

After a tense night, presidential election remains a mystery for media



On November 3, the Black Press of America followed the 2020 Presidential Election, the most consequential in U.S. history, while reporting on races in their respective states.

The Associated Press

After an extraordinary night of shifting vote counts and a rebuke of President Donald Trump, news organizations kept vigil as Americans waited to learn who their next president would be.

For weeks, media outlets had warned that Americans would need patience on election night and beyond, and that turned out to be their most accurate prediction.

“We don’t know who the next president of the United States will be,” CNN’s John Berman told viewers shortly before 10 a.m. EST Wednesday.

The overnight hours featured the stunning scene of journalists immediately refuting Trump after he stood behind a White House podium and complained it was “a major fraud on our nation” that he hadn’t been declared the winner.

NBC News’ Savannah Guthrie broke into Trump’s statement to tell viewers that several of Trump’s statements were untrue. “The fact of the matter is we don’t know who won the election,” she said.

CBS News’ Norah O’Donnell said Trump was “castrating the facts” by “falsely claiming that he has won the election and disenfranchising millions of voters whose ballots have not been counted.”

“This is an extremely flammable situation and the president just threw a match into it,” said Fox News Chan-

nel’s Chris Wallace.

The Associated Press said that at the time of Trump’s statement, its count had Trump winning 213 electoral votes to Democrat Joe Biden’s 225. The AP has determined that it’s too early to declare a winner in several states, including Pennsylvania, Georgia and Michigan.

With the sun’s rise Wednesday, it seemed to feel to some like a bad dream they’d like to forget.

“It was ridiculous,” former Ohio Republican Gov. John Kasich said on CNN. “He should not have done that. This is what we have come to expect, but it won’t matter because I think we will count all the votes.”

At 10:35 a.m., Trump tweeted in all caps: “WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?” Twitter took down the rest of his tweet, saying some or all of it is disputed and might be misleading.

Election coverage was proving the primacy of numbers geeks like NBC News’ Steve Kornacki and CNN’s John King, who got granular trying to figure out where things were going. For awhile, MSNBC kept a “Kornacki cam” on him as he sifted through returns offstage.

While stressing that things were far from certain, Kornacki said Wednesday that “it’s Trump right now who has to turn things around on this electoral map.”

Arnon Mishkin, director of Fox

Election Continued on page 4

ELECTION RESULTS 2020

Mississippians voted for a new state flag and legalized medical marijuana

By Edelia “Dr. Jay” Carthan
Staff Writer

Millions of Mississippians’ voices were heard around the state Tuesday, November 3, election day. Residents of the “Magnolia” state voted in the presidential election, a Senate race, congressional races, Mississippi Supreme Court judges’ race, a new state flag and legalized Marijuana.

Although the Presidential race is still undecided and is very close, Mississippians were quite clear on several ballot measures and other key races. At press time, approximately 70% of the precincts reported are included in this article based off results reported by the Associated Press.

Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, a white Republican who said she wanted to be front row of a public hanging, won reelection for United States senator by defeating Mike Espy, a black Democrat, formerly the first black congressman from MS and the first black to serve as U.S. secretary of agriculture under the Clinton Administration.

Mississippi hasn’t had a black representative in the senate since Hiram Rhodes Revels was elected by the senate in 1970. He resigned one year later to be president at Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College, now Alcorn State University.

Although Espy outraised Hyde-Smith by millions of dollars, Hyde-Smith received 58% of the votes compared to Espy’s 40% percent. In her victory speech, Hyde-Smith told her crowd of supporters, “The best thing about beating Mike Espy is beating him twice.”

In the U.S. House of Rep-



resentatives race, District 1, Republican incumbent Trent Kelly defeated Antonia Eliason by winning 70% of the votes. In District 2, Congressman Bennie Thompson was the only Democrat pulling out a win by 64% over Brian Flowers. Republican incumbent Michael Guest won by 65% of the vote over Dorothy Benford. And House District 4 Republican incumbent Steven Palazzo was uncontested and declared winner.

Results from the Mississippi Supreme Court were disappointing. Judge Latrice Westbrook received 48% of the vote conceding to Kenny Griffis who received 52% of the votes. King and Randolph ran uncontested.

Mississippians voted overwhelmingly to pass all of the ballot measures that were on the ballot.

The statewide Measure 1a to allow medical marijuana passed with 74% percent of the vote. Opposers efforts to include 65A on the ballot to prevent the measure from passing, did not work this time around. However, it is important that citizens un-

derstand that weed is not legal only medical marijuana.

“Weed ain’t legal. Medical marijuana was legalized, not your personal stash at the house. You still can’t fire up in public. And even if you get a card, your job can still fire you for failing a drug test,” Brad “Kamikaze” Franklin wrote on his page the day after the election trying to educate citizens that marijuana is not legal. “Don’t take yall goofy asses outside somewhere chief’n talking bout ‘I know my rights.’ Also, the cards and the medical Marijuana won’t be available until at least mid 2021. Til then, do like ya been doing. And don’t mess this up for everybody. We close real close to recreational being legal and that is the aim.”

The statewide Measure 2 addressing the outdated 1890 Mississippi Constitution was to determine who decides a runoff in a governor’s race. The measure passed by 78% of Mississippians voting yes to change the measure. The 1890 State Constitution was written after Reconstruction to disenfranchise African

Americans and to prevent them from gaining political power. Mississippi needs an updated inclusive state constitution. It’s time for a Constitutional Convention.

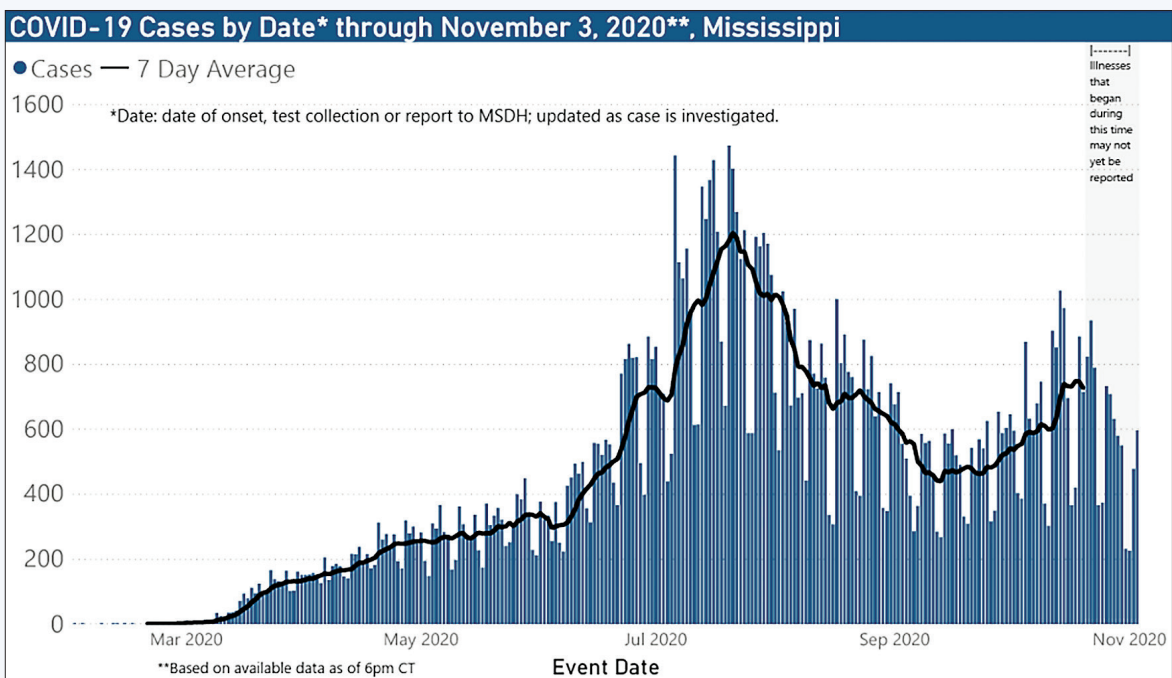
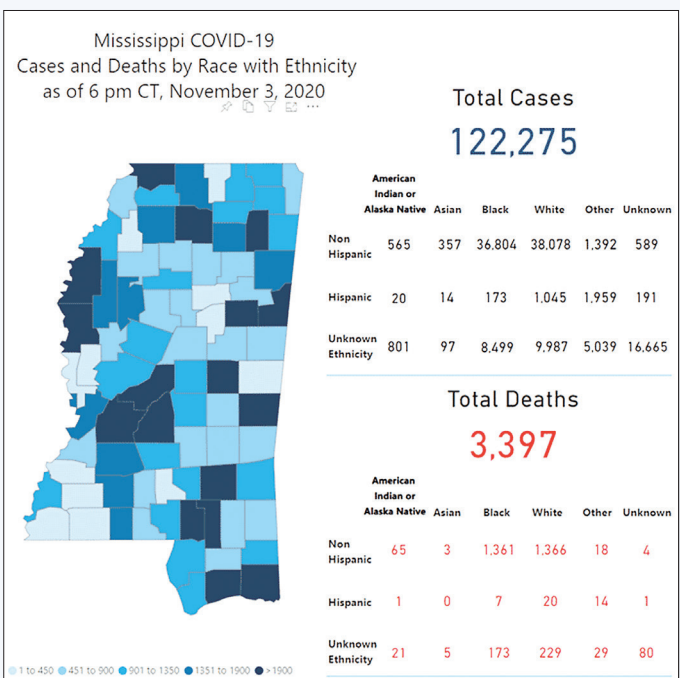
Statewide Measure 3 to approve the redesign of the state flag passed with 72% of the votes. Mississippians voted to change the controversial state flag to the In God We Trust Design. The Legislature voted this summer to change the state flag and put the measure on the ballot. This is just one of the first steps to a new and better Mississippi.

“I encourage you to not be dismayed. Do not be disappointed. Do not be discouraged; We have a lot of fighting to do. Like Joe Biden said, ‘We are fighting for the soul of America,’” Pastor James Hull said in a video on his Facebook page. “Don’t be afraid, be angry. Don’t be despondent, be encouraged. Don’t be discouraged, be energized so we can take this country back. You need to be in this fight.”

Long lines and voter sup-

Mississippi Continued on page 4

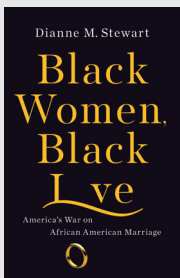
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Looking for America – Voting while Black – Road Trip: In Mississippi, black voters face many hurdles

By Tim Sullivan
Associated Press

The old civil rights worker was sure the struggle would be over by now.

He’d fought so hard back in the ‘60s. He’d seen the wreckage of burned churches, and the injuries of people who had been beaten. He’d seen men in white hoods. At its worst, he’d mourned three young men who were fighting for black Mississippians to gain the right to vote, and who were kidnapped and executed on a country road just north of here.

But Charles Johnson, sitting inside the neat brick church in Meridian where he’s been pastor for over 60 years, worries that Mississippi is drifting into its past.

“I would never have thought we’d be where we’re at now, with blacks still fighting for the vote,” said Johnson, 83, who was close to two of the murdered men. “I would have never believed it.”

The opposition to black votes in Mississippi has changed since the 1960s, but it hasn’t ended. There are no poll taxes anymore, no tests on the state constitution. But on the eve of the most divisive presidential election in decades, voters face obstacles such as state-mandated ID laws that mostly affect poor and minority communities and the disenfranchisement of tens of thousands of former prisoners. And despite Mississippi having the largest percentage of black people of any state in the nation, a black person hasn’t been elected to statewide office in 130 years.

Sometimes, it can seem that voting rights in Mississippi are like its small towns and dirt roads, which can seem



A portrait of James Chaney is seen on the headstone of his grave in Meridian, Miss., Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020. Chaney was one of three civil rights activists that was kidnapped by a deputy sheriff and local klansmen, and driven to a narrow country road and shot at close range. Their bodies, buried in an earthen dam, were found 44 days later. AP PHOTO/WONG MAYE-E

frozen in the past.

This story was produced with the support of the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

Decades after the murders, the narrow county road where they happened still turns pitch black after dark. Pine forests press in from both sides. The only light comes from a couple of distant houses and the ocean of stars overhead.

