

# Prevention in the pews: COVID-19 at GBTC



Smith



Solomon



Moore



Fortson

By **Levell Williams**  
*Online Editor*

Greater Bethlehem Temple Church (GBTC) in Jackson, Miss. is one of many churches that has not returned to its usual capacity because of COVID-19. However, despite the unprecedented changes of the pandemic, the church has far from ceased its service to its congregation and community.

Rather GBTC, where Robert N. Fortson Sr. has served as pastor since 2008, succeeding the late Bishop Phillip Coleman Sr., has shown great ability to adapt with the changing times. Primarily through its YouTube channel, GBTnews, the church has been able to continue delivering live broadcasts of regular church services, including Wednesday Night Bible Study and a youth podcast, “Church Without Walls,” on Friday nights.

GBTC is also acting to address COVID-19 concerns among its constituents. On Wednesday, July 8, the church hosted a special Bible Study, featuring a panel discussion about COVID-19. “[Pastor Fortson] had a great concern for our congregation receiving accurate information about the COVID-19 virus,” said Pastor Marian Solomon, who designed and served on the panel.

**The Spread**

Dr. Leah Smith was the first to speak on the panel, about what exactly COVID-19 is and how it spreads. “There are no cures for viruses,” she said, noting that “vaccinations...can help prevent the spread or medication...can help mitigate the effects.” However, there is not yet a vaccine for COVID-19.

She clarified that there are multiple names for COVID-19,

including Severe Acute Respiratory Coronavirus Two (SARS-CoV-2) and others, but they are all talking about the same virus.

Smith continued, “COVID-19 can last for fourteen days after a person is exposed to the virus or someone with it. The average onset of the disease is four to five days.”

She added, “There are also reports coming out that coronavirus may be airborne. This would mean that even social distancing six feet apart could be inadequate.”

**Health Care Limitations**

Following Dr. Smith was Yolanda Moore, a nurse at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She spoke about the development of COVID-19, testing, and at-risk populations. She also spoke about the struggle to maintain health care capabilities, including limitations

in hospital beds, essential items and personnel.

“There are many testing sites throughout the state,” she said, noting that some may use drive-thru methods and have varying delays for test results. For information about testing, she said the best resources are the Mississippi Department of Health and your health care provider.

“After being tested, you need to go back home and quarantine... as if that test is going to be positive,” she admonished.

She noted that pregnant women have been newly discovered as a group at high risk for COVID-19, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. One study found pregnant women to be 50% more likely to be admitted to the ICU and 70% more likely to receive mechanical

*Pews  
Continued on page 3*

# 30 Mississippi lawmakers test positive for Coronavirus

By **Edelia Dr. Jay Carthan**  
*Contributing Writer*

More than two dozen legislators at the Mississippi Capitol have tested positive for Coronavirus. Governor Tate Reeves said he and his daughters tested negative for the virus and that they had “limited contact with the people who were diagnosed,” according to his tweet.

Dr. Thomas Dobbs, the State Health Officer, said more than 36 people have tested positive for Coronavirus including 30 legislators.

“You can’t put a lot of people together in the middle of the worst pandemic in a century and expect nothing bad to happen,” Dobbs declared during a news briefing.

Leaders of both chambers, Speaker of the House, Philip Gunn and Lt. Governor Delbert Hoseman, are among the lawmakers who tested positive for Coronavirus. Neither Republican leader wore a mask at the bill signing to remove the Confederate flag at the Governor’s mansion last week.

State Representative John Faulkner, a Democrat representing District 5, posted a video on Facebook and announced that he tested positive for COVID-19. In the video, Faulkner said Dr. Dobbs called and told him he tested positive.

“Dr. Dobbs, the top health official for the state of Mississippi, called me this morning to inform me that my results are positive. I am positive for the COVID-19. After talking to Dr. Dobbs, I realized I have maybe what is considered mild symptoms,” Faulkner mentioned in the video.

“It kind of really feels like a sinus infection with an occasional cough. Speaking with him, I think I was exposed maybe a week and a

half ago. I’m hoping the virus has worked itself through my system, and the worst part is over and I’m on the back end of it. That’s what we’re hoping and praying for. I am thankful that I never really felt sick,” Faulkner vocalized in the video.

State Rep. Ronnie Crudup Jr., a Democrat from District 71, posted the following message on his Facebook page, “I wasn’t going to say anything publicly, but after a night of rest, I decided to open up and let people know. I tested positive for the Coronavirus. I was tested on Monday at the Capitol like many others and received the news last night.”

Crudup continued, “I haven’t had many symptoms and I’m doing fine. I’m just isolated in my room for the next two weeks. My wife and children are getting tested tomorrow. They seem fine also, but we need to take the proper precautions. I can honestly say that I wore my mask 95% of the time when I was around the Capitol and public places, but that 5% can make a big difference.”

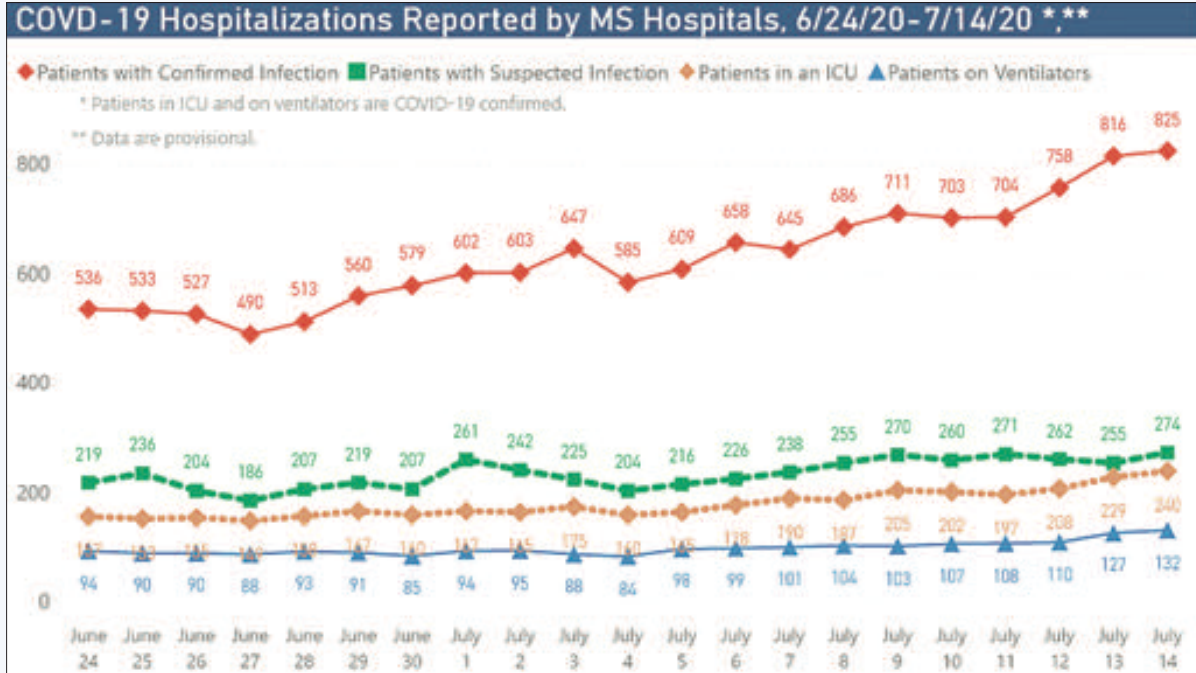
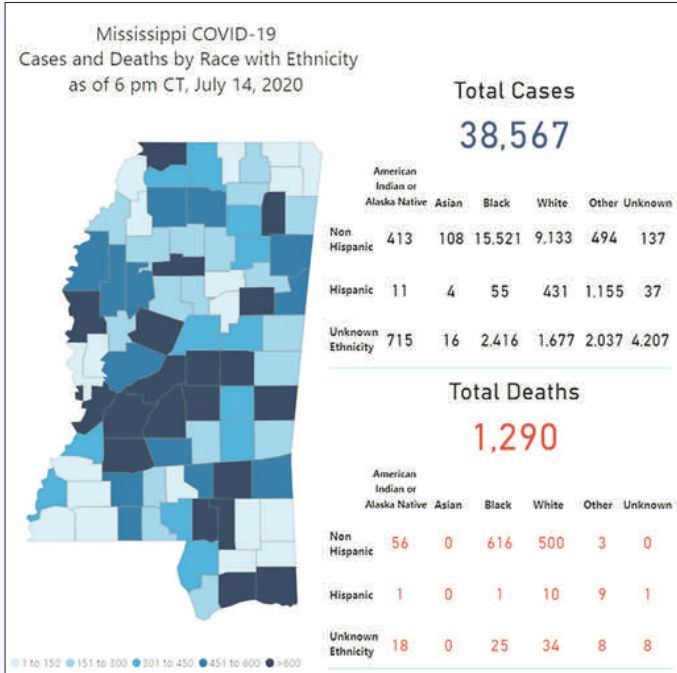
Crudup said his mask may have been the issue. “The mask that I normally wore was a type of sponge mask. It was a nice looking mask, but probably not the safest. I’m sharing all of this to hopefully educate and put a familiar face with the issue at hand,” Crudup added.

State Rep. Earle Banks, a Democrat from District 67, wrote on his Facebook page that “Our count is about 50 members of the House infected not 30. Many do not want to publicize that they are positive.”

His desk mate, Rep. Bo Brown, a Democrat from District 70, also tested positive

*Lawmakers  
Continued on page 3*

## MISSISSIPPI COVID-19 UPDATE





# City of Jackson and MDOT announce groundbreaking for mixed use trail from Fondren to Belhaven

Mississippi Link Newswire

Tuesday, The City of Jackson and the Mississippi Department of Transportation held a groundbreaking ceremony at the Mississippi Farmer's Market on the corner of Jefferson Street and Mississippi Street to commemorate the beginning of the city's construction on the multi-use Museum Trail. The two-and-a-half-mile trail is expected to be complete by the end of October 2020 and will connect the Mississippi Farmers Market and downtown museums to three public parks and the Mississippi Children's Museum. The trail follows the abandoned GM&O Railroad which travels through Greater Belhaven and along the eastern border of LeFleur's Bluff State Park.

"We are grateful to MDOT, the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District, and all of the partners who helped to bring this long-awaited project to fruition. We are excited to break ground on this Museum Trail, which will undoubtedly help to increase the quality of life for our citizens," said Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba. "Constructed specifically for exercise and non-motorized transportation,



Groundbreaking ceremony



Clay Hayes, Jackson Heart Found.

this trail will connect our city to its rich history while positively impacting the health of our citizens and the economic development of our community. Projects like the Museum Trail average a return of three



Mayor Chokwe A. Lumumba

dollars for every dollar invested. Similar projects in Hattiesburg and Memphis, TN have contributed to a significant economic boon for those cities, including new business development, revenue growth for existing busi-



PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

nesses, and an increase in tourism dollars. And, studies have shown that real estate values increase within walking distance of multi-use trails. In addition to the expected increase in revenue for the city, multi-use trails such as this also help to promote a healthier life-

style. The Museum Trail is a core segment in a planned network of trails that will eventually provide safe bicycle and pedestrian travel throughout Greater Jackson. This project is made possible through federal grants in conjunction with the Mississippi

Department of Transportation and the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District, with grant dollars matched by generous financial contributions from the private sector. Additionally, organizations like the Greater Jackson Chamber of Commerce and the Jackson Heart Foundation, along with numerous individuals and volunteers, contributed time and energy over the ten-plus year effort to reach the groundbreaking. Neel-Schaffer serves as the city's engineering consultant and Hemphill Construction is the general contractor. More information on the Museum Trail may be found on the Jxn Trailblazers website or on Facebook @museumtrail



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# Connie Curry, Atlanta civil rights activist, dead at 86

While in the fourth grade in Greensboro, N.C., waiting her turn in the school lunch line, a white classmate of Connie Curry called one of the servers behind the counter a racial slur. Connie's response was startling as a sun-beam.

"This woman," she told the boy, "is just as good as your mother. And you don't talk about mothers in the South that way."

During recess the boy responded by shoving Connie into a puddle, leaving her brand new brown-and-yellow raincoat oozing with mud. It foreshadowed the years she would spend toiling in the trenches of the civil rights movement.

More than seven decades later, she is part of the mural on the Freedom Trail in Atlanta where it crosses the Atlanta Beltline. Curry is placed center-top among the collage of images entitled "Journey to Freedom: Women of the Civil Rights Movement." Hers is the only white face.

Connie's half sister Ann Curry recently found among the activist's personal papers an American Civil Liberties Union pamphlet entitled "Know You're Rights," a primer for young black men on how to react when stopped or arrested by police. This was published in 1966, well over a half-century before the world knew about George Floyd.

Constance Curry, 86, an activist, historian and author and editor of five books died June 20 of complications from sepsis. A service will be delayed because of the cornoavirus.

She was born July 19, 1933, in New Jersey, her family moving to Greensboro when she was in the third grade. In an oral history given to the Atlanta History Center in 2005 Curry points out that she and older sister Eileen were "not raised with the typical Southern white something ... well, prejudice."

