

Mississippi reports record number of virus hospitalizations

The Associated Press

Mississippi is reporting a record number of coronavirus hospitalizations for a single day.

The state Department of Health said Monday that 1,008 people were hospitalized with the virus Sunday, marking the first time the number of corona-

virus hospitalizations in the state has topped 1,000. Numbers have risen steadily since Nov. 10, when 669 virus hospitalizations were reported.

State Health Officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs said Monday on Twitter that the record comes ahead of an “anticipated Thanksgiving acceleration” in

coronavirus cases.

“This is truly serious,” he wrote. “Protect yourselves and your family now. We all know how.”

The state Health Department said Monday that Mississippi, with a population of about 3 million, has reported more than 153,250 confirmed corona-

virus cases and at least 3,807 deaths from COVID-19 as of Sunday evening. That’s an increase of 1,485 cases and one death from the day before. The death occurred Saturday and was identified through a death certificate.

The true number of virus infections is thought to be far higher because

many people have not been tested and studies suggest people can be infected without feeling sick. The virus causes mild or moderate symptoms for most but can be more severe or fatal for some, especially older adults and those with underlying health conditions.



Public Health Guidance

By Dr. Thomas Dobbs

State Health Officer

Special to The Mississippi Link

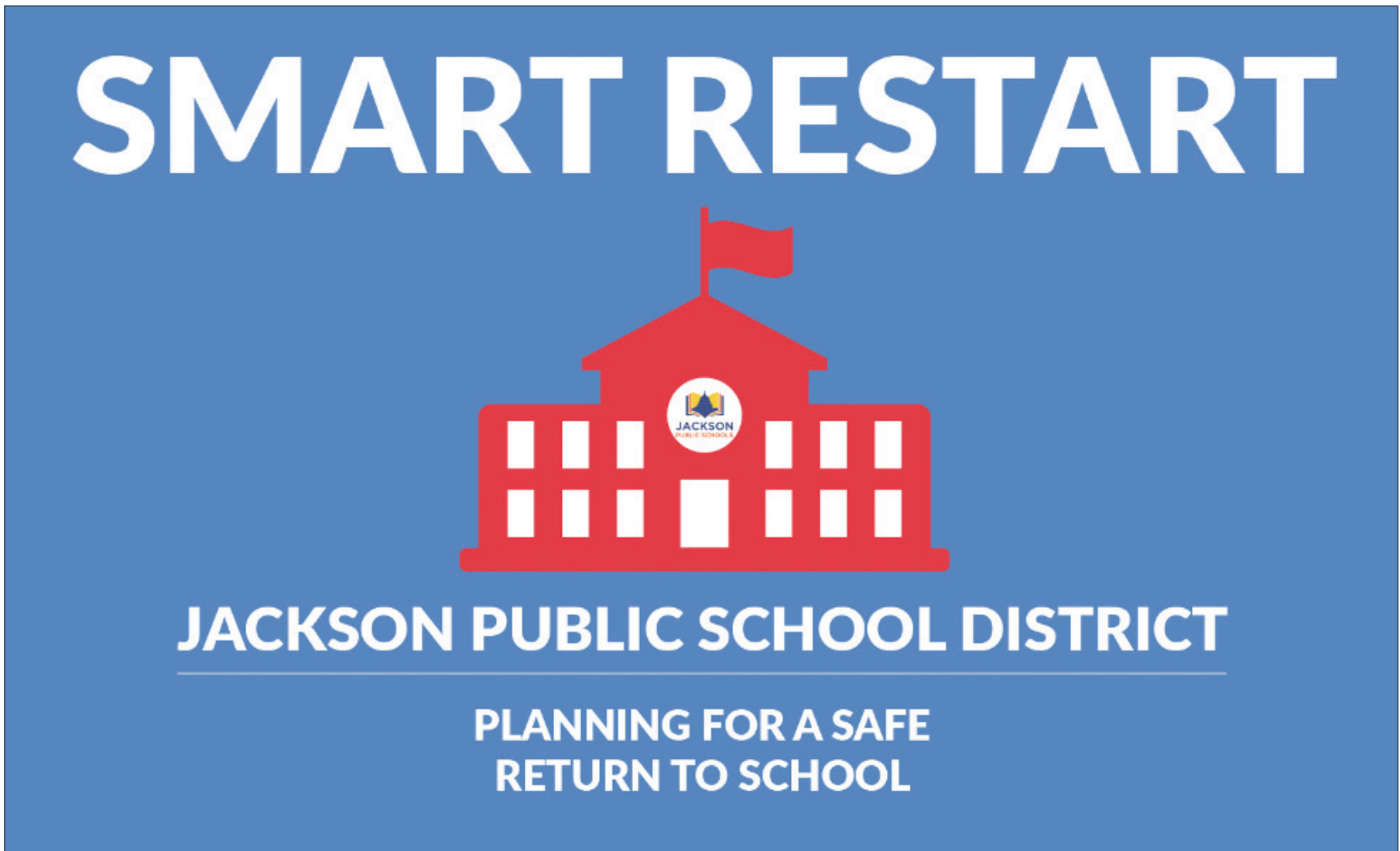
Due to the rapidly rising burden of COVID-19 cases, excessive hospitalizations and the high risk of COVID-19 infection in the community, the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is issuing the following Public Health Guidance.

All residents of Mississippi should avoid any social gathering that includes individuals outside of the nuclear family or household. MSDH recommends that Mississippians only participate in work, school or other absolutely essential activities.

MSDH recommends that all Mississippians protect themselves and their families by avoiding public or social gatherings such as the following:

- Social events or parties
- Family gatherings outside of the household or nuclear family
- Weddings
- Funerals (other than close family and preferably outdoors)
- Sporting events
- In-person church services

JPS School Board approves plans to safely welcome scholars back to school in January



Special to The Mississippi Link

Jackson Public Schools Board of Trustees approved the district’s Smart Restart plan at its regular board meeting held Tuesday, December 1.

