

# Alcorn National Alumni Association presents 30th Annual Hall of Honor Virtual Induction Ceremony

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent  
Contributing Writer

The National Alumni Association of Alcorn State University broached a subject of significance that brought the

2019-2020 academic year to closure. The virtual 30th Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was held at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 5. The occasion of gratitude and jubilation reflected on sup-

port, contributions and achievements of persons who provided exemplary service via commitment, professionalism, citi-

Alcorn  
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# Mississippi's new Medical Marijuana program

By Kenya Vardaman-Ramirez  
Contributing Writer

Long since a source of pain relief, the ancient Chinese termed Cannabis “ma” – its Chinese etymology tracing it to mean “numbness.” In fact, THC, in the ashes of relics, has evidenced that Cannabis was first medically used around 400 AD – according to the National Geographic website – which further explains that, “in the United States, Cannabis was widely utilized as a patent medicine during the 19th and early 20th centuries, described in the United States Pharmacopoeia, for the first time, in 1850.” From that point forward, Cannabis quickly became one of the most widely used ingredients in American medicine. This leaves many, in our culture, to question: “In light of its past ‘medical reign,’ what exactly caused Cannabis’ ‘medical fall from grace’ – and its current resurgence?”

In 1910, uprising and insurrection sent the blood of revolutionaries across Mexican borders – along with its exiled citizens. And, arriving after the Mexican Revolution, indigeneous Hispanic customs, like recreational marijuana use, were introduced and integrated into a then-fledgling American society. Consequentially, “recreational marijuana” began a lengthy and beleaguered life in outlaw – as an early 1900’s American media initiated assault on every aspect of Hispanic culture, amid a new and

Marijuana  
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# Citizens divided on opening of new Starbucks in Vicksburg



Starbucks in Vicksburg PHOTO BY AARON TERRETT

By Aaron Terrett  
Student Intern

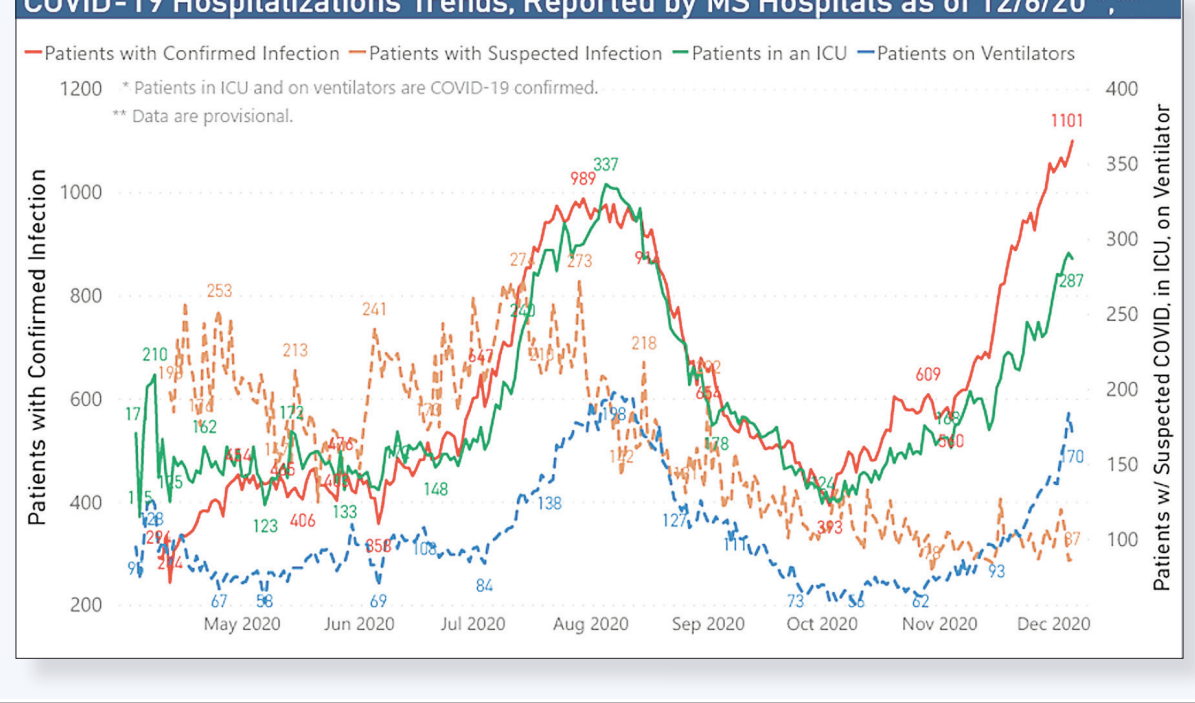
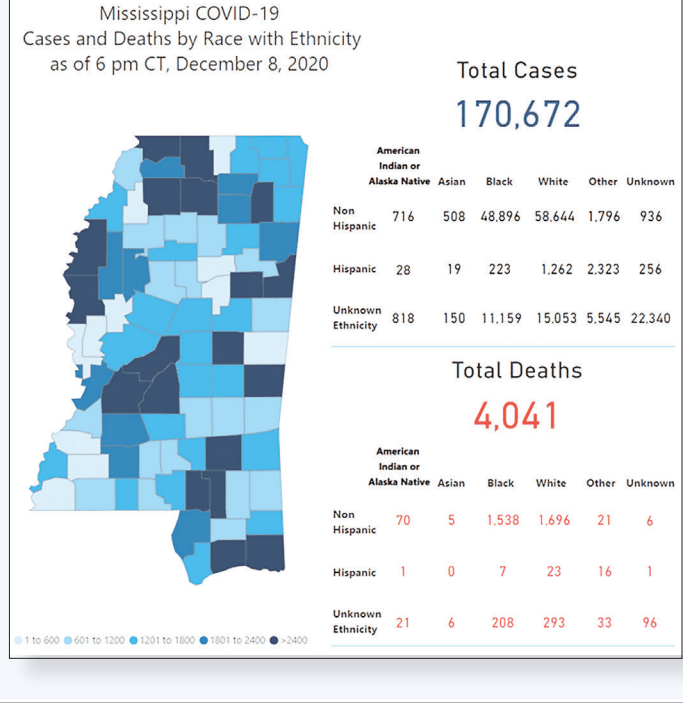
On November 24, 2020, the city of Vicksburg opened the doors of its first Starbucks Coffee shop. Some citizens were elated by the franchise’s decision to bring the cafe to Vicksburg, while others found it redundant. As news of the opening day made the rounds on social media, citizens of Vicksburg were not shy to voice their opinions. Some felt that the cafe was a blatant attempt at monopolizing the town’s

coffee choices. Sitting directly behind the new Starbucks is a locally owned cafe, Caffe Paradiso. Some believe that Starbucks being brought into town spells the decline of Caffe Paradiso. Vicksburg citizen, Hailey Hampton, went on the record to remind people that “Caffe Paradiso is an amazing alternative. They can make all your favorite Starbucks drinks and they have a larger menu.” Some other citizens have chosen

to not support Starbucks for different reasons. The traffic coming from the Starbucks parking lot spills out into the main road, leaving drivers frustrated. Another reason that some have stated is that Starbucks is supposedly “anti-police” and “anti-military.” Starbucks, however, has denied these claims. The thought that they are anti-military was debunked by an official Starbucks email listing their military donations and stating that the negative comments were a hoax from an account not af-

filiated with Starbucks. However, the most common reason given for the negative reaction to the new Starbucks is the citizens’ admiration for their local coffee shop. According to citizen, Thomas Lowery, “local contractors and plumbers refused to even assist in building the place because of where they chose to open.” Not all reactions were negative, however. Some citizens have expressed gratitude over the jobs that the Starbucks  
Continued on page 3

## MISSISSIPPI COVID-19 UPDATE

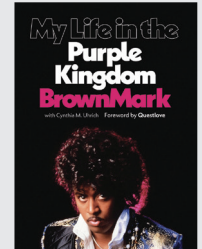


Inside

Angelique Lee wins Ward 2 City Council Seat election



My Life in the Purple Kingdom



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# Angelique Lee wins Ward 2 City Council Seat election

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

In a special run-off election for City Council representative in Jackson, a majority of voters selected Angelique Lee to serve the vacated Ward 2 seat formerly held by Melvin Priester Jr. who resigned October 2 to focus on his law practice.

According to unofficial results, Lee received 1,672 votes which was a 60% margin over her opponent, former Hinds County Sheriff Tyrone Lewis who received 1,110 votes.

Lee, a lobbyist and educator, will now have to qualify and win in the general election to be held in June in order to continue serving Ward 2.



Lee

All City Council seats as well as the mayor’s office will be up for election in June.

Lee will be sworn in at City Hall after the election has been certified. Certification will take place December 16.

# Beware of scams while shopping during holidays

## AARP Fraud Watch Network

The holidays are getting close and many of us are looking for those last minute deals. One place people are turning to is Facebook Marketplace, but beware because scammers are lurking. The spike in online shopping has unfortunately lead many victims right to the criminals who offer deals too good to pass up.

This fall, the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline has received a high volume of calls from people losing money to scams on Facebook Marketplace.

Here are some tips to avoid online sales scams. Before making that purchase research what similar items are selling for elsewhere, the greater the deal the greater the likelihood that it could be a scam. Buy local versus having something shipped, and arrange to meet in a public space. Pay cash – if asked to pay by a payment app, wire transfer or gift card, refuse. Finally, if you need to get an item shipped, use a credit card which has fraud protections.

According to a recent AARP survey, more than 2/3 of U.S. consumers will purchase a gift card for someone this holiday season.



While these gifts are easy to give and popular to get, they are also open to fraud. The same survey found that one in three people have either given or received a gift card with no funds on it.

Remember these tips whenever buying gift cards.

If buying from a store rack,

inspect the card before purchase to make sure that the packaging hasn’t been tampered with and that the code hasn’t been revealed. Better yet, buy gift cards online directly from the retailer, restaurant or other issuer. Be wary of buying from gift card resellers – if you do, make sure they offer

a guarantee.

Be a fraud fighter. If you can spot a fraud, you can stop a scam.

Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at [www.aarp.org/fraud-watchnetwork](http://www.aarp.org/fraud-watchnetwork) or call the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline at 1-877-908-3360 to report a scam or get help if you’ve fallen victim.



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## Starbucks

Continued from page 1

new cafe will bring to town. Vicksburg citizen, Laura Moll, stated, “it brings jobs to a community desperate for them, so there’s that. Not all small businesses can provide the benefits that Starbucks does. It pays for its staff to go to college.”