Her parents had left Ireland to escape that country's bigotry, her father Ernest arriving at Ellis Island in 1925.

Curry went to Agnes Scott College, all-white school that, in her words, "wasn't particularly liberal." But she became absorbed in racial issues, joined the National Student Association and made friends among the region's historically black colleges and universities.

"I began realizing (the movement) was not only religious, intellectual and historical ... But it affected my life personally. I couldn't eat with my [black] friends [after meetings]. Once you start taking things personally, the passion is enhanced."

In 1960, she was named the first director of the NSA's Southern Student Human Relations



Curry

Project, which opened an Atlanta office. She became an adult advisor to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Curry quickly discovered that civil rights activism wasn't always compatible with a mainstream Atlanta social life, circa 1960. She and three other women shared an apartment on Adair Avenue in Virginia Highland and were delivered an eviction notice.

"Drinking, noise and association with colored men on a social basis are not allowed in this building or on these grounds," the notice said. "Do not have negroes here! Have the apartment vacant by Thursday evening 6 p.m."

From 1964 to 1975, she was a field representative for the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization. She traveled the South securing

grant money for black families to get jobs and food. But her major assignment was investigating reports of intimidation and reprisals against black families attempting to desegregate schools under Civil Right Act of 1964.

In that role she met and grew close to the family of Mae Bertha Carter and her husband Matthew in Mississippi, who fought to get their children into white schools.

When Curry left the AFSC she became Atlanta's director of human services from 1975-90, first under Maynard Jackson and later Andrew Young.

Nancy Boxill, who spent 25 years on the Fulton County Commission, said recently, "Connie basically invented that office. It was basically up to Connie to figure out what people needed, like housing, health care, public safety, food or whatever, and then figuring out how to get it to them."

Curry wrote she "had a long string of crushes, flings, and trysts," but she never married. This essentially met she never stopped fighting injustice according to Benetta Standly, a public policy director for Georgia's ACLU, and a close friend for the last 15 years.

Standly said that many of Curry's concerns remained those she'd been involved with much

of life: reducing the school to prison pipeline, eliminating disproportionate discipline issued to African-Americans students, abolishing the death penalty and securing the right to vote for prisoners. She also, incidentally, graduated from law school at age 50 but seldom practiced except to help get people out of jail.

Judging from her oral histories and writings, perhaps her warmest, and most bittersweet, memory was a brief conversation with Martin Luther King in April 1968, the night prior to his leaving for Memphis where he was assassinated.

"He was having a meeting in the basement of Ebenezer Church," she said. "I went up to him ... He was talking to somebody, shaking hands on the right side and I came up on the left side and he put out his hand to me. He said, 'excuse my left hand Connie, but you know, it is the one closest to my heart.'"

"Those," she said, "were the last words I ever heard from Dr. King."

Connie Curry is survived by her sister Ann Curry (Enoch Hendry), her nephews, Coran Hendry and Walker Hendry (Sara Jane Fogarty), and her step-brothers, Ian Holloway (Debbie) and William Holloway.

A virtual memorial service has been planned.

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# Detroit math teacher’s bedtime stories soothe students during the school shutdown

By Eleanore Catolico  
Mississippi Link Newswire

Every night, Voncile Campbell transforms into a new fantasy character. A little boy hunting for treasure with pirates. An owl playing with a fox. A teddy bear king who can’t fall asleep.

Campbell is a math teacher at Bow Elementary-Middle School in Detroit, and since the school shut down she’s created a new role for herself as a bedtime storyteller.

By posting videos on the school’s Facebook page at 8 p.m. nightly, she’s staying connected to her students and letting them know they’re still with her in spirit during the closure.

“I thought about how we have a low return of homework and students who say that there’s nobody reading to them at home,” she said. “And I really just wanted to do something to connect with my students by reading to them at night because I wanted to show them that I personally am still thinking about them.”

The novel coronavirus pandemic has disrupted students’ routines. They’re disconnected from the classmates and teachers they’re accustomed to seeing every day. For Campbell, telling bedtime stories creates stability and calm during a time of uncertainty.

She begins every video with



Campbell

the same phrase: “Good evening, scholars and friends. It’s time for tonight’s bedtime story.” She recites each line softly and calmly, modifying her vocal level as she embodies each character.

Campbell’s videos are quickly gaining popularity through word of mouth. They’ve collected thousands of views and been shared multiple times in the last week. She’s received a lot of

positive feedback and continues to refine her approach by adding colorful images from the storybooks. A picture from the story pops up on the screen while she reads. She also started dividing the stories into episodes, asking students to email her predictions on what will happen next.

Twila Godfrey, a counselor at Marquette Elementary-Middle School in Detroit, is a close friend of Campbell’s and has a

fourth-grader at Southfield Public Schools.

Godfrey said the bedtime stories are a much-needed escape for her and her daughter.

“It provides a sense of normalcy and calm that our children really need because they’re so uncertain about things that are happening right now. And it kind of takes them back to a place where they feel safe,” she said.

# Mississippi delays start of high school sports amid virus

Associated Press

Fall seasons for public high school sports in Mississippi will be delayed by two weeks because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Mississippi High School Activities Association announced its decision Tuesday, but also emphasized that new information could cause changes later.

Cross country, swimming and volleyball teams can start practicing Aug. 10 and competing Aug. 24.

Football practice can begin Aug. 17. Scrimmages between schools can begin Sept. 4 and games can begin Sept. 11. The organization said football play-off and championship dates in November and December are unchanged. Football games scheduled for the first two weeks of the season will not be made up.

The association’s executive director, Don Hinton, said the

group remains in contact with medical experts, government officials and school administrators about the pandemic. He said “new information can and will alter plans and schedules at any time.”

“We know how important these extracurricular activities are to the students, parents, families, schools and communities of our state,” Hinton said in a statement. “We’re staying optimistic and doing everything we can to move forward for the upcoming school year.”

The state health officer, Dr. Thomas Dobbs, said during a news conference with the governor Tuesday that football might be possible with some safety precautions for players, though he said it’s possible that teams will have players out with the virus at different times.

“Crowds are never safe right now, so that’s a real concern,” Dobbs said.

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The Mississippi Link™  
Volume 26 • Number 39  
July 16 - 22, 2020  
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Publisher.....Jackie Hampton




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Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett

Graphics.....Marcus Johnson

Photographers.....Jay Johnson, Kevin Bradley

Member:



The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307 or e-mail us at: editor@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting items to be considered for publication is Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Subscriptions are \$32 per year; \$64 for two years or \$96 for three years.

Postmaster:  
Send all address changes to The Mississippi Link,  
P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307.

Advertising: For all advertising information,  
please call (601) 896-0084.

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# Fall college instruction to be a mix of in-person and online

By Leah Willingham  
*Associated Press/Report for America*

Students in Mississippi are scheduled to return to school in August amid rising cases of COVID-19 in the state, but campus life will be a lot different than what many are used to.

At Mississippi State, temperature check-in kiosks will be scattered around campus. Students who live in dorms will be required to log their temperature every 24 hours and fill out a health questionnaire. Employees and day students will be required to check temperatures at home and take a screening survey before arriving on campus.

At Mississippi State and the University of Mississippi, all members of the community will be required to wear masks inside and out of the classroom, where class sizes will be reduced by 50%.

“While we remain focused on preserving the on-campus experience, COVID-19 has forced us to rethink everything we do,” University of Mississippi Chancellor Glenn F. Boyce said in a letter to the campus community in late June.

New cases of the disease caused by the new coronavirus and numbers of hospitalizations are still rising in Mississippi. On Friday, the state reported

1,031 new cases – one of its single highest increases.

On June 15, the Mississippi Department of Health reported 467 patients hospitalized for the virus. Just weeks later, the state reported Friday, hospitals had 711 people in hospitals with confirmed cases and 270 hospitalized with suspected cases.

In reports detailing plans for the start of the academic year released in June from Mississippi State and University of Mississippi, education officials say they want to provide as much in-person direction as possible. They said instruction will likely be a mix of online and in-person options.

“Administration does not view this as a binary choice of online or face-to-face only; a number of combinations are possible that can work specifically for the discipline or course,” Mississippi State’s plan reads. “Faculty are encouraged to explore creative approaches using blended and hybrid approaches this semester that maximize safety but also provide in-person instruction and interactions with students.”

All faculty who are teaching face-to-face will have technology that allows livestream or video capture, so students who have coronavirus-related symptoms can watch the lectures online, according to university officials.

Both Mississippi State and the University of Mississippi have revised their fall semester schedules to reduce the need for travel by students. Fall breaks are being eliminated and students will end the semester before Thanksgiving.

Both schools will provide regular COVID-19 testing for staff and students. Students who have tested positive for coronavirus, those who have been exposed and any students returning from international travel will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.

All campus facilities will be sanitized multiple times throughout the day.

## Jackson Hinds Library System Summer Reading Program



**Preschool: Age 0 – 5 Years Old**



**Child: 6 Years Old – 11 Years Old**



**Teen: 12 Years Old – 17 Years Old**



**Adult: 18 Years Old and Up**

Storyteller Rebecca Jernigan – July 1-September 21	Look and Learn with Hoot – July 1-31	Aaron Acosta Magic – July 1-August 31
Mississippi Children’s Museum at Home – July 1-September 21	Gigglin Gertie – July 1-31	Freedom Ranch Wildlife Program – July 6-September 21
Digital Photography Workshop for Teens – July 7-August 25 at <a href="http://jhlibrary.org/shutterbugs">jhlibrary.org/shutterbugs</a>	Bayou Town Puppet Theater – July 15-16	Kindersongs – July 23-August 23
Tommy Terrific’s Wacky Magic – July 27-August 3	Andi Lehman Animals – July 27-August 8	Stormin’ Bob Music and Meteorology – August 1-7

### The Mississippi Link Newswire

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programs within the listed date ranges, go to [jhlibrary.org/2020srprevents](http://jhlibrary.org/2020srprevents) or go to the Events section of [jhlibrary.readsquared.com](http://jhlibrary.readsquared.com).

We also have Virtual Story Time featuring Jackson Hinds Library System staff members reading stories! See them at [jhlibrary.org/virtualstorytime](http://jhlibrary.org/virtualstorytime).

## Voter suppression goes to college

By Cash Michaels and Peter Grear  
*Greater Diversity News*

If preliminary data estimates on the recent 2020 primaries in North Carolina are accurate, student voters on HBCU campuses must raise their turnout game come the general election this November.

So says William Busa, founder of EQV Analytics, a ‘North Carolina-focused campaign consulting firm serving Democratic candidates with advanced campaign analytics.

Busa served as digital director to NC Associate Justice Anita Earls 2018 campaign to the state’s high court.

Cautioning that his numbers right now are “95% accurate” because all of the 2020 primary data has not been released yet by the NC Board of Elections, Busa says they are close enough to being conclusive for him to draw worthy conclusions.

Busa analyzed student voter turnout from ten North Carolina campuses, three of them HBCUs – N.C. A&T University, in Greensboro, Winston-Salem State University and North Carolina Central University in Durham. All of the campuses analyzed were in precincts dominated by undergraduate students, generally 18 to 22.

Busa broke his analysis of college voting into early voting (February 13-29) and voting on Primary Day (March 3). Traditionally, the bulk of college student voting occurs during the two-week early voting period.

According to the data, statewide early voting was at 11.4%. At



least seven of the ten NC universities tracked for student early voting did much better, with six of the top schools coming in with two to three times the state’s overall voter turnout (Duke was at 34%, for instance).

Winston-Salem State University yielded only an 11.7 student voter turnout, .3% more than the state turnout.

North Carolina Central University, however, could only muster 7.9% student voter turnout.

When the numbers are crunched for Primary Day, Busa noted that student voting dramatically drops because college students generally find it more difficult to vote then and prefer the more flexible 15-day early voting period.

As a result, because 66% of North Carolina voters vote on Primary day, and college students don’t, they effectively caught up percentage-wise with the high college voting, leaving only Duke University (34.3%) to exceed both groups (NC was at 30.6%) in total voter turnout percentages, Busa says.

NCCU came in at the end of the university list at just 8%. NC A&T came in fourth overall at 20.6%. WSSU was at 13.4%.

Busa says his analysis proves several things – college students are early voters. Either they vote early, or not at all.

Second, the analysis also shows why Republican lawmakers try to keep polling places off university

campuses, hoping that by making getting to a polling place more difficult, it would dissuade students from voting.

“It’s a very potent voter suppression tool,” Busa says. All ten of the campuses analyzed had a campus polling place.

Busa says ultimately, college and university administrations must put more resources behind their campus GOTV (get out the vote) efforts, like Duke University, to get the same stellar results that Duke is getting.

However, students are not sitting still. They’re fighting back against the agents of voter suppression and they are being helped by the NC NAACP, offering guidance and resources and Greater Diversity News,

offering publicity.

The results of Busa’s analysis reveals a failure to effectively mobilize black students to educate, organized and mobilize as voters. However, blame for this failure must be borne by black leaders and leadership organizations. The leaders and organizations include HBCU Alumni Associations, elected officials, Divine Nine and the always present black church community. Also, to be included, are black civil rights leaders and organizations of the past and present.