In November, JPS Superintendent Errick L. Greene announced plans to

give JPS families the option to send scholars back to schools in January.

Driven by reliable public health data, as well as considerations for the needs of the students, families, and staff, JPS has developed a Smart Restart plan for the transition to in-person and hybrid learning models in January 2021.

School will resume virtually as scheduled for scholars January 5, 2021, and those who opt to do so will return to in-person classes on or after January 19. The district has built in a self-quarantine period following the holiday break

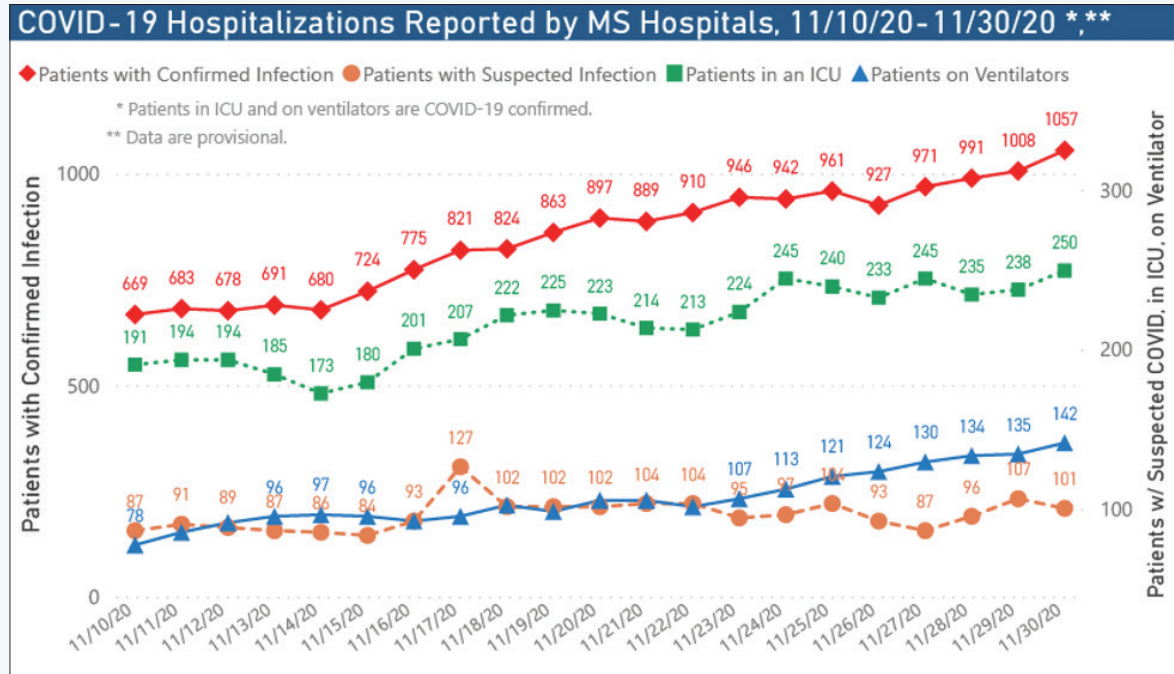
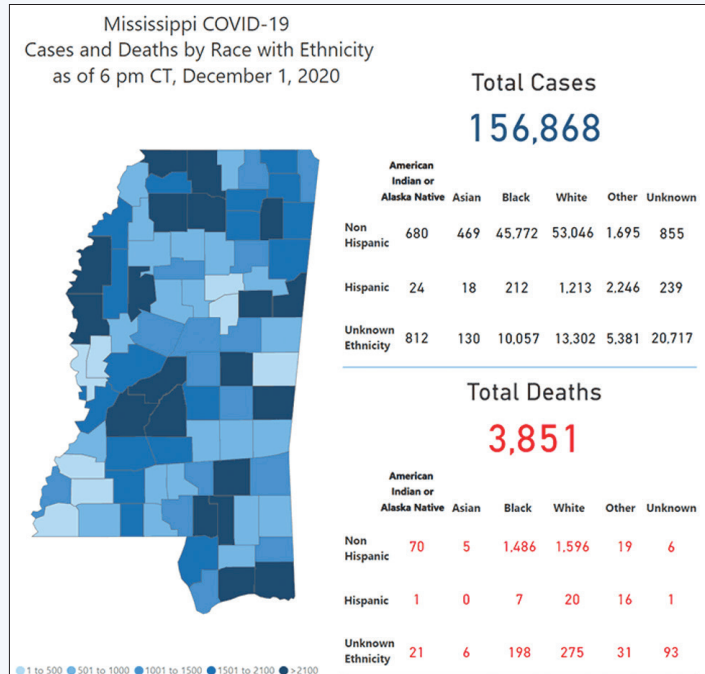
to account for potential exposure during holiday gatherings and festivities.

“While we are eager to open our doors as soon as possible, beginning in-person learning in January is the right decision because it will minimize

JPS

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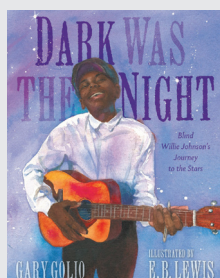
MISSISSIPPI COVID-19 UPDATE



Inside

President-Elect Biden names all-women senior communications staff

Dark Was the Night



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Harvard gets its first black, elected student body president

Associated Press

A 20-year-old from Mississippi has become the first black, elected student body president at Harvard University.

Noah Harris, of Hattiesburg, was elected president of Harvard’s Undergraduate Council Nov. 12, the *Hattiesburg American* reports. He is a junior who is majoring in government and co-chairs the Undergraduate Council’s Black Caucus.