Others raved about how a well-known chain coming to town makes for a better tourist experience. Some citizens went as far as showing support for both coffee shops. Kim Griffin, who has a son in the military, says “I like Starbucks and local coffee shops. My son is in the military and he likes both Starbucks and local coffee shops. There’s room for both. Most people only drive so far for a cup of coffee.”

For the time being, Starbucks and Caffè Paradiso are coexisting. People who were already buying locally are more likely to continue buying locally. The opening of the new cafe rubbed some citizens the wrong way, but it seems like the new Starbucks is here to stay.

## Alcorn

Continued from page 1

zenship, faithfulness, character and leadership.

Chapters and individual award recipients included: Frank Dobbins Chapter President of the Year Award– Adrian Hall; Ruby S. Lyells Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award - Montgomery – Carroll - Grenada Alumni Chapter to Alcorn National Alumni Leadership and Service Award (accepted by Johnny Shell); John E. Walls, Jr. Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award– Vicksburg Warren Alumni Chapter (accepted by Adrian Hall); Host Chapter Award – Birmingham Alumni Chapter (accepted by Alvin Moore); John F. Rigsby Professional Achievement Award – Dr. LaKeshia Myers; Matthew Thomas Most Outstanding Service Award – Jonas Crenshaw; Luther Alexander Faithful Service Award – Zelmarine Murphy; E. T. Hawkins Outstanding Young Alcornite of the Year Award – Le Darrion Holloway; Thomas Moman, Sr. Meritorious Award (posthumously) - Catherine Jones (accepted by Wilbert Jones); Undergraduate of the Year Award – Keturah Bush.

2020 Hall of Honor inductees were Leland Socrates Garrett (’68); Gloria Williams (’66); Shirley Sims Christian (’66); Paul Johnson (’76); Jacqueline Beasley (’76); and Mildrette Netter White (’72).

National Alumni Association President Neddie Winters inducted the award recipients. To



**McCann Posey, Impeccable Alcornite of the Year 2020.**

them, he charged: “Success is what you do for yourself. To be significant, you move from success to what you do for others.”

Williams said she was grateful to be an honoree for the month. Christian expressed her love for Alcorn and cherished fond memories. Johnson thanked his wife and family for the support they rendered him.

Garrett commented: “I have done all that I can to try to make my community and this place better. The role models I had were plentiful. I owe all that I have to Alcorn.”

Dr. Josephine McCann Posey (’70) was awarded (posthumously) Impeccable Alcornite of the Year 2020. A Fulbright scholar, she was involved in the development of Alcorn. Posey served 40 years in the educational arena. A Collins, Miss. native, she signed her first teaching contract at age 19.

Posey was Alcorn State historian and administrator who chaired in numerous capacities. Among them were president, Faculty Senate; Teacher Education Process Reviews, and director of the National Council for the Accreditation

of Teacher Education (NCATE).

Ramona Posey presented reflections in Posey’s honor. “She was a quick thinker [who] liked working on a detailed level. She laid out the history of Alcorn in three books. She is so deserving of this honor of Alcornite of the Year. She strongly believed in family, friends and community.

Winters presented a plaque to Posey’s family regarding her life and legacy at Alcorn. “There was no greater Alcorn than Josephine McCann Posey,” he said.

Marcus D. Ward (’60) read the Alcorn State University Resolution. He said to honorees, “You represent who we are: knowledge and character. Dr. Posey gained in wisdom. She was a giant in her community and abroad.”

President of Alcorn State University, Felecia M. Nave, highlighted grit, passion and determination in her remarks. Nave attested: “These individuals have all made significant contributions in their chosen fields. My hope for our current students is that they will feel inspired and turn their passions into lifelong commitment[s]. This is the embodiment of Alcorn State University [and] we will celebrate 100 years at the university and will continue to be a leader in the nation.”

Sebrina Palmer (’98) served as program guide.

## Marijuana

Continued from page 1

unwanted influx of immigration from Mexico. This initial assault evolved – with “recreational marijuana” being leveled with law after law, ending with the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937 and the Controlled Substance Act of 1970 that finally classified marijuana as a Schedule I controlled substance and effectually banned marijuana, all together, in the U. S.

In recent legislation and research, however, marijuana has found its rebirth. According to MPP.org, a website dedicated to the Marijuana Policy Project, “on election day 2020, Mississippi voters overwhelmingly approved Amendment 65, a constitutional ballot initiative to establish a medical marijuana program for patients with debilitating conditions.” And, ABC News has re-

ported, just lately, that marijuana has been federally decriminalized for the first time, adding that “36 states and the District of Columbia have legalized medical cannabis while 15 states and the District of Columbia have legalized cannabis for adult recreational use.”

ABC News also mentioned that Judiciary Chairman Jerry Nadler said that the legislation “would reverse the failed policy of criminalizing marijuana on the federal level and would take steps to address the heavy toll this policy has taken across the country – particularly on communities of color.” Moreover, Leafwell – a self described, “telehealth platform” – is an organization committed to further exploring the dynamic of “cannabis versus the endocannabinoid

system.” The website, www.leafwell.co, denotes that this investigation – into the cannabis plant’s effect on the body’s endocannabinoid system – has unfolded important information. The Leafwell website expounds that the cannabis plant’s “cannabinoids” can be used by our body’s endocannabinoid neurotransmitters to chemically communicate with cannabinoid receptors, in our body’s central and peripheral nervous systems, to adequately calm the aches and discomfort inherent in diseases such as cancer. The website, www.leafwell.co, will provide the complete steps that one must follow in obtaining a Medical Marijuana card in Mississippi, once the Mississippi Medical Marijuana program is entirely established in 2021.

Using its telehealth technology, Leafwell intends to actively counter today’s social distancing threats, and help patients in remote and rural areas, by providing online access to a vast network of Medical Marijuana doctors that provide support – from receiving a doctor’s recommendation letter to presenting your Medical Marijuana card in purchasing from licensed Mississippi dispensaries in 2021. Leafwell’s waiting list is open to qualified applicants possessing valid records of their identity, address and pertinent medical history.

Yes, Medical Marijuana is now legal in 33 U.S. states – including Mississippi, the District of Columbia and counting.

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# International Museum of Muslim Cultures (IMMC) receives \$475,000 Kellogg Foundation grant



## Mississippi Link Newswire

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and its ensuing uncertainties, the International Museum of Muslim Cultures, located at 201 E. Pascagoula St., Jackson, MS 39201, announces its receipt of the Kellogg Foundations grant of \$475,000 for the period Dec. 1, 2020 through Nov. 30, 2023.

Along with this recent award, over the last three years IMMC has received grant awards totaling \$1,140,000 from Kellogg Foundation. This also includes \$600,000 for the years of 2017-2020 and \$65,000 in June for COVID-19 relief, which was unsolicited.

Currently, IMMC features the “Muslims with Christians and Jews: An Exhibition of Covenants and Coexistence,” which opened in June 2020, at 101 E. Capitol St., at IMMC’s satellite location in downtown Jackson.

The Exhibit introduces the “peace-building leadership of Muhammad, the Prophet and Head of State, who prepared the first Constitution in history for his multi-ethnic, multi-racial, multi-lingual and multi-religious Commonwealth.” This constitution, which may have influenced that of the U.S., is on display along with the covenants of protection extended to Jews, Christians and others.

The IMMC continues to display the “Legacy of Timbuktu: Wonders of the Written Word” Exhibition, at 201 E. Pascagoula St., which emphasizes Islamic West Africa’s sophisticated, highly literate culture of great scholarship, wealth and empire-building, contrasting significantly with the predominant historic narrative that begins, most often, with African enslavement in America.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) earlier grants have been used to utilize the power of the museum as a mobilizer for cross-racial healing, justice and human dignity, to educate the community nationwide in understanding that “human dignity is fundamental to combating injustice and achieving racial equity and healing.”

IMMC will be hosted by the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) in a virtual webinar Dec. 17, 2020, at 6 p.m. Central, that features “Exploring African Islamic Contributions to Civilization. The webinar coincides with the museum’s national tour of its two signature

exhibits. For more information, visit: [HYPERLINK “https://bit.ly/2INExe1”](https://bit.ly/2INExe1) \t “\_blank” <https://bit.ly/2INExe1>.

IMMC is America’s first Muslim museum dedicated to educating the American public about Islamic history and culture and the contributions of diverse Muslim communities to America and the world. The museum opened its doors in December 2000 and will celebrate its 20th Anniversary virtually Dec. 30, 2020, at 6 p.m. Central. For more information, visit [HYPERLINK “http://www.muslimmuseum.org”](http://www.muslimmuseum.org) [www.muslimmuseum.org](http://www.muslimmuseum.org). Co-founders are Emad Al-Turk, chairman, and Okolo Rashid, president and director of the Islamic Thought Institute (ITI). For more information, email [HYPERLINK “mailto:okolo.rashid@muslimmuseum.org”](mailto:okolo.rashid@muslimmuseum.org) [okolo.rashid@muslimmuseum.org](mailto:okolo.rashid@muslimmuseum.org) or Lina Ali, Deputy Executive Director [HYPERLINK “mailto:lina.ali@muslimmuseum.org”](mailto:lina.ali@muslimmuseum.org) [lina.ali@muslimmuseum.org](mailto:lina.ali@muslimmuseum.org); call 601-960-0440 or 601-918-8503 (cell). Follow on social media: [HYPERLINK “https://www.facebook.com/muslimmuseum/”](https://www.facebook.com/muslimmuseum/) \h Facebook. [HYPERLINK “https://www.instagram.com/immc\\_ms”](https://www.instagram.com/immc_ms) \h Instagram [@immc\\_ms](https://www.instagram.com/immc_ms)

## About the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal pioneer, Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life. The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Michigan, and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special emphasis is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti.

For more information, visit [www.wkkf.org](http://www.wkkf.org).

# Carmila Chinn Hampton Foundation donates \$5,000 to JSU Development Foundation

## Special to the Mississippi Link

For the last 7 years, The Carmila Chinn Hampton Foundation (CCHF) has held an annual fundraiser, a fashion show that has benefitted several non-profits and individuals with critical health issues. More than \$20,000 has been donated to assist those in the community.

In 2002, Hampton was diagnosed with breast cancer. In January 2012, Hampton passed away, leaving behind a 12-year old son. After her death, her sister, Jackie Chinn Hill wanted to continue her legacy by naming the foundation after her.