Also, we must recognize leaders and organizations that are stepping up and trying to make a difference. There are many that recognize that the failed status quo cannot and must not be accepted.

One response that is in the works, is a series of conference calls with student leaders on HBCU and primarily white campuses (SGAs and BSUs). This call is being coordinated by the NC NAACP and Greater Diversity News. Its purpose is to give the student leaders an opportunity to discuss voting rights and their efforts to resist voter suppression.

The students at NCCU have developed a voter mobilization model and are offering it as a guide to other campuses, while at the same time seeking feedback and ideas on strategies that other students are using. It is important to note that the efforts of the NCCU students are fully supported by the NCCU National Alumni Association. A student/alumni collaborative is being urged as a consideration for all HBCUs.



# Ole Miss moves Confederate statue from prominent campus spot

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
Associated Press

A Confederate monument that’s long been a divisive symbol at the University of Mississippi was removed Tuesday from a prominent spot on the Oxford campus, just two weeks after Mississippi surrendered the last state flag in the U.S. with the Confederate battle emblem.

The marble statue of a saluting Confederate soldier was taken to a Civil War cemetery in a secluded area of campus. Students and faculty have pushed the university for years to move the statue, but they have said in recent weeks that their work was being undermined by administrators’ plan to beautify the cemetery – a plan that critics said could create a Confederate shrine.

A draft plan by the university indicated that the burial ground will have a lighted pathway to the statue. It also said headstones might be added to Confederate soldiers’ graves that have been unmarked for decades. Ole Miss Chancellor Glenn Boyce said Tuesday that the plan for headstones was being abandoned.

Boyce said a recent survey with ground-penetrating radar showed that bodies are buried close to the surface.

“I feel excavating within the walls of the cemetery presents a significant risk of disturbing remains,” Boyce said in a statement. “This is a risk I am not prepared nor willing to take.”

The University of Mississippi was founded in 1848, and the statue of the soldier was put up in 1906 – one of many Confederate monuments erected across the South more than a century ago.

Critics say the statue’s location near the university’s main administrative building has sent a signal that Ole Miss



glorifies the Confederacy and glosses over the South’s history of slavery.

The state College Board on June 18 approved a plan to move the monument. The decision happened amid widespread debate over Confederate symbols as people across the U.S. and in other countries loudly marched through the streets to protest racism and police violence against African Americans.

The statue at Ole Miss was a gathering point in 1962 for people who rioted to oppose court-ordered integration of the university.

In February 2019, a rally by outside pro-Confederate groups at the monument prompted Ole Miss basketball players to kneel in protest during the national anthem at a game later that day. Student government leaders voted two weeks later for a resolution asking administrators to move the monument to the cemetery, where Confederate soldiers killed at the Battle of Shiloh

are buried.

One of the student senators sponsoring that resolution was Arielle Hudson of Tunica, Mississippi, who graduated this year and has been selected as a Rhodes scholar. She said Thursday that her joy at knowing the statue was moved was tempered by concerns about the university’s elaborate cemetery plan. Hudson said she was pleased to hear that Boyce abandoned the headstone plan but she wishes he had done it without having to be pressured by hundreds of students, faculty members and alumni.

As a student, Hudson gave tours to prospective students through an “ambassador” program. She said ambassadors were generally told to avoid the Confederate statue, but she once ended up near it.

“Those conversations were hard, especially as a black student trying to convince other black students and their families that they belong here,” Hudson said Thursday. “You’re standing a few feet

away from an object that tells them that space wasn’t made for them.”

The University of Mississippi has worked for more than 20 years to distance itself from Confederate imagery, often amid resistance from tradition-bound donors and alumni. The nickname for athletic teams remains the Rebels, but the university retired its Colonel Reb mascot in 2003 amid criticism that the bearded old man looked like a plantation owner. In 1997, administrators banned sticks in the football stadium, which largely stopped people from waving Confederate battle flags. The marching band no longer plays “Dixie.”

Because of a student-led effort, the university in 2015 stopped flying the Confederate-themed Mississippi flag. A groundswell of support from business, religious, education and sports leaders recently pushed legislators to retire the flag.

Since 2016, the university has installed plaques to provide historical context about the Confederate monument and about slaves who built some campus buildings before the Civil War. A plaque installed at the base of the Confederate statue said such monuments were built across the South decades after the Civil War, at a time when aging Confederate veterans were dying.

“These monuments were often used to promote an ideology known as the ‘Lost Cause,’ which claimed that the Confederacy had been established to defend states’ rights and that slavery was not the principal cause of the Civil War,” the plaque says. “Although the monument was created to honor the sacrifice of Confederate soldiers, it must also remind us that the defeat of the Confederacy actually meant freedom for millions of people.”

# Governor issues mask mandate for 13 MS counties

By Morgan Bridgeman  
Student Intern Writer

As Mississippi has seen a resurgence in COVID-19 cases, Governor Tate Reeves has issued the mandatory use of face masks and limited gatherings in 13 counties. Reeves announced this new order Thursday, July 9, and the order will go into effect Monday, July 13.

This mandate by Reeves comes as the state’s Department of Health recorded 1,031 new coronavirus cases and 11 new deaths as of Friday. One day prior, State Department of Health Officer, Dr. Thomas Dobbs, reported five Mississippi hospital’s intensive care units were full because of an increase in cases. Most of the hospitalizations are in both the Jackson metro area and North Mississippi area near Memphis, Tennessee.

The 13 counties that have been put under Reeves’ mandate include: Hinds, DeSoto, Harrison, Rankin, Jackson, Washington, Sunflower, Grenada, Madison, Claiborne, Jefferson, Wayne, and Quitman. These counties are now under this mandate because they have experienced 200 new cases within the last two weeks or have had an average of 500 cases per 100,000 residents in the same time period.

“COVID-19 is an ever-present threat and we are in the middle of a spike,” Reeves said Friday at a press conference. Some cities under this new mandate include Jackson, Canton and Madison, who already have their own mask mandates in place. Other cities such as Tupelo, Oxford and Greenwood are not under this mandate, but they do have mandatory mask requirements in place.

Businesses under this mandate have to follow new guidelines including: following the guidance from the Mississippi State Department of Health and CDC to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including social distancing and encouraging sick employees to stay home, all employees being screened daily at

the beginning of shifts, including asking whether they have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and have they had a fever in the last 48 hours, employees who are unable to maintain at least 6 feet apart must wear face coverings throughout their shift which must be cleaned or replaced daily, and hand sanitizer must be provided to all employees. Retail locations have to follow similar guidelines including: face coverings being provided to all employees who come in direct contact with customers, all customers being required to wear a face covering while inside the retail business, hand sanitizers being in place at all entrances, making efforts to have customers maintain 6 feet of distance, and have carts and baskets be sanitized after each use and other high-touch areas be sanitized every two hours.

There are currently no penalties for those residents or businesses that do not follow the governor’s mandate. However, some cities do have fines and penalties for those who violate the face mask order. In Jackson, individuals can face a \$300 fine and/or six months in jail and businesses will be required to shut down for 24 hours. In Canton, individuals can face a \$500 fine and businesses will be shut down by the city and/or a \$1,000 fine.

As far as the public is concerned, some residents feel that this mandate is overdue. “This mandate should have been in effect because wearing masks protects both the customers and us as workers,” said Kyla Triplett who works for a Madison County retail business. However, Robert Foster, who is a business owner in DeSoto County, does not share these same thoughts. “I think he’s overstepping his authority. I think it’s almost like being a dictator,” Foster told WJTV.

Reeves’ mask mandate will be in effect from July 13, 2020 until July 20, 2020 as of now.

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# Thousands view NNPA's first virtual convention

The first virtual convention in the 80-year history of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) earned a thumbs-up from partners and sponsors.

The successful event's website, [virtualnnpa2020.com](http://virtualnnpa2020.com), generated more than 55,000 pageviews to conference attendees in only two days. Several hundred thousand additional impressions were generated by social media posts and livestreams on Facebook and YouTube.

"We share in your excitement and applaud your efforts in successfully executing the first virtual NNPA Annual Convention," Lester Booker, of General Motors Communications, wrote in a congratulatory email to NNPA President and CEO Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.

"Over the past two days, I've had the opportunity to view some of the convention and was impressed with its content, execution and professionalism," Booker continued, noting that GM officials continue to value and appreciate the company's more than 50-year partnership with the Black Press of America.

Several other partners and sponsors joined General Motors, including Pfizer Rare Disease, RAI Services Company, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the NFL, Facebook Journalism Project, AARP, Black Hollywood Education Resource Center (BHERC), Hyundai, Wells Fargo, Molson Coors, Volkswagen, The United States Census, Comcast Universal, Compassion & Choices, API, Ascension, Nissan, and UAW.

"The NNPA overall is pleased with the impact, the reach and the engagement across the United States and throughout the world for our first virtual convention," NNPA President and CEO Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., stated.

"This represents a tremendous step forward for the Black Press of America. We note that during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Black Press of America has been able to overcome many of the obstacles that the pandemic continues to present. We plan to rebroadcast the virtual NNPA



2020 convention as soon as we conclude some post-production edits and additions."

Chavis added that the NNPA remains most grateful to its corporate sponsors for helping to make the first virtual convention a success.

"We intend to let the world know that we appreciate our partners and sponsors and their support," Chavis declared.

Claudette Perry, the NNPA's executive administrator, stated that she's breathing a sigh of relief that the convention was well-received by so many viewers.

"I was very delighted that many of the celebrities whose stories have been conveyed through the Black Press for decades showed their appreciation for our publishers with their congratulatory sentiments on our first virtual convention as well as their recognition of 193 years of the Black Press," Perry said.

"To the NNPA in-house production team, I say thank you for all the great content and design you brought to the convention virtual space. You are awesome. I thank also the young people on the technology panel who had great advice for us 'beyond millennials.'"

Perry continued:

"To our corporate partners and sponsors I extend my deepest appreciation for their support of our 2020 convention. The NNPA will continue show-

ing its support for each of you, post-convention and throughout the year."

Sparkling the interests were several important topics and a host of celebrity guests, including livestream interviews and performances by Deniece Williams, Anthony Hamilton, Carlos Santana, Cindy Blackman Santana, Sandra "Salt" Denton, Boyz II Men's Shawn Stockman and journalist Jemele Hill.

"The livestreams were amazing with all of the big names that we had it really brought an element that you don't always see at a conference, and it really has helped to shine a spotlight on our publishers," NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards declared. "The shoutouts to the Black Press from people like Magic Johnson, Sen. Kamala Harris, Rep. Maxine Waters, Attorney Joey Jackson, Rev. Jesse Jackson and the others were simply delightful."

Richards noted that she's grateful to the partners and sponsors of the NNPA, and she's elated that each continues to support the publishers of the Black Press of America.

"That's who I'm so happy for today," Richards said.

"Our publishers work so hard, and they have fought the good fight for so long, this conference and what NNPA has put together and accomplished with digital has let the world know how vital the Black Press is and always have been."

Following opening remarks by Chavis, Richards and NNPA Convention Chair Terry Jones, Wells Fargo presented a discussion titled, "Navigating Finances through COVID-19," which was followed by a webinar titled, "Hope, Misinformation, Fear, Sickness and Death: Physicians Discuss the Impact of COVID-19 on Black Communities."

That physicians' webinar included nationally-renown African-American physicians Ebony Jade Hilton, Leigh-Ann Webb, Taison Bell, Cameron Webb, and Rochanda Mitchell who all are members of the NNPA Coronavirus Task Force.

Terry Jones emphasized, "The Virtual NNPA 2020 Annual Convention was impactful across the nation and throughout the world via print, online and social media. The Black Press retains its relevancy as the trusted voice of Black America."

A webinar about the Black Press of America's future engagement and empowerment, included The Mississippi Link Publisher Jackie Hampton, AFRO Publisher Frances Draper, Cincinnati Herald Publisher Jan Michele Kearney, "Make it Plain" host Mark Thompson, and Washington Informer Editor D. Kevin McNeir.

"I thought it was time we show the larger scale folks that we do the same kind of work they do," McNeir stated during

the webinar.

"I've been with the Black Press for 25 years. I believe we have a story that is unique and significant, and it has not gotten old. We give the black story, that's who we are."

Day 1 of the conference concluded with the NNPA National Townhall titled, "Education and the Future of Black America, From Pre-K to High School and onto College."

The education town hall panel included Peggy Edwards-Jones, Kathryn Procope and Elizabeth Primas, program manager of the NNPA Education Public Awareness Program.

The second day of the convention featured webinars on "Technology and Innovation: The Challenges and the Opportunities for the Black Press," that included data scientists Enchanta Jackson and Jamerica Gray, computer scientist Perry Busby, New York Beacon Associate Publisher Ashley Smith and Westside Gazette Publisher Bobby Henry Sr. The final webinar of the convention was "Black Millennial Voices and Visions for Transformation," hosted by Houston Forward Times award winning Associate Editor and BlackPressUSA columnist Jeffrey Boney. The millennial panel included Micha Green, editor of the Washington, DC AFRO; Lafayette Barnes IV, editor of The Bridge and assistant editor of The Washington Informer;

and Franklin Chavis, founder and curator of Black Millennial Voices.