One night in early October we stopped the car along the road and I stepped out. The songs of crickets filled the air. In the distance, I could hear the occasional truck driving past on Highway 19.

The three of us visited Mississippi as part of a road trip across America, in a year marked by so many convulsions – a pandemic, an economic cri-

sis, countless protests for racial justice, a virulent political divide. We chose Mississippi because we wanted to see what things were like in a state where the simple act of voting was impossible for nearly every black person well into the 1960s, and because of the three men murdered on that little road.

Even today, voters in Mississippi face a series of government-created barriers that make it, according to a study in the Election Law Journal in 2018, far and away the most difficult state in which to vote.

Mississippi has broad restrictions on absentee voting, no early voting or online registration, absentee ballots that must be witnessed by notaries and voter ID laws that overwhelmingly affect the poor and minorities. Nearly one-third of black people here live be-

low the poverty line, and taking a day off work to vote can be too expensive.

Then there are felony voting restrictions, which in Mississippi have disenfranchised almost 16 percent of the black population, researchers say. That compares to just 5 percent in nearby Missouri, another deeply Republican state, according to the Sentencing Project.

Distrust of the government runs deep in the black community in Mississippi, where harsh voter suppression tactics – voting fees, tests on the state constitution, even guessing the number of beans in a jar – kept all but about 6 percent of black Mississippians from voting into the 1960s. As a result, black politicians have long been fighting an apathy born of generations of frustration.

Anthony Boggan sometimes votes, but is sitting it out this year, disgusted at the choices.

“They’re all going to tell you the same thing,” he said. “Anything to get elected.”

A 49-year-old black Jackson resident with a small moving company, Boggan likes how the economy boomed during the Trump years, but can’t bring himself to vote for a man known for his insults and name-calling. As for Biden: He and Trump both “got dementia,” Boggan said, and he hates how the former vice president tries to curry favor in the black community.

“Why does everything he says got to be about the black?” he said angrily. “Just have them do all this for the American people.”

One man in the group, which was doing construction on a friend’s house on a recent morning, simply refuses to

vote.

“Most of the presidents that got in there, they lied all the way,” said Clyde Lewis, a 59-year-old mechanic. “They hurt us more than they help us.”

That kind of talk is painful for Kim Houston.

“Sometimes I think we beat ourselves,” said Houston, the president of the Meridian City Council, the frustration clear in her voice. “There’s this mindset that (voting) doesn’t matter, that nothing is going to change, that the election system is rigged.”

Black registration and turnout rates are actually reasonably high in Mississippi. In 2016, for example, 81 percent of black Mississippians were registered and 69 percent turned out to vote. And by some estimates, Mississippi has the highest number of black officials in the country – but many of them are local, such as mayors, city council members, city officials.

With those officials came significant infrastructure improvements, such as roads paved in black neighborhoods and sewage systems installed that allowed black homeowners to finally abandon their outhouses. But in Mississippi, a black politician can rise only so high, they say, and are kept from those statewide offices.

It all reminds Johnson of the continued difficulties that black people face in Mississippi when it comes to voting.

Johnson has driven a couple of times down the road where the three kidnapped civil rights workers – one black and two white – were shot at close range by local klansmen.

“I’m afraid the road is just as crooked now as it was then,” he said.



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Emmette Ward Cornelius, III

August, 1952 - October, 2020



Cornelius

“For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” 2 Corinthians 5:1

Emmette Ward Cornelius, III was born August 5, 1952, to the late Celestine Bennett Cornelius and Lawrence Milton Cornelius, Jr., in Jackson, Mississippi. He was the seventh of eight children.

Educated in the Jackson Public School System, Emmette graduated in 1970 from Jim Hill High School. While at Jim Hill, he was active in baseball. His ability to play baseball earned him a scholarship to Jackson State University. He was known, at that time, as the best baseball player to come to JSU. He had a “decent bat” and was one of the smoothest fielder that ever put on

a glove. He was also one of those rare athletes who led on and off the field – a true leader.

In the spring of 1973, Emmette became a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity YE Chapter. He was known for his academic performance as well. He graduated from JSU in 1974 with a major in accounting and a minor in mathematics. Over the years, Emmette was employed at the Deposit Guaranty National Bank, Time Warner Cable and General Motors Packard Electric. He left a lasting impression wherever he worked.

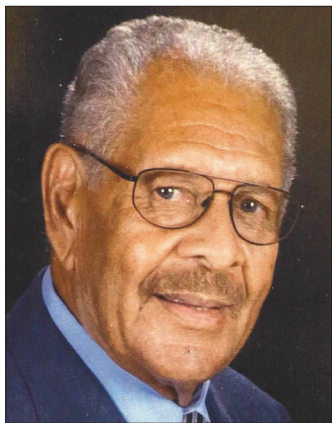
At a young age, he began a life of Christian service when he united with Saint James Missionary Baptist Church on Jones Street in Jackson, Mississippi. He later continued his worship at Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church of Tougaloo, Mississippi, under the leadership of the late Reverend Alexander Kirkwood, Sr., and Reverend Jeffery A. Stegall. In his seasoned years, he served as trustee at Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.

Emmette could lighten the atmosphere in the room with his off-colored facial expressions and his sense of humor.

Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while and leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never the same...that was Emmette, III.

William Cordell Gorden

June, 1930 - October, 2020



Robinson-McGee

William Cordell Gorden, 90, departed his earthly life and went to be with the Lord October 23, 2020 at home surrounded by family. Affectionately known as “Coach,” W.C. Gorden was born to Reverend Henry Payton “HP” Gorden and Carrie Hill Gorden June 30, 1930 in Nashville, Tennessee. He was reared in a home where his parents placed a premium value on religion, education and civic involvement.

Gorden graduated from Pearl High School in Nashville (1948) where he played football and baseball. He attended Tennessee State University in Nashville (1948-1952) where he was a four-year letterman in baseball (first base) and a two-year letterman in football (wide receiver). After college, “WC” served in the United States Army from 1953 to 1955.

In 1956, Gorden embarked on an extraordinary career as a football coach, first on the high school level and then on the col-

legiate level.

He met and married the love of his life, Vivian Alfreda Howard Gorden, a native of Richland, Mississippi, in 1958. They would have celebrated their 61-year anniversary later this year. They have two sons, Craig and Robin. He loved his family. He doted over his grandchildren. God, family and coaching were part of his mantra.

He began his coaching career at Pike County Agricultural High School and later Eva Gordon High School in Magnolia, Mississippi where he served as head coach of football, baseball, basketball and track and field. He coached there from 1956 to 1966. He moved on to Temple High School in Vicksburg, Mississippi in 1966 where his football team won the high school Big 8 State Championship with an 11-0 record.

In 1967, Gorden was hired as an assistant football coach at Jackson State University. He was an assistant for 10 years, the last six of which were served as defensive coordinator. He also was the Tigers’ head baseball coach in 1966 and 1967 during which time the baseball team won the Southwestern Athletic Conference championship.

Named as the interim head football coach in 1976 with two games remaining on the season schedule, Gorden was elevated to head coach in 1977, which gave his rise to a 15-year run of tremendous success. When Gorden retired from coaching

in 1992, he had become the winningest coach in JSU history with a 119-48-5 record. His 72 percent winning percentage and 119 career victories ranked among the top 10 among active Division I-AA head football coaches at the end of the 1991 season.

Gorden’s teams dominated the SWAC during the 1980s winning five outright conference titles and tying for the league title twice. Gorden’s eighth SWAC title came in 1990. One of Gorden’s crowning achievements as JSU’s football coach was to lead the Tigers to a SWAC record 28 consecutive league victories from 1985 to 1989. His teams made nine trips to the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs. He was named SWAC Coach of the Year six times.

During Gorden’s time as assistant coach and head coach (1966-1992), Jackson State had 70 players drafted into the NFL, including 32 during the time he was head coach. Five of Jackson State’s seven NFL first round draft picks came during Gorden’s affiliation with the football program.

Of all the team and individual player accomplishments achieved on the field of play, and they were numerous, what Gorden was most proud of was his players achievements in the classroom. He insisted that they go to class and pass. If you didn’t go to class, you didn’t play. In 1989, an investigative

article by the *Clarion Ledger* showed JSU graduated more football players than any public school in the SWAC, SEC or the Metro Conference. The Tigers graduated 61.9 percent of the recruits who came to JSU in the fall of 1981 or 1982.

Gorden was named director of athletics at Jackson State in 1992, a position he held until 1994.

Gorden received numerous awards and honors during and after his career at Jackson State. Among those are his induction into the Southwestern Athletic Conference, Mississippi, Jackson State, National Football Foundation and Colleges and Black College Sports Halls of Fame. He has also received the JSU Alumni Achievement Award and the Southwestern Athletic Conference Alumni Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

Since his retirement, Gorden had remained busy serving on various boards, many national and local committees and civic organizations. He served on the board of the Pearl River Valley Board of Directors, board member of the Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center Board of Directors, Board of Directors for the City of Jackson Planning and Development and a member of the Monday Evening Club.

A devout Christian, Gorden was a very active member of

Gorden Obit Continued on page 4

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JACKSON CITY COUNCIL WARD 2

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★ CURRENT RESIDENT OF PRESIDENTIAL HILLS

★ ATTORNEY SINCE APRIL 1989

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Powell is a graduate of Tougaloo College. He has practiced law in Jackson since 1989. After a stint in law school at Ole Miss, he obtained his law degree while serving in the army at Washburn School of Law in Topeka, Kansas.

The National Academy of Criminal Defense awarded Powell as one of the top ten defense lawyers. He feels the city is moving in the right direction with projects such as the addition to the Children’s Hospital, the new Tech Hub development on Gallatin Street, new hotel on State Street, new parking meters and many other projects coming on board.

Attorney Powell feels he can help in the area of crime prevention by bringing fresh ideas to help deal with youth and gang violence, by keeping young people busy through job training and positive new recreational activities.

He wants to see more police visibility in the city while focusing on cleaning up the community, which is an attraction for crime. He feels that a clean community will also attract industry. He plans to focus on enhancing small businesses inside Jackson, as well as attracting new Industry to Jackson.

Powell is new to the public service arena, running in his first election. He feels his legal experience will help in his quest to get things done. He believes in doing what is right for the citizens.

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Election

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News’ decision desk, said on “Fox & Friends” that for Trump to win, he’d need to maintain leads in Georgia and North Carolina and then win either Michigan or Wisconsin. In those two states, “I’d rather be Joe Biden than Donald Trump,” he said.

As midnight passed late Tuesday, the president’s team was angry at Fox News for striking out ahead of other news organizations in declaring that Biden had defeated Trump in the battleground state of Arizona. It was the first indication of a state to flip parties from 2016, and was crucial to 270 electoral votes and victory.

Mishkin went on the air after Fox’s Bret Baier noted that the network was taking “incoming” on the decision. He explained that with the bulk of uncounted votes in Arizona cast early and thus more likely

for Biden, Trump would not be able to catch up to the Democrat’s lead in the state.

“I’m sorry, but we’re not wrong in this particular case,” Mishkin said. The AP eventually called Arizona for Biden at 2:52 a.m.

Biden spoke to supporters at 12:42 a.m. in Delaware, expressing confidence in his campaign and saying he wanted to see every vote counted. Judging by Twitter, that seemed to immediately anger his opponent.

“Keep the faith, guys, we’re going to win this,” Biden said.

The president was also upset at news organizations for not declaring him the winner in Georgia and North Carolina, where he held leads. News organizations explained that there was still doubt given there

were votes still to be counted in regions where Biden was expected to do well, doubt that lingered into Wednesday morning.

For the first time, The Associated Press wrote stories explaining in detail to readers and members of the news cooperative why it had declared winners in individual states. The AP summarized all those stories in its story that refuted Trump’s claims that he had won.

Even if Biden won, Democrats were sure to face questions about why the race was so close and why predicted gains in Congress didn’t materialize.

And polling experts will also face scrutiny for a second straight presidential election that defied their numbers that Biden had a very clear advantage going into the night.

Mississippi

Continued from page 1

pression efforts were reported throughout the state. Although millions of Mississippians showed up to vote, thousands were disenfranchised and cheated of their right to vote. As we have witnessed during this election, every vote does count. Your vote is your voice and Mississippians’ voices were heard this election cycle.

