



# Lawmakers denied opportunity to witness signing of bill to retire state flag but witnessed the flag removal

**By Jackie Hampton**  
*Publisher*

Tuesday, June 30, 2020, was a historic day in the State of Mississippi. Governor Tate Reeves signed House Bill No. 1796, which retired the last state flag in the United States of America carrying the Confederate battle emblem. The people of the state cried out for change and the Mississippi Legislature responded overwhelmingly.

“The signing of the bill was significant and historic because many people worked to make this happen over the years,” stated Senator Hillman Frazier, who has represented District 27 since 1993. I along with many of my colleagues wanted to witness the signing of this historic bill because of the sacrifices made by so many over the years.”

Frazier said normally bill signing ceremonies take place at the State Capitol and are open to all members of the Mississippi Legislature but many desiring to witness the bill signing were not able to do so. “To my surprise this ceremony was an invitation – only event that was held at the Governor’s Mansion,” said Frazier. “This historic moment was reduced to a political photo op. Many of us who worked so hard to see this day were denied entrance to the governor’s

standing on the outside looking in. Frazier added, “Many people lost their lives trying to change this flag.”

“It was like a slap in the face,” said Senator Sollie Norwood, when he and other legislatures, that had introduced legislation year after year, were told that they could not enter the governor’s mansion to witness the signing of the resolution. Norwood, who has represented District 28 since 2013 said “I can’t help but think about the songwriter Sam Cook who must have envisioned this day many years ago when he wrote the song, A Change is Going to Come.” Samuel Cook, known professionally as Sam Cook, was an American singer, songwriter, composer, producer, and civil-rights activist. Norwood said the change which Cook sang about came Sunday when the legislature voted overwhelmingly to retire the current state flag.

“This was a tough bill for the governor to sign, no doubt,” stated Senator John Horhn-D, who has served district 26 since 1993. “His base certainly opposed it. I think the fact that he held a subdued signing ceremony was a nod to his base and an effort to appease them.”

**Lawmakers**  
*Continued on page 3*



The Mississippi state flag is lowered and removed from the state capitol June 30, 2020.

mansion because our names were not on the list of invitees. It is my hope that the governor will learn from his mistake going forward. The way that the ceremony was conducted excluded too many people.”

Frazier said he had taken with him many ordinary citizens who wanted to witness history, but instead they were

# After 126 years, the Mississippi Legislature voted to remove the Confederate battle emblem from state flag

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

Sunday, June 28, the Mississippi Legislature voted to remove the Confederate battle emblem from the state flag after 126 years, becoming the last state to remove the controversial symbol.

“I would guess a lot of you don’t even see that flag in the corner right there,” State Representative Ed Blackmon, who is black, said before the vote Saturday. “There are some of us who notice it every time we walk in here, and it’s not a good feeling.”

Saturday, the state House and Senate voted to suspend the rules allowing for debate and vote on House Bill 1796 to change the state flag. The bill passed the House Sunday, June 30, by a vote of 9-23 followed by a 37-14 Senate vote. Lawmakers received a standing ovation from onlookers as cheers erupted from the crowd.

Democratic Senator Derrick Simmons pleaded with his fellow colleagues to vote for the “Mississippi of tomorrow.”

“In the name of history, I stand for my two sons, who are 1 and 6 years old, who should be educated in schools and be able to frequent businesses and express black voices in public places that fly a symbol of love, not hate,” he added.

The bill allows for the formation of a nine member commission that would be in charge of a flag redesign that eliminates the

Confederate battle emblem but includes the slogan “In God We Trust.” The commission will select a new design following those guidelines, and the new design will be placed on the ballot November 3.

If voters reject the new design, it returns to the commission for redesign. The legislation also mandates the prompt, dignified and respectful removal of the flag within 15 days of the bill going into effect.

The bill goes to Governor Tate Reeves, who stated Saturday, “If a bill comes across my desk, I will sign it.” The legislature has been deadlocked for days as it considers a new state flag. The argument over the 1894 flag has become as divisive as the flag itself and it’s time to end it.”

Reeves continued, “The job before us is to bring the state together and I intend to work night and day to do it. It will be harder than recovering from tornadoes,”


**Flag**  
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Mississippi legislators

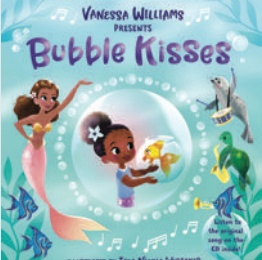
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# Holmes County non-profit and MSDH partner to educate youth on COVID-19

By Levell Williams  
Online Editor

Holmes County is a COVID-19 hot spot, according to the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) in late May. As of June 28, the county has seen 514 confirmed cases and forty deaths.

In an effort to change these troubling statistics, one Holmes non-profit organization organized an event to educate students from Holmes County and the surrounding area about the progression of COVID-19. On June 17, The Community Students Learning Center's (CSLC) Health Optimization and Prevention Education (HOPE) program partnered with the MSDH's Department of Health Equity for the event, which was held via video conference call.

"On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and students, we are so grateful that the MSDH Office of Health Equity was able to partner with us and our community partners to present this extremely important COVID-19 education outreach to our Holmes County Youth and surrounding areas," said Beulah Greer, administrative official and executive director for the CSLC's HOPE program.

Students and other guests in the audience voiced many concerns about COVID-19. Some sought to know more about the spread of the virus, while others wanted to know more about how to navigate the new normal. Dr. Chigozie Udemgba addressed the myriad of concerns. Udemgba is director of the Office of Health Equity, Office of Preventive Health and Health Equity at the MSDH.

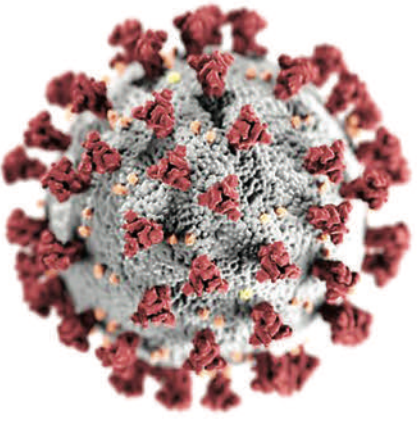
One student asked if a person can contract COVID-19 twice. Udemgba replied, "We are not sure about that," saying that those previously infected should continue



to exercise caution. Another guest asked if viral spit droplets can possibly travel more than the estimated six feet while speaking. "The six feet is based on an average," said Udemgba. He noted that, outside of typical conversation, droplets may travel farther when people yell or sneeze intensely. One participant asked whether a person's blood type has any bearing on their risk of contracting the coronavirus. Udemgba said that the virus does not discriminate based upon blood type.

Outside of the event, Holmes County community officials also shared their thoughts on the progression of COVID-19. James Young, Holmes County Supervisor president, said many people must begin to get more serious about exercising preventative measures such as social distancing, effective hand washing, and wearing masks. He emphasized, "It's a mind thing."

The young people on the call seemed to be taking the virus seriously. Remaining engaged and inquisitive, they continued to raise many unique concerns. From the eldest community guest, to the youngest



student, there was no shortage of probing questions.

One of such concerns, voiced by many students, was about how school might return in the fall. "We are not sure... It's really going to be contingent upon what we see day to day with the virus," replied Udemgba. "If we go back to school... It's probably going to be in a modified format." He noted that more information would likely become available during July.

"Young people are social... They want to be with their friends," said Mayor Robin McCrory of Lexington, Miss., the county's seat of the government. Lexington is also where CSLC is located.

"Even as adults, [it's hard]... We crave the human touch," she said. "We haven't been able to do that through this." Still, she remains hopeful. "Young people are our future," she said.

Amid all of the changes surrounding COVID-19, some students wanted to know about the status of team sports, including football. "Right now, football season is not cancelled... [Although], it's probably going to look a lot different,"

said Udemgba. He also said that continuing practice for contact sports posed more dangers than for others. He suggested that student athletes focus on honing their individual conditioning.

One student asked whether school will be safe for teachers in the fall, or whether they will need to teach virtually. Udemgba said that if a teacher's office is sanitized and they can exercise social distancing, it is "a possibility" that they may return to school physically to teach.

Another student asked what would happen if, upon return to school, a student contracted COVID-19. Udemgba said that school authorities would likely act swiftly to shut down the school and isolate the student and those who they had come in contact with.

One student asked about why businesses have been closed. Udemgba said that most businesses have changed their hours to allow adequate time and staff for restocking their products and sanitizing their public spaces.

A student asked whether packages should be disinfected upon delivery. "If you order a package, it doesn't hurt to spray a little Lysol on it," said Udemgba. He also said that disinfecting goods such as groceries can be beneficial.

Another student asked whether pets could contract COVID-19. "Early on, people said that pets [could not contract COVID-19], but we've seen more and more cases," he said. "Now, it's a possibility."

Another guest asked about how to live with someone who has COVID-19. Udemgba shared that the person infected, and those not, should wear masks and sanitize properly. "As much as possible, try to avoid and not spend as much time

with that individual," he said.

Greer stated that she and CSLC are also grateful to city and county officials for their continuous and front-line efforts to try to curtail the spread of the virus in the community.

"Our young people, as well as some of us older folks, need to know how critically important it is to follow all of the health and CDC guideline to help prevent the spread of this horrible virus," she said. "We were so pleased to see the young people who participated, and we were so appreciative for such in-depth and engaging COVID-19 informational presentation from Dr. Chigozie Udemgba."

Dr. Udemgba said after the event, "It was a great opportunity to be in touch with the community ... [and] the younger population." Additionally, he said, "We are more than happy" to partner with other communities that are interested in collaborating to deter the spread of COVID-19.