The conference concluded with a star-studded awards ceremony and performances that included a stirring rendition of "You've Got a Friend," by The Temptations, who dedicated their performance to the Black Press, two special songs by Supremes legend Mary Wilson and a pre-recorded performance by Ziggy Marley.

Wilson received the NNPA Lifetime Trailblazer Achievement Award, and Marley received the NNPA Global Icon Award which he dedicated to his legendary parents, Bob and Rita Marley.

"I've received many awards throughout my life, but this one feels special to me," Marley stated in accepting his award. "Music is a powerful tool. Human beings have powerful beings. We can achieve whatever we wish to achieve if we are willing to do what it takes to achieve it. Standing up or kneeling down."

Public Enemy's Chuck D, Attorney Ben Crump, Hip-Hop Legend MC Lyte and Congresswoman Karen Bass, Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, were also among those receiving awards.

"Receiving the Outstanding Congressional Leadership Award, I am humble. The work that we have done together over the last few years have been so important to us as a nation, but also to me personally," Representative Bass stated. "I will take this award and continue to work on behalf of Black America."

Before concluding the night with a special recorded music mix by DJ D-Nice, hip-hop legend, actor and entrepreneur Ice Cube received the Artist of the 21st Century Award.

"It's an amazing honor and I would like to thank everyone responsible for getting me this award," Ice Cube stated. "This is a very cool honor from the Black Press of America. I've learned from some of the artist who've come before me that just being an artist and not trying to move the social landscape forward in some way, shape, or form is a waste of opportunity."

## NFL will play Black National Anthem at games

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA NewsWire  
Senior Correspondent



When Colin Kaepernick took a knee during the playing of the national anthem to bring awareness to social and other injustices faced regularly by black and brown individuals in America, the National Football League, President Donald Trump, and others wrongly associated the quarterback's actions as a protest against the U.S. flag and the nation's military.

In the aftermath of the police killing of George Floyd, protests and demonstrations have awakened America and most of the world to the plight of African Americans who long have suffered injustice, inequality,

and an overall lack of understanding.

The NFL remains at the forefront of the new understanding, and now they've taken that knowledge, and, in an unprecedented decision, the league announced it would play Lift Every Voice and Sing – the Black National Anthem – before every opening day game this year.

The performance of the song will occur before "The Star-Spangled Banner," the NFL said. The league's season opener is scheduled for September 10, with the Kansas City Chiefs hosting the Houston Texans.

"The league taking the opportunity to play 'Lift every voice and sing' (the black national anthem) is sweet. It's a great way to honor those who started this movement year and years ago," tweeted Jacksonville Jaguars wide receiver Chris Conley.



As noted in Sports Illustrated, Lift Every Voice and Sing has an extensive history since its first inception as a poem in 1899. PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO / NNPA

"For those who aren't familiar with it, this song seeks to remind us of our past as a country and to strive to be better. It speaks to all of us, not just black

people, even tho it became a rallying cry for blacks in the Jim Crow era. It is a beautiful message birthed from pain," Conley added.

"To those claiming the song is derisive, I ask which part? Much like America the Beautiful is played to honor, this song is the same. It's isn't for 'just black people' it's for all who acknowledge the past and press toward a better future."

As noted in Sports Illustrated, Lift Every Voice and Sing has an extensive history since its first inception as a poem in 1899. According to the NAACP, its lyrics were penned by writer and NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson (a Jacksonville native). It was eventually adopted for music by his brother, John Rosamond Johnson. Years later, it was adopted by the NAACP as the organization's official song.

According to the NAACP, the song was first performed in Jacksonville at a school where James Weldon Johnson was the principal. As part of a celebration of

Abraham Lincoln's birthday on February 12, 1900, Lift Every Voice and Sing was publicly performed by 500 school children at the Stanton School.

The NFL has recently acknowledged it was wrong in how it handled Kaepernick, who has mostly been black balled from the game. Commissioner Roger Goodell has said he now would encourage teams to sign the former Super Bowl quarterback.

Because Goodell has reversed course and said he would allow kneeling, the league came under enormous criticism from President Donald Trump, who now is calling for a boycott of the NFL.

Sen. Ted Cruz called the decision to play the Black National Anthem "asinine," further fueling racial tensions that have already boiled over since the Floyd killing.





*The black community gets a new, innovative online platform:*

## A beacon to support black unity, healing and solutions

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar  
Associated Press

Now there is an innovative new platform where black people get to engage in culturally-rooted, interactive activities, self-guided healing programs, expert-led webinars and insightful quizzes. BlackTherapyCentral.com (BTC) is a digital platform bringing a novel approach to mental wellness in black communities. It is the only online therapy platform that is African-centered and designed for the black experience. On BTC users and African-centered black therapists and wellness professionals can connect in a variety of ways through programs in-person sessions, or secure virtual consultations.

BTC is at the forefront of a new awakening in black mental health, leading millions of black people to embrace therapy and its role in overall wellness. “We carry within us generations of our people, our ancestors.... Other people’s therapy is not for us but, African-centered therapy encourages that spirit-self within you, to guide you personally and us collectively,” stated Dr. Mawiyah Kambon, BlackTherapyCentral.com co-founder.

Black therapists and wellness professionals from around the U.S. launched BTC in October 2019. The African-centered mental health service quickly



Dr. Mawiyah Kambon

engaged thousands beginning in April. BTC promotes wellness through free membership access to stress relief programs, an active directory of vetted, licensed therapists, and engages the global black community through a dynamic brand of healing support.

BTC galvanized global healing solutions when its therapists recently sprang into action to host the Global Black Community Online Townhall Meeting: Unity, Healing and Solutions for COVID-19 and Beyond.



Therapists

The successful event had 1900+ participants and panelists from 37 countries addressing issues about health, economics, politics, and more.

“We are in this fight, but it is not just a physical one to stay healthy from COVID-19... psychological warfare is part of this,” said BTC advisor and member, Dr. Jamila Codrington, NY-based, licensed psychologist. “We want to be able to reclaim our self-determination.” As a solution, BTC

immediately rolled out the 10-Day Healing Journey. This free online program is a multi-sensory black healing experience created with unique culturally themed affirmations, offline activities, guided meditations, curated visuals and music selections.

As a result, hundreds have shared the overwhelmingly positive impact the Journey has had on their lives. “I didn’t know black therapy is so different. This has been so good, I got my whole family involved,

parents, siblings, children, everybody,” shared Journey participant, Damon from New York. With the program’s progressive approach, it is hard to believe there used to be a stigma attached to getting therapy.

July is Black Mental Health Awareness Month. Because that fact is little-known, BTC is springing to action again to spread the word. BTC will ramp up to provide support against the onslaught of global challenges affecting black people.

“The ongoing global racism and genocide against the black community has traumatized us whether we consciously feel it or not... We created Black Therapy Central to call our people together to heal ourselves and ultimately heal the world,” stated Kambon.

BTC welcomes new therapists to get involved and join the platform to connect with people seeking therapy.

*Individuals who want to engage can also visit: [www.blacktherapycentral.com](http://www.blacktherapycentral.com)*

### Tips to be Fit

## Suddenly it’s cloudy. Cataracts?

By Vince Faust  
Special to The Mississippi Link

Cataracts are a clouding of your normal clear lens of your eye. People, who have cataracts, see through cloudy lenses. This is like looking through a cloudy or fogged-up window. Cataracts can make it more difficult to read, drive a car or see the expression on a person’s face.

Cataracts can develop so slowly in some people that they don’t even realize they have an eye problem. In the early stages, just a small portion of the eye’s lens may become cloudy. When the cloudiness of your eye’s lens increase over time (sometimes over a period of years) you may not see any vision problems until it begins to affect your daily life. Even though cataracts are quite common half of the people that develop cataracts are over 65. Most people that have vision problems are not aware that many common vision problems actually can be the results of cataracts.

If you begin to have any of the following signs you should see your doctor:

- Do colors appear faded or washed out?
- Do you have trouble seeing

distant objects?

- Do you have a sensitivity to light and glare?
- Do you need brighter light for reading and other activities?
- Do you have double vision in a single eye?
- Do you have a problem with glare at night while driving?
- Do you experience ghost images?

Even if you don’t experience any of the above signs after age 40 you should get your eyes examined every year to identify and treatable problems with your eyes before they become big issues. After age 50 it’s a must to get your eyes examined every year.

Family history can also make you more at risk for cataracts. In some families cataracts tend to occur at an earlier age. If you have a family member that developed cataracts before age 60 you may also be at risk of developing cataracts around the same age.

Diabetes also increases your risk for developing cataracts at any age three to fourfold. This is because of elevated blood sugar levels. Elevated blood sugar levels can cause changes in your lens, which in turn can cause cataracts. You can reduce

your risk for cataracts if you control your blood sugar levels.

If you have been diagnosed with nearsightedness you are at a higher risk for developing cataracts. The reason for this is not known. People with nearsightedness tend to develop cataracts at an earlier age.

Long-term steroid use will also raise your risk for cataracts. Long-term use is classified as one year or more. Long term-inhaled steroids that are taken at high doses will raise your risk even more.

Some eye diseases such as chronic eye inflammation (uveitis) will increase your risk. Prior eye surgery for retinal problems have been linked to a higher risk.

Eye injuries may cause risk some years later. Getting hit in the eye during athletic participation will increase your risk. Protective gear is a must if you play sports. You should also be careful at work and home when your work puts your eyes at risk for injury.

Sun exposure will increase everyone’s risk for cataracts. If you’re going to be outside you should wear sunglasses. Everybody needs sunglasses, and not just in the summertime. Exposure to ultraviolet light over the

years can damage the lenses of the eye. Any sunglasses are better than no sunglasses.

Here is what you should look for in a pair of sunglasses. The tint is not what blocks ultraviolet light; it’s the special chemicals added when the lenses are made. Brown or amber tinted lenses block the sun’s rays best but they sometimes distort your vision. Gray and green lenses don’t block as much ultraviolet light but they don’t distort your vision. Wraparound frames are good, they block light above and below the eyes, but they shouldn’t block your side vision.

Your sunglasses should be dark enough so you don’t see your eyes in a mirror. Plastic lenses are light but glass lenses don’t scratch as easily. Mirrored lenses offer extra protection against glare but scratches are a problem. Double gradient lens sunglasses are darker at the top and the bottom. These glasses are good for sports such as tennis and skiing. These glasses are not good for highly reflective sports such as bicycling and water sports. Everyone’s sunglass needs are different but everyone needs sunglasses. If you have special problems you should see a professional.

When cataracts start to interfere with your ability to read, drive or even just enjoy life you will need surgery. Most ophthalmologists in the US can perform a cataract surgery.

According to the Mayo Clinic web site there are two main surgical methods used to remove cataracts:

- In the first method your surgeon will use an ultrasound probe to break up the lens for removal. During the procedure called phacoemulsification your surgeon will make a tiny incision in the front of your eye (cornea) and inserts a thin probe into the lens substance where the cataract has formed.

That thin probe then transmits ultrasound waves, to break up (emulsify) the cataract and suction is used to take out the fragments. The lens capsule is left intact to serve as a place for the artificial lens to rest. Stitches are used to close the tiny incision in your cornea at the completion of the procedure.

- In the second method your surgeon removes the lens in one piece. This is a less frequently used procedure called extracapsular cataract extraction. This requires a larger incision than that used for phacoemulsification. With this larger

incision your surgeon removes the front capsule of the lens and the cloudy lens comprising the cataract. Again the back capsule of your lens is left in place to serve as a place for the artificial lens to rest. This procedure may be performed if you have certain eye complications. With the larger incision, stitches are required.

After your surgery you will see improvement in a few days. Colors will be brighter because you are looking through new lens. Most people will experience some itching or mild pain. Your doctor may ask you to wear an eye patch to prevent you from rubbing your eyes.

If you have vision loss, have persistent pain, have swelling, unusual eye redness or see spots you should go to the ER.

Before starting your fitness program, consult your physician.

Watch “Tips to be Fit” on [www.lifeandspiritonline.com](http://www.lifeandspiritonline.com) and [www.GoodDayGoodHealth.com](http://www.GoodDayGoodHealth.com)

*If you have a fitness question or concern you would like addressed write to “Tips to be Fit” P O Box 53443 Philadelphia PA 19105 or [tipstobefit@gmail.com](mailto:tipstobefit@gmail.com)*



# Jesus is our example in humility

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



True humility is a quality that is not found in many believers. It will lead one to think rightly of himself/herself. The call to humility has been too little regarded in the church because its true nature and importance have been little understood.

In too many cases, humility has never had the place of supreme importance that rightfully belongs to it. Humility is rarely preached on in the church. How little it is practiced. The lack of it is felt and confessed among many people.

Sincere humility attracts. However, the lack of humility subtracts and artificial humility detracts. The best way to be right and the best way to be wrong are to be humble about it. We ought to have humility in all that we say and do.

The Apostle Paul wrote the Book of Romans, and we find in Romans 6:1-2 these words: “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” Man’s chief care, highest virtue and only happiness now and through all eternity are to present himself as an empty vessel in which God can dwell and manifest His power and His goodness.