Gorden Obit

Continued from page 3

Central United Methodist Church in Jackson. He was an active part of the United Methodist Men, Bible Class member and the Central United Methodist After School Program.

At home, Gorden had a passion for yard work. His yard was always immaculate. When he wanted to relax, he listened to his extensive collection of jazz music. He has over 5,000 jazz albums in his collection.

Gorden is survived by his wife of 61 years, Vivian; sons Craig and Robin; grandchildren, Craig, Jr. (Eryn), Robyn, Michael, Kamera and Kayla; two daughters-in-law, Pamela Tucker Gorden and Vonda Gorden, two nephews, Gerald Selby and Walter Haith; one niece, Kim Haith and one great nephew Selby and a host of other relatives and friends.

Gorden was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Rosetta Gorden Selby and Francis Gorden Haith and brother Henry Warren Gorden.



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Mississippi city may be left in dark over unpaid power bill

By Leah Willingham
Associated Press/Report for America

A decade ago, the sole grocery store in the city of Itta Bena shuttered. The last bank left a few years later, followed by the pharmacy – lifelines for a small, rural community.

Now, the lights may go out for all 1,800 residents.

Because of long-standing debt with its wholesale electrical provider, the city faces complete disconnection Dec. 1. As of August, Itta Bena owed more than \$800,000. That’s equal to one-third of the annual budget for the whole city – located in the Mississippi Delta, a region along the Mississippi River known for its long history of cotton farming and deep impoverishment.

The news is devastating for the community, where 40% of people live below the poverty line and 90% are black. Itta Bena has long struggled with a decreasing tax base, white flight and job loss. The coronavirus pandemic has sparked more worry.

“It just feels like we keep losing and losing. There’s no growth,” said Patricia Young, a daycare owner who submitted a petition signed by 300 residents asking the state auditor to investigate the city’s electrical department. “We just can’t take the hurt anymore. You start to wonder, ‘Do they really want us to survive?’”

Itta Bena’s electric system is city-run and owned, and unreg-



Birdia Williams turns on her ceiling fan, Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020, to help cool the house she and her husband, John Williams, purchased 23 years earlier in Itta Bena, Miss., a few blocks from what was then a busy downtown. AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS

ulated by the state. Mississippi’s Public Service Commission, which oversees utilities, opened an investigation anyway and invited the state auditor, citing safety and quality-of-life concerns. State officials are organizing meetings among the city, wholesale electrical provider Municipal Energy Agency of Mississippi, and other providers to find coverage for Itta Bena.

Brandon Presley, a public service commissioner, said he’s never seen an electric provider threaten to pull out of a city in Mississippi – or any other state. He said it’s a “failure of the city government” and that residents “deserve better than to be left in the dark.”

Itta Bena Mayor J.D. Brasel said some of the debt – more than \$300,000 – stems from residents’ unpaid bills that the city now must cover. As a middleman of sorts between residents and MEAM, the city purchases electricity from the wholesaler to sell residents and is responsible for the bill.

Former Mayor Thelma Collins, who left office in 2017, said officials have long known about the debt but prioritized other projects. She said lack of vision and planning exacerbate problems.

Itta Bena was founded around 1850 by plantation owner, Confederate general and former Gov. Benjamin Grubb Hum-

phreys. He chose the name, which means “forest camp” in the language of the Choctaw people, who were forcibly removed from the land. Humphreys brought slaves to help turn the Delta into the South’s cotton-producing capital.

After the Civil War, slaves were freed into a sharecropping system that resulted in generational poverty. Black families were blocked from educational and political opportunities. Industrialization led to fewer jobs in the fields. And after the Civil Rights movement made strides for racial equity and integration, white families began leaving, taking tax dollars with them.

From 2000 to 2010, white population decreased from 20% to 10% of Itta Bena. Total population has decreased by one-third – from around 3,000 to 1,800 – since 1980.

Birdia and John Williams bought their home 23 years ago from a white family moving away. She remembers driving through and seeing a beautiful neighborhood of nice, clean houses.

“While we moved in, they were all moving out,” said Williams, 64, a black woman. “It’s not the same city today as it used to be. We have good people here, lovely people. But there’s nothing here anymore.”

Emma Harris, 66, was raised 10 miles away, where her parents worked on a white-owned plantation. She said her husband was born and worked on the

plantation, until they married and moved to the Itta Bena area in 1978. Growing up, she remembers traveling the country road to shop in Itta Bena and seeing the “city lights” downtown.

Today, 20 downtown storefronts are abandoned. Remaining are a laundromat, a used-car seller, a clinic run by a nurse practitioner, a bar, a credit union. The corner store sells canned food, bread, fishing gear – with a small food menu from a kitchen in back.

The nearest grocery store is 10 miles away; a Dollar General sells some fruits and vegetables. Some folks, like Williams, travel 45 miles to a bargain store in Grenada for groceries.

Businesses and city offices will lose power if MEAM leaves. Some businesses purchased generators as backup. Only institutions like the historically Black Mississippi Valley State University, whose utility system is separate from the city’s, will be unaffected.

Itta Bena’s financial woes aren’t new. In 2014, the federal government placed a tax lien on city assets after officials failed to pay \$200,000 in payroll taxes. In 2016, a former city clerk was convicted of embezzlement. The power debt dates back to 2009.

MEAM didn’t answer a request for comment, but in a letter shared with the Public Service Commission, President and CEO Geoffrey Wilson said the company has exercised “ex-

traordinary patience” trying to collect.

“The situation brought about by the city’s failure to pay its MEAM invoices in full is regrettable, but it is a situation of Itta Bena’s own making,” Wilson wrote.

Residents said they were surprised to learn the city was so in debt.

Itta Bena light bills are notoriously high.

Williams said monthly bills for her one-story home sometimes exceed \$650.

Kathy Gee, who’s lived in Itta Bena for 40 years and is on disability for lupus, said her income is about \$500 monthly, and she’s received bills over \$400.

The mayor said he’s aware of high bills, and that rates are calculated correctly.

Harris said she’s tried approaching City Hall with partial payments, in hopes her power wouldn’t be shut off.

“My lights have been out many, many, many times because I didn’t have the money,” she said. “Knowing they are the ones in debt, you feel used. You work so hard for so long, and it feels like you get nothing in return.”

Leah Willingham is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on under-covered issues.

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Alumni Association presents check for \$10,000 to Lanier High School



Participating in the presentation of a check for \$10,000 to Lanier High School are, from left, Dr. Valerie Bradley, the school's principal with representatives of the Alumni Association, Hazel Shields and Jessie Hearn.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Lanier High School National Alumni Association has made another generous donation of \$10,000 to Lanier High School for supplies, materials and activities. With this donation, the organization's funding total has surpassed \$100,000 in support for students at the school. More than half of the funds donated (more than \$7,000) was raised during

a four-week campaign held last summer – themed Christmas in July.

“We all know that these are tough times for everybody, especially for our children,” said Lanier Principal Valerie Bradley. “I’m excited that they will be the beneficiaries of this money. I just can’t say thank you enough. On behalf of all the staff, teachers, and our students, I say ‘Thank you.’”

Established in 1998, the Lanier High School National Alumni Association is committed to supporting the academic, social and economic needs of Lanier students by increasing academic success and supporting the development of skills that will contribute to their participatory citizenship.

In recent years, the association's philanthropy assisted the

school in acquiring a refurbished ambulance for the health careers program. Additionally, they have supported a clothing closet and awarded college scholarships to students.

For their ongoing partnership, the Alumni Association and Lanier High School were recognized with the 2019 Governor's Award for Partnership Excellence.

The Art of the Audition Virtual Workshops

Featuring Artistic Director Francine Thomas Reynolds

The Mississippi Link Newswire

New Stage Theatre, Mississippi's professional theatre located in Jackson, Mississippi, announces a new virtual workshop for ages 15 and up. The Art of the Audition Virtual Workshop with Artistic Director Francine Thomas Reynolds sessions begin November 9 and continues for 4 weeks, Monday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The cost is \$100 for the 4-week workshop. To register for this new virtual workshop, please visit our website at www.newstagetheatre.com/tickets or 601-948-3533 ext. 245.

Being a good actor and having a good audition technique are two different things. The Art of the Audition is specifically designed to analyze the technique directors are looking for in the casting process. The class will offer tips for text analysis and teach actors how to clarify the specifics while making authentic acting choices.

Participants should expect to work with prepared and cold reading material, discuss how to emotionally and intellectually take charge of the audition, and maximize your chances of landing the role.

Participants should come prepared with a 60 second memorized monologue for the first session. All skill levels encouraged. “We have a rare opportunity

afforded us at this time. We typically aren't able to schedule Francine to teach a class, but due to the many restrictions placed on us due to COVID-19, we were able to schedule an auditions workshop that worked with Francine's schedule,” said Education Director Sharon Miles. “This workshop will give feedback and insight into what directors are looking for and will give actors a one-on-one audience with an artistic director from a professional theatre.

The Art of the Audition sessions begin November 9-30, 2020 for 4 weeks. Sessions will be held on Mondays from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and will take place virtually via Zoom. For more information or to register, please visit www.newstagetheatre.com/tickets or call 601-948-3533, ext. 245.

New Stage Theatre is Mississippi's professional not-for-profit theatre. Winner of the 2019 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Theatre, the education department strives to equip people interested in theatre with the opportunity to develop and strengthen their acting skills, in a professional environment, taught by educated and experienced theatre veterans. The emphasis of these classes is on the progression of theatrical skill, so that participants in the classes continue to enhance their skills and grow as actors.

Jackson State University selects JPS leader for COVID-19 board

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson State University has selected Dionne Jones-Woody, assistant superintendent of Elementary Schools, to serve on the College of Health Sciences' COVID-19 Mitigation Community Advisory Board.

The board was established with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Foundation to create COVID-19 mitigation strategies to reduce the number of cases among African-American communities.

Woody will attend monthly meetings and share recommendations regarding practices that

will help prevent the spread of COVID-19 among at-risk populations. She will also have an important role outside of meetings sharing messages and implementing mitigation strategies with her networks and through participation in virtual town halls.

As the principal of Key Elementary, before being promoted to her current post, Jones-Woody led the school to an A rating and maintained a successful status for multiple consecutive years. Before that, she led Bradley Elementary School from low performing to successful in the four years she served as its leader.

In 2016, she was named the Jackson Public Schools Administrator of the Year. She began her 22-year career in education as a teacher at Marshall Elementary.

Jones-Woody completed both a Bachelor of Science in elementary education and a Master of Science in education administration and leadership from Jackson State University. The university recognized her with the National Alumni Association 2016 Black Tie Award for her commitment in the field of education.

That same year, she received a proclamation in the field of

education from the Mississippi House of Representatives. She was awarded the Women of Progress, Inc. Distinguish Award in 2017 and the 2019 Educational Award from Central Mississippi Chapter of the National Council of Black Women.

Jones-Woody remains actively involved in numerous community service activities and partnerships through her church, Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church, and her sorority, the Madison County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and as a member of the South Central Community Action Agency Board.



Jones-Woody

POWER NAMESAKE FINALISTS



Margaret Walker Alexander, Author

Ida B. Wells, Journalist

Richard Wright, Author

Power APAC narrows namesake options to three finalists

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Power APAC Elementary School recently accepted over 100 different namesake nominations which they narrowed to six. After the community weighed in on the six semifinalists, three finalists were determined. They are:

- Richard Wright, author
- Margaret Walker Alexander, author
- Ida B. Wells, journalist/activist

The Renaming Committee established the following nomination guidelines for the new namesake. They must:

- Be deceased.
- Have a strong connection to Mississippi.
- Be committed to academic and arts education.
- Be relevant to students and create a sense of pride for them.



Myths about strong bones and muscles



By Vince Faust
Special to The Mississippi Link

Nothing is more important to building strong bone and muscle than strength training. Strength training involves lifting weights. Strength training can improve almost every measure of health. This includes your ability to stay active and independent in your later years.

Many people think that strength training is less important than walking or other forms of aerobic exercise. This is not true. You need strong bones and muscle to get the most out of your aerobic conditioning. Without strong bones and muscles you can hurt your body.

