard for the church

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



We read in Titus 2:1-8, “But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blas-

phemed. Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.”

The Apostle Paul said to show yourself a pattern of good works in all things. The world does not set the standard for the church. The Word of God set the standard for the church. We are in a spiritual battle, and the lines are being drawn clearer as time goes on. Saints of God, we do not lay down these old truths. When we start deviating from the Bible stan-

dard, we are putting out a signal that something is wrong in our souls. The standard will fit every child of God, and it applies to the men as well as the women.

God wants His church to be holy, without spot or wrinkle. If we get the inside cleansed, clean up the outside and walk in the light as God sheds it upon our paths, we will have the Spirit of God in our lives.

The Devil wants us to deviate from the standard just a little. He will not try to get us to let down on things all at once. However, once he gets his foot in the door, he will cause us to let down on more and more of God’s Word. These truths of the church are worth fighting for.

Paul said, “I have fought a good fight; I have kept the faith.” The fight is over the faith. The Devil wants us to deviate from the faith. If we have deviated from God given truths and sought out another way, we need to get it corrected now. If we go on as we are, we will become deceived, our hearts will become hardened and we will end up in a lost eternity.

As my grandfather, the late Rev. Simeon R. Green Sr., would say, “It’s on you, your choice.”

*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 Daddy’s girls: DNA goes a long way

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



“Frank Jr” was what I was called as a child because between me and my 3 sisters, I was the one most like my father. From how I walked (I can thank the strong Riley family genes for being pigeon-toed) to my love of cooking, I was a carbon copy of my father. I thought I might outgrow it but the resemblance is even stronger now when I hear myself saying the same things my father says, “You don’t have to believe me. Just Keep on Livin’... You’ll see,” minus the North Carolinian accent. Even as I have tried to change how I walk and talk, I can’t because it is in my DNA.

In tribute to my beloved father who passed away April 8, 2020 at the age of 81, I’d like to share a fascinating story of daughters who knew the power of both their natural and spiritual DNA (destiny, needs and authority). The daughters of Zelophehad knew their destiny, let God meet their needs and exercised the right authority. Zelophehad was a descendant of the Old Testament’s Joseph who did not make it to the Promised Land.

Numbers 27:1-7 explains how they petitioned Moses for the right to inherit land. Since their father died without leaving a male heir, they were concerned. Inheritance laws at the time made it nearly impossible for women to own land. Verse 2 shows how the five sisters, Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah, chose to deal with their situation in bold unity. Using an attitude of assurance, not fear or arrogance, verse 4 shows how they appealed to the right authority at the right time

and with the right attitude. In addition, they knew what the current laws were but they also knew what they were entitled to.

When Moses took their case to God, he was told by God to give the women their land because what they were asking for was right. The scripture doesn’t say whether the daughters prayed before they went to Moses. However, God’s response shows that he was waiting to meet their needs; all they needed to do was to faithfully ask him.

Like these daughters, we have to learn how to follow our destiny, allow God to meet our needs and obey the authority that he places in our lives. Much like our natural DNA, our spiritual DNA can reproduce others that love God, seek after God and trust God.

We should ask God to show us how learning more about our spiritual DNA will make clearer the destiny God has for our lives, give us the confidence to know that our needs will be met and allow us to recognize and obey the authority that will influence our life. Above all else, we must believe that God will increase our ability to trust Him, our desire to seek God and, most importantly, our capacity to love Him.

Thanks to my father for the many lessons taught and the lessons that were caught by watching your example of strength, faithfulness and honor. Love and miss you daddy.

*Shewandaaa 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.*

Moving the Masses Toward the Mission of the Master

1600 Florence Avenue  
Jackson, Mississippi 39204  
601-3552670 • 601-355-0760 (Fax)  
www.collegehillchurch.org  
Chetco@collegehillchurch.org

**COLLEGE HILL**  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**SUNDAY**  
Worship Services  
10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 8:45 a.m.  
**MONDAY**  
Intercessory Prayer 9:00 a.m.  
**WEDNESDAY**  
Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.  
Classes: Children • Youth • Adult • 7:00p.m.

Michael T. Williams  
Pastor

**New Horizon Church**  
INTERNATIONAL  
A place of love and victory.

**Bishop Reannie C. Crudup, Sr.**  
1750 Ellis Avenue • Jackson, MS 39204  
Office: 601-371-1427 • Fax: 601-371-8282

www.nhcms.org

**SUNDAY**  
8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. • Worship Services

**WEDNESDAY**  
7:00 p.m. • Bible Class

**TV BROADCAST**  
8:00 a.m. • Channel 14 (Comcast)

*Prayer Everyday: 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.*

**True Light Baptist Church**  
224 E. Bell Street | Jackson, MS 39202 | Phone: (601) 398-0915

Join Us!  
for our Light Line Prayer Call  
each Wednesday morning at  
6:00 a.m. or join us on  
Periscope @MarcusCheeks

*The Light Line*  
**PRAYER**

Rev. Marcus E. Cheeks, Pastor  
Small Group Study | 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service | Sundays 10:30 a.m.  
Bible Study | Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

Phone Number: | Access Code:  
(218) 339-7800 | 627 6205#  
(712) 832-8330 (Alternate Number)  
\*The call will last only 30 minutes

**New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church**  
Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Live Radio Broadcast  
WOAD AM 1300 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

“A Church Preparing for a Home Not Built by Man”

New Bethel M. B. Church • 450 Culberston Ave. • Jackson, MS 39209  
601-969-3481/969-3482 • Fax # 601-969-1957 • E-Mail: Serenitynbc@aol.com

**Crossroads Church of God**  
Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others

Sunday Morning  
Worship Service 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 10 a.m.