On November 9, 2020 the CCHF presented a check for \$5,000 to the Jackson State University Development Foundation. As the president of the CCHF, Hill said, “Carmila lived a life of service to others. It is only fitting that this foundation, named in her honor, carries on her legacy of giving by providing support and assistance to those who are in need”



Hampton



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Get the working group’s guide for free at [entergybrightfuture.com](http://entergybrightfuture.com).

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## How students feel their school is handling the pandemic

By Aaron Terrett  
Student Intern,  
Louisiana Tech University

With most schools having their fall semester come to an end, college students across the state are coming home from their first full semester of school during a global pandemic. With the cases constantly rising, schools have been tasked with working overtime to keep students, faculty and visitors safe while on campus. This arduous task comes with some defects, however.

Some students have expressed discontent over having a harder time retaining information being taught in an online setting. Other students have complained of low morale across campus for the times that they are partaking in activities away from the screen.

Sophomore at Mississippi State University, Tamara Chambers, says “not having a year-round event such as Bulldog Bash was really devastating. ... Having hybrid classes was

different because attendance was not mandatory, meaning attendance started plummeting.”

Concerns amongst students were based more on campus-life than safety. In fact, most students felt that their schools made a focused effort to keep them as safe as possible from the virus.

“There were sanitization stations set up pretty much everywhere on campus,” states Delta State University student, Jessica Hampton. “Every morning there would be crews coming through the dorm halls cleaning everything. It made me ease up a bit after being terrified to come back to campus for this semester.”

Alcorn State University student, Maxwell Jones, shared some of these sentiments. Jones stated that “masks were required everywhere on campus. It took a little bit of getting used to but once we got the hang of it, I think we all realized that it was for the best.”

When it comes to college sports,

controversy has arisen amongst the community. Some see it as a welcome escape from the everyday life that has become anything but “normal.” Others see it as an unnecessary risk driven purely for monetary gain.

A Mississippi State University football player, who prefers to stay anonymous for fear of backlash, says “it all feels like medieval times. We were already going out there and risking our health, but now the risk is multiplied. I’ve seen games from other schools get cancelled because of a COVID outbreak. What makes us any less vulnerable?”

Schools will be reopening their doors in January, but with the influx of students returning from their break, some school officials fear that an outbreak may occur upon their return. The schools will continue to enforce and encourage safe practices throughout the remainder of the school year, but ultimately, the choice still belongs to the students.

## Home schooling up as Mississippi school enrollment drops

Associated Press

The Mississippi Department of Education said Monday that kindergarten enrollment has decreased and home schooling has increased this academic year, largely explaining the drop of more than 23,000 students enrolled in public schools.

The department said in a news release that 442,627 students enrolled in Mississippi public schools as of Sept. 30. That compared to 465,913 a year earlier.

It said kindergarten enrollment was down 4,345 from last year.

The number of home-schooled students increased by 6,731. It was 18,758 last year and is 25,489 this year.

Enrollment in Mississippi public schools has dropped by an average of 5,511 students each year over the past three years. The decrease this year coincides with uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic, although the Department of Education news release did not cite reasons that families have chosen different paths for their children’s schooling.

Public schools were forced to close for in-person instruction in the spring, during the final weeks of the previous academic year. This fall, they have offered a

mix of in-person and online instruction.

“Mississippi school districts have been working under extraordinary conditions to ensure all students in their communities are engaged in learning,” State Superintendent of Education Carey Wright said in the news release Monday. “Teachers, principals, districts leaders, school attendance officers and families have done a heroic job meeting the daily challenges of the pandemic.”

The department said some students have moved out of state and some have enrolled in private schools.

Mississippi school attendance officers have been working to ensure all compulsory school-age children whose families have not re-enrolled them in public schools are registered for some type of schooling. As of Thursday, the officers had validated the status of all but 1,156 students. The department said that figure is similar to previous years.

Mississippi law requires children ages 6-17 to be enrolled in public or private school or a home-school program. Kindergarten is not required, but children enrolled in kindergarten are required to attend unless they are sick or have another valid reason for being absent.

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# Reeves to update order on gatherings as virus cases surge



**Reeves**

*The Associated Press*

Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves plans to update his regulations around social gatherings during the coronavirus pandemic later this week as virus cases continue to surge.

“In the meantime the best tool is the same: wear a mask. Avoid crowds. Be smart. Protect loved ones,” he wrote in a Tweet Monday.

Reeves’ current executive order places mask mandates in 54 out of 82 Mississippi counties and restricts gatherings to no more than 20 people indoors and 100 people outdoors when social distancing isn’t possible. It is set to expire Friday.

Reeves asked in his tweet that residents be “extra cautious and mindful” and take their safety and others’ into

consideration when making decisions.

The state health officer, Dr. Thomas Dobbs, said Mississippi is seeing a “Thanksgiving surge” in virus cases, with numbers rising rapidly in recent days. Dobbs also said Monday that the FDA is reviewing a COVID-19 vaccine Thursday, and he hopes Mississippi will receive about 25,000 doses of the vaccine for health-care workers by next week.

The state Health Department said Monday that Mississippi, with a population of about 3 million, has reported more than 166,000 coronavirus cases and at least 3,961 deaths from COVID-19 as of Sunday evening. That’s an increase of 1,263 cases and zero deaths from numbers reported the day before.

# FCC awards Mississippi \$495 million for Broadband Expansion



**Maxwell**

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

FCC Awards Mississippi \$495 million for Broadband Expansion. This money is awarded as Phase 1 of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (JACKSON, MS) – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced recently its Phase 1 recipients of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction. Mississippi, along with many other states across the country, will



I appreciate the leadership of the FCC Commissioners and for the opportunity to work closely with them to bring these funds home to Mississippi.”

The grant money was awarded via reverse auction in which providers competed for the funds based on their ability to provide the service and costs of infrastructure expansion. These federal dollars are in addition to the \$75 million allocated by Mississippi’s Legislature in 2020.

“I appreciate the leadership of Senator Roger Wicker for his own efforts in securing these funds for our state,” Maxwell added. “I also commend the work of all of our local providers who participated in this process to further expand their footprints of high-speed services.”

The Mississippi Public Service Commission will meet to approve each awarded provider as eligible to receive these funds. Maxwell will continue to meet with FCC Commissioners in the coming months to discuss additional funds for Mississippi in the Phase 2 auction.

# Appeals Court: Mississippi school lawsuit may go forward

**By Emily Wagster Pettus**  
*Associated Press*

A federal appeals court has affirmed that Mississippi parents may pursue a lawsuit that says the state allows grave disparities in funding between predominantly black and predominantly white schools.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 9-8 Monday to support a ruling that three of its own judges handed down in April.

In 2019, U.S. District Judge William H. Barbour dismissed the lawsuit filed against state officials by the Southern Poverty Law Center. The three-judge panel revived the lawsuit in April. Mississippi officials, including Gov. Tate Reeves and state Superintendent of Education Carey Wright, asked the full Appeals Court to reconsider the ruling by the three-judge panel. The vote Monday was to reject that request.

The suit was filed in 2017 on behalf of low-income black women who said their children and other black children attended schools that were in worse condition and had lower academic performance than some wealthier, predominantly white schools.

Barbour said state officials were immune from being sued. The Appeals Court panel said in April that sovereign immunity

“is not limitless” and people may sue a state as long as the suit seeks changes going forward and not compensation for past practices.

Southern Poverty Law Center attorney Will Bardwell said in a statement Tuesday that more than 80% of Mississippi’s highest performing school districts are majority-white, and all of its failing school districts are majority-black.

“More than 100 years since Reconstruction and 66 years after Brown v. Board, Mississippi continues to operate two types of schools: high-performing schools for white children and failing schools for black children,” Bardwell said.

The lawsuit said Mississippi has been violating a federal law that allowed the state to rejoin the union after the Civil War. The 1870 law said Mississippi could not change its 1868 state constitution in a way to deprive any citizen of “school rights and privileges.” The state now has a constitution that was adopted in 1890 and has been amended several times.

“From 1890 until the present day, Mississippi repeatedly has amended its education clause and has used those amendments to systematically and deliberately deprive African Americans of the education rights guaranteed to all Mississippi schoolchildren

by the 1868 Constitution,” the lawsuit said.

The Mississippi attorney general’s office argued in court papers in 2018 that the plaintiffs were seeking to “refashion” the 1870 federal law “into a contorted federal mandate that would place the State of Mississippi in a straitjacket so far as the educational provisions of the State’s Constitution are concerned.”

The plaintiffs’ children in 2017 were attending elementary schools that were 95% black and where 95% of students were receiving free or reduced price lunches – an indicator of poverty.

The suit said that fewer than 11% of students at their children’s schools were proficient in reading and math, and the schools had a D rating from the state. They contrasted that to three higher-income, mostly white schools in Madison County, DeSoto County and Gulfport, where more than 65% of students were proficient in reading and math and the schools had an A rating.

The lawsuit also said that schools attended by the plaintiffs’ children had wet ceilings, chipping paint and inexperienced teachers, compared to the other schools with extensive resources and extracurricular activities and experienced teachers.



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# Shingles

By Vince Faust  
*Special to The Mississippi Link*

A number of my friends have suffered with shingles. I saw first hand the pain they had to endure. I never want to endure that kind of discomfort. Shingles is a viral infection that causes a painful rash. Shingles can occur anywhere on your body, but it most often appears as a single stripe of blisters that wraps around either the left or the right side of your torso. Shingles is caused by the varicella-zoster virus, which is the same virus that causes chickenpox.

Most people associate shingles with a rash, but before the rash appears, people will often have pain, itching, or tingling in the area where it will develop. Your symptoms will happen several days before the rash appears.