Other strength training myths:
Myth#1 – I’ll get muscle bound if I lift weights.

Most women think they will look like a muscle man if they lift weights. The amount of testosterone in your body determines how much muscle you will be able to develop. Most of the men and women with the big muscles are taking drugs.

When you start strength training about 30% of the initial improvement occurs because of improved efficiency between your muscles and central nervous system. After that your muscles and bones will start to grow. Muscle takes up less space but weighs more. We should think fat loss and not just weight loss. Most people don’t train hard enough to build big muscles.

Myth#2 – Strength training takes too much time.

Most people spend about 30 minutes doing aerobic most days. With strength training you only need about 20 minutes most days. A 20-minute strength-training workout is enough time to work your whole body.

Myth#3 – I can get just as strong doing yoga.

Yoga does not build muscle or bone tissue. While yoga is beneficial it’s still only a light workout. It’s more challenging when you first start exercising. With yoga you can’t increase workload as you can with strength training. People that lift weights can double their strength in no time.

Myth #4 – Free weights are better than workout machines.

Both free weights and active workout machines can give you a great strength workout. Both can challenge your body. Free weights bring more muscle into play when lifting. Machines tend to stabilize your lift putting fewer muscles in play. The more muscle you put into play the more training effect is in play. A positive point for machines is that machines isolate muscle groups. There is also less stress and more notable gains for older adults when they use machines.

Muscle building and toning exercises stimulate the muscle fibers to grow and give shape to the body. “Resistance Training” will help control your weight, reduce your risk of Type 2 diabetes, improve memory, reduce risk of

dementia, improves energy, helps relieve stress and helps ease depression.

Another advantage of adding muscle-building exercises to your fitness routine is that muscle is more metabolically active than fat tissue. This means that a well-toned body will burn calories and fat at a faster rate than a flabby body.

Weight bearing exercises help prevent osteoporosis and make the tendons, ligaments and muscles, which support the skeletal system stronger. It also increases the density of the bones making them stronger. Stronger bones, tendons, ligaments and muscles allow your body to perform aerobic activities with a lower risk of injuries.

Basic resistance training activities include the use of calisthenics, weight training and the use of other equipment such as exercise tubes. If you don’t have access to traditional weight training equipment you can improvise with sandbags, plastic bottles filled with water or canned goods. I like the idea of using weights because as you get stronger you will need to increase the amount of weight you use. If you don’t have access to a gym you can buy a set of adjustable dumbbells, which will allow you to add weight, as you get stronger. Also, a set of dumbbells will allow you to effectively work each body part.

Ideally, you should work each body part 2 times a week and never work the same body part without skipping at least 1 day before working that body part again. If you can do more than 12 repetitions with a given weight you need to increase the amount of weight to effectively work that muscle group. If you can’t do at least 8 repetitions with a given weight then you need to reduce the amount of weight you’re using (exceptions include power lifting and pyramiding programs).

You should exercise each muscle group of the body rather than just concentrate on one area to add balance in strength and muscle growth. Overdevelopment of strength and muscle tone in one body part will have an adverse effect on another body part. Make sure you work the chest, shoulders, triceps, upper and lower back, biceps, abdominal muscles (stomach area) thighs (which will effect the buttocks) and calf muscles of the lower leg. Talk to an expert to get you started such as a qualified personal trainer or exercise physiologist.

Even with exercise you need sleep to strengthen your body. Our bones grow and are repaired as we sleep. The amount of sleep needed each night varies among people. Each person needs a particular amount of sleep in order to be fully alert throughout the day. Research has shown that when healthy adults are allowed to sleep unrestricted, the average time slept is 8 to 8.5 hours. ing the week.

Road trip: In Mississippi, love in the time of coronavirus

By Tim Sullivan
Associated Press

Her voice cracked as she spoke from her hospital bed. “I want to go home,” she pleaded. More than 40 miles away, her husband sat in their living room, looking intently into his phone as they spoke on a video call, trying to soothe her. Bonnie Bishop had been in the hospital since early July. She’d been on a ventilator. She’d had surgery to put a tube down her throat. She’d been in a coma for six weeks. Sometimes, it was just too much, and on this October evening, she started to weep silently.

This is a love story. It’s a story about coronavirus, the people it strikes down, and a big quiet house outside of Jackson, Mississippi. It’s about those who take COVID-19 seriously, those who don’t, and how that divide breaks uncomfortably along racial lines.

Mostly it’s about Bonnie and Mike Bishop, 63, an African-American couple who met more than 25 years ago when she was organizing a basketball game to support an adopt-a-school program run by AT&T. She worked there until retiring a couple years ago. He still works there as a digital technician.

We met Mike on an Associated Press road trip across America that three of us are taking to try to make sense of a year like no other, with a global illness, protests over race and virulent politics. We went to talk to a pastor in Jackson about election issues. He told us about Mike and Bonnie.

Mike is tall and handsome, with a beard going grey and a gentle voice that’s almost musical. He radiates decency. It’s impossible not to like him.

For him, Bonnie is everything. She’s the woman in oversized sunglasses who hates to have her picture taken. She loves to read and can sometimes be quiet, Mike says, but once she knows you she’s a talker. In photos, it’s obvious from how she looks at him that she adores Mike.

In early July, Mike began to feel run down. It was just a minor dry cough, but he took a coronavirus test and it came back positive.

Soon, Bonnie also tested positive.

A couple days later, she woke him up at 3 a.m. “I can’t breathe,” she gasped.

Mike, whose own case of COVID-19 meant he couldn’t go with her to the hospital, helped strap her onto a stretcher. He held her hand as they walked out to the ambulance.

Then, with lights flashing, the ambulance took her away up Woodlee Drive. He watched it disappear into the night.

“I was empty. Scared. Terrified,” he said. “And I was praying.”

Bonnie was in management when they met. Mike is fiercely union. He’s also friendly and outgoing and likes to do the right thing. Plus he has the gargantuan hands of a man who was palming basketballs when he was barely a teenager. So he agreed when she asked if he’d join the AT&T team.

At the game, a friend of Mike’s nodded toward Bonnie: “Man, she’s checking you out,” he said.

“She hates it when I tell this story,” Mike said.

A week or so later, there was an office party at her house for the people who played in the basketball game. The jury is still out on whether that was a setup to see him again.



Mike Bishop video chats with his wife Bonnie who is hospitalized with COVID-19 Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020, in Byram, Miss. In early July, Bishop was hit by COVID-19. AP PHOTO/WONG MAYE-E

“We have been together ever since,” he said. “The Sunday (after the party) she invited me over for lunch. I went over for lunch. Monday, on the way to work, I had coffee. That weekend we did something. About a month later I moved in. And about 8, 10 months later we were married.”

They bought a house together, which she has decorated with oversized furniture and leopard print cushions. They went to the Caribbean; they went to New Orleans. They spend time with his mother, who still lives on the small farm west of here where he grew up. Her ailing mother moved in with them for a couple years until she died. And now?

“I am so empty and lost without her being here,” he said. “It is the worst I’ve ever felt. The most alone I’ve felt in all my life.”

But in his own gentle, self-controlled way, he’s also angry. “Red-blooded American people say they’re patriotic but don’t care nothing about their fellow man because they don’t want to wear a mask,” he said.

Mike is shocked at how lightly many politicians take the disease, and the way mask-wearing has become politicized.

“When I see people say that it’s a hoax? This is real! I took every protection in the world. I washed my hands so much I joked to the guys at work: ‘Pretty soon I’m going to be as white as y’all.’”

He stumbled for the right words: “I go to a bad place if I allow myself to.”

Across the country, racial minorities, especially black people, have been hit hard by COVID-19. They are more likely to live in crowded housing and work essential jobs, whether in grocery stores or hospitals, and have a long history of second-rate health care.

The virus ripped through Mississippi’s black community early in the pandemic. About 60% of infections and deaths were among African Americans, who make up 38% of the state’s population.

Go to a black church service now and there are often carefully enforced mask mandates, multiple disinfectant stations, parishioners sitting far apart, and pastors who don’t let anyone forget the disease is serious.

“If folks didn’t know it, now they know it’s not a hoax,” Bishop Ronnie Crudup said during a service on the Sunday after President Donald Trump tested positive for the virus, speaking from the pulpit of New Horizon Church International in Jackson.

“I don’t agree with Donald Trump,” he said. “But that doesn’t mean we can’t pray for his life.”

By late October, with a surge in U.S. cases also hitting Mis-

issippi, white people finally outnumbered black Mississippians in both cases and deaths. Yet masks remain a rarity in many white neighborhoods.

“Big parts of the white community, especially in areas that weren’t as hard affected, have not been as compliant or engaged actively with social distancing and masking,” Dr. Thomas Dobbs, the Mississippi state health officer, told reporters a couple weeks ago.

Mike pauses repeatedly as he talks about how race plays into the response to the virus.

“I think that if it had hit the white community like it hit the African-American community, it’d be a whole different ballgame,” he said.

He seems surprised to find himself seeing the virus through the lens of race, which he doesn’t normally dwell on much. But the killings of black people by police and the nationwide protests for racial justice, along with increasingly racist murmurs on social media, have unsettled him.

“I thought that a lot of that stuff that we were supposed to be beyond, we are truly not,” he said.

Still, he’s a relentless optimist: “It’ll get better – it has gotten better.”

For months, he had to fight to be optimistic about Bonnie, who is in her late 60s.

“Had it not been for family, friends and faith I just don’t think I would have made it,” he said. “You lose your will to do stuff. It’s almost like it’s a daily struggle: ‘Why am I doing this?’”

When Bonnie arrived at the hospital doctors quickly put her on a ventilator. Then into a medically induced coma.

For weeks, Mike called the hospital continually: 6 a.m.; mid-morning for the hospital shift change, early afternoon; mid-afternoon; dinnertime; just before he went to bed.

Nurses insisted they’d call him if there was news, but he told them that wasn’t enough: “I know I might be a pest, but I can’t talk to her. She can’t talk to me. Y’all guys are my eyes and ears,” he said.

After about six weeks, doctors took Bonnie out of the coma. She awoke disoriented and scared, with a breathing tube down her throat that made her feel as if she was choking. They quickly sedated her again. To make her more comfortable, they cut a hole in her windpipe for the breathing tube.

Back home, Mike had returned to work, after taking a month off to recover from COVID-19 and follow Bonnie’s progress. He was living alone, in their big suburban house with pillars out front, a perfectly kept lawn, well-trimmed hedges and magnolia and juniper trees.

He’d wake up confused at 2 a.m. when she wasn’t beside

him. He was alone when he left for work. No one was home when he came back.

“All this was for her!” he said, gesturing around at the house. “This was hers, and it’s empty without her.”

In normal times he loves to cook, but these days meals are a chore. Dinners are often leftovers and frozen vegetables that he eats in front of the television, watching the news or a football game. Ten minutes later he’s finished and washing the dishes at the kitchen sink.

He avoids things that remind him too much of Bonnie. Her purse sits untouched in their bedroom, along with her iPad. He won’t sleep on her side of the bed.

At night, he sleeps with the TV on.

“If I don’t have the TV on I hear the clock all night. I hear the ‘tick-tock, tick-tock.’” he said. “If it rains, I can hear the rain dripping.”

He comes from a large, tightly knit family. He’d felt the pain of losing two brothers and two sisters. He couldn’t imagine losing Bonnie, even if he always believed she’d survive.

“But I also had to keep praying that whatever God’s will, I got to be able to accept it.”

“There were nights that I just prayed and prayed that she’d just make it to the next day,” he said. “Make it to the next day. Just make it to the next day.”

Medical problems continued even after she was brought out of the coma. She needed regular dialysis. Fevers would spike. She was disoriented and sleepy from all the drugs.

At home, he still spoke to her, speaking aloud into the silence.

“I’d have these conversations just like I’m talking to you,” he said.

Very slowly she started to get better. She couldn’t feed herself for weeks because she was so weak. The breathing tube meant she could only speak with the help of a small electronic voicebox.

By that point he was emotionally spent. His friends could see it.

“It’s kind of hard to fake strength when you feel like you’re on the verge of a nervous breakdown,” he said.