*The Community Students Learning Center (CSLC), located at 333 Yazoo Street, Lexington, is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization that has served the county and state since 2003. HOPE is a teen pregnancy prevention (TPP19) program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Population Affairs (OPA). It's core and collaborative partners include the Holmes County Consolidated School District (HCCSD), Mallory Community Health Center (MCHC), Holmes County Sheriff Department, PEARLS Mentoring for Girls, Inc., Powerhouse Deliverance Temple, The Mississippi Link, Goodman Mayoral Health Council, Bryant Clark Law Office, PLLC, and the Local Government.*

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## Lawmakers

Continued from page 1

Regardless, the bill was signed, and the flag is gone,” said Horhn.

Among the small group witnessing the bill signing were several members of the governor’s family; Senator Angela Turner Ford, D-West Point; Speaker of the House Philip Gunn,-R; Reuben Anderson, the first African American justice on the Mississippi Supreme Court; Lt. Gov. Delbert Houseman-R; Willie Simmons,-D, the first African American elected to serve as state transportation commissioner; and Reena Evers-Everette, daughter of the late civil rights activist Medgar and Myrlie Evers.

Leon Williams, who is Frazier’s neighbor, stated, “Although the black legislators painted the achievement as a “cooperative bipartisan” victory, that was not the true “spirit” of the change. The NCAA & SEC forced the Republicans’ and the governor’s hand. The governor consistently said he was against the change, but would sign the bill. The Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus attempted to take the political high road, but were unfortunately slapped with a dose of reality when the governor and Republicans locked them out of the bill signing ceremony. Thanks NCAA!!! Although Mississippi made the “right” move it was for the “wrong” reason. Never-the-less, a victory is still a victory.”

Prior to the signing of the bill, Reeves stated on live TV Tuesday, “This is not a political moment to me but a solemn occasion to lead our Mississippi family to come together, to be reconciled and



**Mississippi Republican Gov. Tate Reeves signs the bill retiring the last state flag in the United States with the Confederate battle emblem, at the Governor’s Mansion in Jackson, Miss., Tuesday, June 30, 2020. Family members are at left. Applauding are, from fifth from left, Sen. Angela Turner Ford, D-West Point; House Speaker Philip Gunn, R-Clinton; Reuben Anderson, former Mississippi Supreme Court Justice; Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann; and Transportation Commissioner for the Central District Willie Simmons. AP PHOTO/ ROGELIO V. SOLIS, POOL**

to move on.”

A ceremony taking down the flag was held Wednesday at 3 p.m. on the south side of the Mississippi State Capitol. This ceremony was open to the public and several of the lawmakers that were

denied witnessing the signing of the removal, were on hand for the removal. As Honor Guards pulled the flag down from the flag pole, Horhn admitted he shed a few tears. Frazier was seen taking photos and videos with his cell phone and Norwood said

he was right there to see the flag hauled off to its final resting place.

The former Mississippi state flag which once hung at the capitol, and two smaller Mississippi state flags, which normally fly when the legislation is in session, were handed off to Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann, Mississippi House Speaker Philip Gunn and Chief Executive of Mississippi Archives and History Katie Blunt. The three delivered them to the Museum of Mississippi History.

Pamela Junior, director of the Two Mississippi Museums (Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum), Reuben Anderson, chairman of the Board of the Two Mississippi Museums and Katie Blunt received all three flags to be transferred to the collection division. Junior told *The Mississippi Link* that the flags must go through prep to make certain they are preserved correctly and ready to be encased.

Junior stated, “This is a great day in Mississippi. Today I think about the beatings that Fannie Lou Hammer received during the civil rights movement by police while in a Mississippi jail, Medgar Evers who was assassinated in the driveway of his home while serving as Mississippi NAACP field secretary, and all the veterans who fought and died for civil rights.” She said this is about teaching our children about the complex history of the state of Mississippi.

Now the flag is entrusted to the Mississippi Museum of History where it belongs.

## Flag

Continued from page 1

harder than historical floods, harder than agency corruption, or prison riots or the coming hurricane season – even harder than battling the Coronavirus.”

“For economic prosperity and for a better future for my kids and yours, we must find a way to come together. To heal our wound, to forgive, to resolve that the page has been turned, to trust each other. With God’s help, we can,” Gov. Reeves wrote on his Twitter page.

“This is a long time coming,” NAACP president Derrick Johnson told CNN’s Wolf Blitzer. “Finally, Mississippi decided to be one of the 50 states, and not the one state standing alone still bearing the emblem of a segregated society, Johnson exclaimed.

Former Senator Henry Kirksey, who served in the legislature from 1980 to 1988, was first of many in the fight to change what Kirksey referred to as “the Mississippi slave flag.”

In 2001, the measure was put on the ballot, and voters decided to keep the flag saying it was a part of their heritage and it honors their ancestors who fought in the Civil War. The 1894 flag design which

includes the battle flag of Robert E. Lee’s Army of North Virginia, was selected to honor Confederate soldiers.

The Dixiecrat party began using the Confederate battle flag as a symbol of white supremacy in the 1940’s.

The Mississippi division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, wrote on their Facebook page, “We need to come up with ways to make this as hard on them as possible and make them regret it.”

The final push to remove the flag came after Mississippi State running back Kylin Hill, tweeted June 22, that he would not represent this state anymore if the flag was not changed.

Days later, the Southeastern Conference and the National Collegiate Athletic Association announced that the state would be precluded from hosting championship events until the flag was changed.

Coaches and athletic directors from all the colleges in the state lobbied at the capitol in support of changing the state flag putting pressure on lawmakers to address the issue.

Singer and producer Faith Hill also tweeted and asked her home state to change the state flag. “It’s time to change the state flag. I am a proud MS girl and I love my home state. When I think of Mississippi, I think of my mom and dad, the church I grew up in, high school football and where I fell in love with music.”

“I understand many view the current flag as a symbol of heritage and Southern pride, but we have to realize that this flag is a direct symbol of terror for our black brothers and sisters,” Hill explained.

Many symbols of the Confederacy have vanished in the wake of George Floyd’s death. NASCAR announced it would prohibit the display of the Confederate flag during races and other events. Wal-Mart followed suit and banned the flag also.

Following the attack at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina in 2015, where Dylon Roof murdered nine parishioners at Bible study, all of Mississippi’s public universities and many cities stopped flying the state flag.

Since 2015, a group of faith leaders from around

Mississippi and from almost every denomination, met in front of the governor’s mansion, “to pray and ask God to touch the heart of the governor so that he would remove the flag,” activist Frank Figgers explained.

The group met last Thursday in the rain outside the governor’s mansion to pray for the flag’s removal. The NAACP, the Poor People’s Campaign, One Voice, One Flag for All, Take it Down America, the People’s Institute and many many other groups came together to fight this flag issue over the last five years.

“I want to say a big thank you to Kylin Hill for recognizing his power and being our Rosa Parks for this moment,” Aunjanue Ellis said in a radio interview on WMPR 90.1.

“I’ll celebrate once Gov. Reeves sign the bill,” the Hollywood actress exclaimed.

Mississippi made history this week being the last state to retire the Confederate flag. We can only hope and pray we are headed to a new Mississippi. *See photos page 13.*

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## Inaccuracies in COVID-19 testing

By Morgan Bridgeman  
Student Intern

As COVID-19 continues to be prevalent in the US, more and more people are getting tested for the virus. The testing for COVID-19 is rapidly evolving as health professionals are constantly learning more about the virus. As more people keep getting tested, some are faced with false positive and false negative results.

Each COVID-19 test done on an individual is different, and the reliability of that individual's results varies. Factors such as the instrument used during testing, chemical reagents used to perform the test, timing and the quality of the sample collected



Dr. Taylor

of the patient can affect an individual's test result.

During a virtual COVID-19 panel discussion June 8, Olexis Haymon, a nurse at UMMC said, "The test is only as good as what the nurse does." Still, Haymon did not totally disregard the need for testing, saying, "We have to

stop self-diagnosing ourselves."

The most common kind of COVID-19 testing that people get is called the nucleic acid test. This testing detects viral RNA and is based on the unique genetic sequence of SARS-CoV which makes it highly specific. The sensitivity of these tests varies based on both the timing of the test and the way the sample is collected. The CDC recommends that test sites use nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs for molecular testing because in most patients the nasopharynx, or the space above the soft palate at the back of the nose, appears to have the highest concentration of the virus. These swabs are challenging to obtain, and a bad collec-

tion may reduce test sensitivity and increase the possibility of obtaining a false-negative result.

For COVID-19 testing, a positive case is based on sensitivity and a negative case is based on specificity. Testing from a swab from the nose is likely to reduce sensitivity. The timing of the sample collection is an important factor because the amount of virus present in the nasopharynx varies over the course of infection. Therefore, samples should be collected near the time of symptom onset to achieve the highest test of sensitivity and a true positive. Since test have a better reliability when symptoms are present, patients who are infected but not yet symptomatic

may have false-negative test results.

False-positive and false-negative results are also likely to happen based on the location and the samples that have already been collected from previous patients. Some areas and locations do not have proper testing and therefore will produce false positive and false negative results.