Two other black students have previously headed Harvard’s Undergraduate Council, but Harris is the first black man to be elected by the student body.

Harris told the newspaper that he does not take the honor lightly.

“Especially with everything that went on this summer with the death of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery, all the protests that went on in this moment of racial reckoning in this country,” he said.



Harris

“This is a major statement by the Harvard student body to entrust a black man with such an unprecedented moment in its history.”

Harris ran on a platform of diversity of inclusion with future Undergraduate Council Vice President Jenny Gan, a junior from Cleveland. Gan is studying neuroscience. The two said they want to focus on improving students’ mental and physical health.

Visit Jackson receives top honors at 2020 Governor’s Conference On Tourism

Mississippi Link Newswire

Visit Jackson has been awarded the top honor at the Mississippi Tourism Association’s Governor’s Conference on Tourism held in Biloxi recently. The organization was recognized as the Destination Marketing Organization of the Year (\$1 million and over) in a ceremony held at the IP Casino Resort and Spa.

Visit Jackson also took home “Social Media Overall Strategy” and “Social Media Campaign of the Year” awards and the “Community Volunteer of the Year” award for Mississippi Civil Rights Museum volunteer and Freedom Rider, Hezekiah Watkins.

Rickey Thigpen, president/CEO of Visit Jackson, stated, “The success of Visit Jackson is a direct reflection of our dedicated staff and committed board of directors. Any success that I am blessed to celebrate is a reciprocation of the talents of this collective ambition. I am so honored to work with this group of tourism professionals that give 110% of their energies each day.”

“These recognitions should be given to our tourism industry leaders whom we value for their talents and achievements through their outstanding accomplishments. We are happy to have the opportunity to honor the winners of these awards as we truly appreciate their dedication not only to our organization but to the entire tourism industry, the state’s fourth-largest industry,” said Kelli Davis, 2020-2021 president of MTA.

As a top honor, Visit Jackson was awarded Destination Marketing Organization of



L-R Thigpen; Visit Jackson VP of Marketing, Jonathan Pettus; Annette Rand, incoming MTA president; Visit Jackson Communication and Destination Development Manager, Kim Lewis; Visit Jackson Board Chairman, Robert Gibbs; and Visit MS Executive Director, Craig Ray

the Year in the category of \$1 million and over. The organization was recognized for its perseverance in marketing Jackson as a tourism destination while overcoming unique challenges. Visit Jackson created a renewed public interest in the city as a tourism destination, a beacon of local culture and an invaluable source of reliable, up-to-date COVID-19 information.

Visit Jackson adopted a 3-5-year strategic plan to harness collective energy, focus resources, strengthen operations, and assure stakeholders that there is a common goal. A sample of other cited accomplishments in-

clude:

- Rebranded Visit Jackson with a new moniker, social media, and website facelifts, premiered a locals-focused blog featuring human interest stories, launched a Facebook and Instagram TV series and monthly podcast.
- Opened the city’s first stand-alone visitor information center in 25 years.
- Booked more than 100 conventions and meetings with over 30,000 overnight hotel rooms.
- Awarded American Advertising Federation of Jackson’s Best of Show Award.



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JPS

Continued from page 1

learning disruption from planned breaks and allow time for students and staff to limit activity prior to resuming in-person learning,” said Greene.

As JPS prepares for students to return to school, it is important for the district to confirm the intentions of each student and family. Therefore, we are asking families to inform us of your child’s preferred learning option.

JPS scholars will have two learning options based on grade level:

- All JPS scholars will have the option to continue real-time, virtual instruction.
- Elementary scholars will have the option to return to in-person, traditional instruction Monday-Friday with appropriate social distancing and enhanced cleaning.
- Middle and high school scholars will have the option to participate in a hybrid instructional program on alternating A and B Days to allow for greater distancing and enhanced cleaning.

JPS intends to resume its high school basketball and soccer programs in December 2020 and middle school sports in January 2021. Due to the fluid nature of the circumstances, these plans are subject to change.

To ensure that our scholars and staff are safe, the JPS Athletics team is developing guidelines that may include:

- Limitations to the number of players and team participants
- Changes in player and spectator seating to allow for social distancing
- A No Mask No Entry requirement
- A change in-game dismissal procedures to reduce overcrowding
- Hand sanitization stations throughout school gyms and game facilities
- Pre-packaged food sold at concession stands

“The health of our students, their families, and our school communities remains our top priority, and we will continue to work closely with local and state health officials to ensure their safety as they transition back to the classroom,” said Green.

Special to The Mississippi Link

The theme for World AIDS Day 2020 is Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Resilience and Impact. This means ensuring quality HIV prevention and treatment and working to strengthen the capacities of healthcare systems and communities to address HIV in the midst of a global pandemic.

Black people in the U.S. are most affected by the HIV epidemic, making up 42% of all people with HIV in spite of the fact that we’re only 13% of the total U.S. population. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the problem and exposed many inequalities in the healthcare system that have long impacted those with HIV.

There are too many black people unnecessarily dying from HIV and suffering because of the stigma surrounding the virus. All of us from individuals, to community leaders, to healthcare practitioners, to elected officials must come together in the fight against HIV. This includes advocating for education on HIV, ensuring that testing is accessible and can happen regularly, making sure treatment is affordable, and working to remove the stigma and shame that surrounds HIV.