Humility, the place of entire dependence upon God, is the first duty and the highest virtue of men; it is the root of every virtue. We cannot pray and seek the face of God as we really should if we do not have humility of heart. Furthermore, we definitely will not turn from any wicked ways in our lives if we are not humble of heart.

How is it in our lives? If humility is the root of the tree, its nature must be seen in every branch and every leaf. We must make humility the chief thing that we ask of God. Is it any wonder that the Christian life is so often feeble and fruitless when the very root of the Christ-life is often neglected and un-

known? I am talking about humility, and Jesus is our example of humility.

Since Jesus is our example in humility, then we must understand the principles in which His humility was rooted and find common ground on which to stand with Him so that our likeness to Him can be attained.

Friend, in the Word of God, we will see that Jesus left His glory and took upon Himself the form of a servant. Matthew 23:11 states, “But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.” He simply taught the blessed truth that nothing is so divine and so heavenly as to be a servant and a helper of all.

# P R E S E R V E D Presence of your enemies

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



“I am so ready to leave Dallas – Fort Worth” were words I shouted in frustration a number of years ago. I was having a particularly difficult time financially, hated my job, had lost friends and a romantic relationship had just ended. I was ready for a new start and figured with all of the seemingly bad things happening that God was showing me that it was time to move somewhere else. But the more I planned to leave, the more I felt like I was stuck in Texas. The jobs that I applied for in these other places didn’t work out. It seemed like the more I tried to plan my exit, the more things kept pointing at me staying here. And I was not happy about it.

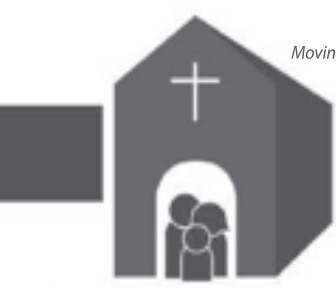
Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation where you wanted to leave, quit, or just be somewhere else? So many of us may feel like that now with the isolation and uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic. Opportunities that you hoped would work out for you lead to yet another dead end and have left you feeling frustrated and even forsaken by God.

Fortunately, I’ve found myself in that situation more than once. I say fortunately and not unfortunately because I’ve learned that it is during those times when I felt the most vulnerable, forgotten and isolated that God was working the hardest for me and with me. For example, seeking answers to questions like “why am I still here?” made my prayers more vigilant and focused. Sometimes when we ask that question

of why God allows us to remain in an unbearable situation (like a job, relationship or church that we don’t like), we rationalize it by saying that God wants us to learn something at that level in preparation for the next level of our lives. But sometimes it’s for an even more fascinating reason: He wants those who mistreat us, talk badly about us, or seek to harm us to see how much He loves us. Psalms 23:5 paints a picture of what that looks like: “You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.”

It could be that God allows us to remain in those difficult situations because he wants us to develop an unshakeable trust in Him and the promises in His word. Having conversations with others who have experienced this same thing also makes me wonder if sometimes God allows us to remain in certain uncomfortable circumstances because he wants those who seek to harm us, damage our reputations and question our spiritual integrity to see how much God can bless us. Like David who wrote Psalm 23 and suffered greatly at the hands of close friends and enemies, it could be that keeping you in tough situation isn’t about you but about others who are watching how you go through; will it be as one who blesses God or one who bitterly complains?

Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth-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 her at [preservedbypurpose@gmail.com](mailto:preservedbypurpose@gmail.com) or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.




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**SUNDAY**  
Worship Services  
10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 8:45 a.m.  
**MONDAY**  
Intercessory Prayer 9:00 a.m.  
**WEDNESDAY**  
Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.  
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Michael T. Williams  
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**SUNDAY**  
8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. • Worship Services

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

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

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# True Light Baptist Church

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Small Group Study | 9:00 a.m.  
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**Access Code:** 627 6205#  
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## New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir



Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
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**Sunday Morning**  
Baptisms 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 10 a.m.

**Sunday Worship Services**  
11:15 a.m.  
Following following worship service 12:00 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
Prayer/Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Rev. Mark Jackson, Pastor**  
231-A John Day Road • Off Hwy 10 East • Canton, MS 39046  
Church: 601-859-2858



## Waters, ‘Donald Trump is more focused on saving statues of slaveholders and confederate generals than protecting Americans from the Coronavirus

*The NNPA Newswire*

Congresswoman Maxine Waters’ (CA-43) statement on Donald Trump’s negligence in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and his threats to protestors calling for the removal of statues of Confederate generals and slaveholders:

“One would hope that the president of the United States would rise to the level of leadership that our country needs in confronting the deadly uptick in coronavirus cases in America. Instead, we are left with Donald Trump, an incompetent and heartless man who is more focused on saving statues of slaveholders, Confederate generals and racists, than protecting the health of living and breathing Americans.

“The United States remains the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic, with more than 2.4 million cases and more than 124,000 deaths. My home state of California, Arizona, Texas and Florida have seen their coronavirus cases skyrocket in the past two weeks.

“On Tuesday, Texas and California set records for having more than 5,000 coronavirus cases in a 24-hour period, and 33 states have reported a spike in their weekly average of coronavirus cases. Instead of using the full power of his office to fight this deadly pandemic, Donald Trump would rather ignore the coronavirus and call in U.S. marshals to confront protestors who are taking down memorials to racist Confederate generals and slaveholders.

“For months, my colleagues and I have rung the alarm and done everything in our power to pass legislation that addresses the need for life-saving personal protective equipment (PPE), increases testing capacity, provides ventilators, and

supports hospitals, community health centers and frontline workers.

“Instead of bipartisan action, we have been faced with opposition from a president and a Republican party that are hiding their heads in the sand as thousands of Americans die. In the past week, Donald Trump has defied the guidance of public health experts and held two large public events that placed the lives of his supporters at risk.

“Instead of enforcing mask wearing and social distancing in his events, he required attendees to sign waivers to protect his campaign from being sued if attendees contracted the virus. Donald Trump has decried efforts to increase coronavirus testing, and his administration has stripped federal funding for community testing sites in at least 13 states, including Texas, which is enduring a sharp increase in coronavirus cases.

“Donald Trump’s negligence and lack of care for the American people is contemptible.

“We have a real, deadly public health crisis on our hands, and Donald Trump is more concerned about statues and relics of the Confederacy and slavery than he is the survival of the American people.

“He’s already had protestors in front of the White House forcibly removed and tear-gassed for a photo-op, now he is poised to do it again with protestors who are calling for the removal of statues and monuments to slaveholders and Confederate generals who withdrew from the United States and fought against the Union in the Civil War. All patriots who love this country and care about the well-being of its citizens must unite and hold Donald Trump accountable.”

## What says “forever Mississippi” to you?

**By Felder Rushing**  
*Mississippi Author and Gardner*

When my children were young I had them smell things to imprint things deeply. In my lectures I often show a photo of Zoe with her face deep in a big magnolia flower, and explain that no matter who or where she ends up, for the rest of her life every time she encounters a magnolia flower its sweetness will evoke memories of her childhood home.

This sense of place is important: it’s part of who we are, individually and collectively. As I travel across the world, I’m often asked where I’m from and, because of our both good and bad cultural baggage, when I say “Mississippi,” I get looks, comments. Many are favorable; some are not.

I just hold my head up and go on, because I treasure my ancestral home’s peoples and cultures, knowing that we celebrate our good while working on the rest.

And to me, nothing epitomizes us better than our state flower. Its huge, fragrant flowers are instantly recognizable worldwide – I’ve photographed them across five continents (even in New York City); Europe’s oldest botanic garden features an oversized magnolia flower sculpture.

It’s not everyone’s landscaping cup of tea, of course. It’s a huge native tree; the largest in the world is a Delta monster topping 135 feet, and they drop leathery leaves thickly atop shallow roots. However, tidier, more compact cultivars are available for landscape use, including my favorite, the long-blooming Little Gem which is appropriate for accents and screens in small gardens.

Still, there are reasons why we have long branded ourselves the Magnolia State. This largest flower in North America is our official floral emblem and state tree. The durable Cretaceous Period survivor, which still grows wild in our every county, outlived whatever killed the dinosaurs.

Because it represents both the enduring strength of our diverse people and cultures, as well as our natural heritage, since 1949 the Mississippi Department of Archives and History has featured a bold rendering of its flower and leaves on historical markers found in every community. And the Garden Clubs of Mississippi’s Avenue of Magnolias astonishes every visitor and returning native with fourteen miles of the stately trees lining the eight major entrances to the state. Impressive, to say the least.

All this is to say that, as of last month, we have a mandate to create something strong and evocative to represent Mississippi well to people both near and far. It’s a chance to be uniquely reminiscent, much like Texans’ Lone Star and the South Carolina’s palmetto.

We have an opportunity to extend our positive market brand by putting, rather than something nearly generic, our world-celebrated state flower on a new state flag.

Our legislature has decreed that “In God We Trust” be including in the design. That’s not my concern because it can easily underwrite a simple, bold rendering of the flower. Note that I am not thinking of the magnolia tree, just the flower itself, perhaps along the lines of what’s featured on our historic markers.

Main thing is, little this side of roses brings more smiles than our magnolia flower, which, like the ancient trees, doesn’t care who our Mamas ‘n them were, but watches over us equally, regally, nonplussed about our shortcomings. I hope it ends up, in one form or another, on the Magnolia State’s flag.

Regardless, magnolias will always kindle sweet forever memories. Get a child to smell its flower, then draw one for the ‘fridge door. Looks good there, too.

*For more information and photos, visit the detailed MagnoliaFlowerFlag.org link on my blog.*

## Ridesharing is the path to wealth

**By Harry C. Alford**  
*NNPA News Wire Columnist*



For many decades, the alternatives to private travel were taxi cabs, public trains and busing. As we entered the 21st century a new mode of travel presented itself to the public. It was ridesharing. This concept was entrepreneurial from its roots. A person would prepare his own car for travel at a reasonable fee. The process would be high technology which would offer many advantages over traditional business: trains and taxis.

There was much debate on who the eventual winner would be. I reached my conclusion during a trip to Chicago. We lined up to take a taxi to O’Hare Airport. The estimated wait would be 30 minutes. Impatient I decided to try out my new Uber service. In just 6 minutes my Suburban Sedan was there to pick us up and hurried us to the airport. The debate was over as far as I was concerned. We have been rideshare customers ever since.

There is more than just convenience when it comes to rideshare. Rideshare operators are true entrepreneurs. As leaders of the largest black business association in the world it is important that we practice what we preach – capitalism/entrepreneurship.

Over the years there have been legislative battles between the taxi industry and the rising rideshare component. Today, in California there is a pitch battle between the two camps. For obvious reasons, the National Black Chamber of Commerce supports the rideshare component such as Lyft, Uber, Door Dash, etc. The alternative is basically working for somebody, i.e. employment rather than ownership.

We are being threatened with As-

sembly Bill 5 (AB5). This threatens to take away the right of Californians to work as independent contractors with flexible schedules with app-based platforms to become employees with flat wages and set schedules. An employee model would also greatly limit the availability of these services, resulting in lost work opportunities and reduced access to rideshare and delivery services that many minority communities have grown to rely on.

The solution would be the Protect App-Based Drivers & Services Act. It would maintain access to flexible work opportunities for low incomes individuals by protecting their right to work as independent contractors with flexible schedules with app-based rideshare and delivery platforms.

It would also provide economic stability through minimum earnings guarantee of at least 120% of minimum wage and 30 cents per mile compensation toward expenses, with no limits on how much drivers can make.

Providing a contribution toward health care coverage starting for those who drive just 15 hours a week. Drivers who work 25 hours per week or more earn a health care payment that covers 100% of the average employer contribution toward a Covered California Plan or about \$367 per month.

Providing other benefits and protections including occupational accident insurance to cover on the job injuries, automobile accident and liability insurance, and protection against discrimination.

It would implement new safety protections for consumers and the public, including providing for recurring background checks of drivers, mandatory safety training, criminalizing impersonating app-based drivers, zero tolerance for drug and alcohol use, and banning drivers convicted of hate

crimes and other serious felonies and offenses.

Protect consumers’ access to affordable and convenient rideshare and delivery services. By promoting worker flexibility, this ballot measure will protect the availability of rideshare and food and package delivery services that millions of Californians rely on every day. This includes transportation services that reduce impaired and drunk driving, improve mobility for seniors and disabled and provide new transportation options for families who cannot afford a vehicle.

Keep in mind that the above concerns the current situation in California but such action will be replicated in others states as time goes along. We must become vigilant as to the progress on such activity.

You are all encouraged to get involved in the activity occurring in your state. Feel free to contact us if you need any relevant and current information about such activity. This is so important and relevant to entrepreneurial opportunities that sprout up in community by community and state by state.

We have members of both our families who drive for rideshare companies and they all seem excited about their business growth and the opportunities that are coming before them. Whether it is short term or extended duty they find it rewarding and satisfying. We are proud of them.

Entrepreneurship is the key to wealth and the above is a shining example of how it can work in today’s economy.