Sunday Worship  
Service 11:15 a.m.  
Following morning  
worship service 12  
Sunday

Wednesday  
Prayer/Bible  
Study 7 p.m.

Rev. Mark Jackson, Pastor  
231-A John Day Road • Off Hwy 16 East • Canton, MS 39046  
Church: 601-859-2458



LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE  
JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

• APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS  
A. NEW BUSINESS

• CASE NO. 2020-05, REQUESTED BY: JEFF SEABOLD, TO CONSTRUCT CUSTOM DESIGNED FENCE ALONG SIDE AND BACK YARD OF THE PROPERTY AT 1320 ST. ANN ST, LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

• CASE NO. 2020-06, REQUESTED BY: JETT DESIGN/BUILD, TO RELOCATE AND REPLACE TWO EXISTING 8 OVER 8 DOUBLE HUNG WINDOWS WITH 4 OVER 1 DOUBLE HUNG WINDOWS MATCHING THE STYLE OF THOSE ORIGINAL TO THE HOUSE AT 6 PARK AVE, LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

• CASE NO. 2020-09, REQUESTED BY: SAM NEWMAN, TO CONSTRUCT A NEW MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT 0 GILLESPIE STREET (PARCEL 15-9), LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

• ADJOURN  
DUE TO A CONFLICT IN HIS/HER SCHEDULE, COMMISSIONERS MAY UTILIZE TELECONFERENCE OR VIDEO MEANS TO HEAR CASES & VOTE IN THE EVENT OF THEIR ABSENCE.

4-16-2020, 4-23-2020

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS  
City of Jackson  
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, May 05, 2020, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

96115-050520-- Licensed Catering Services

The above must comply with the City's specifications. Copies of proposal forms can be obtained from the Purchasing Division, 200 South President Street, Room 604, Hood Building, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Copies of bid specifications are filed with the City Clerk for public record in accordance with House Bill No 999, 1986 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in Public Purchasing. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with each bid submission, in accordance with the provisions set forth by authority of the City of Jackson's EBO Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's EBO Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offer, from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City's EBO Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (601)960-1638. Copies of the EBO Ordinance, EBO Plan Application and a copy of the EBO Program are available with the Office of Economic Development at 218 South President Street, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The City also reserves the right to waive any and all informalities in respect to any bid submitted. Bid awards will be made to the lowest and best bidder quoting the lowest net price in accordance with specifications. The award could be according to the lowest cost per item; or to the lowest total cost for all items; or to accept all or part of any proposal. Delivery time may be considered when evaluating the bid proposal. In those cases where it is known prior to advertising that the City's intention is to award according to the lowest total cost for all items, or in some variation thereof, statements to this affect will be included on the proposal form. Absence of such statement means the City will make that determination during the bid review.

Destiney Williams, Manager  
Purchasing Division  
(601) 960-1025 or 960-1533

4-9-2020, 4-16-2020

LEGAL

MEDGAR EVERS BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENTS  
City Project No. 18B4017.302

Sealed bids will be received by the City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 219 South President Street, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 P.M. Local Time, May 19, 2020, for supplying all labor and materials (as specified) necessary for construction of MEDGAR EVERS BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENTS, City Project No. 18B4017.302.

Principal items of work are as follows:

- Removal of concrete combination curb & gutter,
- Concrete pavement punchout repair,
- Removal of integral curb
- Removal of pavement, all types and depths,
- 10" Concrete Pavement,
- Concrete Header Curb,
- Concrete Integral Curb,
- Combination Concrete Curb and Gutter,
- Maintenance of Traffic,
- Signal Stop Bar Radar Vehicle Detection Sensor,
- Roadway Construction Stakes

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 labor, equipment and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein.

Contract time for this contract shall be 180 consecutive calendar 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. The amount of liquidated damages per day will be \$500.00. These actual costs include, but are not limited to, engineering, inspection, and other construction related costs resulting from the Contractor's failure to complete the work on schedule.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan, with the bid submission, in accordance with the provision of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a contractor, bidder, or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact Yika Hoover, Equal Business Opportunity Officer at 601-960-1638. Copies of the Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 200 South President Street, Suite 223, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4, that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex, in consideration for an award.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and/or conduct business in the City to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi Law and show current Certificate of Responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Public Contractors establishing his classification as to the value and type of construction on which

he is authorized to bid.

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal forms to be provided, sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for MEDGAR EVERS BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENTS, City Project No. 18B4017.302". Each bidder shall write his Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing his proposal.

Each Bidder must submit with his proposal a separate attachment stating the Bidder's qualifications to perform the Work. The Statement of Qualifications shall list past projects of similar size and nature, a list of references with name and telephone number, a list of key personnel who will perform the work, and other information supporting the bidder's qualifications.

Bids and EBO plans shall be submitted in triplicate (bound/stapled separately), sealed and deposited with the City Clerk, City Hall, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Official Bid Documents, including the Contract Documents and Drawings can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic Bids may be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Awarding public contracts to non-resident Bidders will be on the same basis as the non-resident bidder's state awards contracts to Mississippi Contractors bidding under similar circumstances. Current state law, Mississippi General Laws of 2010, Chapter 383, section 31-3-21 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, requires a nonresident bidder to attach to the bid a copy of the Bidder's resident state's current laws pertaining to such state's treatment of nonresident contractors. Non-resident bidders must attach to their bid a copy of any bid preference law of the state, city, county, parish, province, nation or political subdivision where they are domiciled. If there is no such law where they are domiciled, all non-resident bidders shall attach a letter to their bid stating that there is no bid preference law where they are domiciled. The bid of any non-resident bidder who fails to attach to its bid a copy of its domicile's bid preference law or a letter stating that its domicile has no such bid preference law, whichever is applicable, shall be rejected and not considered for award.