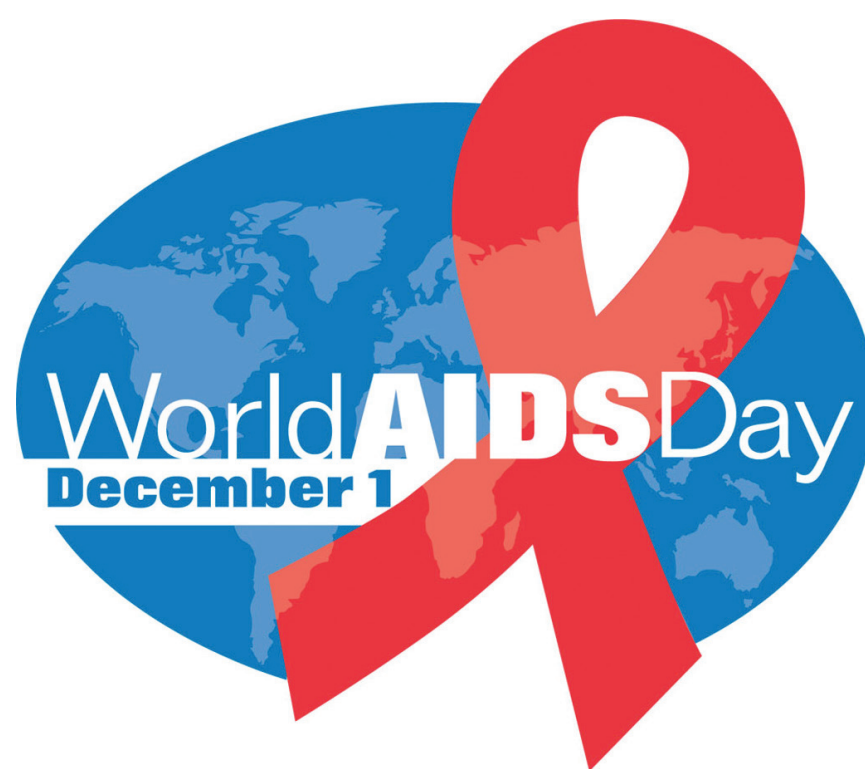
- In 2018, black people accounted for 13% of the US population but 42% (16,076) of the 37,832 new HIV diagnoses. This was a 1% decrease from 2017.

- At the end of 2015, 59% of women living with HIV in the United States were black. In 2018 black women accounted for 57% (4,114) of the more than 7,000 new HIV diagnoses.

- 1 in 7 black people living with HIV are unaware they have it. People who do not know they have HIV cannot take advantage of HIV care and treatment and may unknowingly pass HIV to others.

- Young people were the least likely to be aware of their infection compared to any other age group. An estimated 50,900 youth had HIV in 2016 (4% of all people with HIV). Of those, only an estimated 56% were aware of their infection. Some of the highest STI rates are among youth aged 20 to 24, especially youth of color. The presence of another STI significantly increases the likelihood that a person exposed to HIV will become infected.

World Aids Day



WORLD AIDS DAY 2020

**AN ESTIMATED
476,100 BLACK
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REPRESENTING 42%
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ONLY AN ESTIMATED 85% WERE AWARE OF THEIR INFECTION.

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Mississippi schools receive computers

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

“Mississippi schools are closer to overcoming the digital divide that quickly became evident at the outset of the coronavirus pandemic,” state Superintendent of Education Carey Wright said Monday.

The state Department of Education has delivered about 325,000 laptop computers or tablets to public schools in recent weeks. The devices were purchased with part of the coronavirus relief money that Mississippi received from the federal government.

Mississippi school districts had the option to buy laptops or tablets on their own, or to be part of a bulk purchasing program through the state. Most opted to be part of the bulk program, and that is how the 325,000 devices were bought. Another 65,000 devices were purchased separately.

Wright said Monday that bulk purchasing “put us at the front of the line” as school districts across the United States are trying to buy computers for students and teachers. The



Wright

high demand has caused long waiting times in many places.

“Nationally, there’s no other state that procured what we procured, and we did it because we were able to do that in one fell swoop,” Wright said.

She was speaking during an online forum hosted by Mississippi State University’s Stennis Institute of Government and the Capitol press corps.

Gov. Tate Reeves ordered Mississippi schools to stop providing in-person instruction during the spring as the coronavirus began spreading

in the state. As schools moved to online lessons for the final weeks of the 2019-20 academic year, “it became very evident very quickly, children that had connectivity and children that did not,” Wright said Monday.

Some Mississippi schools have continued online-only instruction during the fall semester, while many have offered in-person classes or a mix of in-person and online.

State legislators allocated part of the federal coronavirus relief money to expand internet access, particularly in rural areas. School districts were

able to decide how to spend their share of the money. Some have offered wifi hotspots and others have wanted to put up towers to improve cellphone service, Wright said.

The laptops and tablets that arrived through the bulk purchasing program were loaded with all the software they need, and a protective case was put on each device.

“When the districts received those devices, all they had to do was take it out of the box, and it was ready to roll,” Wright said.

Wright said about 80 or 90 people are working on a professional development team to provide training for teachers, school staff and parents about how to use laptops and tablets.

“We heard loud and clear from families,” Wright said. “They were struggling. They didn’t know how to access a Zoom meeting. They didn’t know what Google Classroom meant.”

Wright said the state Department of Education will also hire digital learning coaches to help teachers and students.

Alcorn earns Halbrook Award for third straight year

Special to the Mississippi Link

Alcorn State University received the David M. Halbrook (traveling) trophy in the men’s division from the Mississippi Association of Colleges and Universities (MAC) for its achievement in posting the highest percentage of graduating student athletes, marking the third-straight year it has earned the distinction.

“It is an honor for Alcorn to receive the David M. Halbrook (traveling) Trophy award for the third consecutive year,” said Derek Horne, director of athletics. “Alcorn strives to help all our student-athletes succeed athletically and academically, setting them up for future success in their respective fields.”

In addition to the Halbrook trophy, student-athletes Troymain Crosby and Jada Hargrove were recognized with the David M. Halbrook Certificate Award for Academic Achievement Among Athletes. The individual honors

are given to student-athletes who excel in academics, leadership and service.