*Alford is the co-founder, president/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce ®. DeBow is the co-founder, executive vice president of the Chamber. Website: www.nationalbcc.org Emails: halford@nationalbcc.org kdebowl@nationalbcc.org*

## We have racial issues in America so let us talk

**By James B. Ewers Jr.**  
*President Emeritus  
Teen Mentoring Committee of Ohio*



I grew up in a neighborhood where we talked about a lot of things. Sometimes it became uncomfortable, but we got through it.

We got through it because we cared about each other. We loved and respected the people on our block and in our community.

Now America is in an uncomfortable position. Why? Because we must communicate, open-up and be honest about the racial climate in the United States of America.

Race is a sensitive topic and we cannot hide from it. It is staring us in the face. We must un-silence our voices. Not to do so will only make the problem worse.

As citizens, we have been wading in racial waters for a long time, in fact too long. Prior to even the Civil Rights Movement, blacks and whites have had dialogues about race.

With time being an ally, they started, sometimes continued and sometimes were postponed. Those involved did their best to give hope to our country.

In the meantime, racism did not stop. It was like a wound exposed with no doctor in sight. It just festered. We lamented the fact that racism

was still exploding in all facets of American life.

Then came the tragic killing of George Floyd in front of our very eyes. Our sense of fairness and equality was shaken. Only this time, it hit rock bottom.

The inescapable truth is that much of America is still separate and woefully unequal. Wherever we look, this nation’s systems have fallen short. Equal protection under the law is an axiom that has little meaning to black people. These are words on paper without equal application.

Now, there seems to be an awakening of some kind.

People who do not look like me have come out of their shells. For example, CBS network recently televised the BET Awards in prime time no less.

When I initially saw it advertised, I thought it was just my imagination running away with me. As a major enterprise, CBS could no longer remain silent. The executives there had to act. Let us see what else they do.

Netflix CEO Reed Hastings and his wife, Patty Quillin donated 120 million dollars to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Hastings said, “It made us realize that our part of this, to have America be the country we all want it to be, was to focus on education.”

This gift was the largest gift given to black schools. Reports say that 20% of black people 25 years and older have a bachelor’s degree. This compares to 40% of white people with a bachelor’s degree.

Silence is no longer an option. If you have been on mute about race, you must un-mute yourself and speak up and speak out.

All of us must begin to talk more to each other. It is only then that we can get to the healing part of our long racial suffering.

Conversations about race must happen more often and be more intentional and comprehensive. Apprehension must give way to participation; fear must give way to faith and reticence must give way to respect.

These conversations must begin in our workplaces, classrooms, places of worship and in our homes. These dialogues at times will be all black, all white and sometimes black and white.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Our lives begin to end when we become silent about things that matter.” Those sentiments were true then and they are true now.

There is a hard reality facing us. We may never have this type of opportunity again. We must seize this moment. We have a chance to change. We cannot go back.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE  
JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

- I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS
- A. OLD BUSINESS
1. CASE NO. 2020-09, REQUESTED BY: SAM NEWMAN, TO CONSTRUCT A NEW MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT 0 GILLESPIE STREET (PARCEL 15-9), LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORICAL DISTRICT.
- B. NEW BUSINESS
1. CASE NO. 2020-16, REQUESTED BY: DAVID VAUGHAN TO KEEP THE NEWLY REPLACED FRONT DOORS OF THE BUILDING AT 815, 817, 819 OAKWOOD ST. LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORICAL DISTRICT.
2. CASE NO. 2020-17, REQUESTED BY: JASON BUCKLEY TO REPLACE THE EXISTING "DOG EARED" BOARD FENCE WITH 6FT TALL GOOD NEIGHBOR FENCE WITH THE SAME ALIGNMENT AND POSITION WHERE A PARTIAL OF IT EXCEEDS THE FRONT BUILDING LINE AT 2111 LAUREL ST. LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORICAL DISTRICT.
3. CASE NO. 2020-18, REQUESTED BY: HULON (HUGH) CARR TO INSTALL WHITE ALUMINUM STORM WINDOWS THROUGHOUT THE EXTERIOR OF THE RESIDENCE AT 1168/1170 QUINN ST. LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

II. ADJOURN

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, COMMISSIONERS AND APPLICANTS WILL ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING BZHAO@JACKSONMS.GOV TO REGISTER PRIOR TO AUGUST 5, 2020.

7-16-2020, 7-23-2020

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION

ZONING CASE NO. 4095

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Art Minton has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Special Exception to allow for a professional (real estate) office within a R-1A (Single-Family) Residential District on property located at 1131 Druid Hill Dr. (Parcel: 438-101) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

LOT 32, DRUID HILL SUBDIVISION, and a Subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi as now recorded in Plat Book 5 at Page 11, reference to which is hereby made.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, July 22, 2020, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO JULY 15, 2020.

WITNESS my signature this 25th day of June 2020.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth  
Zoning Administrator  
City of Jackson, Mississippi

7-2-2020, 7-16-2020

FROM  
\$1,649<sup>+</sup>  
\$1,399<sup>+</sup>

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*\*Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus up to \$299 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfare available. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 9/30/20. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.*

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS AND NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of Jackson, MS, at 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201 or at Post Office Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205 until 3:30 PM, local time, Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

Art Center of Mississippi  
ADA Restroom Renovation  
201 East Pascagoula St, Jackson, MS 39213  
City of Jackson Project No. 17B7003.701

Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished and sealed and deposited with City Clerk prior to the hour and date above designated. A copy of the construction documents (plans and/or specifications) for the construction being sought has been filed with the City Clerk of Jackson, MS. Official bid Documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic bids and/or reverse 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. Questions regarding plan clarifications or requests for information should be directed to the architect as follows:

Baker LPA Group, LLP  
11 N. Water Street  
Suite 14290  
Mobile, AL 36602  
Attn: Douglas Thomason  
251-380-0898

A copy of the Bid Documents (including plans and specifications for the Work) are being made available via digital and original paper copy. Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents from the Jackson Blueprint Online Plan Room website <http://planroom.jaxblue.com>. There is no charge for registration or to view the bid documents online. Bid documents are non-refundable and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. A printed bid set is approximately \$75.00 plus shipping and applicable sales tax and an electronic downloadable set is \$25.00 plus applicable sales tax. For questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Jackson Blueprint & Supply at (601)353-5803.

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

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with the bid 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 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 the Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1856. Copies of the Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the Program, as attached, are available at 200 South President Street, 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.

Bid preparation will be in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities in respect to any bid submitted or to accept any proposal which is deemed most favorable to the City of Jackson.

A PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD

The Notice of the Pre-Bid Conference date, time and place will be issued by Addendum. All Contractors who intend to submit "BIDS" are encouraged to attend.

Robert K. Miller  
Director of Public Works

Vanessa Henderson  
Deputy Director  
Housing & Community Development

7-16-2020, 7-23-2020

LEGAL

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Davis Planetarium - Demolition  
City of Jackson MS

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Cooke Douglas Farr Lemons Architects + Engineers PA  
601-366-3110 Extension 216  
Attention: Chris Myers

A copy of the Bid Documents (including plans and specifications for the Work) are being made available via digital and original paper copy. Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents from the Jackson Blueprint Online Plan Room website <http://planroom.jaxblue.com>. There is no charge for registration or to view the bid documents online. Bid documents are non-refundable and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. A printed bid set is approximately \$50.00 plus shipping and applicable sales tax and an electronic downloadable set is \$25.00 plus applicable sales tax. For questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Jackson Blueprint & Supply at (601)353-5803.

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A PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD

The Notice of the Pre-Bid Conference Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 9:00 am (CST) in Art Center of Mississippi Lobby. All Contractors who intend to submit "BIDS" are encouraged to attend.

Robert K. Miller  
Director of Public Works

7-16-2020, 7-23-2020

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✓  
X-rays

✓  
Fillings

✓  
Crowns

✓  
Dentures

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◆ Helps cover over 350 services

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Here's the information you requested on Dental Insurance

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Product not available in all states. Includes the Participating Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY; call 1-888-799-4433 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A. (ID: C250E; PA: C250O; Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). Rider kinds B438/B439. 6154-0120

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1 Req.'s separate subscriptions/login for HBO<sup>®</sup>, Netflix and Pandora.

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LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
BY THE  
JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
FOR  
CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES  
IN CONNECTION WITH THE  
WEST CONCOURSE ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
AT THE  
JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JMAA  
PROJECT NO. 002-20)

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is seeking electronic bids for construction and related services in connection with the West Concourse Roof Replacement Project at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

JMAA will receive electronic sealed submissions only. All submissions to perform the Work will be accepted until Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 4:00 pm (CST) (the "Bid Deadline"). Electronic submissions are to be submitted via email to Chad Parker, Director of Procurement, via email at cparker@jmaa.com. JMAA will also receive hand delivered electronic submissions up to the Deadline at JMAA's administrative offices, Suite 300, Main Terminal Building, Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208.

JMAA will publicly open and read aloud all bids on Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 4:05 p.m. (CST) (the "Bid Opening"), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at the Bid Opening.

The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) Bidder's company name; (ii) Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number; and (iii) the wording: "West Concourse Roof Replacement Project at JAN, Project No. 002-20." If the submission is submitted via email, then the information must be provided in the email subject line. If the submission is submitted by hand delivery, then the information must be marked on the outside or exterior of the bid envelope or container.

JMAA will not consider any submissions, to include bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received after the Bid Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information to Bidders relating to this Request for Bids ("RFB") is on file and open for public inspection at the offices of JMAA.

JMAA will award the Work to the lowest most responsive and responsible Bidder as determined by JMAA in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Information for Bidders. The Information for Bidders contains, among other things, a copy of this Advertisement for Bids, Instructions to Bidders, and an Agreement to be executed by JMAA and the lowest and most responsive and responsible Bidder. Any Addendums issued clarifying and/or changing plans and specifications; clarifying and/or changing instructions in the Instruction to Bidders; and/or answering questions in relation to the Instructions to Bidders, including plans and specifications, shall become part of the Information for Bidders. Plans and specifications related to the Work are considered part of the Agreement.

The Information for Bidders, including plans and specifications, is on file and open for public inspection at JAN at the following address:  
Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport  
Suite 300, Main Terminal Building  
100 International Drive  
Jackson, Mississippi 39208  
Telephone: (601) 664-3516  
Facsimile: (601) 939-3713  
Attention: Chad Parker, Director of Procurement

A copy of the plans and specifications for the Work are being made available via digital and original paper copy. Plan holders may register and order plans and specifications from the Jackson Blueprint Online Plan Room website (<http://planroom.jaxblue.com>). There is no charge for registration or to view the documents online. Documents are non-refundable and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. A printed bid set is \$75.00 plus \$20.00 shipping and applicable sales tax and an electronic downloadable set is \$25.00 plus applicable sales tax. Bid Documents may be picked up or shipped to the person making the request. Documents will not be distributed or mailed, however, until payment is received. For questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Jackson Blueprint & Supply at (601)353-5803.

JMAA reserves the right to amend the plans and specifications for the Work by Addendum issued before the Bid Deadline; to reject any and all bids; to waive informalities in the bidding process; and to hold and examine bids for up to ninety (90) days before awarding the Contract to perform the Work.

If it becomes necessary to revise any aspect of this Request for Bids or to provide additional information to Bidders, JMAA will issue one or more Addenda by posting on JMAA's website (<https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement/>). JMAA will also endeavor to deliver a copy of each Addendum, to all persons on record with JMAA as receiving a copy of the Information for Bidders, via email.

JMAA has established a DBE participation goal of 20% for the Work solicited by this RFB. JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

7-9-2020, 7-16-2020

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Request for Proposal (RFP)#2020-03  
Mobility Services Technology

The City of Jackson (the "City"), through its Department of Planning and Development, Office of Transportation, is soliciting bids for a modern software solution for the management of demand response transportation. It can be securely accessed via standard web browsers and should incorporate industry-leading tools to effectively monitor operational processes and resources. The selected Proposal will be for intuitive, easy to use GIS-based scheduling and dispatch software that accurately selects the most appropriate vehicle/run to place reservations using a batch scheduling process that improves overall on-time performance. The City of Jackson must also have the option of purchasing Mobile Data Computers or Tablets as a part of this project.

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#2020-03.

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, August 4, 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,EBOPlanApplications,andacopyoftheprogramareavailableatthefollowinglocation: 200SouthPresident 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.

7-2-2020, 7-9-2020, 7-16-2020, 7-23-2020, 7-30-2020,

LEGAL

CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that Proposals will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi until 3:30p.m., Tuesday, July 28, 2020. The City of Jackson, Mississippi requests proposals from art groups and other community development groups providing services to the citizens in the City of Jackson.

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

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

For the Request for Proposals packet, please contact Beverley Johnson-Durham at 601 960 0383. All proposal must be sealed and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: Proposal for general funds Arts and Community Based Grants. Proposal packets must be received by the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 219 South President Street by 3:30pm on JULY 28, 2020. The city reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

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

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

7-9-2020, 7-16-2020 7-23-2020

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi on August 18, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. at City Hall, 219 South President Street. Proposals will be received for lease purchase interest rate financing for the purchase of, vehicles and related equipment, fire trucks, heavy equipment, and technology equipment.