Each Bidder must deposit with his bid a Bid Bond or Certified Check in an amount equal to five percent of the bid, payable to the City of Jackson as bid security. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City of Jackson. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Payment Bond and Performance Bond each in the amount of 100% of the contract amount.

Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, Instructions to Bidders and Bidders Proposal forms are on file and open to public inspection in the office of the Engineering Division, Department of Public Works, City of Jackson, Mississippi and the Office of the City Clerk.

The Engineer is Neel-Schaffer, Inc., 125 South Congress, Suite 1100, Jackson, MS 39201, 601-948-3071, Fax No. 601-948-3178. For technical questions email [medgareversblvd@neel-schaffer.com](mailto:medgareversblvd@neel-schaffer.com).

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all Bidders that minority and women business enterprises are solicited to bid on these contracts as prime contractors and are encouraged to make inquiries regarding potential subcontracting opportunities, equipment, material and/or supply needs.

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

Robert K. Miller, Director  
Department of Public Works

4-16-2020, 4-23-2020

For information about advertising in

The Mississippi Link

please call: 601-896-0084 or e-mail [jlinkads@bellsouth.net](mailto:jlinkads@bellsouth.net) • [www.mississippilink.com](http://www.mississippilink.com)

Office  
Space for  
Rent

Garrett  
Enterprises  
Building

(Near Jackson Medical Mall)

2659 Livingston Road  
Jackson, MS 39213

2500 Square Feet

Call: 601-209-9199



AMERICA'S ORIGINAL BUTCHER

OMAHA STEAKS

SINCE 1917

QUALITY & VALUE

YOU CAN TRUST

GUARANTEED!

THE BUTCHER'S BUNDLE

4 (5 oz.) Butcher's Cut Filet Mignons

4 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops

4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers

4 (3 oz.) Gourmet Jumbo Branks

4 (2.8 oz.) Potatoes au Gratin

4 (4 oz.) Caramel Apple Tartlets

Omaha Steaks Seasoning Packet

~~\$238.94~~ separately

COMBO PRICE

\$69<sup>99</sup>

+4 MORE BURGERS FREE!

GET IT ALL

20 MAIN COURSES

+ SIDES & DESSERT

\*Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Limit 2 pks. Free gifts must ship with #61086 Standard S&H will be added. Expires 5/31/20. ©2020 Omaha Steaks, Inc.

ORDER NOW! 1.855.398.5977 ask for 61086LDF

www.OmahaSteaks.com/dinner192

2	4	9	5	8	1	7	6	3
7	3	5	6	4	2	8	9	1
8	6	1	3	9	7	4	5	2
3	2	7	1	6	8	9	4	5
1	9	4	7	3	5	6	2	8
6	5	8	9	2	4	3	1	7
4	8	3	2	1	9	5	7	6
9	7	2	8	5	6	1	3	4
5	1	6	4	7	3	2	8	9

<h1 style="text-align: center;">MCAN</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Mississippi Classified Advertising Network</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">To place your statewide classified ad order, call MS Press Services at 601-981-3060</p>	
<b>Classes / Training</b> <b>AIRLINES ARE HIRING</b> - Get FAA approved hands on Aviation mechanic training. Financial aid for qualified students. Career placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance, 1-866-367-2510. <b>COMPUTER and IT TRAINING PROGRAM!</b> Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer and Help Desk Professional now! Now offering a \$10,000 scholarship qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! 833-992-0228 (M-F 8am-6pm ET) <b>EARN YOUR HOSPITALITY DEGREE ONLINE!</b> Earn your Associates Degree ONLINE with CTI! Great career advancement with the right credentials! Learn who's hiring! Call 833-992-0228. (M-F 8am-6pm ET) <b>PHARMACY TECHNICIAN TRAINING PROGRAMS</b> From Ultimate Medical Academy Offer Quality Healthcare Education to Students 100% online.- Ultimate Medical Academy: 1-866-664-4140 <b>TRAIN ONLINE TO DO MEDICAL BILLING!</b> Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 833-992-0228. (M-F 8am-6pm ET)	<b>For Sale</b> <b>GENERAC STANDBY GENERATORS.</b> The weather is increasingly unpredictable. Be prepared for power outages. FREE 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value). Schedule your in-home assessment today. Call 1-844-316-8630. Special financing for qualified customers. <b>Insurance</b> <b>DENTAL INSURANCE.</b> Call Physicians Mutual Insurance Company for details. NOT just a discount plan, REAL coverage for 350 procedures. 855-397-7045 or <a href="http://www.dental50plus.com/mspress">http://www.dental50plus.com/mspress</a> . Ad# 6118 <b>UP TO \$15,000.00 of GUARANTEED Life Insurance!</b> No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses. Call Physicians Life Insurance Company- 844-439-8447 or visit <a href="http://www.Life55plus.info/ms">www.Life55plus.info/ms</a> <b>Medical Supplies</b> <b>ATTENTION DIABETICS!</b> Save money on your diabetic supplies! Convenient home shipping for monitors, test strips, insulin pumps, catheters and more! To learn more, call now! 877-368-0628 <b>VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS!</b> 50 Pills SPECIAL \$99.00 FREE Shipping! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW! 844-821-3242 <b>Miscellaneous</b> <b>DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY.</b> Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. 855-400-8263 <b>STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING</b> available in over 90 newspapers. Call 601-981-3060 to place your advertising order
<b>Services-General</b> <b>DIRECTV - Switch and Save \$39.99/month.</b> Select All-Included Package. 155 Channels. 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand. FREE Genie HD DVR Upgrade. Premium movie channels, FREE for 3 mos! Call 1-855-978-3110 <b>DISH NETWORK. \$59.99 for 19 Channels!</b> Blazing Fast Internet \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-877-628-3143 <b>Services-Legal</b> <b>DENIED SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY?</b> Appeal! If you're 50+, filed for SSDI and denied, our attorneys can help get you approved! No money out of pocket! Call 601-203-3826	