“Receiving the Halbrook Award is an outstanding recognition of the hard work and efforts of Alcorn’s student-athletes,” said Cyrus Russ, assistant vice president for athletic compliance and academic services. “This recognition represents the dedicated efforts of Alcorn’s faculty, academic counselors and staff that work so diligently to ensure student success.”

The Halbrook Award for Academic Achievement Among Athletes was established in 1984 as a result of the passage of House Concurrent Resolution No. 88. The awards program is made possible through endowments from former Representative David M. Halbrook of Belzoni and his brothers, John C. and James G. Halbrook of Belzoni and J. A. Halbrook of Beaumont, Texas, in honor of their parents, John C. and Ernestine McCall Halbrook.

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Grit, gratitude evident in lives of Mississippi residents

By Cam Bonell
Associated Press

A woman finds herself unemployed for the first time.

A man who works in the restaurant business wonders if the eatery will survive.

A grandfather, who has lost most of his vision, says he's glad he's been able to visit his grandchildren.

Newly widowed, a 76-year-old spends most of her time in her house.

And a mother, a recovering addict, finds out she is pregnant. She is both elated and fearful.

"These are scary times," she says.

Yet, amid the fear and uncertainty brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, in particular, these Hattiesburg residents are persevering with grit and a sense of gratitude.

Mother juggles work, virtual Learning for daughter

"We've had a hard week," says a pregnant 34-year-old Tatum Davis as she cradles 9-year-old daughter Judy to her chest.

They sit at a picnic table near the Longleaf Trace. The daylight dims as walkers and joggers pass by.

Judy attends school virtually and stays with her aunt, Tricia Hayes, during the day. Hayes has three children of her own – an infant, a toddler and a 16-year-old.

For a while, Davis, a therapist and recovering addict, was able to work from home and care for her daughter. While she appreciated more time with her daughter, she is glad to return to the workplace.

"I feel like with virtual counseling, you can't pick up on verbal cues or hand motions as well as when you're face-to-face, so

I was really happy to go back to work," Davis said.

Judy's face lights up, and she interjects. She says school was similar in that way, and she misses the classroom.

"Me and a few other students aren't allowed to answer questions in the chat anymore because we always volunteer to answer," Judy said. "I'm one of the top students in my class."

Judy moves her head down to her mother's belly.

"Wake up Sherbert, wake up please or I will wake you up," Judy sings. Davis laughs at the song.

Davis hopes the baby will be born Feb. 2 – her sixth sobriety anniversary. She says when she first found out she was pregnant, she was both elated and scared.

"Why were you scared, Mom?" Judy asked.

"Because the world can be scary," Davis said.

Young woman maintains spirits, despite job loss, deaths in family

This year, Imani Steven was in a bad car wreck. And the 27-year-old lost her job as a pharmacy technician amid the pandemic.

"I did lose my job because of COVID-19, the day before the mask mandate and shutdown," Steven said. "It was my first time having to apply for unemployment or government assistance."

"Having to be innovative in 2020, that's what I do."

Steven says she's also lost two family members and a close friend to COVID-19. "Now I don't even flinch whenever the text message comes through from my family hotline that says, 'so-and-so has gone into the hospital' and maybe four

hours later 'so-and-so has died from COVID-19.'"

Furthermore, Steven said in June she found herself in a tense situation following a Black Lives Matter march organized in response to the death of George Floyd, a black man, at the hands of a white police officer.

She had volunteered as a coordinator for a protest in downtown Hattiesburg.

"After I had an interview on television, when people saw a face and a name, I received promises of violence against me, the planning team and protesters," Steven said.

Despite all the turmoil, Steven said her role in the lives of others really began to crystallize this year.

"I've been able to see who my village is and those people who have always depended on me. I had no idea I was so important to them," Steven said. "With me having to build myself up during this time, being able to see those people who actually love me in the way that it says that love is as love does, and they've shown their love."

Newly widowed, 79-year-old draws on strength, perspective

The 79-year-old civil rights activist who lives in the yellow house on Main Street has not left her home much since March because of the pandemic.

The phone rings.

"One of those solicitation calls," Raylawni Branch said.

Branch pauses at her answering machine, then listens to a message from a funeral home. Her husband, Alfred Branch, 88, died from multiple myeloma, a cancer of plasma cells, a few days earlier. His drawings,

notes, paintings and books are everywhere.

"My husband's death...has made me acutely aware of what I'm thankful for," Branch said. "I'm thankful for the fact I have friends or family and I can say to those friends and family, I don't need anything."

Branch was one of two black students to integrate the University of Southern Mississippi in 1965.

A plaque from the university hangs in her hall. She is the Branch of the Armstrong-Branch Plaza at the University of Southern Mississippi.

The retired nurse, teacher and Air Force veteran said while she's thankful for change that has taken place over the years, there's more work to be done.

"I don't think a lot of people see that there is a system in place to keep people down," she said. "That one percent is still the one percent. I want to see some changes in banking and see our houses valued like other houses."

Along with her photographs, awards and memorabilia, she keeps other notable items. From a manila folder, Branch pulls out a poem "Ode to the Death Angel," written by activist Clyde Kennard in 1962 while he was at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman prison and begins to read:

"Oh here you come again,
Old chilly death of old,
To plot out life
And test immortal soul ..."

'I just pray for everybody to stay healthy,' bell ringer says

Gerrell Payton, 58, sits outside Corner Market on Hardy Street as shoppers filter in and out of the store.

He sports a Lakers' mask

with the late Kobe Bryant's No. 24 jersey. In his left hand, he rings a small red bell as he collects donations for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign. In his right, he twirls a white cane that helps him navigate his surroundings.

The one complaint he has is that while wearing a mask, people can't see him smile.

"I've done this for 14 years now," Payton said of working as a bell ringer. "I was nervous at first, but I've been loving it ever since."