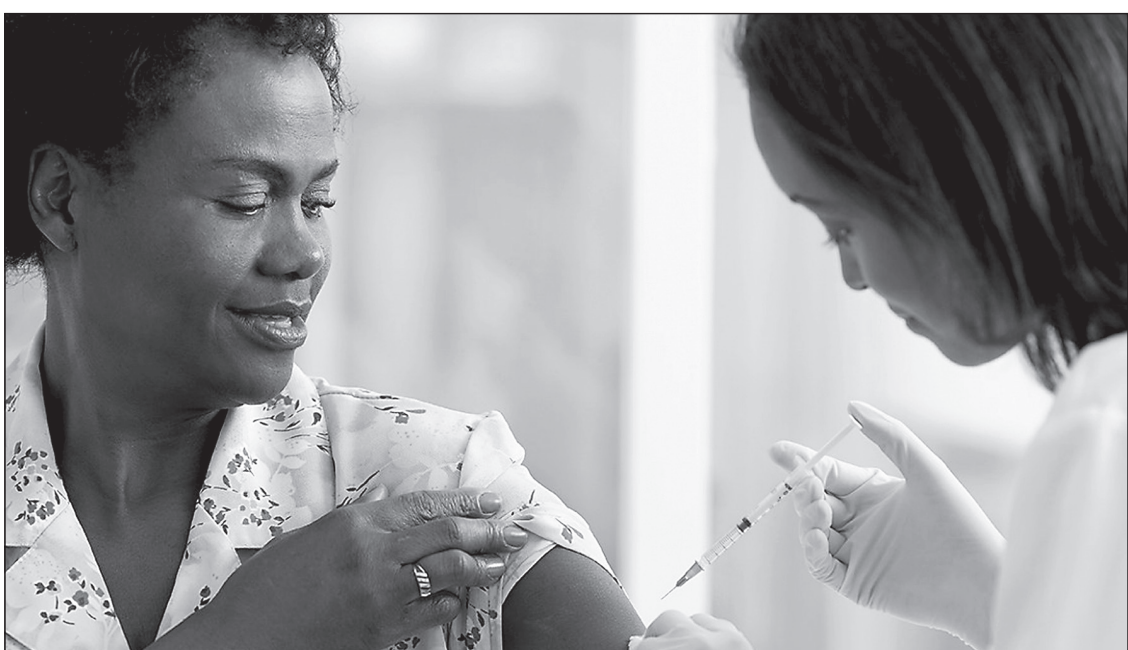
According to the CDC, the rash occurs in a single stripe around either the left or the right side of the body. In other cases, the rash can develop on one side of your face. Shingles on your face can affect your eyes and cause vision loss. In rare cases in people with weakened immune systems, the rash may be more widespread on the body and look similar to a chickenpox rash.

Symptoms of shingles can include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Chills
- Upset stomach

Many people think that shingles is just a rash, so they wait for it to go away like poison ivy or sunburn. That would be a big mistake. If you think you have shingles, action is needed immediately. Shingles is a neurological emergency. The center of the infection is deep inside your body, within sensory nerve cells close to your spinal cord or brain. In some cases the infection can spread into your spinal cord or brain and can cause myelitis, pneumonia, encephalitis, stroke, spinal cord injury, sepsis and bacterial infections.

A study published in the jour-



nal “Neurology” found that the risk of having a stroke increases by 74% if you had shingles before age 40. Shingles can also cause vision loss, hearing loss and balance problems. The most common complication of shingles is post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN), where the pain persists after the rash heals. Shingles pain can be intense. From all that I’ve read women say it can be like childbirth.

The pain should decrease with time. It can take months or even years. Some people never have an end to their pain. The nerve damage that causes pain can lead to intense itching. This is called post-herpetic itch. The itch is treatable with medication. The medications have side effects that make them unpleasant to use.

The herpes zoster is a virus in the herpes virus family, which causes chicken pox in children and shingles in adults. The herpes zoster is not sexually transmitted. You cannot get shingles from a person that is infected with shingles. You can get chickenpox from someone who has shingles but only if you have never had chickenpox or never received the chickenpox vaccine. You are contagious with shingles until your last blister has scabbed over which usually occurs in about 10

to 14 days. Anyone who has had chickenpox is at risk for getting shingles.

You can unintentionally spread the virus to people that have never had chickenpox. If you’re in contact with a person with shingles, you should avoid directly touching their rash. You should avoid touching their clothes, bedding, towels or anything else that might have touched their rash.

Having shingles will boost your immune system and offer some protection against a rapid recurrence. That boost in your immune system can weaken with time, which can make you vulnerable to shingles again. While it is possible to have shingles more than once, but it’s very rare to get it more than twice. It’s not known why the shingles virus is reactivated at a later stage in life but most cases are thought to be caused by having a lowered immune system.

The best way to avoid shingles is to get vaccinated. A vaccine helps your body create a strong defense against shingles. People over 60 that get vaccinated for shingles reduce their risk for developing shingles by 50% and getting persistent pain of PHN by over 60%. The shingle vaccine is even more effective with people between 50 and 60. The vaccine

reduces their risk by 70%. Vaccines can be a single dose or require more doses. If you don’t receive your second dose within the recommended window after your first dose, you do not need to restart the series. You should receive the second dose as close to this time frame as possible. For best results it’s important that you complete the vaccine series.

This vaccine can give you some temporary side effects. Most side effects include a sore arm with mild or moderate pain after getting a shingles vaccine. Redness and swelling where they got the shot may also occur. Some people felt tired, had muscle pain, a headache, shivering, fever, stomach pain or nausea. One out of 6 people who got a shingles vaccine experienced side effects that prevented them from doing regular activities. Most symptoms go away on their own in about 2 to 3 days. Shingles vaccine side effects were more common in younger people. Shingles vaccines don’t contain thimerosal (a preservative containing mercury).

If you use over the counter drugs for pain that does not stop your pain, you should ask your doctor for a prescription strength medication. Remember, your pain medication should be managed with your doctor.

# A vaccine approaches as COVID-19 numbers rise

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

Coronavirus is still ravaging the lives of people. Families are losing love ones every day. Our country has fallen, yet there does seem to be help on the way.

There have been serious conversations about the development of a vaccine that would curb the spread of COVID-19. Two pharmaceutical companies, Pfizer and Moderna are leading the way in this effort.

Last week Pfizer and its partner, BioNTech filed for what is called an emergency use authorization in order to use their Coronavirus vaccine. This authorization document was filed with the Food and Drug Administration.

Now, we the citizens are in a wait and see mode. Without a vaccine, our country will continue to spiral out of control. Currently, there are over 14.8 million cases and over 282,000 people have passed away.

Whatever your politics are and whoever you voted for, everyone must know and understand the Coronavirus is real. Democrat or Republican, it does not play favorites. It will cause pain and sorrow in your house and my house, too.

The Moderna company has also filed the necessary paperwork with the FDA. If approved, both companies will supply the country with millions of doses of the vaccine. For example, if the Pfizer application is approved, then according to reports approximately 6.4 million doses will be provided to our country and 8 territories.

We know that first responders will be the first to receive the vaccine. This is the right thing to do. There is wholesale agreement that because they are saving lives that they should receive the initial doses.

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccine products have different cooling properties. The Moderna

vaccine must be stored frozen at -20 degrees Celsius. However, it keeps for a month at refrigerator temperatures. Medical experts say it will be easier to distribute to areas that do not have specialized freezers.

The Pfizer vaccine will be stored frozen at -70 degrees Celsius. Its shipment will require dry ice. The un-thawed Pfizer product can only be kept in a refrigerator for five days. Reports say that Pfizer will be the first to broaden its trial to people 12 years of age and older which means they will probably be the last to receive the vaccine. Both vaccines will require two doses.

Both products will be available for use arguably before the end of the year. It is almost certain that each will come with side effects. In some ways, I believe it will depend upon our body make-up as we will react differently to them.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

said, “Starting in April, May, June, July as we get into the late spring and early summer, people in the so-called general population, who do not have underlying conditions that would make them priority, could get shots.”

One of the questions at the inquiry desk is when will people of color receive the vaccine? NAACP officials will be meeting with President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris in the coming days and the vaccine question is sure to be raised.

President-elect Joe Biden has asked all Americans to wear their masks for the first 100 days of his presidency. In my opinion, this is a request that we must honor. The basics of wearing a mask, washing our hands and social distancing are still in play.

While the vaccine will help to stop the spread, we cannot drop our guard. COVID-19 has been an unrelenting thorn in our side. Getting a vaccine will help to remove it.

# Interview: Biden adviser says race central to virus fight

By Carla K. Johnson  
*AP Medical Writer*

Addressing racial disparities in the U.S. coronavirus crisis cannot be an afterthought, a top adviser to President-elect Joe Biden on the COVID-19 pandemic response said Tuesday.

That means when testing and vaccination programs are designed and implemented, for example, they must consider fairness and equity along with efficiency in order to be truly effective, said Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, an expert on health care inequality at Yale University, in an interview with The Associated Press.

“We cannot get this pandemic under control if we do not address head-on the issues of inequity in our country,” she said. “There is no other way.”

Nunez-Smith, associate dean for health equity research at Yale’s medical school, co-chairs Biden’s advisory board on the coronavirus pandemic with former Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy and former Food and Drug Administration Commissioner David Kessler.

Biden’s choice of Nunez-Smith to help lead his pandemic task force signaled his intention to address the pandemic’s unequal toll on minorities, who disproportionately have jobs on the front lines, medical conditions associated with severe disease, higher rates of poverty and poor access to health care.

For blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans in the U.S., the rates of hospitalization and death from COVID-19 are two to four times higher than for whites, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“It means that almost 50 percent of people of color in this country know someone who has died from COVID-19,” she said. “And quite frankly, it’s getting harder to find anyone in this country who doesn’t know someone who has been affected by COVID-19 or themselves has been affected.”

She emphasized she is not the only one on the Biden team advocating for more attention to the unequal burden of the disease on racial minorities.

“This is a unified voice across the entire transition,” she said.

The virus in the U.S. has killed more than 268,000 and caused more than 13.5 million confirmed infections. The country on average is seeing more than 160,000 new cases per day and over 1,400 deaths — a

toll on par with what the nation witnessed in mid-May, when New York City was the epicenter.

“We’re in surge everywhere,” Nunez-Smith said, calling on Americans to wear masks in public, keep their distance from others and “to fight the fatigue for another day out of respect for our healthcare workers who we often call heroes.”

Nunez-Smith said the Biden transition is working on getting a clearer picture of the status of the nation’s pandemic response and still has “many questions” about basic information such as vaccine supply.

Gathering that information became easier last week when the federal government recognized Biden as the winner of the Nov. 3 election, she said.

She said the Biden team is grateful for the work of career government officials who are managing the logistics of vaccine allocation to states ahead of a decision by the Food and Drug Administration on what appear to be very promising vaccine candidates.

Americans can expect more unified and coordinated federal guidance under Biden’s administration, efforts to rebuild trust in scientific data and an acknowledgement of the unequal access to resources in hard-hit communities, she said.

“The pandemic, very sadly and unfortunately, laid bare what were preexisting structural and social realities that really predisposed particular communities to be hardest hit by this pandemic,” she said. “Hardest hit from a health perspective and hardest hit from an economic perspective.”

