

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL MOTHERS

THE MISSISSIPPI LINK DEDICATES THIS ISSUE TO NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

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# St. Dominic nurses respond to MS Link inquiries

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

National Nurses Week is celebrated annually in order to raise awareness of the important role nurses play in society. Many events such as banquets and seminars, which are normally associated with this celebration, have been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Mississippi Link wanted our readers to know that we appreciate the hard work and dedication of nurses and therefore decided to dedicate this week's publication to National Nurses Week.

Andrea Farmer, senior marketing specialist at St. Dominic's, introduced us to two registered nurses that took time out of their busy schedules to respond to three inquiries, namely, #1: Describe how COVID-19 has changed your normal work routine; #2: Share any patient to nurse relationship encountered during a work day; #3: What do you like about being a nurse and what influenced you to choose nursing as a career? In their own words:

Latiah Smith-McWilliams, RN-BSN Clinic Team – St. Dominic's Family Medicine – Madison was the first to respond.

"COVID-19 has altered the way things function at work. In the past, a typical day at St. Dominic's was preparing the clinic to



Smith-McWilliams

care for patients. Now, St. Dominic's staff are calling multiple patients daily to offer virtual visits to ensure CDC recommendations and guidelines are followed. It is our obligation at St. Dominic's to offer virtual visits to guarantee patient safety.

"During COVID-19, patients at St. Dominic's have been so kind and encouraging. As I communicate with patients daily, I hear encouraging words like, "Thank you for your service." And "I appreciate you for what you do." These

few words motivate me every day to come to work and give my all.

"In nursing school, my instructors emphasized how it is necessary to love being a nurse because challenging situations may arise that can be discouraging. I have fallen in love with my career at St. Dominic's. I have yet to regret the decision of becoming a "health-care hero." This may sound like a cliché, but I became a nurse because I truly enjoy caring for people. The satisfaction on the patients' faces when I care for them



Alias

is rewarding. I honestly could not see myself working in another field."

Anne Marie Alias, RN-BSN, Emergency Department, St. Dominic's Hospital, offered a glimpse into a day in her department.

"Each ED shift begins with changing into scrubs that we wear and leave at the hospital at the end of our shift. Then we go over assignments and a rundown of current status. For the rest of the shift,

St. Domonic's  
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# Meridian area nursing students ready to take on COVID-19

By Bianca Moorman  
Meridian, Mississippi (AP)

Even at a young age, Parker Rigby knew that working in the medical field was for him.

Now, as a young adult, the spread of the coronavirus isn't deterring Rigby from entering the nursing field.

"I think that any student that signs up to be a nurse, we kind of know what we're getting into, regardless of what disease the patient might have," said Rigby, 21. "This is what we signed up to do – we signed up to help people. That's the risk I'm willing to take."

Rigby, who will soon graduate from Meridian Community College, is one of many students across the country stepping into the field at a challenging time for health-care workers.

Some may be scared, but Rigby is ready to get to work. "We've been waiting on this since we started," he said.

Jacob Whitney, who started the nursing program at MCC in August 2018, said applying the skills he's learned in the classroom will be challenging, as he shifts from theory to real world medical care.

"When you make the transition during the middle of the

pandemic, it can be daunting, but exciting at the same time," said Whitney, who described nursing as a calling, and not just a job.

"You are placing yourself in a high-risk situation, while other people or other careers don't take on that responsibility," he said.

"To me, it's an honor to enter my nursing career during this time, because this is a very challenging time," Whitney said. "If you can make it in the challenging moments, you can make it in the moments that are not so challenging."

Whitney said he is ready to help, but getting to work may take a while, as he'll have to get certified with the Mississippi Board of Nursing.

The testing process might take longer because of restrictions on the number of people who can take the test at one time, he said.

Whitney's classmate Braxton Beech has been in the nursing program for three years, fulfilling a passion he's had since high school.

"I'm definitely anxious to see how my career will start, being that it will start during

Meridian  
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# Nurses' Appreciation Week: Nurses continue to fight on the frontlines even at nursing homes

By Morgan Bridgeman  
Student Writer, ASU



The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the scope of how this country and even the rest of the world operates, especially in the medical field.

These medical professionals on the front lines have had to find alternative ways to treat these patients while keeping both parties safe. These alternative methods have not only been established in hospitals but also in nursing homes.

Nursing homes such as Clinton HealthCare, LLC in Clinton, Mississippi, have made strides to keep their residents safe such as allow-

ing no visitors in the facility at this time. These actions have been in place since day one to be in accordance with Gov. Reeves' and the CDC's guidelines.

The nurses at Clinton HealthCare, LLC have been leading the fight in the cause for resident safety. They have been proactive in making sure they do not spread any germs to residents who are more at risk to contracting the virus while also treating them with the level of care that each individual resident needs.

"Resident care is still the number one priority but we have to be even more cautious now. We still try to be as personable with residents as possible but now it is from a distance and not up close and personal

as it once was," Director of Nursing Tonja Johnson states.

Johnson acknowledges that certain aspects of nurse care, such as administering medication, still have to be done closely. That is why it is mandatory for all employees to wear masks at all times and for nurses to wear gloves when they are interacting with patients.

The facility has also made it mandatory for employees as well as residents to be screened for symptoms daily at the beginning of every shift using the CDC guidelines. Employees are also required to follow handwashing and sanitizing techniques regularly throughout their

Nurses  
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Inside  
Do the work and follow your dreams



Odetta



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# ASJN gives essentials to senior citizens during pandemic

By Edelia Dr. Jay Carthan  
Guest Writer

COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus, is affecting senior citizens and the African-American community harder than other communities. The Association of South Jackson Neighborhoods (ASJN) decided to do something about it.

On Saturday, May 2, the ASJN held a Senior Give-a-Way at Willowood Community Center located in Ward 4 in South Jackson. Community leaders, elected officials and neighborhood presidents pooled their resources to help local senior citizens affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councilman DeKeither Stamps, Ward 4, stated, “We had initially planned a parade before the Coronavirus pandemic hit, but decided to do a Senior Give-a-Way instead.”

The association originally scheduled their Third Annual South Jackson Proud Parade for Saturday, April 18. However, since the Safer at Home order was signed by Governor Tate Reeves, the association had to do something different. They decided to help the senior citizens in South Jackson by providing them with water, masks, hand sanitizer and gloves, all essential items during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Councilman Aaron Banks, Ward 6, said they are also planning something for the graduating seniors at Forest Hill High School and Windfield High School, both located in South Jackson.

Some of their constituents have



Supervisor Vernon Gavin, Councilman Aaron Banks, Supervisor Credell Calhoun and Councilman DeKeither Stamps prepare to load water for senior citizens.

been affected by the virus.

Banks said, “Bobby Rush was the first person I knew personally that tested positive for the Coronavirus. He has successfully recovered from the virus.”

Representative Ronnie Crudup, District 71, said he personally knows church members who have tested positive for the Coronavirus. “This virus has affected my family and I financially, being that my wife is a beautician.”

President of the Association of South Jackson Neighborhoods Ernest Ward stated, “We would like to thank our sponsors Cigna, Cathead Distillery, McDonald’s, Merritt Health, Walmart, Trustmark, Lowe’s, Clay Law Firm and Home Improvement.” He added, “This would not have been a success without the neighborhood presi-

dents, community leaders and elected officials. Thank you to everyone that pitched in and helped us today.”

Elected officials present included Councilman DeKeither Stamps, Ward 4, Councilman Aaron Banks, Ward 6, Senator David Blount, District 29, Representative Jarvis Dortch, District 66, Representative Stephanie Foster, District 63, Representative Ronnie Crudup, District 71, Supervisor Vern Gavin, District 4, and Supervisor Credell Calhoun, District 3.

To read more about this event and ASJN, visit their website at [www.asjn.org](http://www.asjn.org).



Elected officials are interviewed by the media at the Senior Give a Way.



Volunteers are stuffing the bags to give away to the seniors. Pictured from left to right Emond Thompson, Rev. Barron Banks, Rep. Stephanie Foster, Lee Bernard and Cheri Caradine



Stamps and Bernard load cases of water to be distributed to senior citizens. PHOTOS BY EDELIA CARTHAN



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## Meridian

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the middle of the pandemic,” he said. “I do feel like my teachers at MCC have definitely prepared me for this.”

“I’m ready to step up to the plate and serve my community whenever I can,” Beech emphasized. “You can’t ever be scared – if it’s something that you’ve signed up for, you just have to do it, and be as safe as you can.”

East Mississippi Community College student Jaqulia Lawrence, who works as a licensed practical nurse, said the virus is not keeping her from finishing her courses to become a registered nurse.

## St. Dominic’s

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we take each patient and situation as it comes providing the best care possible. For us in the Emergency Department, COVID-19 hasn’t changed the work that we do or the quality of the care that we provide. It has mostly changed the way we look while we provide it. Our commitment to doing our best for our patients remains the same.

“One of the things I’ve appreciated the most is seeing the creative ways that nurses are finding to help keep patients connected with their loved ones even though they may not be able to be together at the hospital. These are such unusual times. We are using mobile technology like FaceTime in ways we never imagined we would in a care setting.

“This situation has certainly brought our team even closer as we work together to help

Lawrence said she’s already working with COVID-19 patients.

“I wouldn’t say that it really shocked me, but I think so many people who don’t work in the medical field don’t realize the severity and the seriousness of the things we have to deal with every day besides COVID-19,” she said.

Julia Young, a freshman in the nursing program at EMCC, has no plans to change her major.

“It’s concerning,” she said of the pandemic. “But it has not deterred me.”

care for and share with our patients about the things we are doing to keep them safe while they are with us. The masks, gloves, gowns and face shields may look intimidating, but we wear them to protect both our patients and ourselves. Even more than ever, we take the opportunity to share with our patients why we are doing what we do and give them as much comfort and peace of mind as possible in an already challenging time.

“I was drawn to nursing because I love being at the bedside and knowing the things to do to help people when they can’t care for themselves. Being part of the St. Dominic’s team has also been such a blessing with daily moments (like the noon prayer) to pause and remember that we are each serving as part of a ministry of healing.

## Nurses

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work shift.