Payton lost his sight over the last decade due to diabetes and had to retire from working in housekeeping at a hospital.

This year, he says, he's most thankful for the health of his family and his wife of 22 years, Anne. They have even gotten to visit with their grandchildren who also live in Hattiesburg.

"We haven't had any sickness in our family, but I just pray for everybody to stay healthy," Payton said.

Payton still spends time working in his yard and in a neighbor's yard.

"She's 90 years old," Payton said. "I do her yard and I do mine. I've got a riding mower that I use. I know where every big root is. If I've got a lot of light, I can do it."

Chef moved by community support of restaurants

At the Depot Kitchen & Market in downtown Hattiesburg, the lunch rush settles down after 1 p.m.

The flow of customers suggests business as usual and not a restaurant in the middle of a global pandemic. Guests gather at tables spread apart outside and inside the restaurant, talking, eating and drinking coffee.

"Back in March, when things were starting to hit the fan a little bit, we were having to shift so fast from to-go to curbside, just stuff that we weren't really set up for," chef Josh Casper, 34, said. "We weren't on DoorDash or Grubhub. I was trying to fix our website to do online delivery and it was just too much."

The Depot Kitchen & Market closed for two weeks then reopened with a drive-thru in the parking lot.

Most of the staff relied on unemployment benefits while the restaurant shut down and then limited its hours of service, Casper said.

"We knew there would be some kind of stimulus for unemployment, and luckily we had a friend helping us out in our office who knew how to do all of that," he said.

The hardest part when the restaurant reopened, he said, "was trying to keep our front-of-house crew safe, and gloves tripled in price."

Casper said early on in the pandemic, he struggled with thoughts of the future.

"That's what weighed on me so much," Casper said. "I thought, 'Does Hattiesburg need The Depot or any other independently owned restaurant?' I had to think, 'This is our only choice, to go forward.'"

The response from the community eased his anxiety, he said. And support from patrons has been exceptional.

"Now people are like there is no way we can lose our restaurants," Casper said. "People were donating to the staff through Venmo, just huge amounts of money. I was trying not to cry every day because it was so overwhelming."

MS Chicken plants hit in 2019 raids agree to pay back wages

The Associated Press

Three Mississippi chicken processing plants among those targeted in one of the largest workplace immigration raids in the U.S. in the past decade have agreed to pay back wages after federal officials found they failed to pay minimum wage and overtime to their workers.

The U.S. Department of Labor announced Nov. 20 that three plants have paid \$45,719 in back wages to 129 employees.

The plants targeted in the investigation were a Canton complex owned by Peco Foods of Tuscaloosa, Alabama; a Morton complex owned by Koch Foods of Park Ridge, Illinois; and Pearl River Foods of Carthage, a company headquartered in Gainesville, Georgia.

The Labor Department's Wage and House Division found the employers failed to issue final paychecks to multiple workers.

Peco denied violating minimum wage laws. It said 15 workers detained in the August 2019 raids failed to retrieve paychecks worth a cumulative \$6,215.97. The company said it gave the money to federal officials so they could look for and pay the workers. The Labor Department said failing to pay the workers was a violation.

Officials also found that Pearl River Foods deducted so much money for uniforms that employees were illegally paid less than minimum wage. Investigators also determined Koch failed to include production bonuses when calculating overtime, another legal violation.

The Labor Department assessed a civil fine of \$1,693 against Koch for employing a 15-year-old to work in meat

processing. Children under 18 aren't allowed to do that work under federal law.

Officials also raided A&B in Pelahatchie, PH Food in Morton and additional Peco Foods plant in Bay Springs and Sebastapol in the August 2019 raids, which led to the arrests of 680 workers accused of being in the country illegally or using forged documents to gain work.

The raids brought an outcry from critics who said some children had their parents swept up and that workers were unfairly targeted without going after the companies that employ them. In August, on the anniversary of the raids, officials said more than 125 people had been indicted on criminal charges. An unknown number of additional people have been deported in administrative proceedings without facing criminal charges.

Also indicted are four executives from two plants who federal officials said had harbored people in the U.S. illegally and assisted them with obtaining false documents to enable employment or making false statements about hiring workers without proper documents.

Salvador Delgado-Nieves and Iris Villalon worked at A&B, while Carolyn Johnson and Aubrey "Bart" Willis worked for Pearl River Foods. All have pleaded not guilty and are scheduled for trial next year.

Federal officials have said the raids were justified because people in the country illegally steal Social Security numbers to gain work. Mike Hurst, the U.S. Attorney in southern Mississippi, also argued that people in the country illegally take jobs from American citizens and depress their wages.

MDAH among top genealogy websites in United States



Special to The Mississippi Link

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History's (MDAH) website was named one of the best genealogical websites in the country by *Family Tree Magazine*, a national family history publication.

"We are grateful for being included on this list," said Ally Mellon, MDAH reference services director. "We strive to connect people with genealogical resources pertaining to Mississippi both online and in person and are delighted others have found the page

useful." MDAH has compiled a list of online resources for researchers interested in tracing their family history. Reference librarians provide quick answers to basic questions using available reference works and finding aids. Email your research questions to refdesk@mdah.ms.gov.

Due to safety precautions for COVID-19, appointments are recommended for research in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building. Available appointment times are Monday–Fri-

day at 9–11:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m. and 2–4 p.m. Call 601-576-6837 to schedule your time.

Patrons without an appointment will be accommodated as space allows. Appointment times for Saturdays will be 8:15–10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History was founded in 1902. It is the secondoldest state department of archives and history in the country.

For more information email info@mdah.ms.gov.