She said it’s important to “acknowledge a shameful history in our country of medical experimentation on black and brown bodies in particular,” which has fueled distrust among blacks. In polls, blacks have expressed more hesitancy about getting a vaccine than other groups, so it will be important to get accurate information to them about vaccine safety, efficacy and cost, she said.

“We’ve had a collective witnessing as a country here in 2020 around the pervasive, deep-seated challenge of racial injustice,” she said, “and COVID-19 exploited that reality.”

She said there are both “moral and pragmatic” reasons to address inequality. “We can’t pretend that COVID-19 has been an equal opportunity offender,” she said.



# What will you do with Jesus?

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



I do not want anything in my life that is contrary to the Spirit of God and that could affect my final resurrection. I want to see Jesus one day, and by God’s grace I am going to see Him. I want to see His loving-kindness and see what He has prepared for those who have been faithful. Can you imagine what it is going to be like to see the inside of Heaven? Our human minds cannot even begin to comprehend it.

Perhaps you have read in the Old Testament about Solomon’s house. He did not spare any riches in lavishing it with

gold, silver, brass, ivory and so on. He had everything in that house that a person could ever imagine. However, that will not compare to what God has prepared in Heaven for those who are willing to pay the price. There is a price, not just to give up sin now, but a continual dying out to self and what you want.

There will be times when things are going to raise up; possibly, imaginations that you have to deal with and get rid of them. I trust that God will bring across your mind the things that you need to do so that you can become more pure.

The preaching of the Gospel is for the perfecting of the saints. When you first get saved, you are as perfect as

you can be at that particular moment. Had you died at that moment, you would have gone to Heaven. However, God usually allows one a space of time to live to become more perfect every day. If you want to make it to Heaven, you can do it. However, you cannot do it in your own strength. It is going to take some work.

God sent Christ to help you make it if you will listen and obey. The Christian should have a desire to do what is right and be against that which is wrong.

When the brethren of the Morning Church preached the Gospel, the people who heard said: “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Then Peter said unto them, “Repent, and be baptized every

one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:37-38).

If you are not where you need to be spiritually, friend, will you do something about it now? It is up to you. What are you going to do with Jesus? What are you going to do about judgment? What are you going to do about your life? I trust that if you are not right with God, you will do something about it before it is too late.

*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 best Christmas gift

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



The economic impact of Covid-19 has led to record numbers of people turning to food pantries and other organizations for help.

Many people have also donated their time, talent and treasure to these organizations. In addition to thinking of ways to bless others, some of you may be spending this time of the year thinking about your life this past year...with a tinge of regret. Or you may be like me and simply thankful to have made it through the year with your sanity intact.

This week, I’d like to share three questions that have changed my perspective on my life and, most importantly, my relationship with God this past year.

be on my body. In other words, I had to find what fit me best. Similarly, God’s blessings for us are specific regarding not only our desires but, most importantly, our needs. We are reminded of this in Psalm 37:4 which encourages us to “Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

3. Where you’ve been? – This proved to be a tough one. There was always the temptation to leave out key details in order to justify my decisions. But the fruit of some poor decisions always gave the story away. Thankfully, God’s grace and mercy still covered me. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

What does all of this have to do with Christmas? As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, rather than spending money on things you don’t really need, give yourself a gift that truly keeps on giving: the gift of an authentic life that honors Christ. A guest minister at my church a few years ago said that God’s love was the reason why we should celebrate this Christmas season. And it’s because of this love that we should love ourselves enough to give the best gift: a healthier emotional state, renewed mind and restored relationship with God.

May the joy of the Christmas season bring you peace and comfort.

*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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# Zillow finds remote work could help black renters become homeowners

NNPA

The rapid rise in pandemic-driven telework could make first-time homeownership most broadly accessible to black renters compared to other renters, based on factors including income, the makeup of local industries, geography and more, a November Zillow analysis suggests.

Zillow research found that, of the nearly 2 million U.S. renters who are able to take advantage of heightened telework options and could afford monthly payments on homes in less-expensive areas outside of their current metros, black renters benefit far more than other renters.

In large metro areas where typical starter home values are higher than they are nationally, black renters are 29% more likely than other renters to be able to buy their first home in a less expensive area because of the opportunity to work from home permanently.

Black renters have the most opportunity due to their likelihood of working in more “remotable” industries, like educational services and public administration, combined with having relatively low-income levels, pricing them out of where they currently live, but high enough to potentially afford a home in a less-expensive metro.

“Teleworking has opened up more options for my family. We’ve made a life here in



Maryland, but with two small children being able to purchase a home back in Louisiana and be closer to my parents and our extended family is just what we need,” says Jonathon Holloway, federal employee and Maryland renter who recently made an offer on a home in Louisiana.

“With everything that has happened this year, it makes you stop and realize what is really important. And for us, that’s family. Without the ability to telework, we might not have been able to make this transition.”

That opportunity is highly dependent on each specific market. In Baltimore, for example, it is more likely for black

households making \$30,000 to \$40,000 to have primary earners in healthcare administration and office work, which is highly “remotable,” while in Phoenix it is more common that someone in this bracket would be in travel, hospitality and accommodation, or food service, which is not.

The black and white homeownership gap remains as wide today as it was at the dawn of the 20th century. Nearly 75 percent of white households own their homes, compared with just 44 percent of black households.

While remote work can open up opportunities to buy a home in more affordable locations, it

doesn’t address the root of the various affordability issues for people of color. This means, for some people, achieving homeownership in this way will be a tradeoff against living some place they would prefer.

For others, though, it could mean the sudden ability to move to an area they would have preferred in the first place. This analysis shows that black renters are most likely to face this tradeoff decision.

“Although it’s well-known that the pandemic has been disproportionately harmful to black communities, the rapid shift to remote work could make homeownership more broadly accessible,” said Zillow

economist Treh Manhertz.

“It’s a rare opportunity for those in a position to take advantage of remote work. Unfortunately, this shift will not be a major factor in closing the homeownership gap nationally. The larger-scale solution must be to create options for affordable homeownership locally. Moving away may be a newer option for some, but it shouldn’t be the only option available to achieve homeownership.”

Although white and Asian renters are much more likely to work in more “remotable” industries, such as finance, insurance and tech, their incomes more often allow them to buy homes in their current metro

areas.

At the national level, teleworking could open homeownership to 4.5 percent of all renter households, including 9 percent of Asian renters, 3.7 percent of black renters, 5 percent of Latinx renters, and 4.1 percent of white renters.

While the national numbers show the share of households with “remotable” work who could potentially afford a home in another metro area, they don’t paint the entire picture by considering how effects will impact each community differently based on variations in home prices, incomes and industries geographically.

A starter home in the U.S. is around \$132,000, which at recent low rates and a 20 percent down payment translates to estimated monthly payments of about \$725, about 30 percent of income for a household earning \$29,500 per year.

Black and LatinX Americans are at the bottom of the ladder when it comes to wages, but for homeownership, the benefits of telework are larger at lower income levels.

Job concentration has driven home values especially high in the largest metros and many households have been priced out.

Telework has the potential to offer more flexibility and shift the affordability equation just enough for many households to get a foothold in homeownership.

# AARP and family caregivers

The Mississippi Link Newswire

AARP is recognizing November/December as caregiving theme months.

AARP is striving to make it easier for older people to live independently and remain in their homes and communities where they prefer to be, surrounded by family and friends. By providing planning resources and additional forms of support to family caregivers, AARP hopes to create a country where people can continue to live in their homes and communities for as long as they choose.

To help achieve this, AARP is:

- Supporting the millions of family caregivers who provide unpaid care to their loved ones with resources and tools.
- Advocating for and providing better quality, affordable and accessible services to help older people live independently and the family caregivers who help them.

Definition of a Family Caregiver

A ‘family caregiver’ is defined as an adult age 18 or older who is providing unpaid short-term or long-term care to a parent, spouse, friend or other adult loved one who needs help with everyday activities and personal tasks such as transportation, managing finances, scheduling appointments, shopping, bathing, dressing, preparing meals, wound care and/or medication management.

Message Points

- Family and friends are the backbones of America’s care system, providing the bulk of care for older people in the U.S. as they strive to live inde-



pently.

- If you are not currently a family caregiver, at some point in your life you either will be a caregiver or need a caregiver.
- Family caregiving is harder and more complicated than ever as families have increasing demands on their time.
- Many family caregivers don’t think of themselves as caregivers – they see themselves as sons, daughters, spouses, and friends just doing what families do for each other.
- Today, family caregivers are asked to carry out health care tasks that would make a first-year nursing student tremble (like wound care, tube feedings) without adequate training.
- The job of caregiving that family members do for free can be harder than a job in the paid workforce.
- Workplace policies that support employee caregivers can also benefit companies by enhancing productivity and enabling workers to keep up with their duties. Almost 3 out

of 4 workers age 40 and older say that allowing work flexibility for caregiving would help improve work/life balance.

- Employers can help employees who are family caregivers by providing flexible or teleworking arrangements, referrals to community resources, and affordable back-up care.

Statistics on Caregivers

- Today, more than 1 in 5 Americans are caregivers. When looking at caregivers for adults only, there are almost 48 million Americans providing care to a family member or friend age 18 or older.
- The total estimated economic value of uncompensated care provided by family caregivers in 2017 was 470 billion. This surpasses the total combined value-added to the U.S. economy by the agriculture/forestry and mining sectors (\$438 billion in 2017) and exceeds the combined value added to the U.S. economy by the education and arts/entertainment sectors (\$460 billion in 2017).

- The ratio of potential family caregivers to the growing number of older people has already begun a steep decline. In 2010, there were 7 potential family caregivers for every person age 80 and older. By 2030, that ratio will fall sharply to 4 to 1 and is projected to drop further to 3 to 1 in 2050.
- On average, caregivers are 49-years-olds caring for 69-year-olds. 89 percent of caregivers take care of a relative, while just 10 percent care for a friend, neighbor or other non-relative.

- Nearly half (46%) of caregivers are under the age of 50 and 54% are 50+. Male caregivers are younger with 42% being under the age of 50.
- Nearly three in ten (29%) caregivers are Millennials or Gen Z. Another 29% are Gen X, 34% are Baby Boomers and 7% are the Silent Generation.
- Caregivers overall are becoming as diverse as the American population.
- 6 in 10 caregivers report working while caregiving and the majority have experienced

at least one work-related impact (61 percent).