Since the facility is not accepting visitors at this time, nurses and other staff members have come up with ways to keep residents connected. They have limited in-person doctor visits, unless it’s an emergency, but have instead switched to telehealth appointments with family permission. Residents are allowed to connect to each other with small distance activities.

The facility has also been able to keep their residents connected with their family. Family members are allowed to sit outside the resident’s window as well as video calls. Recently, the facility organized a family parade, and with the help of nurses, where residents were able to sit outside as their loved ones drove around.

“During this pandemic, it is important

that our residents still feel personal connections with their family as well as the staff. The nurses have been really helpful in helping residents still feel engaged,” Social Worker Tonja Bridgeman states.

Clinton HealthCare, LLC is just one of many nursing homes that have developed different methods due to the pandemic. Leading the charge are the nurses who like many others put their lives on the front lines.

During Nurse’s Appreciation Week, now more than ever, we should show nurses appreciation for what they do.

*Morgan Bridgeman, a junior mass communication student at Alcorn State University, is from Jackson, MS. On campus she had a radio show called the Advice Haven with DJ Mo Elise.*



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# H A P P Y

# Nurse's

# Appreciation

# W E E K



## JACKSON-HINDS

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER



# Do the work and follow your dreams

By Julie Ewing  
RN, MS Baptist Medical Center

It's #NursesWeek! I thought it would be fitting to take some time to encourage anyone who is thinking about becoming a nurse. A lot of us will share the fruit but won't talk about the labor (no pun intended). So, I'll share some of the setbacks I experienced before becoming a registered nurse.

1. I had to wait one year to get into nursing school. I applied twice and got denied both times at UMC. One year doesn't seem like a long time, but for a girl who already had a BS degree in kinesiology from Mississippi State and was making \$9/hr straight out of college, it felt like forever. During that time, I retook the ACT numerous times with a bunch of teenagers to get a "competitive" score. The highest score I got was a 24. I still felt like that wasn't good enough.

2. I began to consider another nursing school in the Jackson area. I had to take a nursing entrance exam which was a requirement to get into Belhaven University's nursing program (I was sick of standardized tests at this point). Thought that would've stopped me? Nope. I scored the highest score in my nursing class at Belhaven.

3. I passed nursing school with a 3.3 GPA which is pretty decent for nursing school. However, it took me two tries to pass the NCLEX (Nurs-



Ewing, BSN-RN, an accomplished flutist and member of the Jackson Revival Center in Jackson.

ing Licensure Exam). I was devastated that I failed on the first try. I went back and studied some more... this time harder. I retook it almost two months later... I passed.

4. Lastly, working in a specialty like Labor and Delivery was always a dream of mine. I was told by many people that new grads, and especially black girls, didn't get L&D positions. However, I'm two years into working as a Labor and Delivery nurse fresh out of nursing school... and I'm black...with a fro.

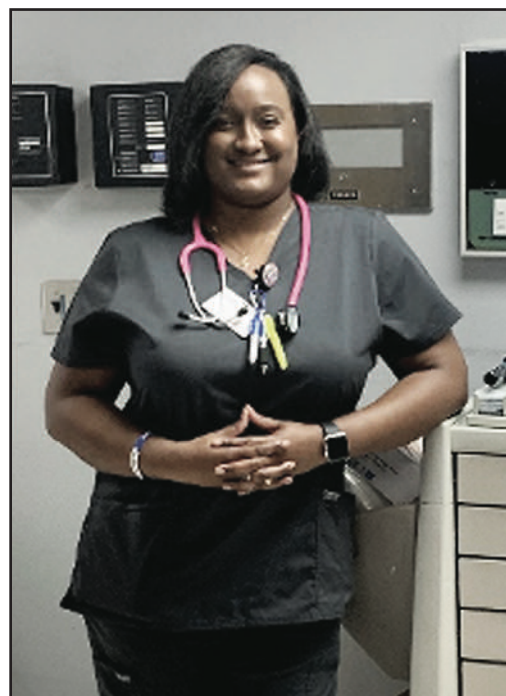
Not once has a patient ever asked me my story. Not once has anyone ever asked me what was my nursing school GPA, or how many times I had to take the NCLEX. My

patients do not care. They just want a good nurse who knows what they're doing. They want to feel safe and want to be well taken care of.

Recently in a local restaurant, a family member of one of my patients who had complications during delivery recognized me and said how much they appreciated my professionalism, care and compassion.

My story is for anyone who wants to become a nurse or for anyone who has a burning desire to achieve something totally unrelated. You may have some setbacks, and it's ok. It's nothing to be ashamed of. If it's in God's will, have faith and it will happen; you just have to do the work.

## Celebrate a NURSE



I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to all nurses for the dedication, hard work and long hours that you put in to keep families healthy.

I would also like to give a special thanks to one of our employees.

Let me introduce you to LaShunn Campbell.

LaShunn is the daughter of Pearlean and Steve Campbell. She is a proud graduate of Forest Hill High School. She has a postsecondary degree from Jackson State University in Biology/Pre-Med and a Masters from Belhaven University. She is a life-long member of Greater Bethlehem Temple Church and a member of Zeta Phi Beta, Sorority, Inc.

LaShunn started at the Hinds County Tax Collector's office 13 years ago as a clerk. She currently serves as a supervisor.

Her dream has always been to care for those who were too weak to care for themselves. This led her to pursue a nursing degree from Hinds Community College. She currently duals as a nurse in the evenings and on weekends.

Thank you for being a frontline hero. Stay healthy and safe!

Eddie J. Fair  
Hinds County Tax Collector



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# A Mother's Day and graduation praise report

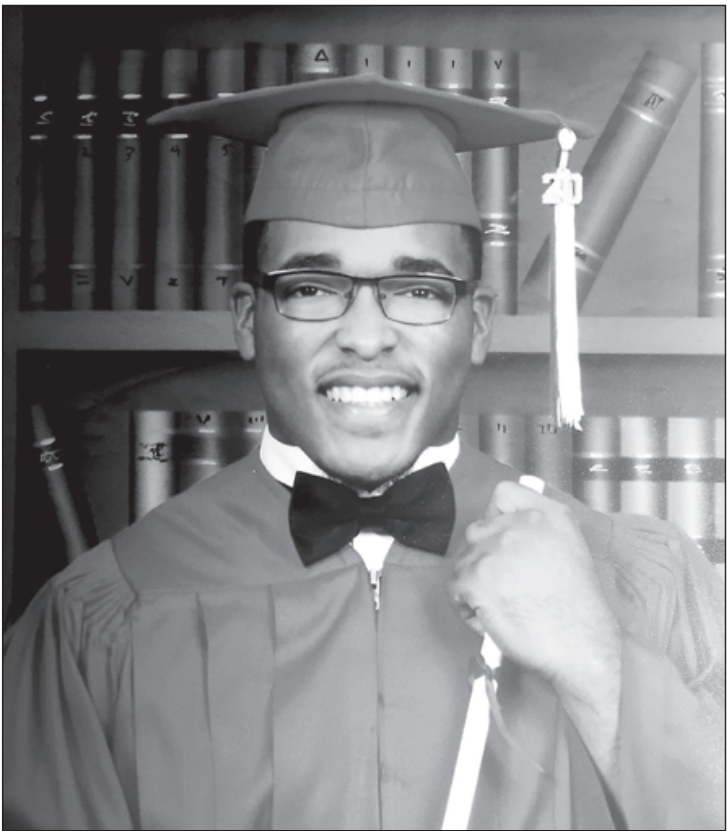
## Another son earns rank as val of his class; being a bookworm pays off

By Candi Wyatt  
Guest Writer

As we approach Mother's Day Sunday in the midst of an uncertain pandemic, one Holmes County, Miss. family has a lot to praise God for; one of which is the fact that they have been blessed with another valedictorian son in the family. Being a book worm has paid off for Isaac Randle Jr. He will graduate at the top of his Jaguar Nation's 2020 Holmes County Central High School (HCHS) graduating class of 184. Such great news, no doubt, overshadows any negativity going on in the world and brings joy to any parents' hearts.

"As the parents of Isaac Randle Jr., first, we would like to thank God for entrusting us with this kind spirit to nourish, care for and to love," said his mother, Matilda Randle. "We are so thankful and proud to say that we are his parents." The Randles, of the Acona community, said Isaac Jr. has always been shy and quiet. "He was drawn towards books, asking questions about things that we thought were absurd at the time. So as he grew up, he continued to stay in the books and set high goals, following in his brother's footsteps," Matilda Randle said. Isaac's brother Jerome Jordan was also the valedictorian of his class. "We always told Isaac Jr. that no one owes you anything in life," said his father Isaac Randle Sr. "You will have to go and get it. We continue to encourage him, sometimes push him by telling him he can do anything if he puts his mind to it."

Isaac Jr. parents said how proud they were to see him stay up late nights getting his homework and special projects done. Burning that midnight oil will soon pay off in a big way for this graduating Jaguar. He will attend the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Miss, with a major in accounting. After college, Isaac Jr. plans to take his rightful place in the lucrative accounting field. So far, he has received an Ole Miss Opportunity Scholarship and a grant from the University of Mississippi. The class valedictorian said he is grateful to his parents, family, church members, teachers and friends for their support over the years. "Believe in yourself and you shall succeed," he said. "When I heard that Isaac Jr. was the val of his class, it did not surprise me at all," said Bishop Raymon T. Carter, pastor of the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church. "That young man has always been gifted. He is very active in church and community. He is one of the few youths who will



Isaac Randle Jr.