**Advertising Solutions That Deliver!**

To order newspaper advertising statewide or regionally, call your local paper or MS Press Services at 601-981-3060

**Week of April 12, 2020**



# Obama endorses Biden as the best leader for ‘darkest times’

By Alexandra Jaffe, Julie Pace and Bill Barrow  
*Associated Press*

Former President Barack Obama endorsed Joe Biden Tuesday, giving the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee a boost from the party’s biggest fundraiser and one of its most popular figures.

“Joe has the character and the experience to guide us through one of our darkest times and heal us through a long recovery,” Obama said in a 12-minute video in which he argued the coronavirus pandemic reinforced the need for better leadership.

The endorsement marked Obama’s return to presidential politics more than three years after leaving the White House. He didn’t mention his successor, President Donald Trump, by name and instead sought to bridge the ideological divide among Democrats.

Obama commended Sanders, who was the leading progressive foil to Biden during the Democratic primary. The Vermont senator ended his campaign last week and threw his support behind Biden Monday.

The former president called Sanders an “American original” and backed his frequent call for “structural change.” But he also said that while Democrats “may not always agree on every detail,” they must unify to defeat Republicans.

“The Republicans occupying the White House and running the U.S. Senate are not interested in progress,” he



said. “They’re interested in power.”

Sanders reiterated his support of Biden Tuesday, saying it would be “irresponsible” for his own supporters not to back the former vice president.

“I will do everything I can to help elect Joe,” Sanders said in an interview. “We had a contentious campaign. We disagree on issues. But my job now is to not only rally my supporters, but to do everything I can to bring the party together to see that (Trump) is not elected president.”

Elizabeth Warren is the only former Democratic presidential candidate who hasn’t yet backed Biden. The Massachusetts senator is expected to do so soon, according to a person familiar with her plans who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss her thinking.

Two other prominent Democrats who have yet to publicly back Biden are former President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton, the party’s 2016 nominee. Hillary Clinton has been in regular touch with Biden, including several times

since Sanders dropped out of the race, according to an aide.

Obama avoided intervening in the Democratic primary, but followed the race closely from the sidelines and is eager to take a more active public role. He’s expected to headline fundraisers for Biden and public events in key swing states, if such gatherings can still be held given social distancing guidelines during the coronavirus pandemic.

After his endorsement was released, Obama sent a fundraising appeal to Biden supporters, asking for donations ranging from \$5 to \$100.

The endorsement will test whether Obama can transfer his personal popularity to Biden. While the former president is seen favorably by a wide swath of Democratic voters, he was also a deeply polarizing figure during his two terms in office. During his presidency, Democrats lost about 1,000 legislative seats around the country, starting with disastrous 2010 midterms that also cost the party control of the House and many statehouses.

In 2018, he campaigned for some winning Senate and gubernatorial candidates, like Sen. Jacky Rosen in Nevada and Gov. Tony Evers in Wisconsin. But his influence seemed less powerful in other places such as Florida.

The Trump campaign noted that Obama tacitly discouraged Biden from running for president in 2016 and said the former president is only backing him now because everyone else has

dropped out of the primary.

“Now that Biden is the only candidate left in the Democrat field, Obama has no other choice but to support him,” Brad Parscale, Trump’s campaign manager, said in a statement.

Though Obama stayed out of the primary, Biden frequently pointed to their time together in the White House. Biden often spoke of the “Obama-Biden” administration when talking about various accomplishments and referred to himself as an “Obama-Biden Democrat.”

But he also insisted he was running as his own man, telling anyone who asked that he urged Obama not to endorse him out of the gate or even in the thick of the primary.

Obama’s tenure became a sort of punching bag for some presidential hopefuls in a primary fight that early on was defined by a debate over the need for generational and systemic change versus a return to normalcy after the Trump era.

Campaigning before increasingly diverse audiences in Nevada and South Carolina, Biden ramped up his recollections of when Obama tapped him for the ticket in 2008. Biden recalled Inauguration Day 2009, waiting for the train in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, “for a black man to pick me up ... for the two of us to be sworn in as president and vice president of the United States.”

Often drawing nods and vocal affir-

mation from his audiences, Biden said he had thought of that day as a national victory over institutional racism. Now, in the Trump era, Biden calls that conclusion a mistake.

“I thought we could defeat hate,” he said, but “it never goes away.”

Julían Castro pushed Biden repeatedly on whether he argued with Obama privately over deportations overseen by that administration. Pete Buttigieg and Beto O’Rourke jabbed Biden – and by extension, Obama – by suggesting the party shouldn’t “return to the past.” Sanders and Warren said the 2010 Affordable Care Act hadn’t gone far enough.

But Biden was a staunch defender of that legislation and called it “bizarre” for Democrats, even faintly, to attack Obama’s record.

The conversation around Obama’s presidency shifted as the primary wore on. By the time voting began, Buttigieg was almost explicitly comparing his youthful bid to Obama’s 2008 campaign, and progressives were framing their health care proposals as a way to build on Obama’s legacy.

For his part, Biden leaned even more heavily into Obama as primary voting began. Aiming at Sanders, the self-described democratic socialist, and Bloomberg, who’d been elected New York City mayor as a Republican, Biden said in a Feb. 21 interview that “they’re not bad folks. They’re just not Democrats.”