There were sparks of hope: when the fevers stopped; when she could hold a conversation; when she first spoke without the electronic voicebox.

But it was not until late September, maybe early October, that Mike’s fear began subsiding, as he and Bonnie spoke multiple times a day. After more than three months in bed, she’d be going into a rehab facility soon, to re-learn how to walk and care for herself.

In mid-October, he hoped she’d be back by late November. He was already planning the Thanksgiving meal: a small turkey, gravy, creamed corn, salad. His mother would bake a cake. “The usual,” he said happily.

This week, he got even better news.

Bonnie’s recovery was going far faster than expected. The weeks of rehabilitation could be done at home, doctors said.

She’ll be home this weekend.

“She’s not 100 percent, but she’s close enough,” he said in a phone call.

Mike was almost giddy. He could take care of her, protect her, cook for her. Finally, her voice would fill the quiet of the big house again.

“I love that woman.”

Having the right attitude

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



The Apostle Paul said he was the chief of sinners. That is the way we ought to feel when we go to an altar of prayer to seek salvation.

We should not have the attitude, “I am going to pray, but I don’t know what to pray about; I’ve been a good fellow and haven’t really done anything wrong.” Friend, we will not get anything that way. We cannot even begin to get saved until we come to the place where we feel that we are the chief of sinners, wretched, undone and lost. Many people want to be chiefs today, but not that kind of chief.

After Paul met Jesus on the

road to Damascus and got the victory, it put such a deep appreciation in his heart for what God had done for him that he spent the rest of his days living for God.

Sometimes, we think we are persecuted, but we do not really know persecution. Many are plagued with tender feelings and someone does not have to do much to them, and they think they have been persecuted almost to martyrdom. I do not want my heart to get calloused, but I need to have some callouses in some situations.

The enemy will cause people to have hurt feelings just because someone does not shake hands with them. They say, “I wonder what is wrong with him today. He walked right by me and looked right at me.” The Apostle Paul said, “None of these things

move me.” May God help us to get to the place where nothing will move us away from the things of God.

Paul was ready to go or ready to stay. It did not make any difference to him. That attitude would keep many from fidgeting today. We should be ready to go or ready to stay and do as God wills.

In Acts 21:11, we read about a prophet named Agabus who took Paul’s girdle, bound himself with it and said, “so shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle.” Paul answered in verse 13, “I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” Brother, Paul had hold of something. I believe that Paul lived every day in a state of appreciativeness for what God had done for him.

As I read about the life of Paul, I marvel at his accomplishments. No doubt, as the Apostle Paul lived his life, he never felt that he was doing much for God. When he thought about what the Lord had done for him, how He saved him from sin and death, he probably thought, “I have not done anything.” He said in First Corinthians 15:10, “But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

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

The heart of Christianity in an upside-down world

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



The world is upside down. That’s the conclusion I’ve come to after watching the news for the last few weeks leading to the Presidential election. Why do I say it’s upside down? It seems like doing right is treated as if it is wrong and doing wrong is celebrated as right.

In one week, there was non-stop media coverage of yet another fatal police shooting of a black man. In addition, there are growing reports of extreme voter intimidation endorsed by the current president including one recent incident where a caravan of dozens of cars filled with Trump supporters attempted to run a Biden-Harris bus traveling on I-35 in central Texas off the road.

We saw a rushed vote to replace the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. The Republicans in the Senate, working at a ridiculously fast pace that did not include enough time for a complete investigation into the extremist record of Amy Comey Barrett, confirmed her nomination. Many agree that her being named to the Supreme Court is with the anticipation of ruling that the Affordable Care Act is unconstitutional. If this happens, it could potentially force up to millions of Americans to lose access to health care.

Media coverage of the joy of the Republican Senators confirming her reminded me of the glee that House Republicans showed in 2017 as they gathered at the White House for a celebratory picture and beer party after they voted to repeal the ACA. Quite frankly it

was both confusing and infuriating that they seemed to celebrate causing pain to others. It also just seemed odd for many in the picture who have wrapped themselves in Christianity to show such a callous and selfish disregard for the needs of others.

Where is the heart of Christianity in this upside-down world? Some evangelical leaders who have been hostile about supporting families impacted by police shootings support the nomination of Barrett and the potential repeal of the ACA because of their “pro-life” beliefs. It just seems hypocritical to state that you are pro-life and yet remain silent when an innocent life is taken.

Incidents like these make me want to respond with the heart of Christianity and not just the law of Christianity. Mark 12:29-31 states it clearly that as Christians, our greatest commandments are to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

My former pastor, the late Rev. Dr. Jerome McNeil, once stated that we should be moved by our Christian convictions and make sure that they are aligned with God’s word and the way of the Lord. In other words, we should show compassionate concern for others and not a political ideology. This is the heart of Christianity.

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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www.nhcms.org

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WEDNESDAY
7:00 p.m. - Bible Class

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

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



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224 E. Bell Street | Jackson, MS 39202 | Phone: (601) 398-0915

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

The Light Line
PRAYER

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

Phone Number: (425) 436-6260
(712) 832-8330 (Alternate Number)
YouTube Channel: True Light Baptist Church

Access Code: 627 6205#

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir



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



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

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

Crossroads Church of God
Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others



Sunday Morning
Fellowships: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service: 11:15 a.m.
(Fellowship following worship service 1st Sundays)

Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Rev. Mark Jackson, Pastor
231-A John Day Road • Off Hwy 16 East • Canton, MS 39046
Church: 601-859-2858

Why we funded over 50 black-owned bars and restaurants

By Harry Alford III
CEO, Humble Ventures

This fall, NBCC and Humble Ventures launched a program to award black-owned bars and restaurants grants. After careful review, we funded over 50 black business owners. I've written below about the program and what we'll do next with the knowledge gained.

Why?
In June, the National Black Chamber of Commerce (NBCC) expressed interest in partnering to help as many black and brown-owned businesses as they can during the pandemic.

Analysis from the National Bureau Of Economic Research reveals 41% of black business owners disappeared in April. According to a report by Restaurant Business Online, only 130 black-owned restaurants received PPP loans over \$150,000 with further analysis. The data highlights the systemic neglect of minority business owners and the dire situation many are facing alone. We agreed to support black-owned restaurants as one immediate way to stand in solidarity with the black community.

How?
Humble facilitated a 1-hour design thinking workshop with NBCC to ideate and brainstormed the components of what this approach could look like. The workshop's purpose was to help us define the current state regarding the bar and restaurant landscape, which segments to target, activities that can drive results, and what a vision for the future looks like in a partnership.

The result was financial relief assistance to black-owned bars & restaurants – awarding \$150,000, in total, through a program/application process.

What?
We developed a portal for submissions with selection



Grantee, Local Green Atlanta, is an Atlanta-based fast-casual restaurant whose mission is to redefine healthy, affordable food for all.



Victory



Ben's Chili Bowl and Ben's Next Door



criteria and an overall engagement strategy utilizing existing relationships and new networks across the country. We audited our existing assets, businesses, specific regions and developed a content strategy to deliver consistent content, messaging, and experience across channels.

NBCC and Humble launched the campaign, August 18. We promoted and concluded the campaign by the end of the month.

In early September, we reviewed submissions and conducted two levels of review and approval by mid-September. The final selection of businesses was completed in October, alongside the identification of compelling SMB case study candidates. Grants between \$2,000-\$5,000 have been awarded to grantees.

Results and insights
States with the highest participation came from:

- Louisiana
- Illinois
- Alabama
- Florida
- Virginia

- New Jersey
- Texas
- Tennessee

Operating expenses were highest need for support

Good To Go, Jamaican and American Cuisine, purchased Igloos with the grant in order to offer heated outdoor dining.

Select grant recipients

Name: Ben's Chili Bowl and Ben's Next Door

Location: Washington, DC

About: Since Ben and Virginia Ali first opened the doors in 1958, Ben's Chili Bowl has been a community pillar.

Name: Victory
Location: New Orleans, Louisiana

About: Daniel Victory has been lauded as a pioneer of the New Orleans "craft cocktail" emergence.

Victory has high standards and is often found molding the next generation of bartenders.

The grantee feedback and insights outlined the need for more support, both financial and otherwise, in dealing with the current pandemic.

Their main areas of request

for assistance centered around how to keep afloat through the pandemic. According to National Restaurant Association estimates, more than six months after states implemented stay-at-home orders, over 100,000 bars and restaurants – or 15% of all eating and drinking establishments – have permanently closed.

We plan to continue our work and create more opportunities for growth for black-owned bars and restaurants.

Partners
National Black Chamber of Commerce

The National Black Chamber of Commerce® is the largest Black business association globally. It is dedicated to economically empowering and sustaining African-American communities through entrepreneurship and capitalistic activity.

The NBCC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nonsectarian organization dedicated to African-American communities' economic empowerment. One hundred forty affiliated chap-

Axios

@axios

.@Cupcakinbakery founder Lila Owens describes how her bakery has been using social media to make up for the loss in revenue from walk-in traffic

Presented by @Facebook

Lila Owens

Founder, Cupcakin' Bake Shop

0:34

Bake shop owner on using social media during the pandemic

5:42 PM · Jul 13, 2020 · Twitter Media Studio

15 Retweets

1 Quote Tweet

122 Likes

CupCakin Bakeshop

ters are based throughout the nation, and international affiliate chapters in Bahamas, Brazil, Colombia, Ghana, Kenya, France, Botswana, Cameroon and Jamaica.

Humble Ventures
Humble Ventures is a venture

development firm that drives innovation forward through collaboration and partnerships with startups, investors and established organizations.

We focus on diverse entrepreneurs and those building solutions for diverse audiences.

The presidential race might be too close to call, but the 'projected winner is racism'

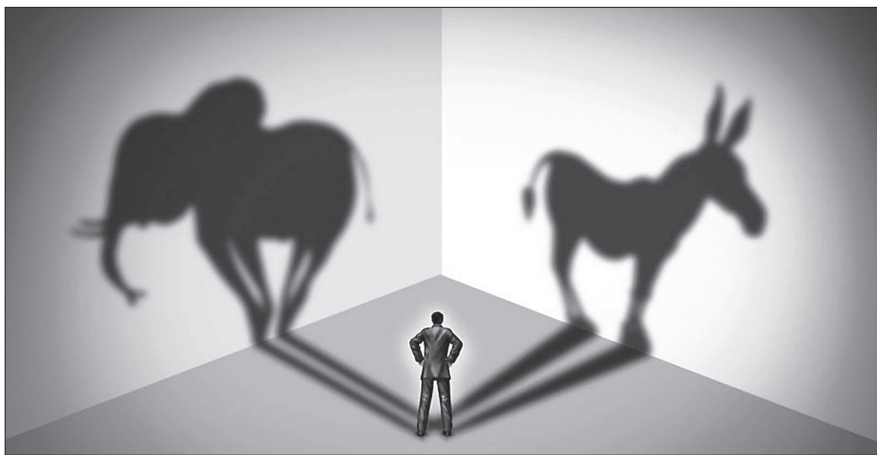
By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

Perhaps a single sobering Twitter post best summed up the state of America on the morning following an election night that's far too close to call – and frustratingly so.

"This was a referendum on the potential for a fundamental shift in that perspective," Actress and writer Natasha Rothwell wrote. "The race might be too close to call, but the projected winner is racism."

Others agreed.
"Look at the cities the nation is depending on in order to not re-elect an incompetent, racist, misogynistic president who has killed 230,000 Americans in seven months. Philly, Atlanta and Milwaukee realize America is always leaning on black people to save the day," added Dr. Ebony Hilton, an associate professor of Anesthesiology and a critical care physician at the University of Virginia.

African Americans heavily populate each of those cities, and each are critical as the swing states of Pennsylvania,



Georgia and Milwaukee.

They hang in the balance as votes are tabulated to determine whether President Donald Trump retains office, or the U.S. begins to heal under a Joe Biden administration.

With Biden holding a slight electoral and popular vote edge early Wednesday, he called for patience.

To no one's surprise, Trump declared victory and has threatened legal action to stop the vote count in those critical states where he currently has a slight edge.

Hilton and others believe that slight edge could likely disappear in those

large urban cities as counting continues there.