Groups escalate fight against high prescription drug costs

Sharpton calls for 2021 to be ‘the year of black health equity’

By Hazel Trice Edney
TriceEdneyWire.com

D. B. Wright, former head of a non-profit religious organization in Washington, D.C., was well taken care of by his leadership board. He enjoyed an employment package that included full healthcare among other benefits.

“Being gainfully employed and having one of the best health insurances, I never thought about what medicines cost,” he said in a recent interview. But then crisis hit. Following a divorce he moved back to his hometown of Albany, Ga., where he took a job with no benefits, which he eventually lost due to severe illnesses over the past five years. That’s when reality set in.

“I had to borrow money from my family and friends in order to get the medication that I needed to treat various issues.” Those issues included surgery to remove a baseball size tumor on his liver, a gallbladder removal and ultimately chronic pancreatitis.

In excruciating pain, Wright was prescribed a medicine called Creon to help with his digestion and relieve the pain. It worked wonders in the hospital. But upon discharge, he learned that Creon would cost him \$850 a month, well beyond his income of zero except what he could borrow from friends and family. Even with a coupon or pharmacy discount, he said, the price “was still beyond my financial ability.”

Also dealing with high blood pressure and suffering through a spinal disorder that rendered him temporarily unable to walk, Wright has resolved what he believed to be the bottom line in America when it comes to prescription drugs. The doctors and pharmacists may be sympathetic, but the medication simply “costs what it costs,” he said. “It was a horrendous experience. And it’s so interesting that you need these medications



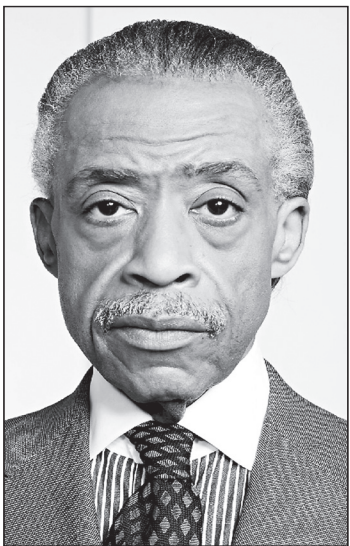
Shelton

to survive. It was horrible to go through. You kind of feel like if you don’t have the money, you don’t matter.”

The experience of D.B. Wright, who asked to only use his initials to protect his privacy, is among the reasons that civil rights leaders and lawmakers across the nation are now pressing increasingly hard to establish public policies to monitor and help make prescription drug prices affordable. Best known for their efforts to address police misconduct, voting rights protections, racial inequality and economic injustices, civil right organizations are now escalating their focus on issues in the area of healthcare – particularly the high cost of prescription drugs.

“While there has been much partisan back and forth on these issues in Washington, there has not been enough conversation about reining in the profits and excesses of health insurance companies, which refuse to cover critical procedures, medicines and services in order to preserve their billions of dollars in profits,” said the Rev. Al Sharpton in an Oct. 30, 2020 letter to Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Karen Bass (D-Calif.) “Let us make 2021 the year of Black health equity.”

Sharpton’s letter is part of a growing focus on racial dispari-



Sharpton

ties and inequities in healthcare, partially ignited by findings that people living in predominately black counties are nearly “three times more likely to die of the COVID-19 than predominately white counties,” he said in his letter. The letter culminates more than a year of efforts by his National Action Network (NAN) and other civil rights and health organizations to deal with the suffering of people who must sometimes risk their lives by choosing to take care of other crucial bills instead of paying for prescription drugs.

Similarly focused, the NAACP national board of directors last year passed a resolution calling for Prescription Drug Affordability Boards (PDAB) in every state, which would “act as a watchdog for the public. It will carefully review drug costs and establish fair and affordable costs for state and local government.”

The resolution continues, the “NAACP supports the creation of a Prescription Drug Affordability Board in each state to determine how best to make prescription drugs more affordable for their residents, including by examining the entire drug supply chain, including the role of drug manufacturers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs), and establishing maximum affordability payment

rates for expensive drugs that create significant affordability problems for residents, building upon the tradition of health care cost scrutiny.”

The state of Maryland last year became the first state in the nation to successfully create a PDAB with the national and state NAACP chapters “playing a critical role,” as well as dozens of black faith groups, labor, business and other non-profits, said Vincent DeMarco. DeMarco is president of the Maryland Citizens’ Health Initiative (MCHI), which led the PDAB initiative in the state. The Maryland board has won accolades from DeMarco.

“They are doing a very good job right now of examining what drugs are really high cost and what would make prescription drugs more affordable for people,” he says. “So, it’s really an exciting new way at the state level to address this problem.”

Meanwhile, the national NAACP has continued to press for national solutions. Following up with another resolution in September 2020, the organization continued to press for equity and affordability in prescription drug access. The resolution outlined the harsh realities that people like D.B. Wright have faced.

Quoting the 2019 AARP Prescription Drug Survey of likely voters aged 50 and older, the resolution said that of the 463 African-American respondents, “40% believed they might have to limit necessities such as food, electricity and fuel in the future to afford their prescription medication,” the resolution states.

Even with state assistance through programs like PDABs, advocates recognize that prescription drug prices are so out of control that some are still far too expensive.

“Maryland has made considerable gains in ensuring that quality healthcare is more affordable and accessible for residents of our state,” said a state-

ment on the MCHI website.

“However, expensive lifesaving drugs – some of which are close to six figures for treatment – threaten to derail the progress made in expanding health coverage. To contain rising healthcare costs, we must contain skyrocketing prescription drug costs.”

The struggle to rein in high prescription drug prices has reached the U. S. Congress, but to no avail. U. S. Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) last year introduced the Prescription Drug Affordability and Access Act, which would have created “an independent agency – the Bureau of Prescription Drug Affordability and Access – tasked with conducting reviews of drug prices and determining an appropriate list price.”