# Biden joins growing call for release of racial data on virus

By Kat Stafford  
*Associated Press*

Presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden is joining a growing call for the release of comprehensive racial data on the coronavirus pandemic, which he says has put a spotlight on inequity and the impact of “structural racism.”

Biden’s Medium post Thursday said he is joining Democratic congressional members Ayanna Pressley, Kamala Harris, Cory Booker, Elizabeth Warren and others who have also called for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other agencies to release more data. Biden said he wants data released on income, too, to better help allocate resources to communities in need.

Biden acknowledged this is an “an-

xious, difficult time” for all Americans, but he noted the disparate impact on black Americans and Latinos, saying the virus can “hit anyone, anywhere,” but it doesn’t affect every “community equally.”

The former vice president also noted a climbing number of infections and deaths among “Navajo Nation and fears about the disproportionate impact the virus could have on Indian Country.”

“Unsurprisingly, it’s also amplifying the structural racism that is built into so much of our daily lives, our institutions, our laws, and our communities,” Biden wrote. “It’s unconscionable, and it shouldn’t be the case in the United States of America in the 21st Century.”

The coronavirus pandemic has transformed the presidential race, forcing

candidates to find innovative ways to reach voters and confront the rippling effects of the virus across the country.

After disappointing finishes in the first three voting states, Biden’s campaign was reinvigorated with a victory in South Carolina, thanks largely to black voters, who also helped propel him through Super Tuesday and beyond. But the very voter base that helped cement Biden’s front-runner status is now being hit particularly hard by the virus, which has ravaged black cities like Detroit, Chicago, New Orleans and Milwaukee.

An Associated Press analysis, which was based on data through April 8, found that black Americans are disproportionately being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Biden addressed the challenges in a virtual town hall

Wednesday.

The AP analysis found that of the 3,300 COVID-19 victims whose demographic data was publicly shared by officials, about 42% were black. Black people account for roughly 21% of the total population in the areas covered by the analysis. At the time, there had been 13,000 deaths in the nation. The analysis was one of the first attempts to examine the racial disparities of COVID-19 cases and deaths nationwide.

It involved examining more than 4,450 deaths and 52,000 COVID-19 cases from across the country, relying on the handful of state and local governments that had released victims’ race. Since then, other states have also released data, but a majority of the data is still missing.

On Wednesday, the CDC released

racial data for hospitalizations in 14 states in March that showed that one-third of patients were black. In the United States, black people make up about 13% of the total population.

Biden’s Medium post comes one day after Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders suspended his presidential bid, making Biden the presumptive nominee to challenge President Donald Trump in November.

Meanwhile, Trump has also acknowledged the virus’ impact on African Americans, saying Tuesday that his administration was trying to address what he termed a “tremendous challenge.”

*Associated Press writer Aaron Morrison and Data Editor Meghan Hoyer contributed to this report.*

## COVID-19

Continued from page 1

Dobbs said of all the Mississippi cases, 56 percent are African American. He stated, “The case rate [among African Americans] is ... about double that of white folks. My suspicion is [its] because of a lack of healthcare access for a whole host of reasons. Even more alarming, we see that the death rate (72% black and 28% white) has been a whopping, lopsided mortality in African-American folks.”

Reacting to the digital meeting, Sen. Barbara Blackmon said, “as a result of the State Health Officer, Dr. Thomas E. Dobbs, III, confirmed what we already knew, that our community is the hardest hit because of lack of access to quality healthcare, perhaps, introducing legislation that can become law to address our healthcare needs.” Blackmon serves on the legislative Medicaid Committee.

In reference to introduced legislation, Sen. Turner Ford said in a recent interview, “Early during this legislative session, the [55-member] caucus released its policy agenda which specifically addressed the healthcare needs of African Americans throughout the state. The first item listed is the expansion of Medicaid. Another item on the caucus’s policy agenda is funding for the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). The PACE program would allow eligible disabled and senior citizens to receive various services from the comfort of their homes, instead of as residents of nursing, convalescent or personal care homes.”

The outbreaks in such facilities are alarming. April 15, MDHS-published data indicating 66 long-term care



(LTC) outbreaks statewide.

Blackmon also emphasized, “While we understand that this coronavirus is no respecter of persons, the caucus knows that if our healthcare needs in our community are addressed, the larger community shall benefit as well.”

Also, during Dobbs’ presentation, he described COVID-19 as basically a virus that causes flu-like illnesses. The symptoms are pretty much identical with some variations. “It will typically cause some coughing and congestions. Most people get over it just fine. Probably 99.8 percent will recover at some point,” he said. However, “the scary thing about it is that when people who are vulnerable, especially people who have chronic underlying medical issues, or may be old” ... that’s when we see high mortality rates.

“It spreads in a lot of ways very similar to influenza,” he said. If someone has the virus, they can cough or sneeze into the air, and somebody near them breathes it in or gets it on their eye, that can be a transmission.

“Or, [the person with the virus] can contaminate something like a table or some environmental object that people are around. So, the other person touches it [and] contaminates their face. Then they will get sick.”

He said that this is why such “an aggressive social distancing” is in place, along with the 20-second hand-washing hygiene, covering one’s coughs and sneezes, using hand sanitizer, etc.

The state health officer stressed that if one gets sick to “stay home from work or school.”

COVID-19 does not make young people dramatically sick but they can get it and spread it. If they spread it among elderly family members with heart disease or other chronic illness, they will become infected. That is when “we see a lot of severe illnesses” that leads to COVID-19 deaths.