Still, the stunningly close election and with the GOP likely retaining control of the Senate, many say they've come to understand a sobering fact: America's standing on race, women's rights and equal opportunity hasn't been this obvious since slavery.

"I wake up every day to the reality that I live in a country that thinks my life is less valuable than it would be if I were white," decried Rothwell.

With a large swath still left uncounted as of Wednesday morning, Biden maintains an electoral college lead of

238 to 213-270 is needed to win. The Democrat currently leads the popular vote by 50 percent to 48 percent.

Biden also flipped Arizona, making him the first Democrat to win that state since 1996 when Bill Clinton claimed victory. Winning Arizona means Biden could lose one of either Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan, but still capture the presidency.

Georgia, where a large swath of votes remain uncounted in predominately black Atlanta and Fulton County, also remains in play for Biden.

Trump, who led Republicans in slamming through a Supreme Court Justice last month in record time for scenarios just like this, promised to ask the high court to intervene before the ballots are counted in those four swing states.

At press time, Trump leads in all those important states except Wisconsin.

However, each of those states counts ballots cast on election day first. Trump wants the count to end before officials tally mail-in votes, which arrived in record numbers.

It's also why the president pulled out all of the stops this year to cripple the U.S. Postal Service, whose Postmaster

General Louis DeJoy has openly defied federal court orders to refrain from slowing delivery of mail-in ballots.

"In the midst of a pandemic that he had time to manage and, he held super-spreader events to spread the virus. And, with racial unrest still rampant which he stokes daily, the race is too close," Actress Yvette Nicole Brown railed. "No need to question whether systemic racism exists in America. Many proudly chose the inept racist ... again."

Hilton also provided a follow-up.

"The only demographic who's consistently shown up for America is black people," she remarked. "We are the greatest patriots despite facing a nation set on disenfranchising us, a nation having rallies to cheer the number of us dying at disproportionate rates from COVID and mandates we live in poverty."

Regardless of who wins, Author John Pavlovitz said America already knows that the country is "as fractured as we imagined."

"We're as afflicted with racism as we feared," Pavlovitz wrote. "We're as far from equity as we thought. Good people are needed now more than ever. The fight doesn't begin or end, it continues."



LEGAL

Advertisement for Reverse Auction Bids

Bid 3154 Desktop Computers

Reverse Auction bidding for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 a.m. (Local Prevailing Time) November 16, 2020, at which time Reverse Auction bidding begins electronically. 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 Reverse Auction bid opening ends.

Specification responses must be submitted for this bid event. Specifications are due no later than (5:00 p.m., November 09, 2020) local time to be given the opportunity to participate in the auction. Vendors submitting acceptable specification responses will be invited to participate in the electronic reverse auction at www.centralbidding.com on November 16, 2019 beginning at 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. local time. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in ordertoparticipateinthereverseauction. Foranyquestion-concerningthereverseauctionprocessorhowtoregister, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

10-29-2020, 11-5-2020

LEGAL

**Office of Transportation
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Annual Goal
Fiscal Years 2021-2023**

In accordance with the regulations of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), 49 CFR Part 26, the City of Jackson/Office of Transportation has created a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program. It is the policy of the City of Jackson/Office of Transportation to create a level playing field on which DBEs can complete fairly for USDOT assisted contracts, as defined in Part 26. In accordance to the required process and the latest Census Data, the City of Jackson/Office of Transportation proposes an annual overall DBE participation goal of 2.50 percent (2.50%). The City of Jackson/Office of Transportation will also impose project goals where applicable. The proposed overall goal and its rationale are available for inspection from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday, in the Office of Transportation for 30 days following the date of publication of this notice. Comments on the proposed annual goal will be accepted by the City of Jackson/Office of Transportation and USDOT's Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) Division for 45 days from the date of publication of this notice. Comments directed to the City of Jackson/Office of Transportation should be directed to: Christine Welch, Deputy Director of Office of Transportation, 1785 Highway 80W, Jackson, MS 39204, phone number 601-960-1909, email cwelch@jacksonms.gov.

10-29-2020, 11-5-2020, 11-12-2020, 11-19-2020, 11-26-2020, 12-3-2020

LEGAL

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

Sealed, signed RFPs 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 RFP must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, November 17, 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:

99046-111720--- Armed Security Guard Service

Bids are now available at www.jacksonms.gov and www.centralbidding.com. 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.

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 RFP 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)960-1851. 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 RFPs. The City also reserves the right to waive any and all informalities in respect to any RFP submitted. RFP awards will be made to the lowest and best company submitting 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 RFP 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 RFP review.

Destiney Williams, Purchasing Manager
destineyw@city.jackson.ms.us
Purchasing Division
(601) 960-1533

10-29-2020, 11-5-2020

For information about advertising in

The Mississippi Link

please call: 601-896-0084

or e-mail jlinkads@bellsouth.net

www.mississippilink.com

LEGAL

**PUBLIC NOTICE RURAL AREAS PROGRAM (5311) ENHANCED
MOBILITY OF SENIORS & INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM
(5310) TRANSPORTATION APPLICATIONS**

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is soliciting applications for the following Federal Transit Administration (FTA) formula grant transportation programs through the Public Transit Division:

Section 5311 Rural Areas program

Eligible applicants include State and local governmental authorities, Indian Tribes, private non-profit organizations, and private operators of public transportation services under special contractual arrangements. Although an applicant's proposal may target specific client groups, services for the general public must be included. Applicants are reminded that participation in a local coordinated planning process must also be clearly documented. Consequently, projects must be derived from an approved local Human Service Public Transportation Coordination Plan.

This program funds general public, job access and reverse commute and certain intercity bus transportation services in areas with less than 50,000 in population. Approximately \$16,000,000 in FTA funds are expected to be available for capital, operating, planning and administration expenses that may support general public, job access and reverse commute and intercity transportation services. These funds will be made available based upon Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act federal appropriations. MDOT will also, to the greatest extent utilize any available older 5311 Safe Affordable Flexible Transportation Equity Act-A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and Moving Ahead for Progress in 21st Century (MAP-21) funds to fund projects.

A job access and reverse commute project is defined as a transportation project that may provide planning, capital and/or operating costs of services designed to transport welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment. This may include projects that involve trips to and from urbanized areas or rural areas to suburban employment locations.

Intercity transportation services may include rural and small urban areas. Eligible intercity bus activities include planning and marketing for intercity bus transportation, capital, some operating cost and coordination of rural connections between rural transit projects and intercity carriers.

5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (Rural, Small and Large Urbanized Area)

This program provides funds for private non-profit organizations to implement services that:

- 1) Serve the special needs of transit-dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation service, where public transportation is insufficient, inappropriate, or unavailable;
- 2) Exceed the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);
- 3) Improve access to fixed route service and decrease reliance on complementary paratransit;
- 4) or provide alternatives to public transportation

Capital and operating awards will be provided from approximately \$1,800,000 in federal funds made available for rural (Less than 50,000 in population) and small urban areas (50,000 –199,999 in population), City of Jackson Urbanized Area (Over 200,000 in population) by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). These funds will be made available from FAST Act funding appropriations. MDOT will also, to the greatest extent utilize any available older 5310 SAFETEA-LU and MAP-21 to fund projects.

Eligible applicants include private non-profit organizations or public bodies that coordinate services for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Applicants must document that they can provide the local match required for all capital and operating costs. Local match funds may be derived from state, local or certain other federal funds. Projects must be included in a locally developed coordinated plan.

Applicants wishing to apply for funding via this announcement must register in the grant application software portal on the MDOT website at <http://mdot.ms.gov/gms/default.aspx>. All grant applications for funding must be received in our office on or before 3:00 p.m. on February 4, 2021.

It is the policy of the MDOT and the FTA that no persons or groups shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

For more information about these programs and the respective application process, please contact Shirley Wilson, Director, Public Transit Division, Mississippi Department of Transportation at P. O. Box 1850, Mail Code 61-01, Jackson, MS 39215-1850 or by telephone at (601) 359-7800, FAX at (601) 359-7777, or by email at swilson@mdot.ms.gov.

Due to COVID-19 safety protocol, the Public Transit Division will host a Virtual 5310 and 5311 Application Workshop via the Zoom Platform on Thursday, December 3, 2020 for all prospective applicants. All attendees are requested to register for the workshop on or before Friday, November 20, 2020. The registration form is located on the MDOT website at <https://mdotms.gov/portallintermodal/planninji/#c1288#>. Registration forms may be submitted via email to devans@mdot.ms.gov, faxed or mailed to the above address and number. An emailed invite with the Zoom link will be provided on the week of the workshop to all registrants. It is important that accurate email addresses are included on the registration form.

The workshop will begin at 9:30 a.m. for all applicants. The workshop will include discussions of each formula grant program . as well as the local coordinated planning requirements.

11-5-2020

LEGAL

Advertisement for Reverse Auction Bids

Bid 3153 Mobile Device Storage and Charging Carts

Reverse Auction bidding for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 a.m. (Local Prevailing Time) November 11, 2020, at which time Reverse Auction bidding begins electronically. 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 Reverse Auction bid opening ends.

Specification responses must be submitted for this bid event. Specifications are due no later than (5:00 p.m., November 06, 2020) local time to be given the opportunity to participate in the auction. Vendors submitting acceptable specification responses will be invited to participate in the electronic reverse auction at www.centralbidding.com on November 11, 2019 beginning at 10:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. local time. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to participate in the reverse auction. For any questions concerning the reverse auction process or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

10-29-2020, 11-5-2020

LEGAL

**OB CURTIS WATER TREATMENT PLANT MEMBRANE FILTER
ENCLOSURE BUILDING STRUCTURE PROJECT
SRF LOAN# DWI-L250008-02
CONTRACT #3
Jackson, Mississippi**

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

The entire project must be completed within (200) calendar days. The contract will be subject to liquidated damages in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per calendar day for each consecutive calendar day in which the contract time is exceeded.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a precondition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) plan. Failure to comply with the City's ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact Yika Hoover with the office of Economic Development at (601) 960-1856. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the Program are available at 200 South President Street, Warren Hood Building, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Office of the Consulting Engineer: Cornerstone Engineering LLC, located at 710 Northside Drive, Suite A, Clinton, MS 39056, call Mauricka McKenzie, P.E., Project Engineer at 601-473-2403 office. One copy of the Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents may be procured from the Consulting Engineer, upon payment of \$300, none of which is refundable.

- Office of the MSDH/DWSIRLF Program: located at 570 East Woodrow Wilson, Suite U232, Jackson MS 39215, call Harry Gong, P.E., Project Manager at 601-576-7518.

- Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

The BID SCHEDULE may be examined at the following locations:

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

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

A NON-MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference will be held onsite November 12, 2020, at 11:00 A.M. local time, at the membrane facility, 100 OB Curtis Drive, Ridgeland, Mississippi. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

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

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

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

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

Dr. Charles Williams, P.E.
Interim Director/City Engineer
Department of Public Works

10/29/2020, 11/05/2020

<div><div></div><div>www.mississippilink.com</div></div>			<div>NOVEMBER 5 - 11, 2020</div>			<div>THE MISSISSIPPI LINK • 11</div>		
<div>LEGAL</div>			<div>LEGAL</div>			<div>LEGAL</div>		
<div><div>INVITATION FOR BIDS</div><div>DAVIS PLANETARIUM - DEMOLITION</div><div>CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI</div><div>JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI</div></div>			<div><div>ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS</div><div>CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI</div><div>FAST ACT SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT</div><div>Project No. STP-0250-00(054)LPA/108164-701000</div></div>			<div><div>NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF ACTION LOCATED WITHIN FLOODPLAIN</div><div>Address: 218 S. President Street; 2nd Floor, Jackson, MS 39201</div><div>TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS:</div></div>		
<div><p>Sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of Jackson, MS, at 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201 or at Post Office Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205 until 3:30 PM, local time on December 8, 2020 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:</p><p>Davis Planetarium – Demolition City of Jackson, Mississippi</p><p>Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished and sealed and deposited with City Clerk prior to the hour and date above designated. A copy of the construction documents (plans and/or specifications) for the construction being sought has been filed with the City Clerk of Jackson, MS. Official bid Documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids and/or reverse 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. Questions regarding plan clarifications or requests for information should be directed to the architect as follows:</p><p>Cooke Douglass Farr Lemons Architects + Engineers PA 601-366-3110 extension: 216 Attention: Chris Myers</p><p>The plans and specifications for the Work are being made available via digital and original paper copy. Plan holders may register and order documents from the Jackson Blueprint Plan Room website (http://planroom.jaxblue.com). There is no charge for registration or to view the documents online. Documents are non-refundable and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. A printed bid set is \$50.00 plus \$20.00 shipping and applicable sales tax and an electronic downloadable set is \$25.00 plus applicable sales tax. Bid Documents may be picked up or shipped to the person making the request. Documents will not be distributed or mailed until payment is received. For questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Jackson Blueprint & Supply at (601)353-5803.</p><p>The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex in consideration for an award.</p><p>The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with the bid submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact of the Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1856. Copies of the Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the Program, as attached, are available at 200 South President Street, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.</p><p>The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and or conduct business in the City, to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.</p><p>Bid preparation will be in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities in respect to any bid submitted or to accept any proposal which is deemed most favorable to the City of Jackson.</p><p>A PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD – NON-MANDATORY</p><p>All Contractors who intend to submit bids are encouraged to attend a pre-bid conference to be held at 9:00 AM on Thursday, November 19, 2020.</p><p>Charles Williams, PE, PhD, Director of Public Works</p><p>11-5-2020, 11-12-2020</p></div>			<div><p>The City Clerk of the City of Jackson will receive bids for the construction of the FAST ACT SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT STREET PROJECT Federal-Aid Project No. STP-0250-00(054)LPA/108164-701000, no later than 3:30 P.M., Local Prevailing Time, December 1, 2020, in the City Clerk's Office located at 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All bids so received will be publicly opened and read aloud.</p><p>The work shall consist essentially of the following items:</p><p>In general, the work to be accomplished using the pay items and corresponding specifications set forth in this contract is to rebuild ADA compliant sidewalks and accessible ramps along Gallatin Street at South Street, President Street (Tombigbee St to Mississippi St), Lamar Street (Fortification Street to Fairbanks Street), Marshall Street/Webster Street Loop, Old Canton Road (Ridgewood Road to Canton Heights Drive), and County Line Road (Ridgewood Road to Ollie's Driveway). In addition, the improvements will include installing new or relocating existing pedestrian signals, poles, push buttons, and wiring at designated locations and constructing retaining walls along County Line Road.</p><p>The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the Contractor to perform all work and furnish all plant, labor, equipment and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein.</p><p>Contract time shall be 188 working days from the effective date shown in the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed for each consecutive calendar day the Work has not achieved Final Completion. Liquidated Damages will be assessed in accordance with the Schedule of Deductions table in Section 108.07 of the 2017 Edition of the Mississippi Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction.</p><p>The City of Jackson hereby notifies all Bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged and women's business enterprises (DBE/WBE) will be afforded the full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. The award of this contract will be contingent upon the Bidder satisfying the DBE/WBE requirements as prescribed by the Contract Documents.</p><p>The attention of the bidders is directed to the Contract Documents governing selection and employment of labor. Minimum wage rates have been determined by the Secretary of Labor and are subject to Public Law 87-581, Work Hours Act of 1962, as set forth in the Contract Provisions.</p><p>The Proposal and Contract Documents in their entirety shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and deposited with the City Clerk, prior to the hour and date above designated. Each Bidder must also deposit with his proposal, a Bid Bond or Certified Check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of his bid, payable to the City of Jackson as bid security. No bidder may withdraw his bid within ninety (90) days after the date of the actual bid opening, without the City of Jackson's consent. The successful bidder shall furnish a payment bond and performance bond each in the amount of 100% of the bid. Bidder shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City.</p><p>Work to be performed shall be in accordance with the "Mississippi State Highway Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, 2017", together with all amendments and/or special provisions and/or addenda to the standards duly approved and adopted, unless otherwise noted in these specifications. The attention of Bidders is directed to the provisions of Subsection 102.07 pertaining to irregular proposals and rejection of bids.</p><p>The plans, contract documents and special provision, and proposal forms are on file for public inspection at the following locations:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">• City of Jackson Engineering Division, 200 S. President Street Suite 424, Jackson, Mississippi 39201.• Myriad Engineering Solutions, LLC, 460 Briarwood Drive, Suite 400, Jackson, Mississippi, 39206.<p>Copies of the Contract Documents, Contract Drawings and Contract Specifications may be procured through the following:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">• All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained from Myriad Engineering Solutions, LLC, 460 Briarwood Drive, Suite 400, Jackson, Mississippi, 39206 upon payment of \$150.00 for each set, which will not be refunded.• All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained throughCentral Bidding at www.centralbidding.com, upon payment for each set, which will not be refunded. Electronic Bids may be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.<p>The award of a Contract, if made, will be to the lowest and responsible qualified bidder whose proposal complies with all the requirements prescribed herein and in the Contract Documents. The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.</p><p>Charles Williams, P.E., Ph.D., Interim Director Department of Public Works City of Jackson</p><p>10-29-2020, 11-5-2020</p></div>			<div><p>PROJECT: Lead Safe Jackson Housing Program; Grant Number: MS1-HB0728-19; Award Amount: \$1,800,000; Grant Period: January 2, 2020 – July 1, 2023</p><p>PURPOSE: The purpose of this program is to provide Lead Interventions that reduce or prevent childhood lead poisoning in children under the age of six (6) that reside in the homes that receive interventions. Ultimately, the goal of the Lead Safe Jackson Housing Program is to increase the number of residential properties that are free from Lead-based Paint Hazards and to eliminate other health related hazards. This will be accomplished by providing lead-based paint testing, removal/abatement, and minor rehabilitation activities.</p><p>LOCATION: The proposed project will be conducted within jurisdictional boundaries of Jackson, Mississippi.</p><p>The City of Jackson completed an evaluation concerning potential impacts on the floodplain and possible alternative actions. The proposed program could involve projects located within a 100-year floodplain. The conclusion was that there is no practicable alternative to the possibility of potential projects being located within the following Flood Zones A, AO, AH, A1-A30, A99, V and V1-V30. It has been determined that the program must occur within the intended target area/areas, as described above.</p><p>The alternatives considered included: 1) Denying participants that reside in the floodplain; 2) relocation of housing units and families; 3) no action.</p><p>These alternatives were rejected for the following reasons: 1) denying families services will leave eligible children under the age of 6 exposed to dangerous lead paint hazards; 2) it is cost prohibitive and not feasible to physically move or raise structures out of the floodplain; 3) a no action alternative would certainly not serve to maintain affordable, safe (from lead-based paint or other housing-based health hazards as appropriate) housing for families.</p><p>In order to minimize risk and potential loss (to life, health, and financial investment), owners, and tenants will be notified that their units are located in the floodplain and flood insurance will be a required contingency to participation in the grant program. The amount and period of coverage will conform to the National Flood Insurance Program requirements.</p><p>An Environmental Review Record (ERR) respecting the subject program has been made by the above-named jurisdiction which documents floodplain information and contains a full description of the proposed actions. The ERR is on file at the address listed above and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. by calling 601-960-2155.</p><p>Final approval of the City of Jackson's Lead Safe Jackson Housing Program; Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control, Program will not be approved until/unless interested groups, individuals, or agencies have had an opportunity to comment. Comments will be accepted by Valerie Tucker via email at ohcd@jacksonms.gov until November 20, 2020 at 5:00 p.m..</p><p>For further information regarding HUD's regulations concerning floodplain management contact:</p><p>Karen M. Griego Program Environmental Clearance Officer Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes U.S. Department of HUD 500 Gold Ave SW, Suite 7301 P.O. Box 906 Albuquerque, NM 87103 Phone 505.346.6462 (this is not a toll-free number). Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at 800-877-8339. E-mail: karen.m.griego@hud.gov **"RE" refers to the Responsible Entity, as defined at 24 CFR 58.2(a)(7).</p><p>11-5-2020</p></div>		
<div>LEGAL</div>			<div>LEGAL</div>			<div>LEGAL</div>		
<div><div>ANNOUNCEMENT:</div><div>The Department of Municipal Clerk will be open November 2nd - 6th, 2020 and November 9th – November 13th for absentee voting 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sat. November 7th, 2020 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and Sat. November 14th, 2020 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. for the Ward 2 Special Election.</div><div>The last day to vote by absentee ballot for the Ward 2 Special Municipal Election will be Sat. November 14th, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.</div><p>11-5-2020, 11-12-2020</p></div>			<div><div>Notice of Sale</div><div>Abandoned Vehicle</div><div>Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.</div><div>2012 Ford MGT 1ZVPB8FF3C5252229 Registered to Elliot Ronald Ally Financial, Lien Holder Date of Sale: November 13, 2020 Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213 Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids. Time: 10:00 A.M.</div><p>10-29-2020, 11-5-2020, 11-12-2020</p></div>					

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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DOLLAR GENERAL

2030 N Siwell Rd

DOLLAR GENERAL

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DOLLAR GENERAL

304 Briarwood Dr

DOLLAR GENERAL

2855 McDowell Rd

DOLLAR GENERAL

104 Terry Rd

J & A FUEL STORES

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120 E. Main Street, Raymond, MS

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126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS

RAYMOND CITY HALL

110 Courtyard Square, Raymond

RAYMOND COURTHOUSE

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Jackie Hampton I have watched you climb from humble beginnings with this paper. You have moved the paper into mainstream and achieved the Publisher of the Year award from the National Newspaper

Publishers Association, an organization that denied The Mississippi Link membership 25 years ago.

I salute you for being the hardest working publisher in the country. You have achieved this notoriety for excellence even though success in your market is difficult to achieve.

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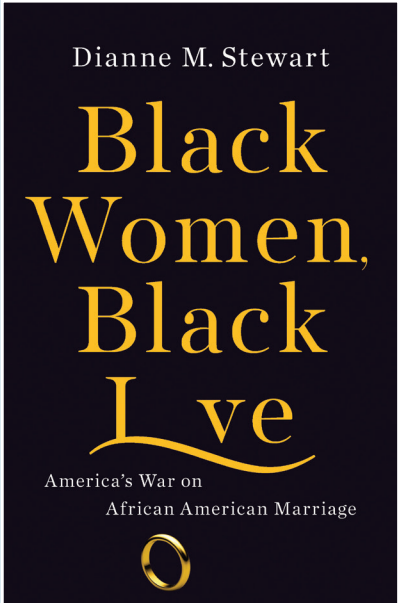
Anniversaries are for celebrating what has been done, but if I know you, it is also a day of planning for the future.

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BOOK REVIEW:

BLACK WOMEN,
BLACK LOVE

BY DIANNE M. STEWART
C.2020, SEAL PRESS
\$30.00 / \$38.00 CANADA • 336 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

You can’t stand to watch another happily-ever-after movie again.

You’re done with all those romancy novels, tender songs of love, and dreams of flowers every Valentine’s Day. Statistically speaking – and being realistic – that stuff isn’t in the cards for you, and in “Black Women, Black Love” by Dianne M. Stewart, you’ll see how this might have happened.

About a decade ago, the Census Bureau released a sobering fact: nearly three out of four black women in America were

not married. More than half of those women had never even been to the altar and, says Stewart, it wasn’t really their fault.

“The trouble is not with black women failing to value marriage,” she says, “it is the shrinking demographic of those whom black women want to marry.”

The issue, she says, goes back to the time of slavery.

By the very act of being brought to America on slave ships, African women were separated from husbands, families, cultures and, once here, were shuffled from place to place. For young enslaved women,

then, finding a new partner often meant looking elsewhere, “on different estates,” leading to more separation. Sometimes, slave women had no choice in partners, period: they were told who they were going to marry and procreate with.

Post-war, it was discovered that some of the unions created or forced during slavery weren’t always recorded, leaving former slaves with multiple spouses, scattered families, invalidated marriages and widows who couldn’t prove their status.

By the early 1900s, black women began losing their hus-

bands – and their own lives – to attacks and lynching. In the 1930s, Aid to Dependent Children (later, AFDC) was created; by the 1960s, such programs “punished black love” through programs that essentially sent black men away from their families. And in this century, the astronomical rates of incarceration of black men of marriageable age mean fewer black men on the “marriage market.”