Cardiologist Dr. Malcolm Taylor, who also participated in the panel discussion June 8, said, "Some... places are not doing enough testing at all..." He made direct reference to Issaquena County, MS, who at the time had reported no COVID-19 cases, according to the MSDH. Dr. Taylor said these seemingly

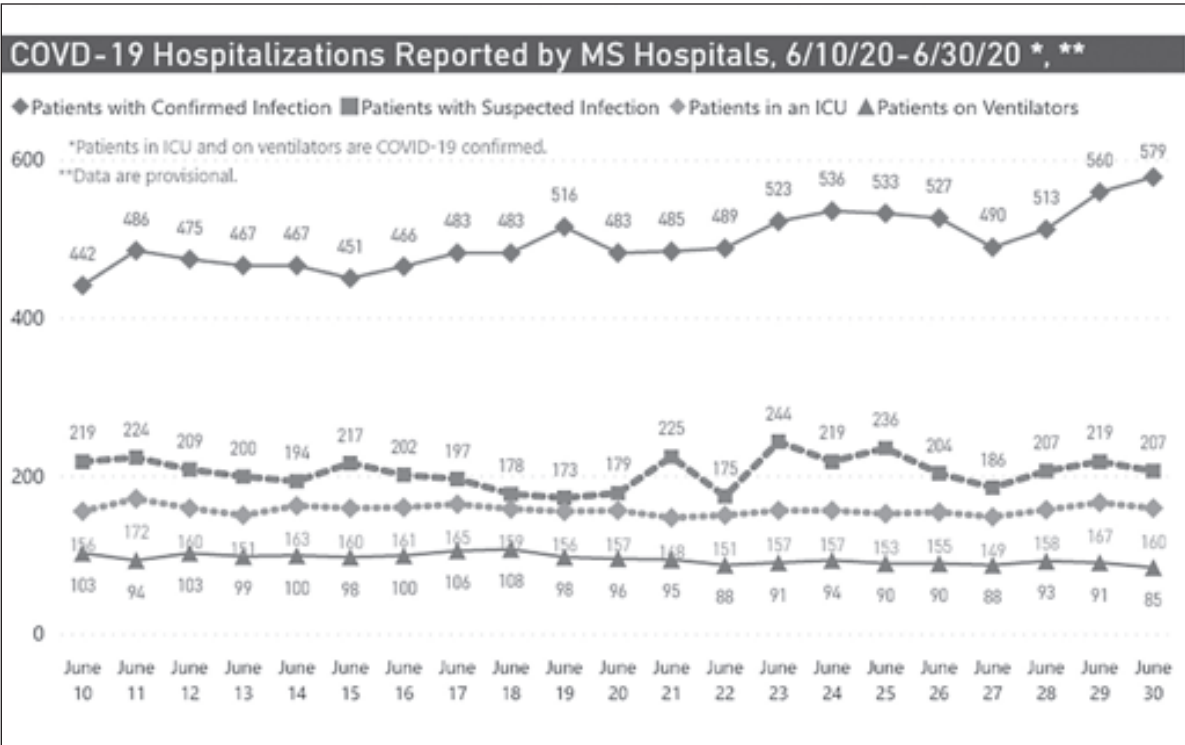
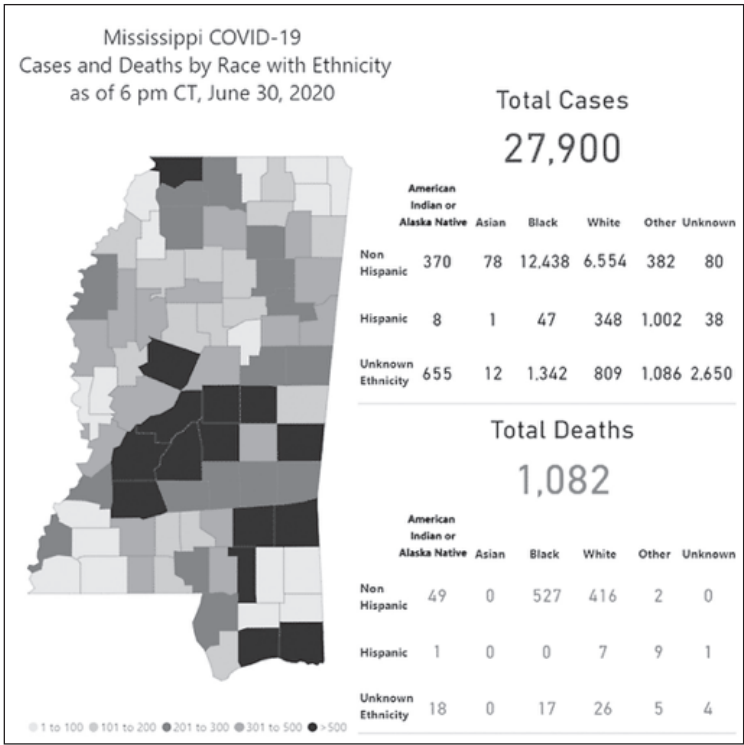
benevolent statistics may be the result of a lack of testing.

(As of June 29 – after a nationwide resurgence of the virus – there are now six reported cases and one death in Issaquena.)

Testing for COVID-19 is not 100% accurate yet and therefore some false positive and negative results will occur. Health professionals still advise to quarantine no matter the results. Also, testing patients more than once to make sure they have a true result is an option.

On June 8, Dr. Taylor said a false negative diagnosis is delivered fifteen percent of the time. "Some people may have to be tested twice... but that's all right," he said.

### MISSISSIPPI COVID-19 UPDATE



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## Bill proposes \$50M to expand broadband access for students

**By Leah Willingham**  
*Associated Press/Report for America*

Legislation in the Mississippi House proposes using \$50 million of the state’s federal coronavirus relief funding to improve broadband access for students in underserved areas during the pandemic.

“These kids have been out of school since the middle of March, and some of them have had zero, if little instruction since because of broadband accessibility,” Republican Rep. C. Scott Bounds, sponsor of House Bill 1788, said on the House floor Friday.

Mississippi ranked 49th in broadband coverage in 2018, according to data from BroadbandNow. A 2017 report by the Census Bureau showed that only 61% of Mississippians had access to broadband in 2015.

The legislature intends to finish work on spending plans before the new budget year begins on Wednesday. Mississippi has received \$1.25 billion from the federal government through the coronavirus relief bill. The state is spending \$300 million on grants for small businesses, and officials still need to decide how to spend most of the rest of the money.

Bounds, of Philadelphia, said HB 1788 would task the Department of Education with administering the \$50 million to public schools, Native American tribal schools and private schools throughout the state on a first-come, first-served basis.

“District superintendents would then negotiate and contract with

broadband providers. Districts would identify students in need through Federal Communications Commission data, census blocks and district surveys,” Bounds said.

Bounds said leaving it up to the districts to connect with families will allow them to be innovative to fill the needs of each student.

“We can’t come up with a cookie-cutter approach sitting in this building that will fit every area,” Bounds said. “This is a broad bill; I understand that. It is a broad bill, but it allows a lot of flexibility for districts to educate students.”

Republican Rep. Brady Williamson, of Oxford, said he sees providing broadband accessibility to students in the state as a key priority, especially during the coronavirus pandemic, when many districts have turned to virtual education. However, he warned against going forward without a statewide bidding process.

“(Students have) been waiting awhile. Can they wait a little longer for a bidding process?” he asked Friday, on the House floor. “More times than not, a no-bid contract comes under scrutiny.”

Bounds said bidding processes can take a long time, and students need access to broadband when school starts in August. He said there isn’t time to wait.

The \$50 million attached to the bill would need to be spent by Dec. 1, 2020. Any unused money would go to Mississippi’s unemployment trust fund, Bounds said.

## Dr. Donzell Lee retires from Alcorn after 45 years of service

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

One of Alcorn State University’s longest-tenured employees says goodbye to the university after four decades of service.

Dr. Donzell Lee, former interim president during the 2018-2019 academic year, is retiring from Alcorn after 45 years. During his tenure, Lee served in numerous positions that include instructor of music and chairman of the Department of Fine Arts, director of the Honors Curriculum Program, dean of the School of Graduate Studies, and interim associate vice president for the Office of Academic Affairs. He was also appointed provost in 2015. Lee holds degrees from Xavier University, Stanford University, and Louisiana State University (LSU).

Initially, Lee said that he planned to only work at Alcorn for one year. That changed once he got acclimated to the university’s surroundings, which caused him to fall in love with the atmosphere around campus.

Leaving his beloved university stirs emotions for Lee.

“I have mixed emotions,” said Lee. “After so many years and so many memories, there will be a void. You can’t dismiss 45 years without some emotions.”

Engaging with his peers and students are two things Lee will miss about working at Alcorn. He expressed gratitude to have been in a position to form bonds with fellow Alcornites.

“I will certainly miss the daily inter-

actions with students and colleagues. Those interactions are the things that have created the Alcorn family for so many.”

Forming these relationships and witnessing the enormous potential at Alcorn inspired Lee to give back to the university. He values the importance of helping the university make strides into the future.

“Giving to the university allows me to help fulfill a need that will help carry out the institution’s mission. There is great satisfaction knowing that I helped make

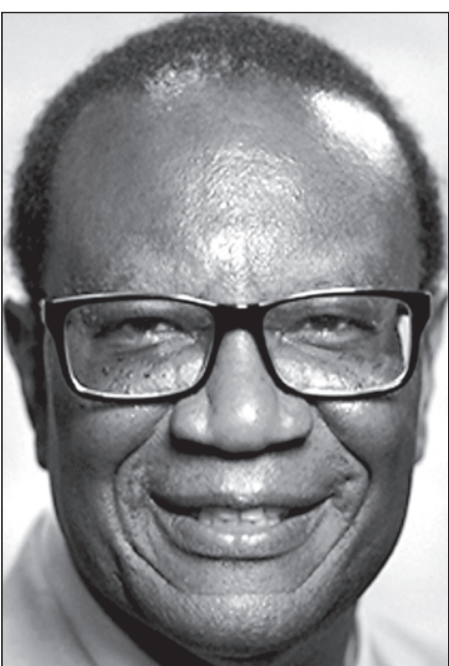
a difference for a department, program, or student.”

Alcorn has created many avenues for Lee to find career success and experience personal and professional growth. Lending his support is his way of showing appreciation for all that the university has done for him.

“I have had the opportunity to grow from a young faculty member to the highest administration levels. I have traveled to many places and met so many people, all while enriching myself in knowledge, skills and positive personal growth. I would not be the person I am today had it not been for Alcorn. I owe this institution a lot.”