Other panelists included: Sandra Carr Melvin, DrPH, MPH, health chair, MS State Conference NAACP; Janice Sherman, CEO, Community Health Center Association of Mississippi; Aurelia Jones-Taylor, CEO, Aaron Henry Community Health Services Center, Inc.; John A. Fairman, CEO, Delta Health Center, Inc.; Cindy Lawrence, director, Lowndes County Emergency Management Agency; John Horhn, chair of Senate Labor Committee; William Bynum, Hope Credit Union, Hope Enterprise, Hope Policy Institute; and J.R. Jones, chair of Small Business Fund of Mississippi, Inc.

They provided listeners with a wealth of need-to-know information pertaining to and as a result of this

horrific healthcare crisis.

For the thousands seeking unemployment benefits, Horhn said qualifying recipients can receive as low as \$30/week up to \$235/week in regular state benefits plus the \$600 COVID-19 unemployment benefits through July 31. “The state has eliminated the one-week wait and the job search requirements but you still may have to check in to let MDES know that you are still unemployed,” Horhn said.

To make the application process less complicated, he suggested going online. Google: COVID-19 Unemployment, click on the State of Mississippi and then the link that reads, “Disaster Unemployment Assistance.” Or, applicants may call the toll-free number 888-844-3577. He also said that 85 additional MDES workers have been hired for the MDES call center.

The senator digressed to raise the concern that there is a lot of money coming to Mississippi. “It’s in the billions of billions of dollars, and one of the things that I am seeing as I observe what’s going on is that there are none who look like us at the table where these decisions are being made and he thinks the caucus should take an active position with regard to that.”

Melvin of the NAACP stressed to everyone that “COVID-19 is a pathogen and extremely contagious.” Diabetes, hypertension, obesity and cardiovascular disease have all been demonstrated as what makes COVID-19 worse.

Most of the rural community health

panelists shared similar concerns for needing enough COVID-19 tests and protective gear. “Community healthcare centers are on the frontline,” said Fairman. He urges testing for the symptomatic as well as the asymptomatic.

Jones encouraged small businesses to take advantage of the COVID-19 Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) which is being administered through the banks.

Bynum warned to proceed with caution because he is already seeing an increase in predatory-lending.

Reacting to the virtual outreach, Jackson State University Department of Mass Communication and Media Studies Chair Elayne Hayes-Anthony, said, “I was so pleased that the legislative black caucus had a digital conference about the most important news of the day, COVID-19. It was very informative and all the speakers were outstanding.”

As a member of the State Board of Health, she said, “Dr. Dobbs is not only an excellent epidemiologist but a knowledgeable and careful State Health officer as well. He is uniquely aware of the health disparities that face African Americans and is willing to address that in our community.”

MLBC Chairperson Turner-Ford stated in a recent interview, “We will also advocate for fair spending of coronavirus stimulus dollars from the federal government.”

If you missed or could not get on the MLBC Digital Dialogue: COVID-19 What it Means to You, you may listen on YouTube at the following URL: <https://youtu.be/pLxulg2adEw>



# Support at your fingertips: My SSP app, other mental health resources available to MSU students

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Through a new partnership, Mississippi State is expanding its telemental health services to serve out-of-state and international students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jeremy Baham, MSU’s assistant vice president for student support and well-being, explained that the agreement between MSU and international telemental health company Morneau Shepell improves counseling availability for domestic students residing in other states, as well as international students. MSU counselors are limited to practicing in states where they are licensed, so the additional service creates expanded accessibility to students regardless of location.

Through Morneau Shepell’s Student Support Program, or My SSP, students can receive free, confidential support – 24 hours a day, seven days a week – via phone (1-866-743-7732), web ([us.myissp.com](http://us.myissp.com)) or the My SSP app.

Kim Kavalsky, mental health outreach coordinator for MSU’s Department of Health Promotion and Wellness, said the app is available in English, Spanish, French, simplified Chinese, Korean and Arabic, so students can connect with a counselor

who speaks their preferred language.

More about the My SSP app, including step-by-step instructions for getting started, can be found at <https://vimeo.com/277107632/9e2b1d09a0>.

Director Lu Switzer said MSU Student Counseling Services closed its physical campus office at Hathorn Hall following Gov. Tate Reeves’s shelter-in-place order. However, SCS is continuing to provide telemental health services Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. via the free, confidential Doxy.me Video Meeting Platform.

MSU students currently residing in Mississippi and on campus can get connected to help by visiting [counseling.msstate.edu](http://counseling.msstate.edu) and clicking on the Mississippi State Virtual Waiting Room link. When the next clinician is available, the student will enter a private room to discuss his or her needs.

For assistance after hours or on weekends, students can call 662-325-2091.

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health also has been sharing information daily on Facebook and Instagram, and is updating its website with additional mental health and wellness resources.

Some helpful tips include:

- Avoid excessive exposure to me-

dia coverage of COVID-19.

- Take care of physical health by eating well and getting exercise.
- Keep a sense of hope and positivity with thoughts and interactions.
- Even when practicing social distancing, connect with others. Make time to have phone calls or video chats with friends and loved ones.

The DMH Helpline (1-877-210-8513) will remain staffed at all times during the pandemic, and Mississippians can call this number for information about nearby services or support. Additional resources can be found online at [www.mentalhealthms.com](http://www.mentalhealthms.com) and [www.standupms.org](http://www.standupms.org).

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Disaster Distress Helpline also is available at 1-800-985-5990.

For updated MSU information and coronavirus resources, including lists of FAQs for students, faculty and staff, visit [www.msstate.edu/coronavirus](http://www.msstate.edu/coronavirus). Follow MSU on social media @msstate.

For more on MSU’s University Health Services, visit [www.health.msstate.edu](http://www.health.msstate.edu).

MSU is Mississippi’s leading university, available online at [www.ms-state.edu](http://www.ms-state.edu).