Please submit an original and two (2) copies of sealed proposals, marked: "RFP#94654-081820 Lease Purchase Financing Interest Rate Proposal." Proposals should be mailed to the following address prior to or on August 18, 2020.

City of Jackson, Mississippi  
Attention: Municipal Clerk  
219 South President Street  
Jackson, MS 39201

Request for proposal documents can be downloaded from the City of Jackson website: [HYPERLINK "http://www.jacksonms.gov"](http://www.jacksonms.gov) [www.jacksonms.gov](http://www.jacksonms.gov), and can be obtained by contacting the City of Jackson, Mississippi as follows:

Department of Administration  
Attention: Felicia Young  
200 South President Street  
Jackson, MS 39201  
(601) 960-2005

7-16-2020 7-23-2020

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS  
City of Jackson  
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, August 04, 2020, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

93684-080420 36 –Month Maintenance & Repair of City Towers

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT [WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV](http://WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV)  
AND [WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM](http://WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM)

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

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

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

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

7-16-2020 7-23-2020

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO THE PUBLIC, OWNERS OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND TAXPAYERS OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, AND OF THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

You are hereby notified that the ad valorem tax assessment schedule of motor vehicles in the City of Jackson and in the Jackson Municipal Separate School District containing assessed valuation of all motor vehicles in said City and School District which the City shall use in the collection of ad valorem taxes thereon for the taxable year beginning August 1, 2020, has been prepared, filed, equalized and approved by the Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, pursuant to Chapter 588, Laws of 1958, as amended, subject to the right of motor vehicle owners and taxpayers to object to any of said valuations appearing on said assessment schedule; that said schedule for special equipment, trailers, motorcycles, ambulances and hearses is now ready for inspection and examination by the public, at City Hall located at 219 S. President Street in the City of Jackson and said schedule for passenger vehicles and light trucks is located in the computer system of the Hinds County Tax Collector and is now ready for inspection and examination by the public at the Hinds County Chancery Court Building, and that any objection to valuation of motor vehicles set forth and contained in said schedule shall be made in writing, setting forth in detail the grounds for such objection and claim for adjustments, with a full and complete identifiable description of the motor vehicle involved, and filed in duplicate with the Municipal Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, at City Hall located at 219 S. President Street, in Jackson, Mississippi, on or before 6:00 p.m. on July 21, 2020 as provided by law, and particularly Section 27-51-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

The Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, will meet in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 219 S. President Street in said City on said date and will then commence hearing any objection to any valuation of motor vehicles set forth and contained in said assessment schedule which has been made in writing and filed with the Municipal Clerk, as hereinabove provided, and will remain in session from day to day thereafter, considering such objection and claim for adjustment until all parties in interest have been heard and such objection for claim for adjustment is disposed of as provided by law.

7-16-2020

Office  
Space for  
Rent

Garrett  
Enterprises  
Building  
(Near Jackson Medical Mall)  
  
2659 Livingston Road  
Jackson, MS 39213  
  
2500 Square Feet  
  
Call: 601-209-9199



Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9
10				11					
12				13					
14				15				16	
17					18	19			
			20	21		22	23	24	25
26	27	28		29	30				
31			32				33		
34							35		
36							37		

- ACROSS**

  - 1. That girl
  - 4. A way out
  - 10. That man
  - 11. Absence of values
  - 12. Official canine registry (abbr.)
  - 13. Sarcasm
  - 14. Bird \_\_
  - 16. X
  - 17. Journey
  - 18. Biblical “look”
  - 20. MD
  - 22. Competent
  - 26. Flurry
  - 29. Care
  - 31. Sidetrack
  - 33. Pride
  - 34. Distaste for religion
  - 35. Excise
  - 36. “Melts in your mouth” candy brand
  - 37. Cagy
- DOWN**

  - 1. Axle
  - 2. Walker
  - 3. Master of ceremonies
  - 4. Relieve
  - 5. Tree knot
  - 6. Decay
  - 7. Discharge
  - 8. Father
  - 9. Was looked at
  - 15. Dekagram (abbr.)
  - 19. Tree
  - 21. Religious festival
  - 23. Root vegetables
  - 24. Sound
  - 25. Synthetic resin
  - 26. First man
  - 27. Factor of ten
  - 28. Golf tournament
  - 30. Parent teacher groups
  - 32. Sum

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Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

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

© Feature Exchange

Cryptogram

A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the puzzle is to 'decode' the sentence to reveal the original English sentence. We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.

Hint: Quote by Bob Barker

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN O PQRSTU VWXYZ

T E          T          T          T E

o R Q J F T E E H G W F S Q F o T L Q F S T L

E          E          T          T

X T P O D D T I X H B H I G A D F S Q J

E          E          E          E

X H D G B T U T G U E T o M T P J G K J

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Crossword Solution

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

© Feature Exchange

Sudoku Solution

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

© Feature Exchange

Cryptogram Solution

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN O PQRSTU VWXYZ

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

I C A N T E L L Y O U T H A T I ' D R A T H E R

o R Q J F T E E H G W F S Q F o T L Q F S T L

B E K I S S E D B Y M Y D O G S T H A N

X T P O D D T I X H B H I G A D F S Q J

B Y S O M E P E O P L E I ' V E K N O W N

X H D G B T U T G U E T o M T P J G K J

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PICK UP  
The MISSISSIPPI LINK  
AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

**JACKSON**  
**BULLY'S RESTAURANT**  
3118 Livingston Road  
**CASH & CARRY**  
Capitol Street and Monument Street  
**CITY HALL**  
219 S President St  
**GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX**  
2659 Livingston Road  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
2030 N Siwell Rd  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
4331 Highway 80W  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
304 Briarwood Dr  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
2855 McDowell Rd  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
104 Terry Rd  
**J & A FUEL STORES**  
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.  
**LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST**  
2325 Livingston Rd.

**MCDADÉ'S MARKET**  
Northside Drive  
**MCDADÉ'S MARKET #2**  
653 Duling Avenue  
**PICADILLY CAFETERIA**  
Jackson Medical Mall  
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue  
**SHELL FOOD MART**  
5492 Watkins Drive

**SPORTS MEDICINE**  
Fortification and I-55  
**MURPHY USA**  
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)  
**REVELL ACE HARDWARE**  
Terry Rd (South Jackson)  
**WALGREENS**  
380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave  
  
**CANTON**  
**A & I**  
716 Roby Street - Canton, MS  
**B & B**  
702 West North Street - Canton, MS  
**BOUTIQUE STORE**  
3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS  
**BULLY'S STORE**  
Church Street - Canton, MS  
**COMMUNITY MART**  
743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS  
**FRYER LANE GROCERY**  
Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS  
**HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN**  
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS  
**JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY**  
507 Church Street - Canton, MS  
**K & K ONE STOP**  
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS  
**LACY'S INSURANCE**  
421 Peace Street - Canton, MS  
**SOUL SET BARBER SHOP**  
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS  
**TRAILER PARK GROCERY**  
22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

**BYRAM**  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
125 Swinging Bridge Dr.  
**HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE**  
5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

**VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE**  
5777 Terry Road  
**CITY HALL**  
Terry Road

**CLINTON**  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

**TERRY**  
**SERVICE STATION**  
at Exit 78  
**CITY HALL**  
West Cunningham Avenue

**RAYMOND**  
**HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**WELCOME CENTER**  
505 E. Main Street  
**SUNFLOWER GROCERY**  
122 Old Port Gibson Street,  
Raymond, MS  
**LOVE FOOD MART**  
120 E. Main Street,  
Raymond, MS  
**RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS  
**RAYMOND CITY HALL**  
110 Courtyard Square, Raymond  
**RAYMOND COURTHOUSE**

**UTICA**  
**HUBBARD'S TRUCK STOP**  
Mississippi Hwy 18  
**PITT STOP**  
101 Hwy 18 & 27

**BOLTON**  
**BOLTON LIBRARY**  
**BOLTON CITY HALL**

Classes / Training

**COMPUTER AND IT TRAINING PROGRAM!** Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer and Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! 833-992-0228 (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

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For Sale

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Insurance

**DENTAL INSURANCE** from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for (350) procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. (Don't wait!) Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1 - 8 5 5 - 3 9 7 - 7 0 4 5 www.dental50plus.com/mspress #6258  
**FREE AUTO INSURANCE QUOTES** for uninsured and insured drivers. Let us show you how much you can save! Call 833-678-0500

**UP TO \$15,000.00 of GUARANTEED Life Insurance!** No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses. Call Physicians Life Insurance Company- 844-439-8447 or visit www.Life55plus.info/ms

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**VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS!** 50 Pills SPECIAL \$99.00 FREE Shipping! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW! 844-821-3242

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# Do Right with Your Rights

*By H Ralph Samuels, Jr.*

Hospitals are overwhelmed There are no more beds in sight But still no mask you wear because you say that is your right	But some people are so self-conceited only thinking what is best for me No matter how it affects another they say “it’s my right so let me be”	Experts say to wear a mask and you say, “Yes, I do agree” But you are never wearing one So who are the people supposed to believe?	Yes, this is a war we’re in and an invisible enemy is the threat we need everyone in the trenches with mask Cause we ain’t seen nothing yet
Ventilators are few in number Doctors working overtime Nurses pulling double shifts But your rights are first in line	But you see so many getting sick and sadly everyday someone is dying You say you’re concerned and want to help But your actions say that you’re not trying	Actions do speak louder than words And leaders should set a good example so why do you not follow the guidelines given but on the experts advice you trample	If they say it will get worse in the days and months to come Cause the curve’s not flat enough Then this war is far from won
Your rights are not the question The right to wear or not to wear But to put other lives in jeopardy just shows that you do not care	Put the mask over your nose and mouth Keep six feet away and avoid the crowds stay at home if you don’t have to go out humble yourself and don’t be proud	It’s not your rights you’re trying to defend But sheer arrogance that’s on display God have mercy if you get infected and never see another day	The death toll still continues to rise New cases are reported every day some are positive some are negative Yes, it can go either way
If your kitchen sink overflows tell me just what would you do Would your rights say “let the water run!” No, you’d shut it off now wouldn’t you?	This is a very serious pandemic and there’s no time for us to play Let’s be still and hear from God Let’s take time to fast and pray	And now a word to John Q. Public Is it really all that bad To wear a mask so others might live Just comply and stop getting mad	Some present with many symptoms Others barely show a sign You can be a pinnacle of health today and in a moment just flat line
What if your car would not crank up because your fuel pump has flooded Common sense says let it settle if not a repair bill is forthcoming	It needs to starts with leadership On the National, State and Local levels Stop saying “Yes in God we trust then lying and acting like the devil	What if the cure to this pandemic was totally dependent upon you and your mother’s life was at stake what would your “rights” tell you to do?	Take a moment and consider this I’m only asking of one small favor wear a mask when you go out and like State Farm, be a good neighbor
These are two simple explanations of what many fail or try to see Not because they don’t understand but their heart’s not where it should be	The truth will soon come to the light It always happens in God’s own time We’re not deceived by your double talk You cannot fool us with that line	If you say “well some people will die” just like many have already said You’re not alive you’re just existing Cause your heart’s already dead	God is speaking clearly to us We don’t need lighting or thunder I’d rather smile at you six feet away Then crying because you’re six feet under
The Bible says, “Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” That means your rights should take a backseat If it wrongs the welfare of your brothers	Like, “We’re trying to save the economy so people need to get back to work” And while the essential ones get sick and die The wealthy still get all the perks	How can you be so cold and callous just because you have a healthy advantage and are not vulnerable like others are and say it’s just collateral damage	So everybody do the right thing don’t let this virus have the last word Do Right with Your Rights God has spoken have you heard?

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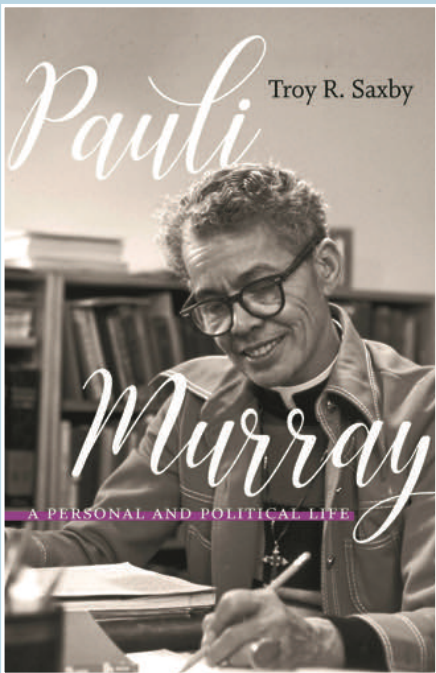
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BOOK REVIEW:

PAULI MURRAY:  
A PERSONAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

BY TROY R. SAXBY

C.2020, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS

\$34.95 / HIGHER IN CANADA • 353 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

Life, if you think about it, is somewhat like a necklace. Imagine the first bead is birth, starting off a chain. This bead represents your fifth birthday, here’s your tenth, graduation, your first job, your first home, your first-born. Some beads are larger but the smaller ones are not unimportant. And so it goes, but when building that metaphoric chain, as in the new book “Pauli Murray: A Personal and Political Life” by Troy R. Saxby, be aware of the links.