Setting a positive example for others has always been a priority for Lee. He hopes that his influence has sparked the motivation for his colleagues and students over the years.

“I realized early in my career that being a great role model was important. I’ve tried to be one for my students and colleagues. That great sense of responsibility cultivated during my tenure here will forever be with me. As leaders, we are here to serve all of our constituents. When we do our job well, we gleefully witness students’ success, faculty and staff growth and the upward progression of the University. It’s always great to hear from alumni who go on to be successful as professionals in their fields. It feels great when I get calls from students who want to say, ‘Thank you.’”



Lee

## Netflix invests \$10 million in HOPE to help black communities

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Netflix, June 30, announced a \$10 million deposit in Hope Credit Union as one of the first investments in a \$100 million initiative to build economic opportunity in black communities. The investment is among the first made by Netflix in financial institutions and other organizations that directly support black communities in the U.S.

The Netflix investment in HOPE will be in the form of a transformational deposit. In each Deep South state served by HOPE, for every dollar in net worth held by white households, black households hold between ten and twenty cents. Through transformational deposits, HOPE imports funds into these capital-starved communities to make business, mortgage and consumer loans and provide other financial services that build wealth and foster economic mobility.

Over the next two years, HOPE estimates the Netflix deposit will support financing to more than 2,500 entrepreneurs, homebuyers and consumers of color.

In a blog published recently, Netflix Director of Talent Acquisition Aaron Mitchell and Treasury Director Shannon Alwyn noted that there is much more to be done to narrow the wealth gap and that the investments will contribute to a more equitable financial system. “Nineteen percent of black families have either negative wealth or no assets at all, compared to only 9 percent of white households, according to the U.S. Federal Reserve,” they wrote. “Black banks have existed to fight this for generations – spurring economic growth by extending credit in often underbanked communities. But they’re disadvantaged in their access to capital, especially from large multinational companies, when compared to other banks.”

“Left unchecked, America’s unsustainable racial wealth gap will get even wider,” said HOPE CEO Bill Bynum. “On a per capita basis, financial institutions owned or led by people of color are the most effective way to fuel economic mobility and prosperity for people and places from which wealth has been extracted for generations. If other companies fol-

lowed Netflix’ example, hundreds of billions could be invested toward closing debilitating opportunity gaps that create division and limits America’s immense potential.” According to the FDIC, roughly six out of 10 people living in the service area of black owned banks are black, in contrast to six out of 100 for banks that are not black-owned.

HOPE is the only depository institution in several communities, including Itta Bena, a majority black Mississippi Delta town, with a poverty rate is 42% and median household income is \$20,417 and only \$1.2 million in total local deposits. Transformational deposits are designed to import capital into banking deserts such as Itta Bena.

*Companies and individuals interested in making a transformational deposit in HOPE can learn more at <https://www.hopecu.org/transform>.*

## Huntington-Ingalls gets \$936M contract for another destroyer

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

A Mississippi shipyard has a \$936 million Navy contract modification to build another destroyer equipped to launch guided missiles. This comes in addition to a \$5.1 billion contract signed in 2018 for Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, MS to build six Arleigh Burke-class destroyers.

The contract and Monday’s modification are for Flight III of the design, which the Navy says incorporates an air and missile defense radar system much better than those in previous models.

The Pentagon list of defense contracts signed Monday notes that the contract modification includes the possibility of nearly \$11.7 million more in engineering change proposals, design budgeting requirements and post-delivery availabilities.

The shipyard is a division of Huntington-Ingalls Industries Inc., based in Newport News, Virginia.

Ingalls has delivered 32 destroyers to the Navy – the most recent in April – and has four more under construction, according to a company news release.



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A New Mississippi  
By H Ralph Samuels, Jr.

The Flag is coming down  
and it really is about time  
political parties worked together  
but the intervention was Divine

The symbol of Mississippi  
since 1894 has flown  
Many thought it would never happen  
goes to show how much we've grown

The smoke of Mississippi Burning  
and even Jim Crow at its best  
Medgar's Ghost of Mississippi  
are about to be laid to rest

A symbol of segregation  
that for years have torn apart  
and kept a people divided  
over heritage and by heart

Some are not so happy  
and their anger is up in flames  
What will this do to their history?  
How will it affect the Confederate name ?

But much to their dismay  
an overwhelming number rejoice  
After years of muffled cries  
Mississippi finally heard their voice

Black and white together  
historically voted to make a change  
91-23, 37-14  
was the Legislature's count and range

And now a new committee  
will be formed and assigned the task  
To design a new state flag  
to proudly hoist up Mississippi's mast

So let the sweet Magnolias blossom  
and the Mighty River continue to roll  
The Mockingbird is singing loudly  
Mississippi has got a soul

Yes, we birthed America's music  
and in sports we are on top  
Payton, Rice, Manning, Farve  
Gridiron greats that couldn't be stopped

And you know we're people of faith  
Praying knees and folded knuckles  
If the south is the Bible belt  
Then Mississippi is the buckle

They say good cream will always rise  
to the top of the cup  
And you need a strong foundation  
to hold everything else up

Well that is Mississippi  
4 crooked letters, 2 humpbacks  
and 4 i's  
And an M for  
Mockingbirds, Magnolias  
and a Majestic River  
Under a God of earth and skies

Yes, In God We Do Trust  
And on a new flag all shall see  
The hope, the heritage and the heart  
and the hospitality state of Mississippi

# Analysis: Debate shifts on rebel-themed Mississippi flag

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
Associated Press

The Confederate battle emblem on the Mississippi flag evokes strong emotions, and for decades it has been a volatile issue that many state legislators wanted to avoid.

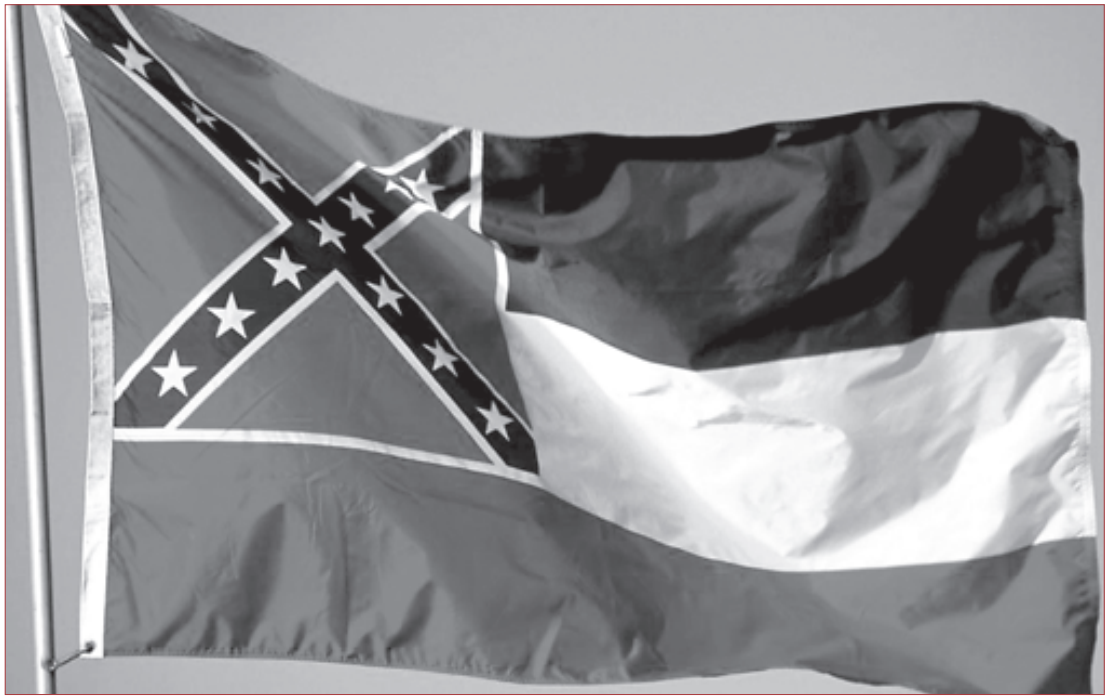
Momentum shifted quickly in recent weeks. Amid widespread protests over racial injustice, debate intensified over Confederate symbols, including the Mississippi banner that's the last state flag with the rebel symbol — a red field topped by a blue X with white stars.

Influential leaders from business, religion, education and sports urged state officials to change the flag and remove a symbol that many condemn as racist. House and Senate leaders built a bipartisan coalition of legislators willing to make the change.

Democratic state Sen. Hillman Frazier of Jackson served on a commission in 2000 that held public hearings about whether to change the flag. State residents yelled at each other and at the commissioners. African-American commissioners, including Frazier and Democratic state Rep. Ed Blackmon of Canton, were particular targets of ire. Blackmon said they received death threats.

On Saturday, as the Mississippi Senate prepared to adopt a resolution allowing a bill to be filed to remove the Confederate emblem from the flag, Frazier rose to speak. In a steady voice, he told his colleagues: "Pray first. Aim high. Stay focused."

White supremacists in the Mississippi Legislature set the flag design in 1894, during backlash to political power that African Americans gained



after the Civil War. The flag's current defenders say they see it as a symbol of heritage, not racism.

The concept of legislators debating the state flag was not predictable, even at the beginning of this year. Many have said for years that they were unwilling to change the flag themselves because people who voted in a 2001 statewide election chose to keep it.

Legislators have the power to choose state symbols, but those holding office in 2001 set the special election because they did not want to decide the issue themselves after the contentious public hearings.

Andy Taggart of Madison ran for Mississippi attorney general in 2019, losing in the Republican primary. Taggart said, early and often, that the state should remove the Confederate symbol from its flag because many people find it hurtful and divisive.

In a social media post Friday, Taggart recalled that a woman

told him during a campaign event: "You want to take away our flag."