- About 32% of family caregivers provide at least 21 hours of care a week, on average providing 59 hours of care weekly. This is in addition to their part- or full-time job.
- 54% of caregivers expect to be caring for someone in the next five years. However, making plans for future care, such as instructions for handling financial matters, health care decisions, or living arrangements, is still not the norm among caregivers.
- According to recent research from Harvard Business School, nearly one in three workers said they quit their jobs for caregiving responsibilities across the lifespan.
- Emotional and Financial Impact of Caregiving

Family caregivers are at risk of emotional, health, and financial problems:

- 36% of caregivers report high emotional stress from the demands of caregiving.
- Family caregivers are at increased risk of chronic loneliness. 42 percent of family caregivers reported being lonely compared with non-caregivers (34 percent) in midlife and older ages.
- Those in high-intensity care situations more often feel alone (29 percent vs. 16 percent medium to low-intensity situations), as do those providing 21 or more hours of care (30 percent vs. 17 percent caring for 20 or fewer hours weekly).
- The financial impact on working caregivers who leave the labor force due to caregiving demands can be severe. A study estimated the economic cost of foregone earnings by

family caregivers of older adults at \$67 billion in 2013.

- In addition to forgone earnings, most family caregivers incur steep out-of-pocket costs related to caregiving. 78 percent of family caregivers incurred these costs as a result of caregiving.
- Caregiving can be an all-consuming experience that leaves the caregiver exhausted and lonely. But it can also be an enormously meaningful accomplishment. Half of the caregivers (51%) feel their role gives them a sense of purpose or meaning in life.

African American Caregivers

- 14 percent of family caregivers in the U.S. report being non-Hispanic African American or black.
- On average, African American caregivers are 47-years-olds caring for 64-year-olds.
- African American caregivers have been caring for 5.2 years on average. They report providing 31.2 hours of care weekly, helping with medical/nursing tasks.
- African American caregivers report experiencing 2.4 financial impacts as a result of providing care – more than either non-Hispanic white or Asian caregivers, most commonly stopping saving, leaving bills unpaid or paying them late, or taking on more debt.
- African American caregivers typically care for a parent, spouse, or grandparent. About half of African American caregivers feel they had no choice in taking on their role, but the majority find a sense of purpose or meaning in that role – more so than non-Hispanic white or Asian caregivers.



LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION

ZONING CASE NO. 4109

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Eris Giurintano has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Special Exception to allow for a professional (real estate) office within a R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District for the property located at 12 St. Andrews Dr. (Parcel 750-835) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lot thirty-five (35), NORTHPOINTE ESTATES, Part Two, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Miss. In Plat Book 30 at page 37 thereof, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS OR VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO DECEMBER 8, 2020.

WITNESS my signature this 18th day of November 2020.

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

12-10-2020

LEGAL

Banking Services-Depository Bid

Depository Bids for 2021 and 2022 will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi on January 5, 2021 at 3:30 pm at City Hall, 219 South President Street. Please submit original and two (2) copies of sealed bids, marked "RFP#96429-010521 Depository Bid" to the following address prior to or on January 05, 2020 by 3:30pm.

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

Depository bids must be submitted in compliance with Mississippi Code Section 27-105-315 and related Mississippi Code Sections 27-105-5 and 27-105-9.

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

Depository bid specifications may be received by contacting the City of Jackson, Mississippi as follows:

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

12-10-2020, 12-17-2020

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Jackson, Mississippi will host a public hearing to be held in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room of the Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. The City of Jackson has prepared a Facilities Plan for proposed improvements to the Wastewater Collection System. The Facilities Plan will be presented at the public hearing to explain the current facilities planning effort, the proposed improvements to be constructed, why the improvements are needed, environmental assessment of the proposed improvements, and the phases of the proposed project. Seven project phases are planned over a multi-year period with a currently estimated total cost of \$195,000,000. The first phase will be performed in 2021-2022 and is estimated to cost \$30,000,000. The purpose of the public hearing is to present the Facilities Plan, receive further suggestions and comments, and answer questions.

The City of Jackson will begin a public comment period on January 12, 2021. The comment period will allow citizens to review the Wastewater Collection System Improvements Facilities Plan and offer additional comments.

A copy of the Wastewater Collection System Improvements Facilities Plan is available by email request to Clyde Burnett, PE at cburnett@ajaservices.com. Written comments, suggestions, and questions may be submitted to Clyde Burnett at cburnett@ajaservices.com until February 11, 2021.

Charles Williams Jr., PE, PhD  
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

12-10-2020, 12-17-2020, 12-24-2020

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 4112

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Jeff Speed has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for the conversion of an office building for up to twenty (20) residential apartments in a C-2 (Limited) Commercial District for the property located at 1430 Lelia Dr. (Parcel 542-20) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lot 10 and 11, LAKELAND TERRACE, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 10 Page 42, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS OR VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO DECEMBER 8, 2020.

WITNESS my signature this 19th day of November 2020.

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

12-10-2020

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 4111

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Dericka Norwood has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for the operation of a tattoo parlor in a C-3 (General) Commercial District for the property at 3821 I-55 South. (Parcel 862-50-3) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

The following described property located and situated in First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, to-wit:

INDEXING: Pt Lots 8, 9, & 10; Blk C, & Pt Lots1 & 5, Blk D, Robertson Sub., West of Hwy, Hinds County, Mississippi

0.56 acres, more or less, being part of Lots 8,9, and 10, Block C, and part of Lots 1 and 5, Block D, Robertson's Subdivision, a map or plat of which is of record at Plat Book 7, at Page 38 of the Chancery Records of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description. Said 0.56 acres, more or less, is more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at the northeast corner of Lot 5, Block C, Robertson's Subdivision, aforesaid and run thence easterly and parallel to the South line of said Lot 11, 165.76 feet to a point on the West right of way line of I-55; thence run North 23 degrees 06 minutes East along said tight of way a distance of 200.0 feet to the point of beginning of the tract herein described; thence continue along said right of way North 23 degrees 06 minutes East for a distance of 100.00 feet; thence run North 87 degrees 10 minutes 32 seconds West 284.56 feet to the West line of said Lot 8; thence run South 00 degrees 29 minutes East along the West line of Lots 8 and 10, 90.00 feet; thence run South 86 degrees 15 minutes East 244.75 feet to the point of beginning.

EXCEPTED from the hereof are all easements, rights of way, zoning ordinances, and restrictive and protective covenants, of record which may affect subject property.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS OR VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO December 8, 2020.

WITNESS my signature this 19th day of November 2020.

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

12-10-2020

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 4110

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Dwan Wakefield has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for the operation of a used car lot in a C-3 (General) Commercial District for the property at 3897 I-55 South. (Parcel 862-70) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Part of Lot 8 and the West Half of Lot 9 of THE MEADOWS SUBDIVISION, according to map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book 3 at Page 92, more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows:

Commencing at a point on the north side of Stokes V. Robertson Road 1-55 feet west of the intersection of the north line of Stokes V. Robertson Road with the West right of way of the present U.S. Highway 51; run thence east along the north line of the Stokes V. Robertson Road for a distance of 15 feet; turn thence to the left through an angle of 20 degrees 47' and run northeasterly along the Northwest line of the property heretofore conveyed to the Mississippi State Highway Commission for a distance of 288.74 feet to a point on the West right of way line of present U.S. Highway 5 1 ; turn thence to the left through an angle of 26 degrees 35' and run northeasterly along the said west right of way line of present U.S. Highway 51 a distance of 20 feet to a point; turn thence left through an angle of 112 degrees 39' and run 241.33 feet to a point; turn thence left through an angle of 89 degrees 59' and run 206.9 feet to the point of beginning, and all improvements thereon.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS OR VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO December 8, 2020.

WITNESS my signature this 18th day of November 2020.

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

12-10-2020

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<p><b>NOTICE TO BIDDERS</b> <b>City of Jackson</b> <b>Jackson, Mississippi</b></p> <p>Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, December 29, 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:</p> <p>05568-122920      12 Month Contract Purchase of Getac Video Solutions</p> <p>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. The City of Jackson website (<a href="http://www.jacksonms.gov">www.jacksonms.gov</a>) and Central Bidding (<a href="http://www.centralauctionhouse.com">www.centralauctionhouse.com</a>) Copies of bid specifications are filed with the City Clerk for public record in accordance with House Bill No 999, 1986 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature.</p> <p>The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in Public Purchasing. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with each bid submission, in accordance with the provisions set forth by authority of the City of Jackson's EBO Ordinance.    Failure to comply with the City's EBO Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offer, from being awarded an eligible contract.    For more information on the City's EBO Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (601)960-1638. Copies of the EBO Ordinance, EBO Plan Application and a copy of the EBO Program are available with the Office of Economic Development at 218 South President Street, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.</p> <p>The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The City also reserves the right to waive any and all informalities in respect to any bid submitted. Bid awards will be made to the lowest and best bidder quoting the lowest net price in accordance with specifications. The award could be according to the lowest cost per item; or to the lowest total cost for all items; or to accept all or part of any proposal.    Delivery time may be considered when evaluating the bid proposal.    In those cases where it is known prior to advertising that the City's intention is to award according to the lowest total cost for all items, or in some variation thereof, statements to this affect will be included on the proposal form.    Absence of such statement means the City will make that determination during the bid review.</p> <p>Destiney Williams, Purchasing Manager Purchasing Division (601) 960-1025</p> <p>12-10-2020, 12-17-2020</p>	<p><b>Public Notice</b></p> <p>All interested public and private transit and paratransit operators within Hinds, County, are hereby advised that the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation is applying to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Jackson, Mississippi, for a grant under Section 5310 of the Federal Public Transportation Act, as amended, to provide transportation services to elderly and disabled persons. These services will be beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Service is being provided within Hinds, County. This program consists of existing services with no environmental impact, and no relocation resulting from the project.</p> <p>The purpose of this notice is to advise all interested parties, including transit and paratransit operators, of the service being planned for providing transportation services for persons with disabilities within the area as described above, and to ensure that such a program would not represent a duplication of current or of proposed services provided by existing transit or paratransit operators in the area.</p> <p>Comments either for or against this service will be received at any time beginning December 21, 2020 through January 22, 2021 from 8:00am to 5:00pm. All comments should be addressed to Mrs. Carmen Davis at the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation at 601-982-8467 ext. 129 or via email at <a href="mailto:cdavis@jacksonmedicalmall.org">cdavis@jacksonmedicalmall.org</a>.</p> <p>12-10-2020</p>	<p><b>Notice of Sale</b> <b>Abandoned Vehicle</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>2006 DODG                      Vin: 1D4HD48N46F174662 Registered to: Evans, Michael or Remona TGS Auto Sales &amp; Titlemax, Lien Holder Date of Sale: Dec. 11, 2020 Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213</p> <p>Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids. Time: 10:00 A.M.</p> <p>11-26-2020, 12-3-2020, 12-10-2020</p>
LEGAL	LEGAL	LEGAL
	<p><b>NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY</b></p> <p>The City of Jackson's Office of Housing and Community Development hereby notifies interested Applicants of funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the following grants: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA), and HOME funds. Organizations may obtain Application/Proposal packets by visiting the City's website at <a href="http://www.jacksonms.gov">www.jacksonms.gov</a>.</p> <p>Application/Proposal packages for CDBG, ESG, HOPWA, and HOME funds will only be accepted electronically via email. Electronic submission instructions are included in the application instructions.</p> <p>The deadline to submit all applications electronically is by 5:00 p.m. on January 7, 2021.</p> <p>Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, no application/proposal packages will be accepted at our office or by mail.</p> <p>To download applications and instructions, please visit: <a href="https://www.jacksonms.gov/housing-community-development/">https://www.jacksonms.gov/housing-community-development/</a></p> <p>For more details contact the Office of Development Assistance Division at 601-960-2155.</p> <p>12-10-2020</p>	<p><b>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD</b></p> <p>NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Jackson, Mississippi will host a public hearing to be held in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room of the Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, December 15, 2020. The City of Jackson has prepared a Facilities Plan for proposed improvements to the Wastewater Collection System. The Facilities Plan will be presented at the public hearing to explain the current facilities planning effort, the proposed improvements to be constructed, why the improvements are needed, environmental assessment of the proposed improvements, and the phases of the proposed project. Seven project phases are planned over a multi-year period with a currently estimated total cost of \$195,000,000. The first phase will be performed in 2021-2022 and is estimated to cost \$30,000,000. The purpose of the public hearing is to present the Facilities Plan, receive further suggestions and comments, and answer questions.</p> <p>The City of Jackson will begin a public comment period on December 15, 2020. The comment period will allow citizens to review the Wastewater Collection System Improvements Facilities Plan and offer additional comments.</p> <p>A copy of the Wastewater Collection System Improvements Facilities Plan is available by email request to Clyde Burnett, PE at <a href="mailto:cburnett@ajaservices.com">cburnett@ajaservices.com</a>. Written comments, suggestions, and questions may be submitted to Clyde Burnett at <a href="mailto:cburnett@ajaservices.com">cburnett@ajaservices.com</a> until January 19, 2021.</p> <p>Charles Williams Jr., PE, PhD Director of Public Works/City Engineer</p> <p>Terry Williamson, Legal Counsel</p> <p>11-26-2020, 12-3-2020, 12-10-2020</p>