Almost from the day she was born, Annie Pauline Murray was challenged. When she was three years old, her pregnant mother died, leaving six children to a husband who was abusive and mentally ill. Shortly afterward, Murray’s father entered a “psychiatric facility,” where he died when Murray was twelve; between those losses, Murray was taken in and raised by an aunt in a poverty-affected but “respectable middle-class” household that contained more mental illness. Though many of Murray’s Black family members “passed”

as white, her closest guardians “gloried in the achievements of African Americans.” Young Murray had a “rebellious streak,” but she embraced the education her elders demanded, and was driven to excel: at college, many officials doubted that she could do the work required to succeed, and they told her so – but that “streak” made her more determined, which helped her achieve several college degrees, including one in law. Her accomplishments were many: Murray was an early feminist, she worked tirelessly and ingeniously for the Civil Rights Movement

and for social justice, but her successes didn’t buoy her. Always a “tomboy,” Murray had love affairs with women through the years, but furtively, given the times and lack of tolerance for homosexuality. She seemed to embrace that love, but it also seemed to bother her: she asked doctors if there was something inside her that was more male than female, as if she were a “hermaphrodite.” This, perhaps, as well as racism, self-pressure to succeed, confrontationalism, and mental illness that plagued her family caused “almost annual

breakdowns...” While it starts out fascinating, with descriptions of the era in which Murray’s forebears lived and of her earliest years, “Pauli Murray” becomes too much, too quickly. It’s comprehensive, that’s a fact – author Troy R. Saxby seemed to leave no stone unturned – but infinitesimal details of Murray’s life are abundant here, every argument, movement, and visit, and that can be overwhelming. And yet, there’s so much to glean from this book, so many milestones Saxby says Murray set, that you almost can’t stop

reading despite watching the discomfort, obvious pain, and inner struggle she endured. Through letters and articles she wrote, readers get to know Murray as she perceived herself; those personal peeks are engrossing, especially given the legacy she left when she died almost exactly 35 years ago. If you have the patience, or the ability to skim when overpowered with minutiae, “Pauli Murray” is ultimately, absolutely worthwhile. Especially now, any reader who wants to know more about social justice pioneers should get a bead on it.

**ZACK WALLACE**  
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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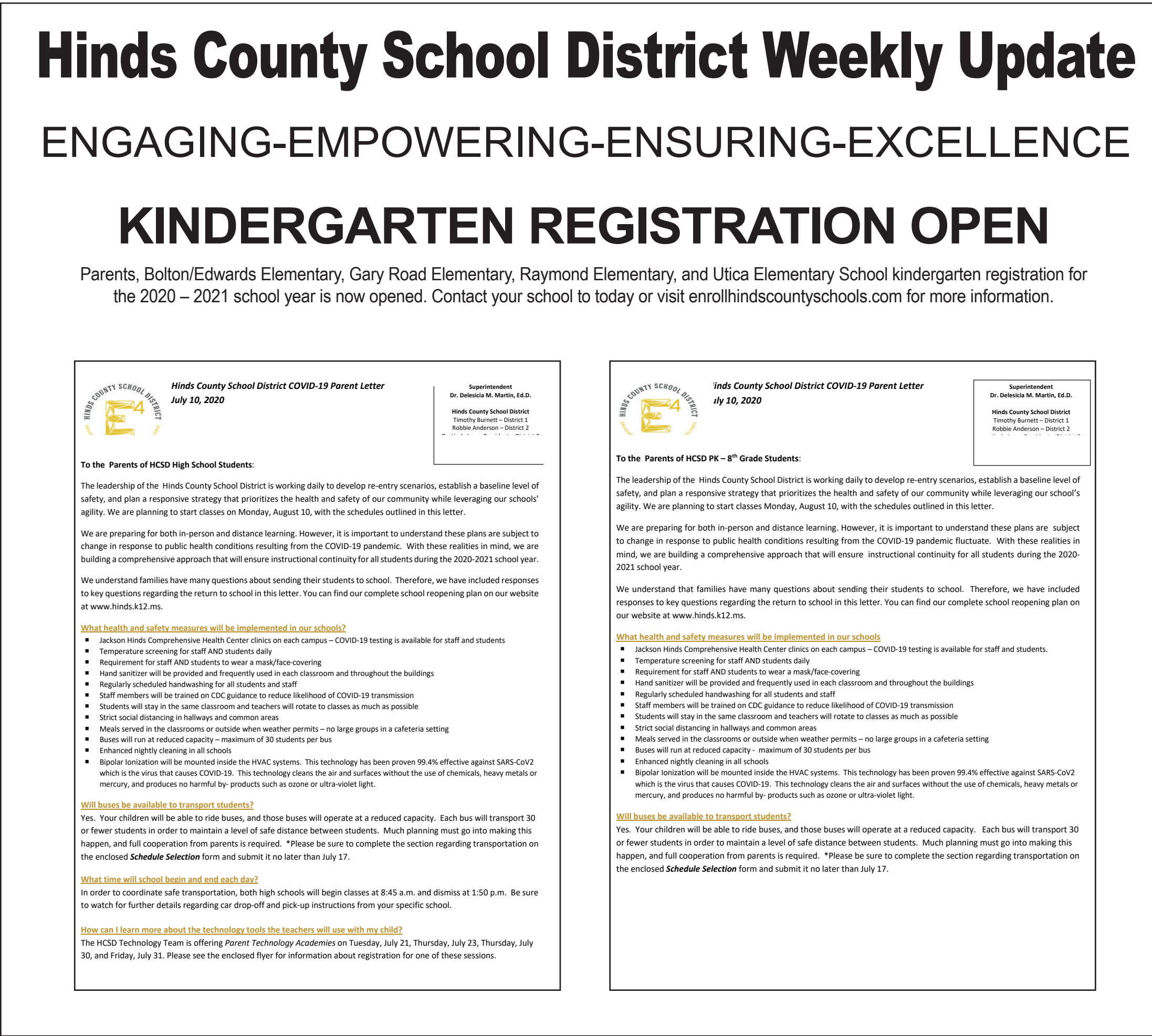
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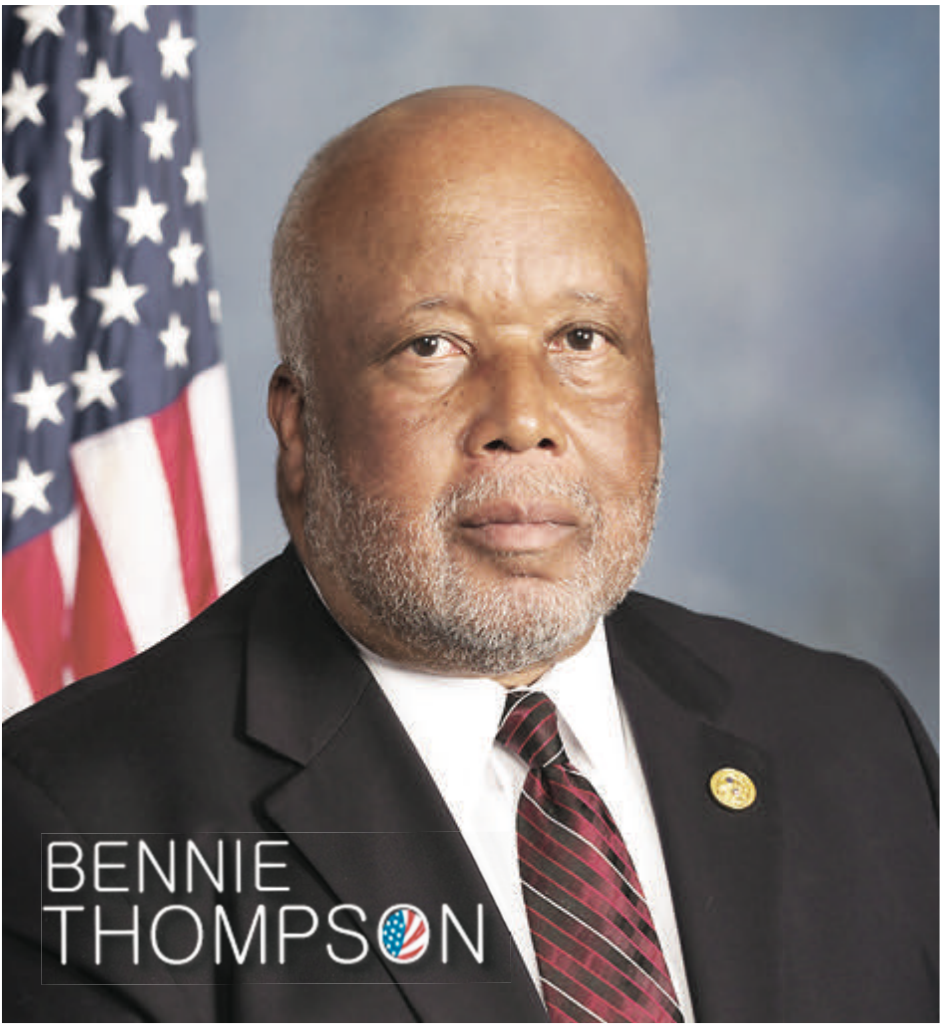
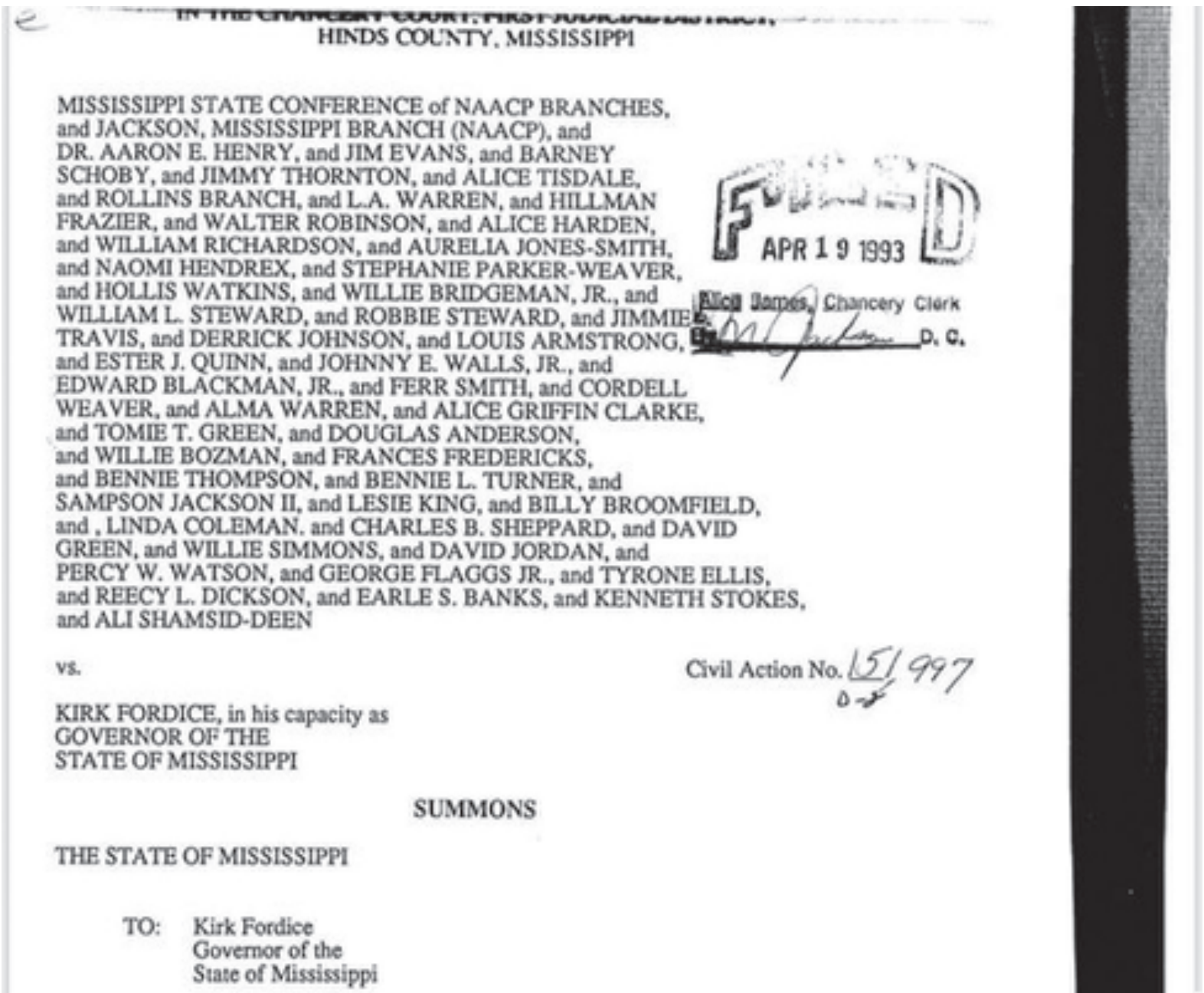
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