"I said, 'No, ma'am. You may keep your flag and fly it,'" Taggart said. "But it's time to retire it as our state's flag."

Although state symbols are not a federal issue, the Mississippi flag is grabbing attention in a U.S. Senate race this year as Democrat Mike Espy again tries to unseat Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith. He lost to her in a hard-fought special election in November 2018.

In the late 1980s, Espy became the first African American since Reconstruction to represent Mississippi in the U.S. Congress. In 1993, President Bill Clinton named him U.S. agriculture secretary.

Espy was at the state Capitol last week standing with dozens of African-American religious leaders who called on legislators to remove the Confederate symbol from the flag. He applauded as they spoke.

After the event, Espy told The Associated Press that Hyde-Smith had failed to take a clear position.

"That flag is wrong," Espy said. "That flag is ugly. That flag is divisive. That flag is anachronistic. And it harkens back to an ugly time that I don't want my children and grandchildren to grow up under."

In mid-June, Jackson television station WJTV asked Hyde-Smith about the Mississippi flag.

"I appreciate the views of all Mississippians, and hope to continue Mississippi's forward momentum," Hyde-Smith, who's a former state senator and state agriculture commissioner, said in a statement. "Should the people of Mississippi and their elected leaders decide to begin the process of finding a more unifying banner that better represents all Mississippians and the progress we have made as a state, I would support that effort."

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# Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority demands police reforms, stands in solidarity with over 5 million members from 13 African-American women organizations

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. International President Glenda Glover (left) says George Floyd’s cry out to his late mother before taking his last breath was a symbolic plea to all women for help. Glover called on leaders from twelve historic and celebrated African-American organizations to unite and condemn the senseless and unjustified death of Floyd, Breonna Taylor and many other black men, women and children by police and vigilantes.

“When George Floyd called out for his mother, he was calling out to all the mothers and women around the world for justice,” says Glover. “We are answering that call as a sisterhood united for reform for the black community.”

Answering the call to form the coalition was the National Council of Negro Women; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; The Links, Incorporated; Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.; National Coalition of 100 Black Women; Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated; Black Women’s Roundtable; Black Women’s Agenda, Inc.; The Girl Friends, Incorporated; Jack and Jill of America, Inc.; Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and the National CARES Mentoring Movement.

The four sororities and the nine other women’s groups represent more than five million collective voices to exert their collective power in addressing police brutality and systematic racism.

In a recent press conference, the coalition unveiled its #United4Reform agenda to fight for racial justice and equality, and bring an end to police brutality.

Glover told the virtual audience of over 79,000 viewers that several of the action items, ranging from police reform, voter engagement and legislation, COVID-19 Relief and the 2020 Census, are focused on tearing down the walls of systemic racism. (See the complete list of the #United4Reform Action Items below.)



Glover

“This is our agenda to America and to the world as African-American women leaders of national organizations. We stand together as united women leaders with our collective memberships, and we invite you to join us, as we fight racism, and fight to save the lives of our black women, men and children.”

She adds that AKA, through its own service programs and together with the coalition, is committed to joining the American people and citizens around the world to demand change. The sorority’s International Connection Committee established a social justice agenda earlier on that included three specific areas to bring the might of AKAs collective membership to bear on critical issues impacting the black community. These areas are Census 2020, AKAs L.E.A.D., and the Poor People’s Campaign March. Additionally, Alpha Kappa Alpha supports the NAACP in its call for sweeping police-reform federal legislation.

The coalition’s agenda consists of similar action items.

## #United4Reform Agenda Action Items

- Police Reform. Sweeping federal legislation regarding police reform mandating a zero-tolerance

approach in prosecuting police officers who kill unarmed, non-violent and non-resisting individuals during an arrest

- Voter Engagement/ Voter Mobilization/ Voter Education. Double local voter mobilization and participation efforts in the black community to vote and elect the candidates who will most effectively advocate for our communities

- Voter Legislation. Demand the Senate debate and vote of H.R.1 (For the People Act) that has passed the House of Representatives and would restore the Voting Rights Act and limit voter suppression

- Census 2020 Participation. Complete the 2020 Census and encourage our families and communities to do the same

- Engagement with Elected Officials. Contact local, state, and federal elected officials regarding any legislation that is harmful to African Americans and that does not provide equal protection under the law

- Participate in the Poor People’s Campaign. Attend the virtual march June 20, 2020, at 10 a.m.

- COVID-19 Relief. Advocate for the passing of additional legislation that protects essential workers and healthcare professionals. COVID-19 has magnified the racial, ethnic and health disparities in the US

- Domestic Violence Protection. Offer real protections for children and adults contending with family violence, therapeutic services for abuses as well as a precaution

- Mental Health Support. Implement community-based mental-health support services

- Mentoring and the Protection of Our Children. Enhance and implement service programs that provide social, emotional and academic support to help children realize their worth to unleash their potential

- Facilitate Courageous Conversations about Race and Racism. Engage in facilitated courageous conversations about race and racism in our communities.

# Past due time for American healthcare system to protect black Americans

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.  
President and CEO, National Newspaper Publishers Association



Today, Americans are facing unprecedented times. We are in the midst of a global pandemic, our country has fallen into an economic recession and hundreds of thousands are protesting police brutality and racial injustice. But there is another epidemic in this country that must be addressed, and it must be addressed now.

CNN’s Don Lemon said it best – “There are two deadly viruses killing Americans: COVID-19 and racism.”

Because of the systematic racism that is rooted in our nation, racial disparities in American healthcare have caused illness, injury, and death in minority communities across the country. Black Americans suffer the most at the hands of the American healthcare system. Now, we are seeing COVID-19 shine a much-needed light on the harsh reality that has been plaguing an entire race for centuries.

In my own home state of North Carolina, black Americans make up 30 percent of COVID-19 cases and 34 percent of the COVID-19 deaths, even though they only make up 22 percent of the population. Really think about that math. How does it make sense?

That means, 162 black North Carolinians will die due to COVID-19, which is 70 more than would be expected based on the demographic makeup of the state. That is 70 more Americans who will die just because of the color of their skin.

Unfortunately, these healthcare disparities are nothing new. Black Americans have long suffered from a severe lack of access to quality, affordable care, which predisposes them to increased rates of underlying conditions and illnesses. Due to the lack of access, black Americans are often forced to travel very far for care. This usually means, if they have insurance, they must go to out-of-network facilities and often find themselves hit with exorbitant surprise medical bills.

Surprise medical bills are unanticipated costs related to out-of-network or emergency care a patient received. These bills

## COMMENTARY

can range from a \$50 prescription drug to \$30,000 in emergency transport. Not surprisingly, black Americans suffer from a higher rate of surprise medical bills, at higher costs compared to white Americans.

Congress holds the pen when it comes to reforming surprise medical billing in this country, but they are falling far short of what needs to be done. There are multiple bills in the House and the Senate that claim to rectify this injustice, but all of them still leave the cost to patients or providers without holding insurance companies accountable.

While Congress is trying to figure it out, we are seeing the administration miss the mark as well. In a Twitter thread June 22, CMS Administrator Seema Verma may have misdiagnosed the real root of the issue – insurers. Because of the blatant and intrinsic greed, these companies are starving patients of care and putting the financial burden on their shoulders.

In a recent Congressional hearing, Dr. Rhea Boyd, a practicing physician and healthcare scholar said, “ensuring that insurance is not a barrier to healthcare is really critical, particularly for African Americans...”

Insurance companies make billions of dollars every year by using sly tactics like skinny networks to lure consumers in and then slap them with a surprise medical bill when they go out-of-network. It is time to put a stop to insurance companies making billions off the backs of hardworking Americans.

It is clear that Senator Lamar Alexander and Representatives Frank Pallone and Greg Walden, three of the members committed to eradicating surprise medical billing, are in the pockets of Big Insurance. The bills they are sponsoring do not even bring insurance companies to the negotiating table, let alone hold them responsible.

We are halfway through 2020, and we still do not have proposed legislation that gets at the root of the surprise medical billing problem. We must get rid of skinny networks, improve access to care and cover emergency services. It is time for insurance companies to pay, so we can save black lives. Black Lives Matter.

# Trump, statehood, police funding fight on DC mayor’s profile

By Ashraf Khalil  
Associated Press

Muriel Bowser’s national profile had never been higher, thanks to a Twitter beef with President Donald Trump and a renewed push to turn the nation’s capital into the 51st state. Now Washington’s mayor must pull off a public juggling act as the city budget becomes a battleground for the country’s debate on overhauling law enforcement.

An activist collective led by Black Lives Matter is trying to capitalize on shifting public opinion, and the demands include major cuts in funding for the Metropolitan Police Department. The District of Columbia Council had indicated it would push for up to \$15 million in cuts, but Bowser is defending her 2021 budget proposal, which includes a 3.3% increase in police money.

With conservatives painting her as a radical riot-supporter, Bowser must thread this needle with both Black Lives Matter and the White House watching her every move. It’s a similar dilemma to that faced by other urban mayors of protest hot spots who must balance competing pressures without alienating either the activists or the police. In Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti has faced criticism for not going far enough on law enforcement changes while the police union



D. C. Mayor Bowser

has called him “unstable.” In Atlanta, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms is dealing with mass police no-shows over her handling of police violence cases.

Bowser is also finding herself one of the public faces of Washington’s quest to be a state. The House of Representatives on Friday, voting largely along party lines, approved a bill to grant statehood. It was the first time a chamber of Congress had approved such a measure.

But there is insurmountable opposition in the GOP-controlled Senate, where Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., singled out Bowser on Thursday as a reason that Washington cannot be trusted with statehood. He called her “a left wing politician who frequently takes the side of rioters against law enforcement.”

Cotton lumped Bowser in with

the late Marion Barry, a former mayor who was caught on video smoking crack cocaine in a 1990 FBI sting. Barry, who died in 2014, remains a beloved figure in many parts of the district and he emerged from federal prison to serve additional terms as both a mayor and a councilman. A statue of him was erected in front of the D.C. government administration building in 2018.