Matilda Randle

talk back to me in Bible study. We are very proud of him here at Mt. Olive." His classmate Jatoni Donelson said, "Isaac takes his academics very seriously, and that is one thing you [will learn] about Isaac if you don't [learn] anything else." She stressed that he is was "very outgoing and dependable classmate." His teacher R.E. Rand describes him as "truly a diamond in the rough." She said when he entered her AP language and composition class as a sophomore, he was the youngest student among graduating seniors. His drive and tenacity actually soared past the other students in the classroom. His fellow AP classmates were all at the top of their graduating class. "This, however, actually prompted Randle to work even harder to be recognized as an equal in that environment," Rand said. "Another interesting fact is that the intellectual scholar was one of only two males in a classroom filled with Alpha females. Still he was not de-

tered in the least. He pushed even harder to demonstrate his keen intellect." In Issac's spare time, he sings in the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church Choir, takes Taekwondo (1st degree black belt), and lifts weights. At Holmes County Central High School, he was part of the powerlifting team, a member of the ACT 20+ Club, a member of NSHSS (National Society of High School Scholars), president of the Superintendent's Advisory Roundtable Group, a member of the Student Discipline Committee and front office worker. "Always put God first and know that your family loves you," Matilda and Isaac Randle Sr. say they taught their son. This Mother's Day will be an even extra joyous occasion for the Randles with Isaac's good news. The couple are also the proud parents of Jerome Jordan, Lakeyta Jordan, Lasade Regular and Angela Jordan.

# Mississippi set to ease pandemic rules for restaurants

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
Associated Press

Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves said Monday that he will ease some of the restrictions that he imposed on restaurants and outdoor gatherings to slow the spread of the coronavirus, and that the new rules will take effect Thursday. "The threat is not gone. ... We all want to move on, but we must stay vigilant," said Reeves, a Republican. Restaurants will be allowed to open their indoor dining rooms and outdoor seating areas, with each at no more than 50% capacity and with no more than six customers per table. Servers must wear masks, and customers entering restaurants will be asked if they have shown any signs of the virus or have been exposed to anyone who has it. For more than a month, restaurants have been restricted to takeout or delivery. Outdoor gatherings will be

limited to 20 or fewer people, up from the current restriction of 10 or fewer. Reeves said the change could help some youth sports teams get back to practice. The State Health Department said Monday that Mississippi had at least 7,877 confirmed cases and 310 deaths from the coronavirus as of Sunday evening. That was an increase of 327 cases and seven deaths from the previous day. Mississippi's population is about 3 million. The number of infections is thought to be far higher because many people have not been tested, and studies suggest people can be infected with the virus without feeling sick. For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For others, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, the highly contagious virus can

cause severe symptoms and be fatal. The Health Department said Monday that more than 79,000 coronavirus tests had been done in Mississippi as of Sunday. The department said at least 125 cases of the virus had been confirmed in long-term care facilities such as nursing homes. The governor's "safer at home" order started April 27, replacing a stricter stay-at-home order that was in place for more than three weeks. The new order remains in effect until next Monday morning. Reeves eased business restrictions under the "safer at home" order, allowing some to reopen with limits on how many customers may be present. The order allows physicians to start offering some services that had been limited in recent weeks. Barbershops, salons, tattoo parlors and entertainment venues such as movie theaters re-

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# Without more help, black-owned businesses might not survive the pandemic

By Eugene Cornelius Jr.  
*TriceEdneyWire.com*



Black communities in the United States not only represent a disproportionate share of casualties from coronavirus, but they have also been deeply affected by the economic impact of the disease. Longstanding racial discrimination in economic and housing policy has increased their risk for exposure to the virus, as well as the resulting financial crisis.

The economic effects of the pandemic on black communities can be explained by several factors. Almost half of black-owned businesses are in industries that are bearing the brunt of this pandemic, such as administrative and support services, health care, social assistance and retail. These industries not only pose a health risk because of the interaction between workers and customers, they are also especially vulnerable to lower consumer demand due to social distancing measures.

Over 90 percent of small businesses in majority black communities hold cash reserves of fewer than 14 days, so they are more likely to run out of operating funds when customers stay at home. And the most recently available Federal Reserve data shows that black business owners are denied loans at

twice the rate of white owners, so they are more likely to have trouble finding capital to survive the pandemic.

In the face of large-scale shutdowns caused by the COVID-19 crisis, there is a clear need for policies to support small business. But the spending programs passed by Congress thus far have ignored the challenges of capital access facing black-owned firms.

During the first round of funding provided for small businesses, borrowers seeking Paycheck Protection Program loans were required to work with banks already participating in the US Small Business Administration's (SBA) primary loan program, thereby excluding firms that worked with smaller community banks. Moreover, Congress allocated just \$10 million to the Minority Business Development Agency. According to the Center for Responsible Lending, these conditions may have prevented 95 percent of black-owned businesses from receiving loans.

The second round of small business funding assistance specifically set aside \$60 billion for community banks and credit unions that are traditionally a key source of capital for minority-owned firms. However, the measure did not stipulate that minority-owned businesses would have priority access to those funds.

Addressing these short-term lending gaps is crucial to ensuring that black-

owned businesses will stay in business long enough to survive the pandemic. But we must also plan for a long-term recovery that emphasizes inclusion. This will require us to remove historic inequities through targeted support for black-owned businesses and black workers.

We can begin by taking three key steps:

- First, federal and state governments should enact robust credit enhancement programs for minority borrowers. These programs provide incentives for banks to lend to businesses in low-and middle-income areas, allowing more firms to remain open and refrain from laying off workers. In states with existing loan programs that provide credit enhancement, treasury officials should make loans more flexible, easier to access and increase loan guarantees. In others, where credit enhancement programs do not yet exist, treasury officials should create loss reserve funds and collateral support mechanisms, as well as a marketplace to pair pre-qualified lenders with borrowers in need of working capital. State governments can also authorize one-to-one matches for philanthropic funding to expand the pool of available capital.

- Second, credit enhancement programs should also be used to support place-based investment, with a priority on housing and infrastructure in low-

income areas. For example, officials can increase loan guarantees to support construction of housing for individuals earning from 80 percent to 200 percent of the local average median income, or offer special collateral guarantees for minority-owned businesses with revenues under \$5 million to invest in long-term assets.

- Third, place-based investments should emphasize environmental quality in low-income and minority communities through special support for projects with higher air and water quality standards – including the remediation of outdated water infrastructure. Using federal and state loan guarantees to fund these investments will simultaneously support improvements to the health of minority populations and reduce their vulnerability to future health crises.

As we look beyond the pandemic, these steps are crucial for ensuring the American dream is within reach of minorities across the country. By addressing fundamental inequities in our economic system, we can begin to pave a new avenue toward a more prosperous future.

*Eugene Cornelius Jr. is senior director for the Milken Institute Center for Regional Economics. He previously served as a senior official in the U.S. Small Business Administration. This commentary first appeared on CNN.com.*

## Biden wants Michelle Obama as Veep

By Stacy M. Brown  
*NNPA Newswire Correspondent*



Is a return to the White House by the Obama family in the cards?

It can happen if former First Lady Michelle Obama

would accept a public invitation from former Vice President and presumptive Democratic Presidential nominee Joe Biden.

On Tuesday, April 21, Biden said Obama tops his list of potential vice presidential candidates, and the country would be better served if she joined his ticket.

Neither Obama nor her husband, former President Barack Obama, have commented on Biden's statements, which he first made on KDKA television in Pittsburgh.

Remarkably, the comments have not yet gained traction in the media, but a KDKA source pointed NNPA Newswire to the video clip that the station says has gained a lot of momentum in the Pittsburgh area.

"I'd take her in a heartbeat," Biden said of Michelle Obama in the video viewed by NNPA Newswire. "She's brilliant. She knows the way around. She is a wonderful woman. The Obamas are great friends," he said.

Tempering any enthusiasm of a Biden-Obama ticket, Biden added that, "I don't think she has any desire to live near the White House again." He concluded that it's still too early to select a running mate.

During the most recent debate in Washington, D.C., in early March, Biden pledged to select a woman as his running mate. That promise sparked a national discussion about who would best serve as vice president. Among the names bandied about in the media have been California Sen. Kamala Harris, former Georgia Rep. Stacey Abrams and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

"In terms of who to pick, we're just beginning the process," Biden told KDKA. "We'll shortly name the committee to review this and begin to look through the backgrounds of the various potential nominees. And that's just getting underway."

"I'll commit to that being a woman because it is very important that my administration look like the public, look like the nation. There will be a woman of color on the Supreme Court, but that doesn't mean there won't be a vice president, as well," Biden said.

"I think it's really important now that we establish once and for all, we should have had a woman president already, in Hilary (Clinton), in my view," Biden added. "There are a number of qualified women out there."

# Can't make mortgage payment *Watch out for forbearance program pitfalls*

By Emmitt Hayes III, Broker  
*Hayes Realty*



You think, I'll just call the bank and request assistance because you heard about the Forbearance Program. Forbearance is simply an agreement to hold back foreclosure. That has been the common theme during this time of uncertainty. The solution offered, the bank will either temporarily pause or reduce your mortgage payments for 90 days or more. Relief you think, but is this the route to take?

Right now, it's easy to get behind but hard to get caught up. You will need to pay the past due payments from the last 90 days but you think, I will "cross that

bridge when I get to it." The bank is about getting that money so naturally you are required to repay those missed payments back. The big issue is most banks either want you to pay the past due balance in one lump sum or they will tack the past due amount to the back end of your loan and extrapolate it over the course of your 30 year mortgage. It will be very difficult to payback 3 missed payments in one lump sum, especially if you haven't been working over the last few months.

If you get another job with a significant pay increase or if you borrow the money from a family member or friend you may make that lump sum payment. Not realistic options, then you think, "I'll just put it on the back end of my loan." But, in doing so you will end up paying much more than the few thousands in

missed payments over the course of 30 years which then will pick up interest costs.

What needs to be understood is that if you are able to make your mortgage payment then continue making them. Don't just stop making the payments and get in a forbearance program just because the bank is offering it or it seems like an easy way to keep a larger amount of money during this crisis.

Getting behind on your mortgage is the first step towards heading to foreclosure. The key is to look down the road – not just at the current situation. If you can make the next 3 months mortgage payment and pay all your other bills without being in a cash crunch, then that's what you need to do. But, don't fall behind on your largest investment and monthly

payment.

As a former foreclosure specialist at one of the Big 5 banks, I saw time after time that once homeowners got behind on their mortgage they could not recover and a very high percentage of homeowners went into the foreclosure matrix and never came out of it.

A forbearance program is for those who truly can't afford to make their mortgage payment, not for someone who just wants to "save" some money by not paying their mortgage. Don't fall into that Forbearance Program Matrix trap.