## Get Help with Health Coverage, Today

If you have lost your job due to COVID-19, Health Help Mississippi may be able to assist you.

Mississippians who lose the ability to work because of COVID-19 may be eligible for Medicaid or ACA Marketplace coverage. If you or someone you know needs health care coverage, a member of the Health Help Mississippi team can help you review your options. Call or visit us online today.

**1-877-314-3843**  
[www.healthhelpms.org](http://www.healthhelpms.org)







## CARES Emergency Grant Program

The Mississippi Link Newswire

With funding from Congress through the CARES Act, the Mississippi Humanities Council is launching an emergency grant program to help support cultural organizations that have been affected by the COVID-19 crisis. These CARES Emergency Grants will provide unrestricted operational expenses up to \$20,000 for humanities-focused cultural nonprofit organizations in Mississippi for up to two months.

During the COVID-19 crisis, state humanities councils are uniquely positioned to provide emergency CARES Act funding to museums, historic sites and other nonprofit organizations affected by the pandemic. The humanities councils serve the smallest and most vulnerable communities and institutions and are able to reach areas that receive few other cultural resources. To meet this need, the

National Endowment for the Humanities has distributed 40 percent of its national CARES Act appropriation, or \$30 million, directly to the state councils to support grants to eligible entities for general operating support and humanities programming in direct response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The Mississippi Humanities Council has received \$460,000 to distribute through CARES Emergency Grants to help support payroll and other general operations expenses. Matching funds are not required with these emergency grants.

“Since our mission is to serve the people of Mississippi, we are grateful to have these federal emergency stimulus funds to support the cultural organizations that enrich our state’s way of life,” said Stuart Rockoff, executive director of the Mississippi Humanities Council. “Our top priority is to help ensure the institutions

that safeguard our state’s rich cultural heritage survive this crisis.”

More details, including grant guidelines and applications, are now available on the Humanities Council’s website, [mshumanities.org](http://mshumanities.org).

Starting April 22, applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Since the MHC is now working from home, contact Stuart Rockoff via email ([srockoff@mhc.state.ms.us](mailto:srockoff@mhc.state.ms.us)) for more information.

The Mississippi Humanities Council is funded by Congress through the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide public programs in traditional liberal arts disciplines to serve nonprofit groups in Mississippi. The MHC creates opportunities for Mississippians to learn about themselves and the larger world and enriches communities through civil conversations about our history and culture.

## Mississippi nearing 100 virus deaths, more cases confirmed

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
Associated Press

Many Mississippi churches held online services Sunday to celebrate Easter as the state’s death toll from COVID-19 approaches 100.

The Rev. S.V. Adolph Jr., pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church Handsboro said on Facebook live that he misses greeting and embracing congregants at the Gulfport sanctuary, but he is grateful about “leaving the walls of the church” and worshipping online. He also prayed for health care providers, law enforcement officers and others working during the pandemic.

“We are really grateful for these heroes, these people who are at risk for our sake,” Adolph said.

Figures released by the state Health Department Sunday showed Mississippi had at least 2,781 confirmed cases and 96 deaths from the virus as of Saturday evening. That was an increase of 139 cases and three deaths from the previous day.

For most people, the coronavirus

causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. But for others, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, the highly contagious virus can cause severe symptoms and be fatal.

Gov. Tate Reeves held a Facebook live session from the Governor’s Mansion to pray and read Bible verses, as he has done the past three Sundays.

“Today is an Easter Sunday different than any in the past,” Reeves said. He was joined by his wife and their three daughters, who sat off-camera.

Mississippi remains under the governor’s statewide stay-at-home order until April 20, and it tells people not to gather in groups of 10 or more.

Republican Reeves said several times during the past week that he would prefer that churches not hold services in their sanctuaries or parking lots. But he also said Saturday that “liberal politicians around this country are trying to utilize this catastrophe and this crisis to shut down churches.”

“This notion that governments are

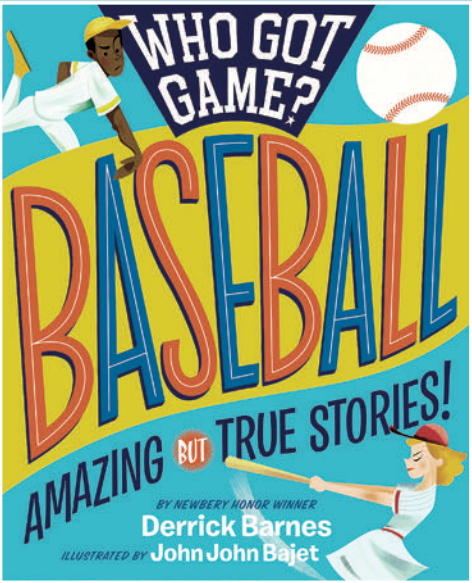
being heavy-handed and trying to take away our constitutional rights to practice our religion – it’s just terribly unfortunate,” Reeves said.

One concern has been the potential for widespread infection inside jails and prisons, where inmates don’t have the option to maintain distance from one another. The Hinds County Sheriff’s Department said Friday night that a detention officer at the county jail in Raymond had tested positive for the virus and was off work and undergoing treatment.

The board that governs Mississippi’s eight public universities on Friday authorized the universities to provide partial refunds for the spring semester. Students have been taking online classes since mid-March.

“We understand that these are challenging times, and we hope these refunds will help our students and their families in this time of such critical need,” University of Mississippi Chancellor Glenn F. Boyce said in a statement Friday.





BOOK REVIEW:

WHO GOT GAME?

BASEBALL: AMAZING BUT TRUE STORIES!