“Would you trust Mayor Bowser to keep Washington safe if she were given the powers of a governor? Would you trust Marion Barry,” Cotton asked.

Granting the predominantly Democratic city statehood would likely increase the party’s numbers in Congress. And that’s what led Trump to tell *The New York Post* last month that “DC will never be a state.”

“That’ll never happen unless we have some very, very stupid Republicans around that I don’t think you do,” he said.

In the early days of the protests, Bowser publicly sided with the demonstrators as Trump usurped local authority and called in a massive federal security response. Bowser responded by renaming the protest epicenter, within sight of the White House, as Black Lives Matter Plaza. She also commissioned a mural with Black Lives Matter painted on 16th Street across from the White House in yellow

letters large enough to be seen from space.

For Trump and his supporters, Bowser may as well have declared herself a dues-paying member of the movement’s local chapter. But that chapter didn’t feel the same, immediately dismissing it as “a performative distraction” from true policy changes.

“It’s a stunt. It was always a stunt,” said activist Joella Roberts. “We don’t need a street sign to tell us we matter. We’re here in the streets because we already know we matter.”

April Goggans, a core organizer with Black Lives Matter DC, rejected Bowser’s moves as “taking advantage of national attention,” and added, “She would never even say the words ‘Black Lives Matter’ until recently.”

Bowser acknowledged that mistrust even as she ordered the changes.

“Black Lives Matter is very critical of police. They’re critical of me,” Bowser said, not long after hanging the new street sign. “That doesn’t mean that I don’t see them and support the things that will make our community safe.”

The street mural in particular became the subject of a cat-and-mouse game that underscores the complexities of Bowser’s position.

The original mural also bore a yellow outline of the D.C. flag

– two horizontal lines topped by three stars. Within days, activists had erased the stars to create the appearance of an equal sign and added their own message, turning the mural into “Black Lives Matter(equals)Defund The Police.”

Clearly not wanting to antagonize the street activists, Bowser’s government has allowed the “Defund the Police” addition to remain. But city crews did repaint the stars on the D.C. flag image.

Now that struggle moves into the district’s decision-making corridors as Bowser finds herself caught between the D.C. council, street pressure from a resurgent activist community and her own police department.

Relations between the city council and the police are already fragile thanks to legislation that was quickly and unanimously passed June 9. It prohibits police from using tear gas or riot gear to break up protests, bans the use of choke-holds, strengthens disciplinary procedures and speeds up the release of body camera footage and names of officers involved in fatal shootings.

Both Bowser and the police chief, Peter Newsham, were critical of the move, saying lawmakers reacted rashly to public pressure and did not consider enough input before passing the measure. A local TV station obtained a recording of News-

ham telling fellow officers that the department felt “completely abandoned” by the D.C. council.

A new showdown is looming over the 2021 budget. Council member Charles Allen, head of the committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, said the committee received 15,000 calls, messages and video testimonials before a budget hearing this month – an exponential increase in interest from previous years. A draft report from the committee reportedly includes up to \$15 million in proposed cuts to the police budget.

Bowser on Thursday said that she hadn’t read the police funding proposal yet and would wait until the council formally submitted its proposed changes to her. She insisted that her 3.3% increase – bringing the total police budget up to \$533 million – was the correct assessment of what was needed to keep the city safe.

“We sent them the budget that we need,” she said.

Goggans, the local Black Lives Matter organizer, dismissed the budget dispute as a facade, saying that the proposed cuts amount to far less than they seem.

“There’s not a compromise to be made on our side. That just can’t happen,” Goggans said. “We’re going to keep putting up a massive amount of pressure and escalating our tactics and intensity.”



# Getting ready to meet God

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



Preparation is necessary in many areas of life. Every season, every month, every week and every day, some kind of readiness is needed. We are constantly preparing for something. In the Gospel of Luke 1:13-17 we read the following words: “But the angel said unto him, fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou

shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

We prepare for tornados and stay tuned to radio announcements. We do not want to be caught unprepared. These things have been provided for us to prepare for coming events. Think of how devastating it could be if we did not have a radio to be notified of these things. John was sent to prepare the way for the Lord. God has also sent help our way to help us prepare for the greatest event in our lives: going into eternity. We need the Lord to help each of us prepare. If we are unclear in our souls, we do not have to be

lost. We are lost because we choose to be lost, but we do not have to be lost. God has sent us help if we will heed it. God will put us on the highway of Holiness and take us safely into eternity. God has sent messages on repentance so that He can cleanse our souls and we can be made whiter than snow. *Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton VA 23669. He is a member of the National Association of Evangelism Church of God, Anderson, Ind.*

## P R E S E R V E D Nourishing your faith

By Shewanda Riley  
*Columnist*



Peace on the outside comes from knowing God on the inside. ~Author Unknown  
“You need to stop settling for less than what God has promised you.” The words spoken to me a few years ago stung not because they were spoken in anger or spite but because of the simple, bold truth that I recognize applied to my life. Hearing these words from someone who didn’t know me but had obviously heard from God made me think that maybe I wasn’t doing as good as I could be. I thought I had embraced new opportunities in my personal, professional and spiritual lives. I felt like my prayers were being answered and that my past fears had been replaced by a confident faith.

However, without even realizing it, I’d entered a dry season where I was going through the motions spiritually. I’ll admit that I was still getting a good and nourishing word from my church from the outside in but what I needed was nourishment from the inside out. I felt like I was going through the motions and something was missing. It’s kind of like dealing with your lawn in the dry summer months. It’s not the moisture on the outside that keeps it healthy; it’s the moisture that gets deep down on the inside that keeps the lawn strong and healthy. As I’ve thought about this, I’m reminded of the worship group Hillsong and their beautiful song “From the Inside Out” that describes how to love God from the inside out which is hard to do when you are in a dry season. Here are a

part of the lyrics:  
“My heart and my soul, I give You control  
Consume me from the inside out, Lord  
Let justice and praise become my embrace  
To love You from the inside out And the cry of my heart  
Is to bring You praise From the inside out  
Lord, my soul cries out.”  
How do you know you are in a dry season? One way is that you settle for just getting a good preached word every now and then. You still read your bible and remain active in church but the passion is not the same. The passion hasn’t gone anywhere; you’ve probably just settled. As a result, your faith has started to dry up. 1st Timothy 4:6 says that we should be “nourished in the words of faith...”  
Dealing with a dry season in my faith is like this plant that I have at home that I’ve kept alive for nearly 20 years. Sometimes I forget to water it and the still green leaves droop which let me know that it needs watering. However, even when I forget to water it, if the plant has moist soil, it will survive until I remember to water it again. It’s the same for us spiritually as God may want us to look from the inside out as well as rely on past instances where our faith has nourished and encouraged us until we make it out of our dry season.  
*Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of “Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email preservedby-purpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.*



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

Phone Number: | Access Code:  
(425) 436-6260 | 627 6205#  
(712) 832-8330 (Alternate Number)  
YouTube Channel: True Light Baptist Church

## Crossroads Church of God

*Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others*



**Sunday Morning**  
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 10 a.m.

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

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

**Rev. Mark Jackson, Pastor**  
231-A John Day Road • Off Hwy 10 East • Canton, MS 39046  
Church: 601-879-2458

## New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir



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



*"A Church Preparing for a  
Home Not Built by Man"*

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





# CLASSIFIED

## LEGAL

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

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received electronically via MAGIC or physically delivered to the office of the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 07/28/2020, for:

RE: GS# 350-026 HVAC & Energy Upgrades (700 Building)  
Office of Capitol Facilities (Department of Finance and Administration)

RFx #: 3160003705

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

Professional: Engineering Resource Group, Inc.  
Address: Post Office Drawer 16443  
Jackson, Mississippi 39236  
Phone: 601-362-3552  
Email: mbutler@ergms.com

A deposit of \$150.00 is required. Bid preparation will be in accordance with Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. NOTE: Telephones and desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

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

6-25-2020, 7-2-2020

## LEGAL

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
City of Jackson  
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, July 21, 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:

55004-072120 Twelve-Month Supply of Waterproof Reflective Glass Beads  
55063-072120 Eighteen-Month Supply of Aluminum Sign Blanks  
63066-072120 Eighteen Month Supply of Traffic Paint

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT HYPERLINK "http://WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV" WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV AND HYPERLINK "http://WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM" 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, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Copies of bid specifications are filed with the City Clerk for public record in accordance with House Bill No 999, 1986 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature.

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

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

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

7-2-2020, 7-9-2020

## LEGAL

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE)  
PARTICIPATION IN FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECTS**

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) has proposed a goal of 2% for DBE participation in the Federal Funds appropriated to the Department by the Federal Transit Administration for Fiscal Years 2020-2022 in accordance with the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and 49 CFR Part 26. The methodology used to calculate the goal consist of counting the number of DBE firms contained in official, available DBE Directories and dividing this number by the total number of available firms in relevant NAICS Codes. This resulted in a base figure of 2%. MDOT plans to achieve 2% of the goal through race neutral and its rational are available for inspection and comments during normal business hours at the Mississippi Department of Transportation Administration Building located at 401 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi, for 30 days following the date of this notice. Written comments about the FTA funds should be directed to Ms. Shirley Wilson, Director, Post Office Box 1850, Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1850, phone number (601) 359-7800 or via email at swilson@mdot.ms.gov. The Mississippi Department of Transportation is an equal employment employer and shall not discriminate on the grounds of sex, age, race, religion, color, disability or national origin in the award and performance of federally assisted contracts. This document is available in accessible format upon request. Paper copies of this notice as well as information regarding accessible formats may be obtained by calling MDOT's Public Transit Division (601) 359-7800.