*Hayes Realty is a team of former Big 5 Banking Foreclosure specialists located in Los Angeles, CA, committed to helping homeowners win in the real estate market. He may be reached at HayesRealtyLA.com*

# 13-year-old Paris Brown recalls her Coronavirus awakening

By Paris Brown  
*Special to the NNPA Newswire*

My name is Paris Brown. My parents are NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondents Stacy Brown and the awesome Shenay Brown.

I am 13-years old and am privileged to be a member of the National Junior Honor Society. But more importantly, I am privileged to have such a beautiful family.

My oldest sister, Ricki, lives in Las Vegas with her husband Marc, and my niece, Nina. I have a brother, Jordan, who lives in Maryland, and two sisters who live at home with me, Talia and Olivia.

The glue that holds everything together is my parents.

But the coronavirus nearly rup-

tured us in a way that would have been indescribably devastating.

Four months ago, I barely knew what the coronavirus was, and I had no clue it would change everything so drastically.

At the end of December and the beginning of January, all I heard about the virus was memes and people joking around about washing your hands. I didn't realize just how serious it was.

And even when more and more reports of deaths from the virus came piling up, I still didn't take it seriously enough. Then one day, mom said she wasn't feeling good, and that was the start of it all.

In my head, I thought that's just mom being mom. She sometimes

doesn't feel well.

Then when dad got sick, mom stayed in her room, and dad stayed in the basement. I, of course, thought this was unnecessary.

But then they had to rush mom to the hospital because she couldn't breathe.

Then a switch flipped in my head: "This is real, and I need to be taking it seriously."

At first, I didn't know what to do, so I tried to stay away, but that just made me feel guilty.

So, I did the best I could to help them get better. I was okay and getting used to our "system," but deep down, I was terrified.

I didn't have time to be scared because I had a ton of schoolwork to do

(and I still do now), and I had to help take care of them.

You never realize how hard it is to live without the people you love until they're gone. So, when people ask me if I'm bored, I tell them I'm not. All of the schoolwork and cleaning and cooking have kept me distracted in a good way, so I don't freak out and get overwhelmed.

This was definitely an experience I'll never forget because I haven't been able to hug my parents or speak more than a couple of words to them face-to-face.

But it's almost over – they get to come out of quarantine next week. And hopefully, with all of me and my sisters' excitement, they'll feel better than ever.



Paris Brown (at left, pictured with her mother, Shenay) is the daughter of NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondents Stacy and Shenay Brown.



# Mississippi colleges holding virtual commencement for grads

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Commencement ceremonies in Mississippi are looking a bit different than usual as graduates began to receive their degrees via virtual celebrations.

Alcorn State University awarded degrees to 466 students, including 73 graduate degrees, in ceremonies Saturday.

“While no one could have anticipated recent events, I want our graduates and their families to know how excited and proud we are to recognize the hard work and accomplishments of our graduating class,” Alcorn State President Felecia Nave said. “Although we cannot replace the experience of walking across the stage, we hope graduates and their families will still be able to mark and celebrate this very special occasion.”

The university encouraged the students’ friends and relatives to gather online at the university’s website to mark the occasion. Graduates also will be given a chance to walk at a commencement in the future. Each graduate will also receive a package containing a diploma, stole, honor cords, an official transcript, commencement booklet and a commemorative USB drive of the virtual ceremony.

Mississippi State held its graduation ceremony Friday and livestreamed the event to comply with social distancing restrictions in place because of the coronavirus pandemic. The occasion marked just the third time in the university’s 142-year history that a traditional graduation ceremony was not possible, the university said. The Spanish Flu and World War II stopped earlier ceremonies.

“This is not what any of us could have envisioned for the end of the Spring 2020 semester and the completion of an important time in the lives of our graduating class. But we are committed to celebrating our graduates and their accomplishments and wishing them well as they begin careers and assume leadership roles in the world that will make us all proud,” MSU President Mark E. Keenum said in a news release.

Keenum also gave an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree to the Honorable Judge John J. Fraiser Jr., who served in WWII as a member of the 15th Army Air Force.

“Judge Fraiser has spent a lifetime serving the people of Mississippi as an accomplished attorney, county prosecutor and member of the Mississippi Senate,” the university said.

Four Mississippi schools will hold similar ceremonies for their graduates Saturday, May 9.

Mississippi University for Women’s ceremony will be broadcast at 10 a.m. from a link on the university’s website. On Saturday, Aug. 1, May and August graduates will get the opportunity to walk in a traditional ceremony if restrictions from the coronavirus pandemic allow.

Mississippi Valley State University will stream its ceremony on the university’s Facebook and YouTube pages, beginning at 10 a.m.

“Bidding our seniors farewell one final time before they venture off into the world is one of my greatest joys as a university president,” said MVSU President Jerryl Briggs Sr.

During the virtual event, Briggs will address the graduates before conferring degrees. The Spring 2020 Golden Graduates, members of MVSU’s Class of 1970, will also be recognized in honor of their 50th anniversary.

University of Mississippi Chancellor Glenn F. Boyce said the college is committed to honoring its graduates and will recognize their achievements at noon next Saturday.

As part of the virtual celebra-

tion, all graduates will receive an official cap and tassel from the university, along with a few other celebratory items.

“It is important to note that the May 9 event is not intended to replace an in-person ceremony and, in spite of the ongoing uncertainties facing us with the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to explore possible dates for an in-person commencement ceremony,” Boyce said.

Jackson State University’s virtual graduation will be May 9 at noon. Viewers can watch by visiting the JSU website a [www.jsu.edu](http://www.jsu.edu). Acting President Thomas K. Hudson, JD., said the university could not have predicted the global crisis that has brought chaos to normal operations.

“However, our dedicated administrative leaders, academic deans and student leaders collaborated with faculty and staff to acknowledge our graduates’ accomplishments virtually,” Hudson said.

The University of Southern Mississippi tentatively plans ceremonies Aug. 20 for its graduate students on the Hattiesburg campus and Aug. 21 for its undergraduate students. For those students based at USM’s coastal campuses, ceremonies are scheduled for Aug. 22.

# JPS senior wins prestigious national art award and scholarship

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Charles Rounds, a senior graduating from Murrah High School and the visual arts program at Power APAC, has achieved one of the nation’s highest recognitions for high school artists. Rounds is one of 16 recipients of the 2020 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Gold Medal Portfolio. The recognition includes a \$10,000 scholarship that he plans to use to kick-start his dream of becoming an architect. He’ll be starting college at Mississippi State in the fall.

The award was announced just as schools in Mississippi were supposed to be reopening after spring break, which makes his title for one of the works – ‘Abundance of Faith’ – extremely fitting. No less significant is the fact that this also describes his process. To hear him describe it, his creative process and the resulting creations are a form of worship.

“I asked God to just use my hands as a manifestation of His glory,” said Rounds. “Having this faith inside of me that was helping me grow and keep going, even though I was getting kind of discouraged.”

Some of Rounds recent previous accomplishments include:



**Rounds** PHOTO COURTESY JACKSON FREE PRESS

2020 Scholastic Arts & Writing Awards, National Gold and Silver Medals (2 each)

2019 Outstanding Artists of the Future Show, Best of Show

2019 Scholastic Arts & Writing Awards, Mississippi Region Gold Keys (3) and Silver Keys (5)

Besides his faith in God, Rounds also credits his family, some of whom share his passion and talent, and his JPS art teachers Renna Moore and Elise Payne.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the nation’s longest-running and most prestigious scholarship and recognition program for young artists and writers in grades 7–12.

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# Mississippi legislators assert control over virus money

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
Associated Press

Mississippi lawmakers returned to the Capitol Friday and asserted their control in a power struggle with the governor over who has the authority to spend \$1.25 billion the state is receiving from coronavirus relief.

Republicans who lead the House and Senate say the Mississippi Constitution gives spending authority to the Legislature. But, Republican Gov. Tate Reeves says a state law enacted 40 years ago gives the governor some spending power during emergencies.

“The system of government that we have is not a one-man-makes-the-decisions system,” House Speaker Philip Gunn said at a news conference Friday. Gunn was joined by Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann and a bipartisan group of lawmakers.

The House and Senate each met briefly and voted by wide bipartisan margins to pass the same bill. It puts most of the federal relief money into a fund that the Legislature controls. The governor would not lose all power: He would still need to agree to spending plans that lawmakers set, as he does with other parts of the state budget.

Reeves would not immediately say whether he will veto the proposal. But during his own news conference, the governor angrily said that legislators were tying the hands of people responding to the pandemic, including the state health officer and the state emergency management director.

“You care more about power than people,” Reeves said of lawmakers.

Hosemann said the dispute over spending power is urgent because the governor’s office was already seeking proposals from private consultants to manage the relief funds, and the group chosen would be paid a portion of the money.

Reeves said spending the money on consultants would be a good investment. He said if federal relief money is mishandled, Mississippi might have to send some of the money back to the federal government. He said a third-party administrator could talk to the U.S. Treasury Department about legal or accounting questions.

“Some of us are relatively busy right now trying to do other things,” Reeves said.

The legislative session had been on hold since mid-March because of the pandemic. As people entered the Capitol Friday, their temperatures were taken and they were asked questions about whether they had been exposed to the coronavirus or experienced symptoms such as shortness of breath.

The money at the center of the dispute is separate from the payment of unemployment benefits – an issue that has left thousands of people frustrated.

“You know what the real problem is? People can’t get

their unemployment benefits,” Hosemann said.

Mississippi, like other states, has seen a dramatic increase in unemployment claims in recent weeks because of the pandemic. The Mississippi Department of Employment Security has expanded its hours and has brought in more people to handle applications for benefits, but people have experienced long delays and other difficulties in being able to apply.

Hosemann and Gunn had announced earlier this week that the Legislature would return to the Capitol May 18, but plans changed because of the money fight. On Wednesday, they sent a letter to the acting director of the state Department of Finance and Administration telling her to put the \$1.25 billion on hold.

Mississippi is not alone in clashes among top elected officials. In neighboring Louisiana, Republican state lawmakers are considering putting limits on Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards’s emergency decision-making powers amid frustration over his extension of a stay-at-home order in one of the states hardest hit by the virus.