BY DERRICK BARNES, ILLUSTRATED BY JOHNJOHN BAJET

C.2020, WORKMAN

\$12.95 / HIGHER IN CANADA • 172 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

Everybody’s supposed to stay home now. It’s probably not the “home” you’re thinking about though. The home you want to see involves running around a diamond, cheers in your ears, ahhh, you wanna hear that again. For now, though, you may have to make do with a home run like “Who Got Game? Baseball: Amazing But True Stories!” by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by JohnJohn Bajet.

Every day’s a great day for

baseball, right? But this year, you may have to wait to watch your favorite players, so why not learn about the game in the meantime? For starters, there was once a time when baseball was “for white men only,” and so black players and women made their own leagues. Even so, baseball wouldn’t be baseball without guys like Andrew “Rube” Foster, who’s known as “the father of the Negro Leagues”; or Hammerin’ Hank Greenberg, who became the first Jewish Hall of Famer; or immigrants like Ozzie

Virgil from the Dominican Republic, or Sadaharo Oh from Japan. Through the years, there’ve been lots of changes to the game. For one, the spitball was outlawed in 1934, but not before a player was killed by one. Women have been invited into the game, first by women’s leagues at various times in history, and later, by the first female baseball executive. African American players were denied a chance to play so they made their own leagues, too, and eventually broke the color

barrier in the majors. In this book, you’ll read about forgiveness for a fan. You’ll read about an influential doctor who saved careers and players who never let a little disability stop them from the game. You’ll read about “a stinking mule” who was a mascot, a guy who was hit by 287 pitches during his baseball career, and a player who had to make good on something he said. And if you think age matters in the major leagues, read about a forty-two-year-old rookie, a seventeen-year-old strikeout

pitcher, and baseball’s youngest major leaguer... For a kid who lives and breathes baseball, this lockdown must be hard. But dreaming about getting on the ball field isn’t all they can do at this time. They can also read “Who Got Game? Baseball: Amazing But True Stories.” The thing your child will love most is that this book isn’t filled with things he or she already knows. Barnes and Bajet dug out tales from the dugout, sure, but they also include stories of support staff and non-players

who influenced the game. Young readers will learn about the game from its very inception, as well as modern stories of baseball, and there’s some science hidden in side-bars. Even just browsing the illustrations inside this book will invite young players in, and keep them in their (bleacher) seats. Absolutely, a true baseball fan will love this book, especially if they’re Little Leaguers or kids ages 8 to 15. For them – and you – “Who Got Game? Baseball: Amazing but True Stories!” will be a big hit.

**ZACK WALLACE**  
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

**FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
Circuit Clerk's Office  
P.O. BOX 327  
Jackson, MS 39205  
Phone: (601) 968-6628  
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)

**Services of the Clerk:**

- Civil/Criminal Filings of Circuit and County Court
- Marriage License
- Medical License
- Voter Registration/Absentee Voting

**VOTER INFORMATION**  
Verify/Update your Registration Today

- 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.

[Website: www.hindscountymississippi.com](http://www.hindscountymississippi.com)

*Cool And Current*

**WJSU 88.5**  
your source for cool jazz and current news  
[www.wjsu.org](http://www.wjsu.org)

**WRTM-FM SMOOTH 100.5 FM, IS JACKSON’S URBAN RHYTHM AND BLUES STATION PLAYING FAMILIAR FAVORITES FROM THE 70’S, 80’S AND 90’S. TUNE IN TO HEAR JUST THE RIGHT MIX OF BLUES AND TODAY’S BIGGEST HITS.**

**WRTM**  
*SMOOTH 100.5 FM*



# Know the difference

## What's the difference?

### Social Distancing

### Isolation and

### Quarantine



#StopTheSpread  
Source: [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)

#### What is Social Distancing?

Social distancing should be practiced by everyone, whether or not exposed to the virus.

This broad set of measures includes avoiding hand shakes, crowds, staying at least 2 meters (6 feet) away from people, and, most importantly, staying at home if you feel sick.

#StopTheSpread  
Source: [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)



#### What is Isolation?

A diagnosis of Covid-19 triggers isolation. Isolation is for those who are already sick and serves to keep the infected away from healthy people in order to stop the spread of the virus.

#StopTheSpread  
Source: [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)



#### What is Quarantine?

Quarantines are put on groups and communities to separate and restrict the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

#StopTheSpread  
Source: [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)



"Together, Let's Move  
Mississippi Forward!"

BENNIE  
THOMPSON 

RE-ELECT Bennie Thompson  
Don't forget to Vote!!!

November 3, 2020

[bennie\\_thompson@bellsouth.net](mailto:bennie_thompson@bellsouth.net)

(601)866-9100 or 1(866)423-6643

[benniethompson.com](http://benniethompson.com)

Paid for by Friends of Bennie Thompson



# **“Putting Victims First”**

## **Mississippi Department of Corrections**

### **Division of Victim Services**



The Division of Victim Services (DVS) at the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) offers a wide range of services to registered victims.

Victims can register with DVS to stay informed regarding any changes to an offender's status, to include: releases, transfers, movements, and hearings before Mississippi State Parole Board. In addition, registered victims will receive a welcome package with information on the Crime Victim Bill of Rights as well as the Victim Compensation Fund.

**Stay informed. All registrations are confidential.**

**Contact:**

**DVS Director:** 601-359-5628

**Victim Advocate:** 601-359-3752

**Victim Advocate (Parole):** 601-359-5751

**MS SAVIN Director:** 601-359-5759

**Email:** [victimservices@mdoc.state.ms.us](mailto:victimservices@mdoc.state.ms.us)

**Visit us on the web:** [www.mdoc.ms.gov](http://www.mdoc.ms.gov)

**Or use QR code:**