7-2-2020

## LEGAL

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
City of Jackson  
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, July 14, 2020, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 S. President Street Jackson MS 39201 for the following:

88536-071420 Twenty-four -Month Supply of Polymer

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE CITY OF JACKSON WEBSITE, https://www.jacksonms.gov/businesses/ and Central Bidding 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) 960-1533 or (601) 960-1025

6-25-2020, 7-2-2020

## LEGAL

**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. Official proposal documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at 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. 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

**Advertisement for Electronic Bid  
Re-Bid 3116 Murrah High School Restroom Renovations**

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Pre-vailing Time) July 29, 2020, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Murrah High School Restroom Renovations will be held at Murrah High School, 1400 Murrah Drive, Jackson, MS on July 10, 2020 at 1:30 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsdm-projects.com. A \$150.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid specs/documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Preston McKay at M3A Architecture, PLLC. Phone: 601-981-1227 or Email: pmckay@m3aarch.com.

6-25-2020, 7-2-2020

## LEGAL

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR QUALIFICATIONS  
AND EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
BY THE  
JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
FOR SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE REHABILITATION OF  
TAXIWAY ALPHA, PHASE TWO PROJECT AT THE  
JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JMAA  
PROJECT NUMBER 012-17)**

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") requests Statements of Qualifications and Expressions of Interest (each, a "Statement of Qualifications") to provide engineering design and construction administration services (the "Services") to JMAA in connection with the Rehabilitation of Taxiway Alpha, Phase Two Project, JMAA Project No. 012-17 at the Jackson- Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport ("JAN").

JMAA will receive electronic sealed submissions only. All submissions of Statement of Qualifications to perform the Services will be accepted until Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 4:00 pm (CST) (the "Deadline"). Electronic submissions are to be submitted via email to 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 not consider any Statement of Qualifications received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Statement of Qualifications ("RFQ") is on file and open for public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFQ, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents, and Criteria for Selection.

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Chad G Parker, JMAA Director of Procurement, as follows:

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority  
100 International Drive, Suite 300 (39208)  
Post Office Box 98109  
Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109  
Attention: Chad G Parker, Director of Procurement Telephone No.: (601) 939-5631, ext 516  
Facsimile No.: (601) 939-3713  
E-Mail: cparker@jmaa.com

or from JMAA's website at https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement/ JMAA will hold a Pre-Submission Conference via video conferencing on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 2:00 pm (CST). Here is the information needed to access the Pre-Submission Conference:

Link: https://call.lifesizecloud.com/4056382 | Passcode: 1234  
Dial In Number: (312) 584-2401 | Extension: 4056382 | Passcode: 1234

Attendance at the Pre-Submission Conference is highly recommended for all those interested in submitting a Statement of Qualifications as a Prime Consultant for the work and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Consultant. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Consultant and Sub-Consultants, the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Submission Conference, and the opportunity to receive detailed scope related information from the project owner.

Based on the Statement of Qualifications, JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent ranked first on the list. If such negotiations fail to produce an agreement, in form and content, satisfactory to JMAA, within a reasonable period of time, then JMAA may reject the first-ranked Respondent.

In that event, JMAA will follow the same process with the other Respondents, in the order of their ranking, until a Respondent agrees to and enters into an agreement satisfactory to JMAA.

JMAA reserves the right to: (1) reject any and all Statement of Qualifications, for any reason, any time before execution of a contract with a Respondent selected by JMAA to perform the Services.

JMAA has established a DBE participation goal of 30% for the Services solicited by this RFQ. JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

6-25-2020 7-2-2020

## LEGAL

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
City of Jackson  
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, July 14, 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:

75070-071420 12-Month Supply of Ready-Mix Concrete

55048-071420 12- Month Supply of Traffic Sign Sheeting Materials

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV AND CENTRAL BIDDING 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, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Copies of bid specifications are filed with the City Clerk for public record in accordance with House Bill No 999, 1986 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature.

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

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

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

6-25-2020, 7-2-2020



**LEGAL**

**Advertisement for Bid  
Re-Bid 3131 Hardy Middle School Restroom Renovations**

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Pre-vailing Time) July 31, 2020, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project Hardy Middle School Restroom Renovations will be held at 545 Ellis Avenue, Jackson, MS on July 14, 2020 at 9:30 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at [www.jpsdm-projects.com](http://www.jpsdm-projects.com). A \$ 150.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each printed set of bid specs/documents. A \$100.00 Nonrefundable deposit shall be required on each digital PDF set of bid specs/documents. Documents must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Krystal Lamm at Duvall Decker Architects, Phone: 601-713-1128 or Email: [kl@duvalldecker.com](mailto:kl@duvalldecker.com).

7-2-2020, 7-9-2020

# 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,

# LEGAL

## Advertisement for RFPs

**RFP 2020-12 Lead Partner for Instructional Support**  
**RFP 2020-13 Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum**  
**RFP 2020-14 Translation, Interpretation and Transcription Services**

Sealed, written formal rfp proposals for the above rfp will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) July 17, 2020, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all rfps, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any rfp if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date rfps are opened.

Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing [jewalker@jackson.k12.ms.us](mailto:jewalker@jackson.k12.ms.us), calling (601) 960-8799, or documents may be picked up at the above address or downloaded from JPS website at [www.jackson.k12.ms.us](http://www.jackson.k12.ms.us).

6-25-2020, 7-2-2020

# Office Space for Rent

# Garrett Enterprises Building

(Near Jackson Medical Mall)

2659 Livingston Road  
Jackson, MS 39213

## 2500 Square Feet

Call: 601-209-9199







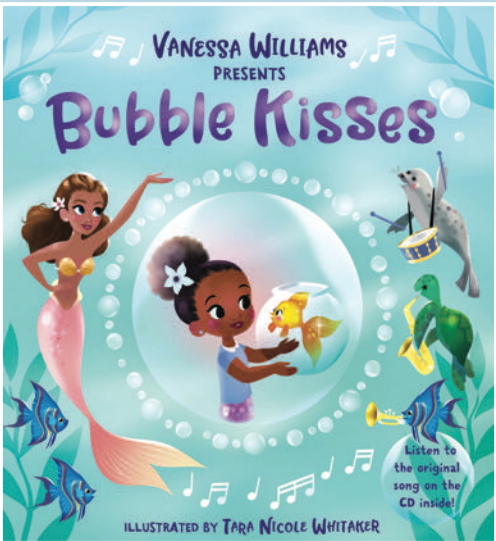
# The Mississippi State Flag retired from the Capitol – Sent to Mississippi Museum of History

*Jackson, MS • July 1, 2020*

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON







BOOK REVIEW:

VANESSA WILLIAMS  
PRESENTS BUBBLE KISSES

BY VANESSA WILLIAMS,  
ILLUSTRATED BY TARA NICOLE WHITAKER

C.2020, STERLING

\$17.95 / \$24.95 CANADA • 32 PAGES + CD

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

You can teach a bird to sing along with your favorite songs. Dogs love to learn new tricks, if you’ve got the patience; cats, too, but that might take longer. If you’ve got a pet pony, you can do all kinds of things together, and even a gerbil or hamster is fun to play with. If you’ve got an aquarium, though, there’s not a whole lot of snuggling going on, and you can’t walk a guppy or throw a ball for it. Still, when people ask you why you love

your fish, you know the answer. In “Bubble Kisses” by Vanessa Williams, illustrated by Tara Nicole Whitaker, you’ll know you’re not alone.

Oh, how she loved her pet. Other kids had dogs that WOOFed and cats that scratched. They had frogs and guinea pigs or hamsters or ponies. Other kids had regular kinds of pets, but this little girl had a special pet: she had a goldfish named Sal.

The thing was, Sal wasn’t just a fish; she was a “pal.”

Now, you might think a fish is not nearly as much fun as a puppy or a kitten. You might think that you can’t play with a fish. A goldfish isn’t like a bird or a deer that you watch from your window but that was okay. The girl and Sal had fun, especially when they played “lots of games together,” although mostly pretend ones.

But the biggest reason she loved Sal, though, was because Sal gave the girl “bubble kisses as she swims... in the water.” Sometimes in her dreams, the

little girl swam like a mermaid with Sal, and they visited other mermaids for those “delicious” bubble kisses. She thought it was sad that from other “people’s lives such things are missing,” but she was lucky.

She had Sal, right by her bedside. All night long...

There is one very important thing parents need to know about “Bubble Kisses,” and it’s in two parts: as a book, this is really a no-go. It’s repetitive and not very interesting to read. But as a book-with-accompanying

CD, it’s stellar and your preschooler will adore it.

Indeed, this book itself is mostly a vehicle for author Vanessa Williams’ song, which follows the words in this book identically – meaning, basically, that when your child requests it, you’ll be required to read song lyrics aloud. So many “bub-bub-bub-bub-bubble” recitations might make you want to call it a day and head for the shower.

But then, breathe deep and remember that you’re not a 2-year-old. Williams’ words are

perfect for silly-singing, and the bouncy, light, super-memorable song is one your toddler will warble everywhere, all the time.

With book-in-hand – and it’ll be in their hands often – kids can sing and follow along as you both admire the adorable artwork by Tara Nicole Whitaker.

Just beware that this isn’t a one-and-done book. It’s going to be repeatedly requested and you might get an earworm from it. Still, just one round of “Bubble Kisses” and your toddler-to-preschooler will sing its praises.

**ZACK WALLACE**  
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

**FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
Circuit Clerk's Office  
P.O. BOX 327  
Jackson, MS 39205  
Phone: (601) 968-6628  
Fax: (601) 973-5547

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

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

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

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

**Services of the Clerk:**

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

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

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

**MARRIAGE INFORMATION**

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

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

# Cool And Current

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

WRTM

SMOOTH 100.5 FM



# Biker community honors one of their own

By Morgan Bridgeman  
Summer Intern / Alcorn State University

On Saturday June 27, 2020, members of the motorcycle community decided to honor a pillar in their community. The honoree was Helen Brown, or Queen B (“Qwn B”) as she is known in the bike world. She is the founder of the Friends of Fallen Riders (FOFR) bike club.