So “will black women ever have it all?”

It’ll take some adjustment, as author Dianne M. Stewart indicates, and the solution may be controversial and absolutely

will require change in government, in our collective attitudes and within an individual woman’s mindset.

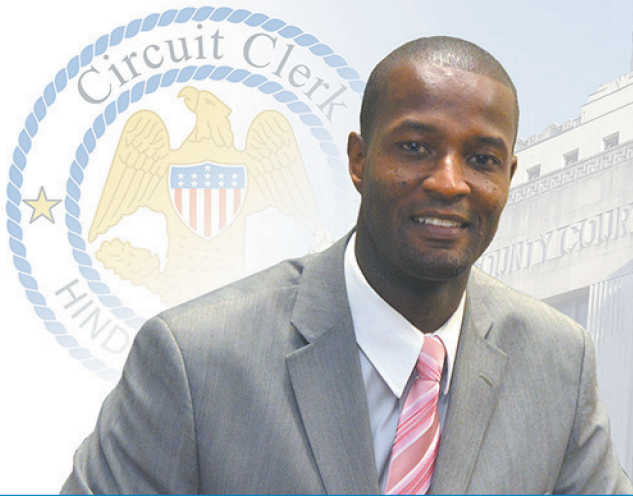
To be clear, this isn’t a How-To guide. It’s not even a relationship book, really. Instead, “Black Women, Black Love” lays out an eye-opening, painful, provocative history lesson that points solidly back to, and underscores, Stewart’s point: that black Americans – men and women – have been manipulated for centuries toward a dearth of romantic options, through no fault of their own.

And yet, before offering a number of ideas for change


within the black community, Stewart reserves some blame for black Americans themselves.

She points, for instance, at perceived “value” that allows unmarried black men to “develop simultaneous relationships” and delay settling down, and she examines black attitudes toward dark and light skin and perceptions of marriageability.

This leaves readers with thought-provokers, things to reflect upon and reasons to roll up their sleeves. There’s work to do, and “Black Women, Black Love” could finally get you that happily-ever-after, after all.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



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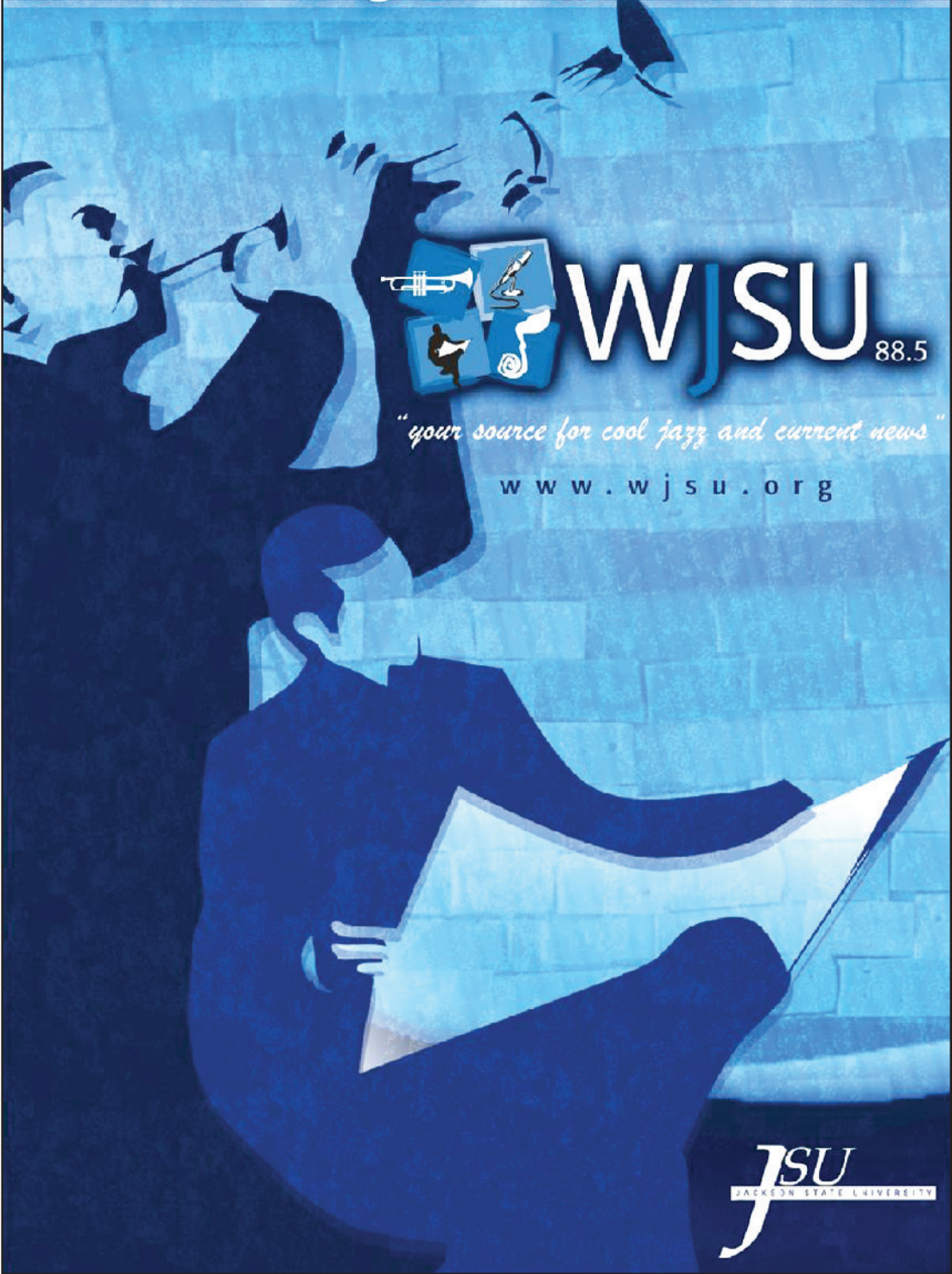
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 - Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to apply
 - Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.

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Community Library Mississippi goes virtual - Holiday Book Festival calls for spellers and poets

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Contributing Writer

Consisting of 18 members, Community Library Mississippi is a charitable organization formed to create library spaces in Mississippi neighborhoods and to promote literary and intellectual programs. The organization aims to inspire intellectual and cultural learning.

Mississippi is buzzing with excitement about Community Library Mississippi's Virtual Holiday Book Festival, slated for November 28 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. More than 50 people have thus far registered.

To boost attendance among audience members for the spelling bee and poetry competition, online ads are running for this Zoom event.

Designed for grades one to six, the spelling bee is scheduled from 4:15 to 5 p.m. Contestants are challenged to spell grade appropriate spelling words. Spelling lists are provided from print PDF files and practice Common CORE. Lists can be obtained by visiting Delta Book Festival via Facebook.

The poetry contest, consisting of clean content, is set from 5 to 5:30 p.m. Elementary contestants will write one stanza.



Meredith Coleman-Magee, an author, and president of Community Library Mississippi Goes Virtual, shows off materials used in Holiday Book Festival.

Middle School contestants will write two stanzas. High School adults will write two to four stanzas. Each stanza requires

four or more lines having a fixed length, meter or rhyme scheme. Contestants will speak their poems.

"Our first in-person festival was at the Jackson Medical Mall in February of 2019. Last year we had four children to enter the poetry contest. The first year consisted of teens and adults. This year we thus far have five children currently studying the master spelling list for their grade levels (first -sixth). The parents of the three of the five are working with them to write their first poem," stated Meredith Coleman McGee, president.

First grader Harrynoel Chia is competing in the spelling bee. His mother, Odette Neba, commented, "The spelling bee helps children study extra [beyond school settings]. By so doing, they improve in spelling."

"We are appealing to parents, guardians and their children to register and participate. Any child can register to participate because the event is on Zoom," Coleman-McGee said.

A dozen vendors, mainly authors, have registered for Marketplace which consists also of book retailers, art, t-shirts, crafts, quilts and music CDs.

A significant component of Community Library Mississippi is reading.

"Children who don't read don't have substance, but reading makes a ready person. There is always something to talk about. Reading enables children to develop confidence and positive self-esteem," noted Mary Hardy, a gifted instructor of grades 2-5 at Edna M. Scott Elementary School in Leland, Mississippi.

A recent Community Library Mississippi Series speaker via Zoom, Richard Hulse commended Coleman-McGee and her co-workers. "Overcoming adversity is the American way. [They] have developed a means to sweep aside the restrictions caused by the COVID virus and allow poetry and spelling bee contestants to continue to pursue excellence and 'healthy' competition. As for the audience, there are no restrictions on those who wish to participate," he said.

Community Library Mississippi launched Community Library Mississippi Goes Virtual with an 18-day Virtual Reading Fair on Zoom twice daily on weekdays July 8-31, 2020. Thirty six reading sessions

featured readers ages 6 to 60+. More than 50 picture books and more than 200 poems, along with book excerpts and articles were read during the fair. Readers across the state and as far away as Detroit and Southern California participated.

My First Book Series (a primer activity book) and My Picture Dictionary (a reference book which introduces learners to over 400 words, images and terms) are Community Library Mississippi's early learning book resources.

From July 2019 to February 2020, members donated 147 reference books to learners. Over 100 books (two per child) were distributed to 50 local learners via gift giveaways for grades K-1 in September 2020.

Community Library Mississippi Goes Virtual is sponsored by Community Library Mississippi; Mississippi Humanities Council; Jackson Book Festival and Delta Book Festival.

For further information, email communitylibrary.ms@gmail.com; 601 372-0229 or 662 820-0547; <https://meredithetc.com/community-library-ms/get-tickets®ister>; <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-holiday-book-festival-tickets>

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

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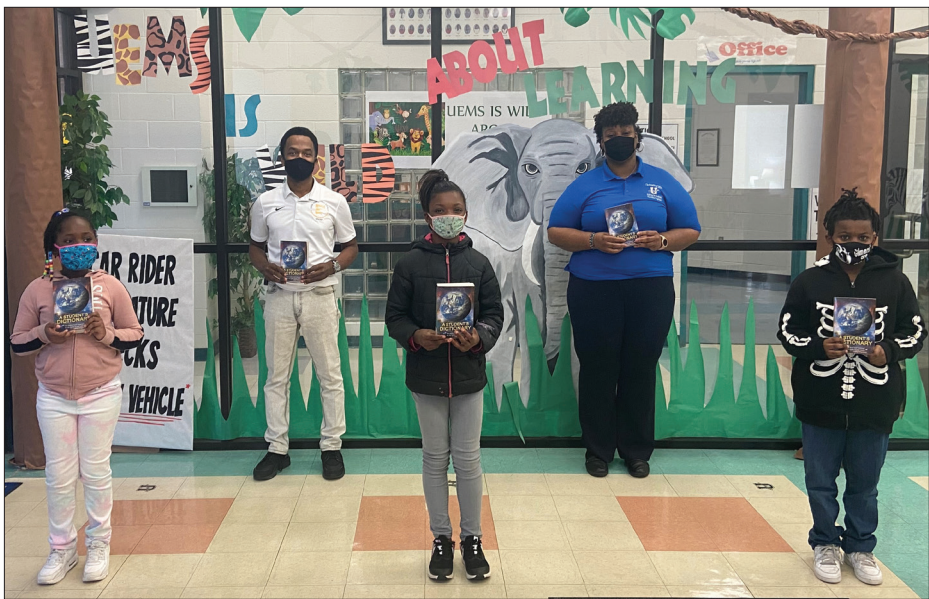
Pamela Garrett named Gary Road Intermediate School Teacher of the Year



Daisia Davis, Miss JSU and KiJana Roberts, Mister JSU



UEMS students receive dictionaries from the Rotary Club of South Hinds



Storage Max makes donation to Byram Middle School



Byram Middle School would like to thank George Harris at Storage Max in Byram for the donation of 26 frisbees to their physical education department. This donation allows our students to participate in an outdoor activity, with a partner, while meeting social distancing guidelines set by the CDC. "Thank you, Storage Max and Mr. Harris. We are proud to have your support."

Congratulations to Nadia Burse former UEMS 8th grader for scoring a 23 on her ACT



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