The Mississippi Health Department said Friday that the state had at least 7,212 confirmed cases and 281 deaths from the coronavirus as of Thursday evening. That was an increase of 397 cases and 20 deaths from the previous day. Mississippi’s population is about 3 million.

The number of infections is thought to be far higher because many people have not been tested, and studies suggest people can be infected with the virus without feeling sick. For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For others, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, the highly contagious virus can cause severe symptoms and be fatal.

The Health Department said Friday at least 71,548 coronavirus tests had been done in Mississippi. The department said at least 825 cases of the virus had been confirmed in long-term care facilities such as nursing homes.

The governor’s “safer at home” order started Monday, replacing a stricter stay-at-home order that was in place for more than three weeks. The new order remains in effect until the morning of May 11.

Reeves eased business restrictions under the current order, allowing some to reopen with limits on how many customers may be present. In addition to letting more businesses reopen, it allows physicians to start offering some services that had been limited in recent weeks. Restaurants are still restricted to carry-out or delivery. Barber shops, salons, tattoo parlors and entertainment venues such as movie theaters remain closed. Gatherings of 10 or more people are still banned.

# Mobile COVID-19 testing set for Panola, Benton and Jasper counties

*Mississippi residents with virus symptoms are urged to use C Spire smartphone app for screening to be tested*

## Mississippi Link Newswire

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

These sites join others that were scheduled for this week, previously announced in Adams, Attala, Noxubee, Claiborne, Desoto, Neshoba, Monroe and Clarke counties.

Anyone can be tested who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, cough, shortness of breath or sore throat; or who has a known or potential exposure to someone confirmed with the virus.

Those who want to be tested must first get an appointment by going through a free screening from a UMMC clinician, either through the C Spire Health telehealth smartphone app or by phone. 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.-8 p.m.

The newest testing site for Friday, May 8:

- Panola County: Panola Civic Center, 290 Civic Center Drive, Batesville
- The newest testing sites for Saturday, May 9:
  - Benton County: Benton County Courthouse, 190 Ripley Ave., Ashland
  - Jasper County: Jasper County EMA, 37 W. Eighth Ave., Bay Springs

Previously announced testing sites for Wednesday, May 6:

- Desoto County: Landers Center, 4560 Venture Drive, Southaven

- Neshoba County: Neshoba County Coliseum, 1200 Highway 15 North, Philadelphia

The previously announced testing site for Thursday, May 7:

- Monroe County: Becker Community Center, 52246 Highway 25, Amory

The previously announced testing site for Friday, May 8:

- Clarke County: Clarke County EMA, 642 S. Archusa Ave., Quitman

Mobile COVID-19 testing set for Panola, Benton and Jasper counties

Testing hours are noon-4 p.m. Only those with appointments will be tested.

Hundreds of people in Mississippi communities have taken advantage of the UMMC/MSDH drive-through collection sites. Those numbers include, as of the end of the day May 4, a total 1,459 people at 44 one-day testing states statewide, plus another 3,551 at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds, for a total of 5,010 tested.

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and the Mississippi National Guard are partnering with UMMC and MSDH to coordinate mobile testing sites. UMMC and C Spire have partnered to make the screening free to all Mississippians.

During drive-through testing, health care professionals will collect specimen samples via a nose swab. Those being tested will not exit their vehicle.

*Those without smartphones who want to be screened for testing can call 601 496-7200.*

# Connectivity in Mississippi cannot wait

## Mississippi Link Newswire

If the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us anything in these last several months, it is that getting every Mississippian connected with adequate internet speeds is crucial for the future success of our state. Educational institutions and businesses alike have worked tirelessly to find solutions that allow teachers, students and employees to work safely from home only to find in many instances that homes do not have speeds necessary to complete school work or coordinate with industry networks.

While these have been quite difficult times for many, they have further brought this issue to

light as well as presented several opportunities in which state and federal leadership can act on this year to make a real, tangible difference. The time is now.

This January, the FCC passed the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund which allocated over \$20 billion in funding for broadband infrastructure. Reports show that Mississippi could be eligible for nearly \$950 million. The money will be awarded to providers in a competitive auction process to serve areas that have zero access to speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. The auction is set to begin in October, however there are projects that are shovel-ready today.

Last week, Mississippi Public Service Commissioners sent a letter to federal leadership urging them to accelerate this process, particularly in areas where work could begin if the funds were sent down.

On the state level, a short-term solution is the assistance to states through the CARES Act. Mississippi will receive \$1.2 billion in federal relief, some of which should be allocated toward broadband. The largest barrier in providing access is up-front investment for infrastructure. These two avenues accompanied with significant funding for investment in 5G technologies, could give us a jumpstart as we

move into a post-COVID-19 world.

In these uncertain times, one thing is certain. The world is interconnected in many ways, and the future of information, education, work, health care, social connection and entertainment are all tied to broadband internet access.

The COVID-19 crisis accentuates an issue we have known for some time. For our kids to have the same educational opportunity, for our young adults to find work without moving away from their community, for our elderly to receive quality health care, Mississippi needs broadband internet.

The Mississippi Link™

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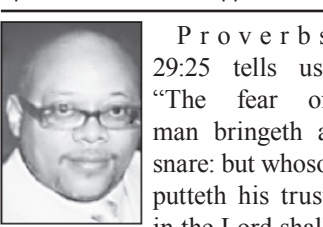
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# Seek the Lord while you still have the opportunity

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



Proverbs 29:25 tells us, “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.” Some people fear man more than they fear God. Some men even fear their wives: “If you go to that Church, I’ll leave you.” On the other hand, some men have the wife held in a cage where she cannot really do what the Lord tells her to do. Friend, you do not need to be in bondage or in captivity. First John 4:18 reads, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.” I am glad for the freedom in Christ and for fellowship with the saints.

In Matthew, Chapter 22, Jesus told a parable likening the Kingdom of God to a certain king who sent forth his servants to call people to the wedding of his son. When the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man who did not have on the wedding garment. In essence, he said, “Friend, why are you here without a wedding garment?” The man was speechless, so the king told his servants, “Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Are you wearing the beautiful wedding garment? That man had as much chance as anyone else to have on the wedding garment. Isaiah 4:2 reads, “In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them

that are escaped of Israel.” Who can stand the everlasting burning and the spirit of judgment? In this city of God the spirit of judgment puts fire on Babylon, and the city of Babylon burns. Do you know what we are to do in this evening time? We are to give Babylon a double cup. Your works will be tried by fire. God’s people are a separate people, dead to sin, crying out against sin and living for God. Psalm 15:1 asks, “Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?” God lets us know who is in there: he who walks uprightly. Are you willing to give up things to be a part of the church? God will give you strength to give up whatever you need to, but your mind and flesh will say no. Is there anything you need to give up? Are you coming short of the light,

coming short of really being what you ought to be for God? Someone may say, “Oh, I used to be more spiritual, but I have drifted a little and have gotten into the fashions of the world.” It breaks my heart to see those who were once on fire for God but today they are decked out like the world. At one time, they had fiery testimonies and shouted praises to God when the truth was preached, but now they never even come around the Church of God. If you are not where you know you ought to be spiritually, won’t you seek the Lord while you still have the opportunity? 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.

## P R E S E R V E D A Mother’s wisdom

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



In honor of Mother’s Day, I’d like to share two of my favorite writings about mothers. The first is written by my friend and local author Lisa-Lin Burke. The other is timeless “mother” wisdom from a few years ago. My hope is that by sharing both, we are reminded to honor those mothers, mother figures and even men acting as mothers who have made a positive difference in our lives. In this very poignant piece, Lisa-Lin shares how Mother’s Day may not be a day of celebration for her and others whose mothers are deceased. Whether your mother is deceased or alive, she shows why it is important to be thankful for the blessings mothers are. “Mother’s Day: my day of dread. The card aisle was to be avoided, like poison ivy. Envy, not blood, flowed through my veins when I watched daughters and mothers. They talked, laughed and loved together. Did they know how lucky they were? I did. My mother died when I was thirteen. Mother’s Day became just another Sunday without football. Twenty years after her death, I began to ask myself questions. Did I honestly blame her passing for my every stumble? Why not try to embrace her death? Could I learn from her life to live my own? The Word helped me find solace with Psalms 121 (NIV): I lift up my eyes to the hills-where does my help come from? I knew Who I had to trust. The road had its bumps and curves. I almost gave up, but He stayed with me. I bloomed into a woman I prayed my mother would be proud of. Mother’s Day was no longer my day of dread. She taught me the changes a young girl goes through are a celebration.

Each night ended with her words, “Mama love.” The card aisle isn’t poison ivy anymore. Now I pick the perfect one. It’s signed with love and then tucked away with the others. Life on Earth with my mother was too short. Our time together was more valuable than rubies. Remember to treat your mother like the queen she is. You are the jewel in her crown. Not only on Mother’s Day, but always. My mother’s spirit dances within me every second, every minute, every day. I am truly blessed.”—Lisa-Lin Burke A Mother’s Wisdom: Have faith in God regarding your relationship, but don’t let faith make you stupid. God does things decent and in order. Don’t settle ... If you settle for less than what you deserve, you get less than what you settled for. Be honest and upfront. Demand respect and if he/she can’t give it, he/she can’t have you! Learn to give up your lifelong task of trying to make someone unavailable-available, someone un-giving-giving and someone un-loving-loving. Slower is better. Here are a few scriptures about mothers to meditate this Mother’s Day. Proverbs 31:28 Her children arise and call her blessed; Proverbs 1:8-9 Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck. Happy Mother’s Day! Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of “Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email preservedby-purpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.



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Sunday Worship  
Service 11:15 a.m.  
Followed by  
worship service 12  
Sunday

Wednesday  
Prayer/Bible  
Study 7 p.m.

Rev. Mark Jackson, Pastor  
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LEGAL

Notice of Sale  
Abandoned Vehicle

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.  
  
2005 Honda Accord 1HGCM66575A079869  
Registered to Beale Shanna  
Date of Sale: 5/15/20  
TitleMax Financial, Lien Holder  
Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services;  
6700 Medgar Evers Blvd.,  
Jackson, MS 39213  
  
Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids. Time: 10:00 A.M.