The event was put together by Kenneth Bailey and Terrance Burns who for many years watched all the good deeds that Brown was doing for the community. “We had the idea to do this for Helen because she is so selfless and God-sent to this community. The question was not why we won’t do it but rather why we should do it,” Bailey said.

Brown has been the president of the Friends of Fallen Riders since around 2006. The group, founded by Brown in 2004 in Jackson, MS, is a nonprofit organization created to honor and remember fallen riders due to motorcycle fatalities. According to the organization’s mission code, FOFR “is committed to providing community service with an



Helen Brown was surprised by the honor bestowed upon her by fellow bikers and friends as she arrived at her home. PHOTOS BY ANGEL HAMPTON

emphasis on family, education and fundraising activities.”

Under the presidency of Brown, FOFR has participated in numerous toy drives, elderly and nursing home visits, memorial rides and the Angel Tree Program. Brown has also been an avid advocate for the cause of helping victims of

human trafficking. Her other community involvements include providing clothes to the homeless, escorting funerals and wherever she sees a need.

“Helen Brown is a biker by heart but her passion is giving back to her community wherever help is needed,” fellow biker Yolonda Singleton said.

Because she has done so much for her community, several groups decided to come together to show their appreciation.

Under the pretense that she was riding for a lady who had just turned 115 years old, Brown was amazed when she arrived and realized it was a



Local bikers Kenneth Bailey (L) and Terrance Burns (R) planned the event to recognize Brown (C).

surprised cookout celebration in her honor, even breaking down in tears.

Different groups on bikes and in vehicles came to celebrate Brown and her many contributions to the community. It was a joyous occasion filled with fun, laughs, social distancing and masks.

Bailey and Burns presented Brown with a Humanitarian Award plaque.

“When I tell you the moment you think nobody is paying attention it’s some people that really believe in you. Thank you all and most of all God is amazing,” Brown said on a Facebook post.

# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

## ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

## HCSD FALL ENROLLMENT UPDATES

### NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT PROCESS



Enrolling your child in the Hinds County School district is simple as ABC.

- All you need is:
- A driver’s license or another state-issued identification card for parent or legal guardian; \*
  - Birth certificate (long-form) immunization records (Form 121), social security card, and discipline record\*\* for each child being enrolled; and
  - Current utility bill (examples: electric, gas, water, sewer/trash, or landline telephone) from the previous 30 days AND:
    - filed Homestead Exemption for the current year
    - mortgage payment documentation or
    - property deed of trust
    - apartment or home lease OR:
    - two (2) forms of business or government correspondence\*\*\*

\*If you are not the mother or father listed on the birth certificate, you must also bring a copy of the legal documents indicating you have physical custody of the child.  
\*\*Please provide the discipline record and withdrawal form from the last school your child attended.  
\*\*\*The documentation must include the physical address and must be dated within the past 30 days. Junk mail will not be accepted. Examples of residency documentation may include utility bills, credit card bills, cell phone bills, insurance documentation, physicians invoice, employment verification, state or government benefit documentation, mail forward request form, and car tag payment receipts.

### HCSD SCHOOL AND CONTACTS

#### HCSD SCHOOLS AND CONTACTS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Bolton Edwards Elementary/Middle School</b><br>9700 I 20 Frontage Road<br>Bolton, MS 39041<br>Phone Number: (601) 866-2522<br>Assistant Principal: George Jones<br>Principal: Mrs. Lashum Williams | <b>Raymond Elementary School</b><br>417 Palestine Street<br>Raymond, MS 39154<br>Phone Number: (601) 857-0213<br>Assistant Principal: Roshonda Clark                       |
| <b>Byram Middle School</b><br>2009 Byram Bulldog Blvd<br>Terry, MS 39170<br>Phone Number: (601) 372-4597<br>Principal: Mrs. Michelle Ray  | <b>Raymond High School</b><br>14050 Highway 18<br>Raymond, MS 39154<br>Phone Number: (601) 857-8016<br>Fax Number: (601) 857-2007<br>Principal: Mr. Lorenzo Grimes         |
| <b>Carver Middle School/Life Skills Academy and Restart Center</b><br>560 Port Gibson Street<br>Raymond, MS 39154<br>Phone Number: (601) 857-5006<br>Principal: Mrs. Kimberly Davenport               | <b>Terry High School</b><br>235 West Beasley Road<br>Terry, MS 39170<br>Phone Number: (601) 878-5905<br>Fax Number: (601) 878-2782<br>Principal: Daniel Klem               |
| <b>Gary Road Elementary School</b><br>7241 Gary Road<br>Byram, MS 39272<br>Phone Number: (601) 373-1319<br>Principal: Jonetta Lumpkin   | <b>Utica Elementary Middle School</b><br>260 Highway 18 & 27<br>Utica, MS 39175<br>Phone Number: (601) 885-8765<br>Fax Number: (601) 885-2083<br>Principal: Dr. Will Smith |
| <b>Gary Road Intermediate School</b><br>7255 Gary Road<br>Byram, MS 39272<br>Phone Number: (601) 372-8150<br>Principal: Ashley Green  |  |

We encourage you to go ahead and register as soon as possible!

**E4** Engaging, Empowering, Ensuring Excellence.

### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION OPEN

Parents, Bolton/Edwards Elementary, Gary Road Elementary, Raymond Elementary, and Utica Elementary School kindergarten registration for the 2020 – 2021 school year is now opened. Contact your school to today or visit [enrollhindscountyschools.com](http://enrollhindscountyschools.com) for more information.



### RETURNING STUDENT ENROLLMENT PROCESS

Parent of returning students, please visit the HCSD website and click on Online Enrollment Help which will take you to the Active Parent Portal. Active student codes were mailed with student final report cards. If you do not have a code, please contact your school. For issues, with login, please call the technology hotline at 601-857-7022.



Visit [enrollhindscountyschools.com](http://enrollhindscountyschools.com) for more information. Explore our district website for more information and updates at [www.hinds.k12.ms.us](http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us).

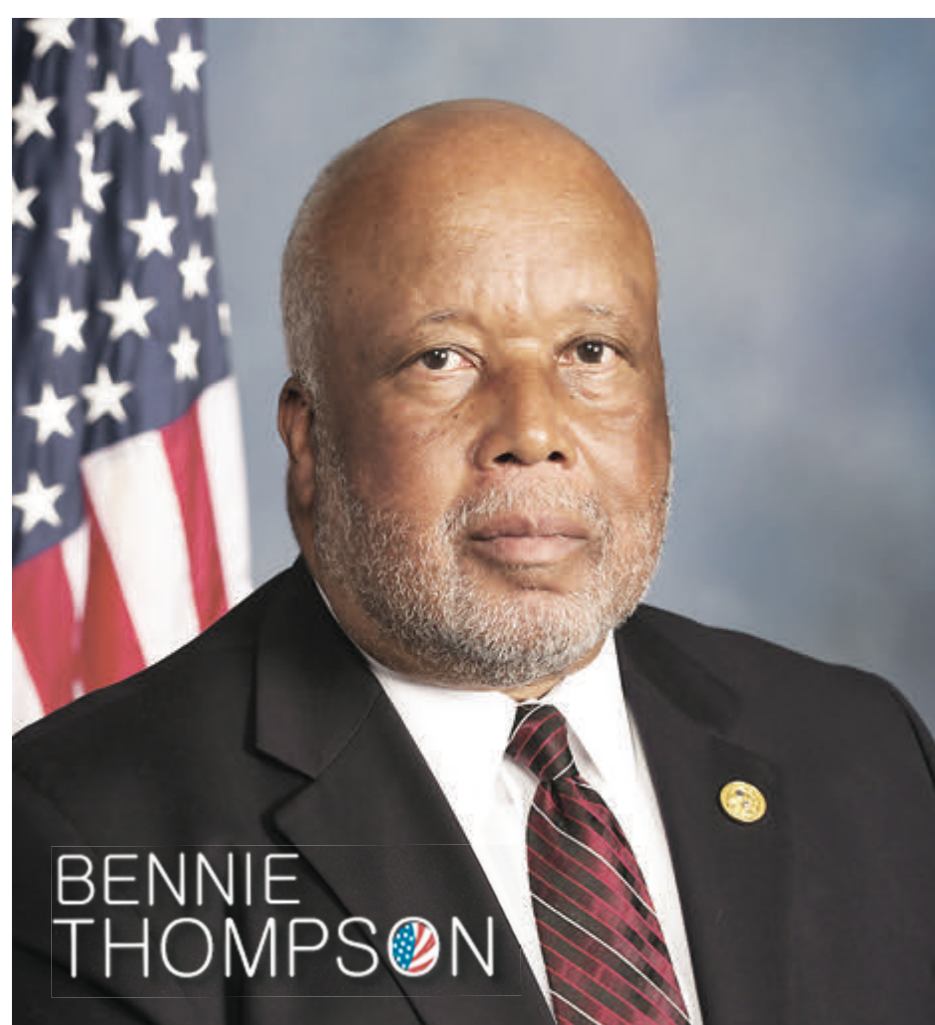


# U.S. CONGRESSMAN BENNIE THOMPSON....

**On June 12, 1963, Medgar Wiley Evers was assassinated in the driveway of his home in Jackson, MS. I am glad that the home is now a National Monument. We will continue to honor his life and legacy.**



Medgar Wiley Evers July 2, 1925 - June 12, 1963



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

**November 3, 2020**

bennie\_thompson@bellsouth.net

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

benniethompson.com

Paid for by Friends of Bennie Thompson