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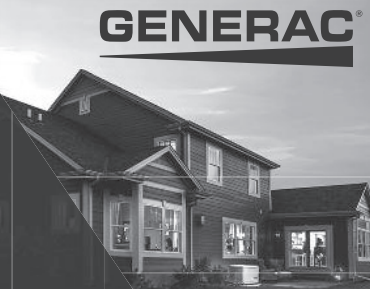

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**Growing Mississippi’s economy—together.**

We live and work in the communities we serve, and we’re invested in growing this place we all call home. So we’re always looking to partner with local suppliers and contractors to help us bring safer, more reliable energy to the people of Mississippi.

So if you’re a Mississippi-based supplier or contractor, we’d like to include you on future proposals for projects. Because no one knows how to better serve the people of this state than you.

If you’d like to learn more about our qualification and insurance requirements, bid and contracting processes and other details, reach out to us at [Supplier@SpireEnergy.com](mailto:Supplier@SpireEnergy.com), or visit us at [SpireEnergy.com/Doing-Business-Spire](http://SpireEnergy.com/Doing-Business-Spire).

At Spire, we’re proud to support Hire Mississippi.



**Sudoku**

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

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

© Feature Exchange

**Sudoku Solution**

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

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**BULLY’S RESTAURANT**  
3118 Livingston Road  
**CASH & CARRY**  
Capitol Street and Monument Street  
**CITY HALL**  
219 S President St  
**GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX**  
2659 Livingston Road  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
2030 N Siwell Rd  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
4331 Highway 80W  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
304 Briarwood Dr  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
2855 McDowell Rd  
**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
104 Terry Rd  
**J & A FUEL STORES**  
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.  
**LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST**  
2325 Livingston Rd.  
**MCDADDE’S MARKET**  
Northside Drive  
**MCDADDE’S MARKET #2**  
653 Duling Avenue  
**PICADILLY CAFETERIA**  
Jackson Medical Mall  
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue  
**SHELL FOOD MART**  
5492 Watkins Drive

**SPORTS MEDICINE**  
Fortification and I-55  
**MURPHY USA**  
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)  
**REVELL ACE HARDWARE**  
Terry Rd (South Jackson)  
**WALGREENS**  
380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

**CANTON**

**A & I**  
716 Roby Street - Canton, MS  
**B & B**  
702 West North Street - Canton, MS  
**BOUTIQUE STORE**  
3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS  
**BULLY’S STORE**  
Church Street - Canton, MS  
**COMMUNITY MART**  
743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS  
**FRYER LANE GROCERY**  
Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS  
**HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN**  
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS  
**JOE’S SANDWICH & GROCERY**  
507 Church Street - Canton, MS  
**K & K ONE STOP**  
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS  
**LACY’S INSURANCE**  
421 Peace Street - Canton, MS  
**SOUL SET BARBER SHOP**  
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS  
**TRAILER PARK GROCERY**  
22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

**BYRAM**

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

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

**CLINTON**

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

**TERRY**

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

**RAYMOND**

**HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**WELCOME CENTER**  
505 E. Main Street  
**SUNFLOWER GROCERY**  
122 Old Port Gibson Street, Raymond, MS  
**LOVE FOOD MART**  
120 E. Main Street, Raymond, MS  
**RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
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Week of December 6, 2020



# Stopping the exploitation of prisoners and their families requires more comprehensive solutions

By Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.  
*President and CEO of the NNPA*

2020 brought renewed global focus to issues of social justice in America. From the racial disparities and inequities highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic to the killings of George Floyd and so many other black and brown Americans at the hands of police officers have all contributed to the evolving social justice “reckoning” across the nation.

As part of this long overdue redress about institutional and systemic racism, renewed attention should also be focused on the many injustices within the U.S. correctional system. Black and brown Americans are disproportionately imprisoned in the United States.

Much of the public outrage has been directed at officials who have been unable to prevent the fatal spread of COVID-19 in jails and prisons throughout the country. But in addition, there were too many governors who were unwilling to reduce prison populations by releasing individuals who posed no threat to public safety. As a result, nearly 200,000 incarcerated Americans have been infected as of November 2020 according to the Marshall Project.

And the criticism of the correctional system does not stop with the prison officials themselves but extends to the full spectrum of private companies that provide services to correctional agencies. Among those that find themselves in the crosshairs of the growing critical scrutiny are a group of specialized telecommunications companies.

These companies provide two connected services to the corrections industry: communications tools that people in jails and prisons use to connect with family and people on the outside (telephones, but also modern devices like digital tablets); and security and investigatory tools built into the communications tech,



**Companies charge for every call made from prisons across America. But it's the families and friends of the incarcerated person who end up paying those bills.**

## COMMENTARY

which help correctional agencies monitor for criminal activity.

On the surface, these may appear to be both good things. The problem, however, comes in how these products are paid for. See, it's not the correctional agencies that pay for these services – companies charge for every call made, but it's the families and friends of the imprisoned making the calls or accepting the calls that end up paying those bills.

It obviously costs money to build, install, maintain and secure this technology. But, not all or even most of this money that is paid for those services goes to the telecoms themselves.

What most people do not know is that the government takes a cut of the revenue – in many cases, the lion's share. For example, in 2018 incarcerated individuals in Connecticut paid \$13.2 million for phone calls. Nearly 60% of that money went to the state.

Because of this model, the cost of making a call or sending an email from a correctional facility can be much higher than on the outside. And these costs can vary widely from state to state. In 2019, according to the Prison Policy Initiative,

the average cost of a call from a jail in New Jersey cost \$1.26, while that same call in Arkansas cost \$14.49.

Prison telecom companies have faced strong criticism in recent years from elected and community leaders for their role in these charges. I have expressed concern about the way these contracts put an unreasonable financial burden on families in our communities. In my civil rights career, I have experienced firsthand how prisoners and their families are taken advantage of and financially challenged by jail and prison regulated services.

And at least one of these companies, Securus Technologies, appears to have taken this criticism to heart. In 2017, Securus was acquired by Platinum Equity, which is headed by Detroit Pistons owner Tom Gores. At the time, many of us would have reasonably assumed that a private equity firm would simply extract as much value from the company as possible and then sell it at a profit.

But that's not what Gores did. Instead, he appears to have undertaken an effort to change some of the problematic business practices that have long plagued the correctional telecom industry. At the beginning of this year Gores brought in a new CEO for Securus, who committed to lowering their prices and improving the services they provide to incarcerated Americans.

If you approach such a promise with a healthy dose of skepticism, you're not alone – especially knowing the history of this industry. But for the moment, Securus seems to be making good on its promises.

According to company updates, Securus has so far reduced the average cost of calls by 30%. It has renegotiated lower rates with 56 correctional agencies this year. It has been offering free calls and other communications to incarcerated

individuals impacted by the pandemic – over 30 million to date.

Was that enough? No. Far from it. But it was an important start, and one that no other company in the prison telecom space has so far matched. Yet Gores appears to have been singled out for criticism by a group of advocates for the incarcerated. Sometimes even those with good intentions can find themselves caught up in the systemic problems of the correctional industry.

Those attacks came to a head this year when critics demanded that the LA County Museum of Art (LACMA) remove Gores from its board. They called him a “prison profiteer,” despite the fact that – as the *LA Times* notes – Gores had pledged 100% of his personal stake in Securus to helping reform its operations.

LACMA eventually bowed to pressure and, to avoid further friction, Gores resigned his seat. This is exactly an example the consequences of poor judgment in public advocacy that does not actually help bring relief to the families of the mass incarcerated. Did LACMA improve the life of a single incarcerated individual by doing so? It did not.

To be clear, the prison telecom industry remains in need of serious reform. We need to hold Securus and other telecoms accountable for changing their harmful business practices. But if we want people to do the right thing then we need to acknowledge when they actually strive to do the right thing.