4-23-2020, 4-30-2020, 5-7-2020

LEGAL

Notice of Sale  
Abandoned Vehicle

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.  
  
2007 Toyota CMB 4T1BE46K37U694031  
Registered to Shirley Chasity  
Date of Sale: 5/15/20  
TitleMax Financial, Lien Holder  
Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services;  
6700 Medgar Evers Blvd.,  
Jackson, MS 39213  
  
Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids. Time: 10:00 A.M.

4-23-2020, 4-30-2020, 5-7-2020

LEGAL

Request for Proposal (RFP)#2020-01  
Transportation Plan Study

The City of Jackson (the “City”), through its Department of Planning and Development, Office of Transportation, is soliciting proposals to retain the services of a consultant team to provide professional services to develop a transportation plan that provides a long-range vision aimed at reshaping its public transit network, supporting a multitude of mobility options, enhancing major public transportation corridors, and integrating land-use policies with a well-connected transportation system.  
  
Interested firms may obtain a copy of a detailed Request for Proposals, and any proposal addenda by emailing [mguice@jacksonms.gov](mailto:mguice@jacksonms.gov). Official proposal documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Please reference RFP#2020-01.  
  
Six copies of the offeror’s Proposal together with a PDF file of the Proposal on a flash drive shall be deposited with the City of Jackson, Office of City Clerk at 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39205 until Tuesday, June 9, 2020 by 3:30 pm, Central Standard Time (CST). Electronic bids and/or reverse auction bids can be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814. Submittals received after the specified date and time shall not be accepted.

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 proposer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan with the proposal submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a proposer from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1856. Copies of the City of Jackson's Executive. Order, EBO Plan Applications, and a copy of the program are available at the following location: 200 South President Street, Room 223, Jackson, Mississippi.  
  
The City of Jackson, Mississippi is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City of Jackson encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City of Jackson, as well as those who seek to contract with the City of Jackson on various projects and/or conduct business in Jackson to assist the City of Jackson in achieving its goal by strongly considering City of Jackson residents for employment opportunities.  
  
The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.

LEGAL

Advertisement for Bid  
Bid 3131 Hardy Middle School Restroom Renovations

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) June 05, 2020, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project Hardy Middle School Restroom Renovations will be held at 545 Ellis Avenue, Jackson, MS on May 18, 2020 at 10:30 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.  
  
Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at [www.jpdsmsprojects.com](http://www.jpdsmsprojects.com). A \$ 100.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each printed set of bid specs/documents. A \$100.00 Nonrefundable deposit shall be required on each digital PDF set of bid specs/documents. Documents must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Krystal Lamm at Duvall Decker Architects, Phone: 601-713-1128 or Email: [kl@duvalldecker.com](mailto:kl@duvalldecker.com).

5-7-2020, 5-14-2020

LEGAL

Advertisement for Bids  
Bid 3132 Child Nutrition Warehouse Food Products  
Bid 3133 Child Nutrition Warehouse Paper & Stock Supplies

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) May 27, 2020, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened  
  
Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing [jewalker@jackson.k12.ms.us](mailto:jewalker@jackson.k12.ms.us), calling (601) 960-8799, or documents may be picked up at the above address or downloaded from JPS website at [www.jackson.k12.ms.us](http://www.jackson.k12.ms.us)

5-7-2020, 5-14-2020

LEGAL

Advertisement for Bid  
Bid 3130 Capital City Alternative School  
Site Drainage and Foundation Repairs

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) June 03, 2020, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning Capital City Site Drainage and Foundation Repairs will be held at 2221 Boling Street, on May 15, 2020 at 1:30 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.  
  
Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at [www.jpdsmsprojects.com](http://www.jpdsmsprojects.com). A \$100.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each printed set of bid specs/documents. A \$100.00 Nonrefundable deposit shall be required on each digital PDF set of bid specs/documents. Documents must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Krystal Lamm at Duvall Decker Architects, Phone: 601-555-5555 or Email: [kl@duvalldecker.com](mailto:kl@duvalldecker.com).

5-7-2020, 5-14-2020

LEGAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR  
JAN FIRE ALARM SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS  
BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
PROJECT NO. 12100-004-20  
APRIL 29, 2020

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (“JMAA”) requests Proposals (“Proposal”) for JAN Fire Alarm System Improvements for Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport.  
  
JMAA will receive Proposals at the offices of JMAA, Suite 300, Main Terminal Building, Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208, until 3:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on May 18, 2020 (the “Deadline”).  
  
JMAA will not consider any Proposals received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Proposals (“RFP”) is on file and open for public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFP, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents and Criteria for Selection. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Mr. Deuntagus Herndon, JMAA's Procurement Specialist, as follows:  
  
Jackson Municipal Airport Authority  
100 International Drive, Suite 300 (39208)  
Post Office Box 98109  
Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109  
Attention: Deuntagus Herndon, Procurement Specialist  
Telephone No.: (601) 360-8622  
Facsimile No.: (601) 939-3713  
E-Mail: [dherndon@jmaa.com](mailto:dherndon@jmaa.com)

or from JMAA's website at <https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement/>

Based on the Proposals received, JMAA will select a maximum of three (3) Respondents with whom to enter into negotiations to provide the Services. JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent ranked first on the list. If such negotiations fail to produce an agreement in form and content, satisfactory to JMAA, within a reasonable period of time, then JMAA may reject the first-ranked Respondent and follow the same process with the other Respondents, in the order of their ranking, until a Respondent agrees to and enters into an agreement satisfactory to JMAA.  
  
JMAA will hold a Pre-Submission Conference at 10:00 a.m. Central Standard Time on May 11, 2020, in the Community Room, 3rd Floor Mezzanine Level, at the Main Terminal Building at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, MS 39208. Attendance at the Pre-Submission Conference is highly encouraged for all those interested in submitting Proposals as a Prime Consultant for the Services and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Consultant. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Consultant and Sub-Consultants, as well as the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Submission Conference; and a detailed review of the scope of work. No additional conferences or meetings will be scheduled.  
  
JMAA reserves the right to: (1) reject any and all Proposals, for any reason, any time before execution of a contract with a Respondent selected by JMAA to perform the Services.  
  
There is no DBE participation goal for this RFP.  
  
JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

4-30-2020, 5-7-2020

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Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9
10				11					
12				13					
14				15				16	
17						18	19		
				20	21		22	23	24
26	27	28		29	30				
31			32					33	
34								35	
36								37	

ACROSS

1. Teaspoon (abbr.)  
4. Barrier made of trees  
10. Terminal abbr.  
11. Iodine compound  
12. Build up  
13. What a student does  
14. Honor  
16. Yea  
17. Baths  
18. White House locale  
20. Compass point  
22. Air (prefix)  
26. Touch affectionately  
29. Petroleum worker  
31. On the ship  
33. \_\_\_ A Small World...  
34. What a waiter offers you  
35. Ball holder  
36. Solid  
37. Supersonic transport

DOWN

1. Shreds  
2. Throat infection  
3. South American plain  
4. Nearly horizontal entrance  
5. Showed disapproval  
6. Hoopla  
7. Neat  
8. Bored  
9. Meets  
15. Ship initials  
19. Calorie  
21. Earth  
23. Gives off  
24. Merits  
25. Beginning  
26. Standard golf scores  
27. To incite  
28. Meat alternative  
30. Lazily  
32. Sky

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Crossword Solution

T	S	P		A	B	A	T	I	S
E	T	A		I	O	D	I	D	E
A	R	M		D	O	O	D	L	E
R	E	P	U	T	E		Y	E	S
S	P	A	S		D	C			
			S	W		A	E	R	O
P	A	T		O	I	L	M	A	N
A	B	O	A	R	D		I	T	S
R	E	F	I	L	L		T	E	E
S	T	U	R	D	Y		S	S	T

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LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS  
REBID-OB CURTIS WATER TREATMENT PLANT GRAVITY THICKENER #1 AND #2 REHABILITATION PROJECT  
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at the City Clerk's Office located at 219 S. President St., for supplying all labor, materials and equipment as required under the plans and specifications for the construction of OB CURTIS WATER TREATMENT PLANT GRAVITY THICKENER #1 AND #2 REHABILITATION PROJECT, SRF LOAN NO. DWI-L250008-02. Please address envelope to City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205.

The entire project must be completed within (330) calendar days. The contract will be subject to liquidated damages in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per calendar day for each consecutive calendar day in which the contract time is exceeded.

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 an equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a precondition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) plan. Failure to comply with the City's ordinance 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 Michael Davis with the office of Economic Development at (601) 960-1856. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the Program are available at 200 South President Street, Warren Hood Building, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

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.

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, sex, or disability in consideration for an award.

Minority and women's business enterprises are solicited to bid on this contract as prime contractors and are encouraged to make inquiries regarding potential subcontracting opportunities and equipment, material and/or supply needs.

This contract is funded in whole or in part by funds from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 214 (H.R. 3547); therefore, this project must comply with the American Iron and Steel Requirements of the Act.

Any contract or contracts awarded under this invitation for bids are expected to be funded in whole or in part by anticipated funds from the Drinking Water Systems Improvements Revolving Loan Fund (DWSIRLF) loan program from the State of Mississippi. Neither the State of Mississippi, the Local Governments and Rural Water Systems Improvements Board, the MS Department of Health, the MS Commission on Environmental Quality, nor any of their employees, is or will be a party to this invitation for bids or any resulting or related contracts. This procurement will be subject to all applicable sections of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, as they apply to local governments, in accordance with Appendix

D of the DWSIRLF Program Regulations.

The PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

- Office of the MSDH/DWSIRLF Program: located at 570 East Woodrow Wilson, Suite U232, Jackson MS 39215, call Harry Gong, P.E., Project Manager at 601-576-7518.
- Office of the Consulting Engineer: Cornerstone Engineering LLC, located at 710 Northside Drive, Suite A, Clinton, MS 39056, call Mauricka McKenzie, P.E., Project Engineer at 601-473-2403 office. One copy of the Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents may be procured from the Consulting Engineer, upon payment of \$250, none of which is refundable.
- Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

The BID SCHEDULE may be examined at the following locations:

- Mississippi Procurement Technical Assistance Program (MPTAP) Mississippi Development Authority, Minority & Small Business Development Woolfolk Building 501 North West Street, Suite B-01 Jackson, MS 39201 Contact: LaTisha Landing 601-359-3448

The Standard Specifications adopted by the City Council may be procured from the Department of Public Works, if desired upon payment of \$5.00 dollars for each specification.

Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi law and possess a certificate of responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Contractors establishing its classification as to the value and type of construction on which it is authorized to bid. Each bidder must deposit with its proposal, a bid bond or certified check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid for the work, payable to the City of Jackson, as the bid security.

The successful bidder shall furnish a Performance Bond and Payment Bond each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded. Attorneys-in-fact who sign Bid Bonds or Payment Bonds and Performance Bonds must file with each bond a certified and effective dated copy of their power of attorney.

Proposals shall be submitted in triplicate, sealed and deposited with the City of Jackson's City Clerk prior to the hour and date designated above. Each bidder shall write its certificate of responsibility number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing its proposal.

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

Robert K. Miller  
Director, Department of Public Works

5-7-2020, 5-14-2020

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Week of May 03, 2020



# Black-owned newspapers and media companies are small businesses too



By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

Publishers of black-owned community newspapers, including Janis Ware of the *Atlanta Voice*, Cheryl Smith of *Texas Metro News*, Chris Bennett of the *Seattle Medium*, Denise Rolark Barnes of the *Washington Informer*, and Brenda Andrews of the *New Journal & Guide* in Virginia, are desperately trying to avoid shuttering operations.

On April 29, Barnes, Andrews, Bennett and Ware participated in a special livestream broadcast to discuss how their publications are enduring as the pandemic rages on.

In a heartfelt and straight-to-the-point op-ed published recently, Ware explained to her tens of thousands of readers that *The Atlanta Voice* has boldly covered the issues that affect the African-American community.

“Our founders, Mr. J. Lowell Ware and Mr. Ed Clayton, were committed to the mission of being a voice to the voiceless with the motto of, ‘honesty, integrity and truth,’” Ware wrote in an article that underscores the urgency and importance of African-American-owned newspapers during the coronavirus pandemic. Ware has established a COVID-19 news fund and aggregated the *Atlanta Voice*’s novel coronavirus coverage into a special landing page within its website.

To remain afloat, Ware and her fellow publishers know that financial backing and support will be necessary. Following the spread of the pandemic, many advertisers have either paused their ad spending or halted it altogether. And other streams of revenue have also dried up, forcing black-owned publications to find ways to reduce spending and restructure what were already historically tight budgets.

With major companies like Ruth Chris Steakhouse and Pot Belly Sandwiches swooping in and hijacking stimulus money aimed at small businesses, the Black Press – and community-based publishing in general – has been largely left out of the \$350 billion stimulus and Paycheck Protection Program packages.

To make matters worse, there are no guarantees that a second package, specifically focused on small business, will benefit black publishers or other businesses owned by people of color.

Publications like the *New Journal and Guide*, *Washington Informer* (which recently celebrated its 55th anniversary) and

the *Atlanta Voice* have been essential to the communities they serve – and the world at large for 193 years.

Unfortunately for some publishers, the impact of COVID-19 has brought business operations to a near halt. While none are thriving, some publishers have developed ingenious and innovative ways to continue operations.

“Dear World, the entire planet is feeling the devastation of the coronavirus pandemic,” Cheryl Smith of *Texas Metro News* wrote to her readers. “We must be concerned about ourselves, as well as others. You may be aware that the media is considered ‘essential.’ So, guess what? We have a responsibility, a moral obligation to use this status to be a source of information, support and inspiration, just as we are at all other times,” Smith wrote.

Smith’s statements echo the more than 200 African-American owned newspapers in the NNPA family. The majority of the publications are owned and operated by women, and virtually all are family dynasties so rarely seen in the black community.

The contributions of the Black Press remain indelibly associated with the fearlessness, determination and success of Black America.

Those contributions include the works of Frederick Douglass, WEB DuBois, Patrice Lumumba, Kwame Nkrumah and former NNPA Chairman Carlton Goodlett.

Douglas, who helped slaves escape to the North while working with the Underground Railroad, established the abolitionist paper, “*The North Star*,” in Rochester, New York.

He developed it into the most influential black anti-slavery newspaper published during the Antebellum era. *The North Star* denounced slavery and fought for the emancipation of women and other oppressed groups with a motto of “Right is of no Sex – Truth is of no Color; God is the Father of us all, and we are all brethren.”

DuBois, known as the father of modern Pan Africanism, demanded civil rights for blacks but freedom for Africa and an end to capitalism, which he called the cause of racism and all human misery.

Many large news organizations have begun targeting African Americans and other audiences of color by either acquiring black-owned news startups or adding the moniker “Black” to

the end of their brand. However, it was black-owned and operated news organizations that were on the front lines for voting rights, civil rights, ending apartheid, fair pay for all, unionization, education equity, healthcare disparities and many other issues that disproportionately negatively impact African Americans.

Today, the Black Press continues to reach across the ocean where possible to forge coalitions with the growing number of websites and special publications that cover Africa daily from on the continent, *Tennessee Tribune* publisher Rosetta Perry noted.

The evolution of the Black Press, the oldest black business in America, had proprietors take on issues of chattel slavery in the 19th century, Jim Crow segregation and lynching, the great northern migration, the Civil Rights Movement, the transformation from the printing press to the digital age and computerized communication.

With the Plessy vs. Ferguson Supreme Court ruling that said no black man has any rights that a white man must honor, there came a flood of black publications to advocate for black rights and to protest the wrongs done to blacks.

An expose in *Ebony Magazine* in 1965 alerted the world to a black female engineer, Bonnie Bianchi, who was the first woman to graduate from Howard University in electrical engineering.

It was through the pages of the Black Press that the world learned the horrors of what happened to Emmett Till.

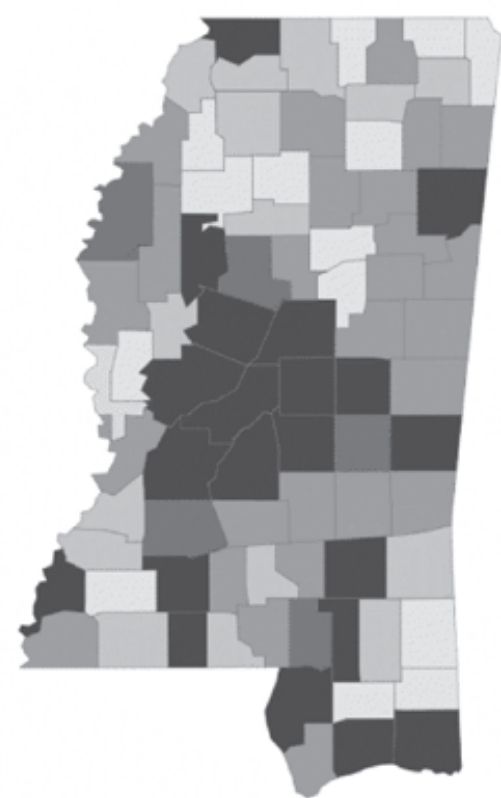
The Black Press continues to tackle domestic and global issues, including the novel coronavirus pandemic and its effects on all citizens – particularly African Americans.

It was through the pages of the Black Press that the world learned that COVID-19 was indeed airborne and that earlier estimates by health experts were wrong when they said the virus could last only up to 20 to 30 minutes on a surface.

Now, it’s universally recognized that the virus can last for hours on a surface and in the air.

“A few short weeks ago, life as we know it, was pretty different,” Ware told her readers. “These are unprecedented times, and we are working around the clock to provide the best possible coverage, sometimes taking risks to keep Metro Atlanta informed.”

Mississippi COVID-19  
Cases and Deaths by Race with Ethnicity  
as of 6 pm CT, May 5, 2020



● 1 to 25 ● 26 to 50 ● 51 to 100 ● 101 to 150 ● > 150

Total Cases			
	Black	White	Other*
Non Hispanic	3,878	2,290	262
Hispanic	11	101	315
Under Investigation**	1,567		

Total Deaths			
	Black	White	Other*
Non Hispanic	170	129	6
Hispanic	1	2	2
Under Investigation**	64		

\* Other includes American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian  
\*\* Under investigation includes all Race and Ethnicity definitions

Today MSDH is reporting 217 new cases of COVID-19 in Mississippi and 32 new deaths (including 5 from prior weeks identified through death certificate investigation). Mississippi’s total of COVID-19 cases since March 11 now stands at 8,424, with 374 deaths. The number of Mississippians currently hospitalized with confirmed COVID-19 infection has fallen to 427.

43 of the new cases reported today were among residents in long-term care facilities, and there are now 117 active outbreaks of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities (where an outbreak is one or more cases among residents or staff).

Total individuals tested for COVID-19 in Mississippi has now crossed the 80,000 mark, with almost 20,000 of those coming in the past week. Look for testing providers and free testing near you at <http://HealthyMS.com/covid19test>

More details of COVID-19 in the state, along with preventive steps to take against coronavirus, are online at <http://HealthyMS.com/covid-19>

The Mississippi Coronavirus Hotline is the best way to get your questions about COVID-19 answered. Call 877-978-6453 from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week.

The latest state map shows Mississippi’s case total as reported at 6 p.m. last night.

## U.S. Department of Labor’s OSHA and CDC issue interim guidance to protect workers in meatpacking and processing industries

Mississippi Link Newswire

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have released joint coronavirus-related interim guidance for meatpacking and meat processing workers and employers – including those involved in beef, pork and poultry operations. The guidance includes recommended actions employers can take to reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus.

“As essential workers, those in the meatpacking and processing industries need to be protected from coronavirus for their own safety and health,” said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Loren Sweatt. “OSHA’s newest guidance document outlines steps employers can take to provide a safe and healthy workplace for workers in the meatpacking and processing industries.”

The coronavirus has affected many meat and poultry processing facility workers in plants in several U.S. states. While the meat products these workers handle do not expose them to the coronavirus, close contact with coworkers and supervisors may contribute to their potential exposures.