So where do we go from here? The solution is not, as some have suggested, to eliminate these companies altogether. The services they provide are needed, and few believe they could be offered at the same quality or efficiency by the public sector. And the security tools offered are necessary as well – among other things, they help prevent attempts to cause harm from within prison walls, from harassing

victims to operating criminal activities on the outside.

But individuals who have been sentenced to prison for a crime are already paying their debt to society. They should not also be forced to pay to help plug holes in the budget of a local warden or sheriff.

State and county officials need to stop collecting “commissions” on these services, and where possible they should contribute public funds to reduce the costs of these communications tools for incarcerated Americans.

Securus also needs to go further. Although they have lowered costs, their products remain far too costly for some of the most vulnerable members of our society. And their competitors need to follow suit – including the biggest operator in this space, Global Tel Link.

While our democracy remains politically, socially and economically divided, we all have just witnessed the transformative power of the vote by millions of people who care about the future of our nation.

Ultimately, correctional telecom companies depend on contracts from state and local correct agencies. The heads of those agencies are appointed by elected officials. Criminal justice reform was on the national ballot.

Voters must now hold all elected officials accountable on a wide array of issues including the issue of improving the telecom services offered to prisoners and their families. Stop the exploitation of prisoners and their families. Prison wardens, county sheriffs and state officials resolutely should stop taking advantage of incarcerated people.

*Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Executive Producer/Host of The Chavis Chronicles [www.TheChavisChronicles.com](http://www.TheChavisChronicles.com) & [dr.bchavis@nmpa.org](mailto:dr.bchavis@nmpa.org)*



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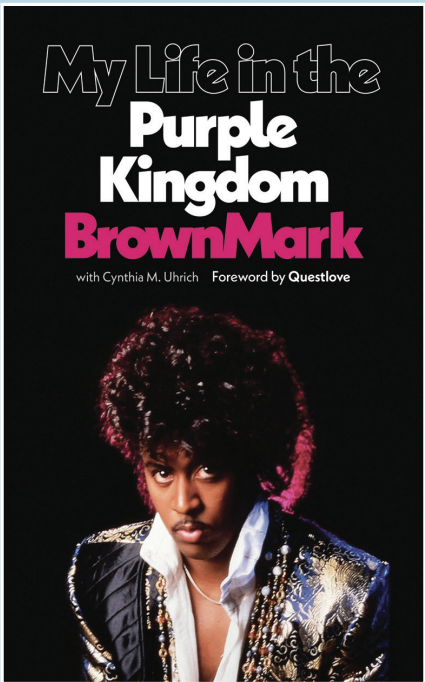
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# BOOK REVIEW: MY LIFE IN THE PURPLE KINGDOM

BY BROWNMARK WITH CYNTHIA M. UHRICH,  
FOREWORD BY QUESTLOVE  
C.2020, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESS  
\$22.95 / \$31.99 CANADA • 159 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

You had every intention to stand still that night.

Nice try. Your shoulders were shimmying ten seconds after you stepped to a beat, left foot, right foot, through a wall of thump that came from speakers taller than you. You stopped, and it was as if your behind had its own mind. In those days, you couldn't stop dancing, and in "My Life In the Purple Kingdom" by BrownMark with Cynthia M. Uhrich, one man couldn't stop guitaring.

Before he was even old enough for school, Mark Brown decided that he wanted to be a guitar player some day. Growing up in Minneapolis, he remembers listening to the radio because the family didn't have a TV, but he was thrilled to hear music by "people who looked like me..." When television finally came to the Brown household, seeing musicians on the small screen solidified his dream.

By then, Brown was eight years old, and because his mother didn't have money to buy him a guitar, he figured he'd have to

earn the money himself. Ultimately, that led to a well-earned instrument and work-for-lessons from a proprietor of a local music store but Brown struggled with school and patience. Once transferred to a new area school for his own good, he found a way to play and it helped his self-confidence.

Success, though, was an uphill road. Racism was a problem with local bars and clubs then, and getting a toe on-stage took effort, which Brown was willing to put forth to make himself a rock star. He was still in high

school, still held down outside jobs and interests, and yet he found time to rehearse with the series of bands with which he performed.

It was at one such rehearsal that someone said there was a phone call for him. That was unusual so, intrigued, he took the call and answered curtly.


Prince was on the other end of the line...

Reading "My Life in the Purple Kingdom" feels somewhat like attending your high school class reunion: there's always that one guy there who made it

big but rather than quietly accepting kudos, he feels the need to humble-brag instead. His story is interesting and you can't resist it, but you really could do without the faux bashfulness.

Indeed, according to his own book, author BrownMark (who changed his name while with Prince), worked himself ragged to be a professional musician, and that perseverance should be lauded. Despite storytelling irritations and cutesy-purposeful misspellings, this memoir could be a real inspiration to someone with dreams.

While the story (with Cynthia Uhrich) is mostly about BrownMark's life, there's enough Prince here to attract Prince fans. Just beware that although there's a happy-ish ending to this book, its author isn't generally complimentary to his former boss and for that, and because Prince isn't alive to offer contradictions, "My Life in the Purple Kingdom" could be somewhat controversial. Still, if you're a concert-goer, nostalgic, clubber, or you need motivation, you should have every intention to read it.



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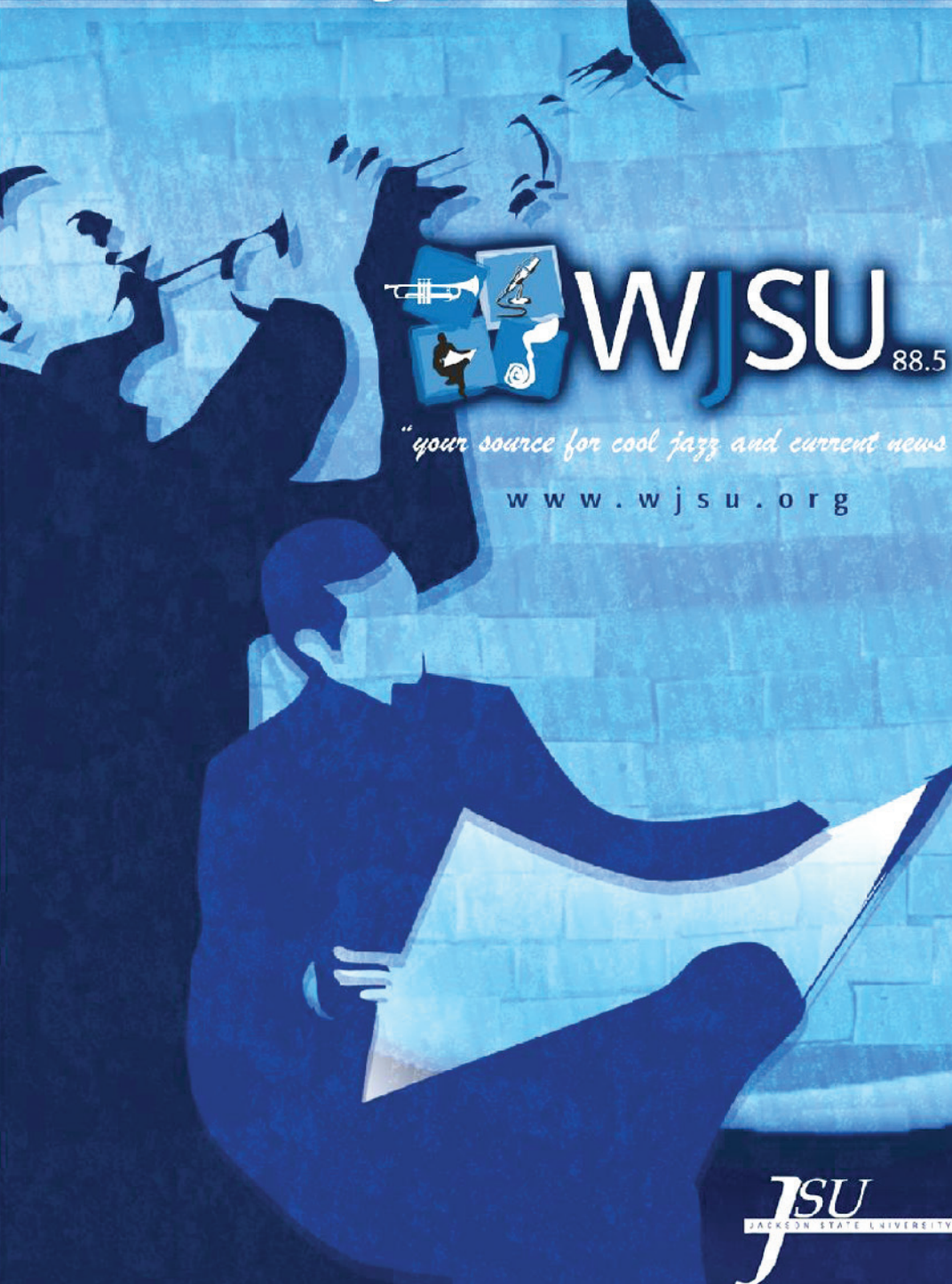
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# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

## ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

### Terry High School Art Students Recognized for their Artwork!

On Friday, November 20th, students from Terry High School were recognized by Judge Carlyn Hicks, Hinds County Youth Court and Beta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated for their colorful artwork. The Beta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated partnered with the school district for this project. Students were

asked to design paintings that represented the theme, hope, healing, resilience, and strength. The paintings were done by six students at Terry High School, which will now hang in an art museum at the Henley-Young Justice Center.

The students couldn't attend the ceremony due to COVID-19 but Rebecca Wilkerson, art teacher was

able to attend and accepted their certificates and plaque in their honor. "They were very inspired by the theme and wanted to make a strong statement because they knew that they would be encouraging other kids said Ms. Wilkins, art teacher at Terry High School.

"To hear their explanations, and the inspirations, and

the impetus for the art pieces they were able to create has left me truly inspired, said Judge Carlyn Hicks, Hinds County Youth Court.

Also, during the ceremony, the Beta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated donated \$250 to Terry High School's Art Program.

### Highlights



Painted by (L-R): Amerie Cooper and Jasmine Tate



Painted by (L-R): Kayte Covington and Meshun North



Project Theme



Painted by: Zia McGee



Painted by: McKayla McGee



Honorable Jude Carlyn Hicks welcomed everyone



Rebecca Wilkerson, Art Teacher



Demetrice Williams-Wells, President of Beta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated give remarks.



Presentation of plaque



Presentation of certificates



Plaque with students



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