The interim guidance from OSHA and the CDC includes information regarding:

Cleaning of shared meatpacking and pro-

cessing tools;

Screening employees for the coronavirus before they enter work facilities;

Managing workers who are showing symptoms of the coronavirus;

Implementing appropriate engineering, administrative and work practice controls;

Using appropriate personal protective equipment, and;

Practicing social distancing at the workplace.

Visit OSHA’s coronavirus webpage frequently for updates. For further information about the coronavirus, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA’s role is to help ensure these conditions for America’s working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. *For more information, visit [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).*

The mission of the Department of Labor is to foster, promote and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.





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BOOK REVIEW:

ODETTA: A LIFE IN MUSIC AND PROTEST

BY IAN ZACK

C.2020, BEACON PRESS

\$28.95 / \$38.95 CANADA • 288 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

The first note had your foot tapping.

It didn’t stop until the set was over or the LP needed flipping. The song moved you; those words meant everything. And the singer of those tunes? She was the entire reason those notes were worth listening to. In the new book “Odetta” by Ian Zack, you’ll find out why so few know her name.

From the time she was old enough to talk, Odetta Holmes could sing.

She was born on New Year’s Eve 1930 to a mother who didn’t want her and a father she didn’t meet until she was in grade school. She was a big girl, and always self-conscious of it; on the day she met her father, he mentioned her size, which embarrassed her enough for the story to carry into her adulthood.

But the big girl had an even bigger talent.

Shortly after her mother remarried and Odetta gained a stepfather and a new surname, money was found for piano lessons. Odetta enjoyed the piano

but it was her singing voice that most impressed her teacher, who insisted that the girl have a voice coach. Odetta’s school concurred and she was taught to sing operettas and German lieder, instructions that later served her well – although college was where she learned that music and politics together were a powerful force.

Picking up a borrowed guitar and practicing at hootenannys, Odetta shyly began singing prison songs, spirituals, and then-popular folk tunes and protest songs. As her popularity grew,

she became a recording artist, an actor, and a deep inspiration for history’s biggest names and folk music’s best performers, including Paul Simon and Bob Dylan.

Once, she told an interviewer that she didn’t want fame because of the hassle. In the end, Odetta got what she asked for: despite her influential work, she never had a chart-topper or a best-selling record.

The line in the sand could be drawn like this: if you’re a “whatever-music-is-fine” kind of person, then just turn the page. Nothing to see here.

If you consider yourself a major music aficionado and liner-note devotee, though, “Odetta” is your book.

The difference comes in a distinction: Odetta (who professionally used just her first name) never went mainstream despite, as author Ian Zack points out, that her influence peppers music up and down the spectrum over the last forty or fifty years.

Casual readers may never have heard of her; Zack shows instead that they’ve heard her through other artists, and it happened in all the wrong ways. Odetta

wasn’t a destination, in other words; she was the journey.

Like the life of a not-quite-successful musician, however, “Odetta” struggles. Zack seems to have an odd focus on Odetta’s hair, and the point is overly belabored.

There are times, too, when this story drags like back-to-back whole notes, and that’s no fun.

Still, readers who are truly serious about their music will relish “Odetta” as they grab their headphones and an LP to set the mood. If that’s you, consider this book and make note.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

HCSD recognizes Senior Spring Athletes!



Name: Robi Riggins  
School: Raymond High School  
College/Career Program: Hinds Community College (Baseball and Academic Scholarships) majoring in Biology/Pre-Med  
Sport: Baseball  
Favorite HS Memory: The night we beat Clinton as I contributed a base clearing triple.



Name: Robi Riggins  
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Name: Matt Jones  
School: Raymond High School  
College/Career Program: Undecided to date but will be on baseball scholarship (Major- Business Management)  
Sport: Baseball  
Favorite HS Memory: Hitting a triple in the first game of my senior season.



Name: Michael Sloyan  
School: Raymond High School  
College/Career Program: Undecided to date but will be on baseball scholarship. (Major- Business Management)  
Sport: Baseball  
Favorite HS Memory: My favorite memory is moving to Raymond High School and meeting my new coaches and teammates. I was only there for a couple months due to this virus, but they made me a better player and teammate. We had lots of laughs and long practices, but we made the best of them. I wish we could’ve played more than five games with each other, but I’m happy to call them family.



Christian Borders:  
School: Terry High School  
College/Career Program: Undecided  
Sport: Baseball  
Favorite HS Memory: My inside the park home run during the 2019 varsity baseball playoffs on the coast. What made it the most memorable moment was that it was “WJTV’s Baseball Play of The Day.”



Name: Jamal C. Harris  
School: Terry High School  
College/Career Program: Hinds Community College  
Sport: Baseball  
Favorite HS Memory: Hitting my first home run in baseball.



Name: Joshua Parker  
School: Terry High School  
College/Career Program: Mississippi Delta Community College  
Sport: Baseball  
Favorite HS Memory: Playing basketball with the team during the meetings.



Name: Cameron Frost  
School: Terry High School  
College/Career Program: Ole Miss  
Sport: Baseball  
Favorite HS Memory: Making the baseball team in the 8th grade and the trip to the Biloxi tournament my 9th and 12th grade years.

TO All HCSD New Student Enrollees

Beginning May 1, 2020 all new enrollee parents are asked to visit the website at [www.hinds.k12.ms.us](http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us) to complete the new student enrollee survey. Once the survey is complete and submitted, parents will be contact by the school with key details on completing the enrollment process.

Remember: Your child’s JOURNEY to EXCELLENCE starts at Hinds County School District.



Name: Colby Henderson  
School: Terry High School  
College/Career Program: Undecided  
Sport: Baseball  
Favorite High School Memory: Game winning triple vs Raymond





## SAME DAY APPOINTMENTS

# FREE

**COVID-19**  
DRIVE-THRU  
TESTING

**ANTIBODY  
TESTING**

**PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS**  
**601 362 5321, EXT 1179**

**Main Clinic**  
**3502 W. Northside Drive**  
**Jackson, MS**

**Copiah**  
**550 Caldwell Drive**  
**Hazlehurst, MS**

**South Clinic**  
**145 Raymond Road**  
**Jackson, MS**



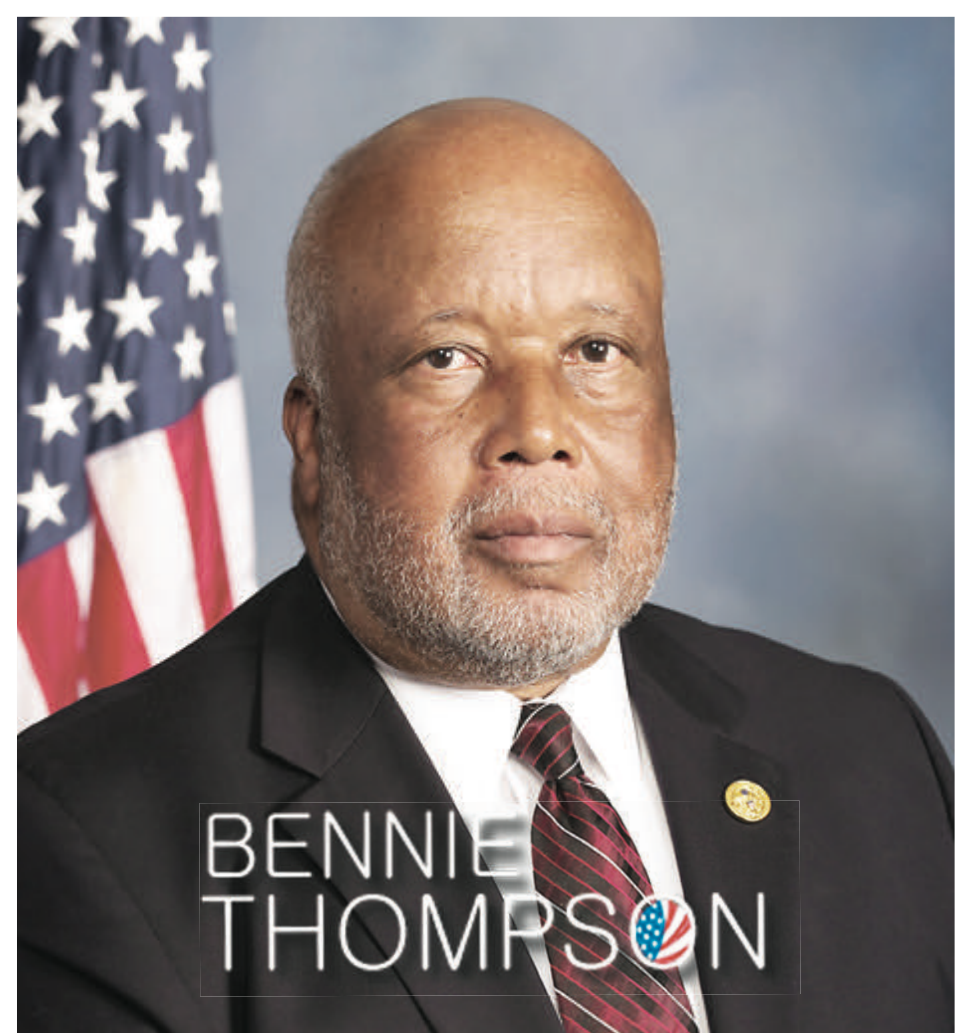
**JACKSON-HINDS**  
COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER



**U. S. Congressman Bennie Thompson Salutes all  
workers in the nursing field  
During National Nurses Week... In time like this we  
need your service more than ever and we thank you  
for being on the 'front line' during this pandemic.**



**President Donald Trump and Governor  
Tate Reeves are not being factual  
with our lives today, they are not  
adhering to the advice of our Medical  
professionals and experts. The  
Coronavirus crisis has profoundly  
impacted every single Americans'  
life: from our vulnerable adults to our  
brave health care workers and those  
on the frontlines. That is why we  
need real leadership ... Democrats.**



**Do you have questions about COVID -19 Stimulus Bill?**

**Please refer to the COVID -19 Stimulus Report on my Congressional website.. [https://benniethompson.house.gov\(Neswletter Archive\)](https://benniethompson.house.gov(Neswletter Archive))**

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

**November 3, 2020**

bennie\_thompson@bellsouth.net  
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benniethompson.com  
Paid for by Friends of Bennie Thompson