However, the bill, S.3166, was sent to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Jan. 8, 2020, but went no further during the 116th Congress. Technically, with only a few weeks before Congress goes to Christmas break, this means the bill will likely die in committee, but can be reintroduced in the 117th Congress when it reconvenes Jan. 3.

“In a country as wealthy as ours, it’s downright shameful that people have to choose between taking their medicine or paying for other basic necessities,” Booker lamented in a statement. “Every day, millions of Americans struggle to afford their lifesaving medication while the manufacturers of these drugs profit hand over fist with limited to no oversight. On top of that, many of these drugs were developed through research funding from the federal government. We need systemic change that will meaningfully address the exorbitant, rising cost of prescription drugs and put the focus back on patients, not profits.”

Health advocates such as Sen. Bernie Sanders and former senator, now Vice-President Elect

Kamala Harris – who co-sponsored the bill with Booker – will likely not give up the fight. And given the incoming new Congress and White House administration the NAACP has said it will support the efforts that Sharpton and Booker, a CBC member, have expended.

“Sen. Booker’s bill was an excellent first step,” said Hilary Shelton, director of the NAACP Washington Bureau and vice president for advocacy and policy. “The bottom line is that we believe that healthcare is a civil right. And that means that the full gamut of what is quality health care is very important. This is one of many issues that still needs to be addressed and improved upon. It’s not the only issue and it’s not stand alone. It’s crucially important in the categories of health care and economics. It’s an important component of a comprehensive health care system that provides high quality health care for all Americans.”

The issue is no doubt headed for increased debate in Washington as the civil rights community applies the pressure. But outside of the growing political battle, there are real people waiting and fighting alone, says Wright, who recently received a court ruling allowing him 100 percent disability benefits; plus, Medicaid which now covers the cost of his medicines.

“It took four years to get disability insurance or Medicaid,” he said. “I would hope that the government grows a heart and recognize that the least that they can do is care for those who cannot care for themselves. I’m not talking about people who are trying to milk the system. I’m talking about real people who are having real challenges in life.”

This article is part of a series on the impact of high prescription drug costs on consumers made possible through the 2020 West Health and Families USA Media Fellowship.

Mask up! Mask right! Over your nose and under your chin!

By Vince Faust
Special to The Mississippi Link

This year we started with 328,239,523 United States citizens. We lost about 273,000 to COVID-19 this year. That is about .1% of our population. That is only a small percentage of our population but no one wants to be part of that .1%. Nor than do they want any of their love ones to be a part of that .1% of dead Americans. Every year about 2,839,205 Americans die from all causes. COVID-19 has killed about 10% more Americans than normally die. Just wearing a mask could have prevented most of these deaths.

Almost 10% of the US population is infected with COVID-19. That means if there are 10 people in a room one of them may have the COVID-19 virus.

Gyms, schools, churches, supermarkets, gun shops, bars and restaurants can be places you can become infected and take the virus home to your family when people don’t wear a mask or they wear it incorrectly. A church in North Carolina was linked to 12 deaths and over 200



new cases.

I started asking people why they don’t wear a mask or why they don’t wear their mask correctly. I got a lot of push back. At the gym nobody wanted to workout when I came to the gym. I made sure everybody not only wore a mask, I made sure they wore it over their nose. Some of the members think it’s ok to wear it under their nose while they are doing their exercise. Others think they should be able to take their mask off if

they need to answer their phone during their workout. Still other think if they do cardio they don’t have to wear a mask. On the front door there is a sign that tells everyone entering the gym must wear a mask over his or her nose and under the chin. Some members asked if I work at the gym. I have been told to worry about me. They even said some things about my mother.

I have notice that older people never change their mask. Tuesday is senior day at Shoprite. They pull them out of their pocket just before they get to the door. Most don’t fit. Most are dirty. Some have holes. Some you can even see through them.

Teenagers almost never wear a mask. They don’t understand the danger they bring to their families. They hang out with their friends all day then go home to their families.

Should I just forget about it? Should I let everyone working out wearing a mask any way they want? Why should I care? I know that we can control CO-

VID-19 infection rate with the knowledge we have now. Even if you survive a COVID-19 infection you can still have long-term health issues that will come back to haunt you. This can include heart and lung issues.

Mask wearing is a preventative method called source control. This is based on what we know about the role respiratory droplets play in the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Clinical and laboratory studies show masks will reduce the spray of droplets when worn over the nose and under your chin. COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact with one another. Masks are particularly important where people are close to each other or where social distancing is difficult to maintain. You also have to remember people who do not have symptoms and do not know that they are infected can spread COVID-19. We should treat ourselves and everyone else as it we are all infected. That’s why everyone should wear masks in public settings and practice social distancing.

Even after we have a vaccine we will still need to wear a mask. The wearing of a mask is not going away anytime soon.

I hear a lot about COVID-19 fatigue. This virus will not allow us to become fatigued. We can’t get comfortable. We need to use all the information we have learned about this virus. The easiest one is wearing a mask correctly. Mask must be worn over your nose and under your chin. Mask should be worn when you are in public all the time.

Remember the purpose of your masks is to keep respiratory droplets from reaching you and others to aid with source control. Masks with one-way valves or vents allow air to be exhaled through a hole in the material. This can result in expelled respiratory droplets that can reach others. If you wear this type of mask it will not prevent the person wearing the mask from transmitting COVID-19.

Masks are a necessity at this time in our life. Wear them for everyone’s safety.

Passing the baton

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



We face opposition now, just as surely as Paul and Timothy. Paul’s warning about Alexander is a reminder that not everyone was eager to hear about Jesus. Not everyone is eager to hear about Jesus these days, either. Paul assures us that God will take care of our enemies. We do not need to waste time or energy trying to win them over or get revenge. We need to beware and keep forging on because a crown awaits us. And that crown is not put on our heads to bring glory and honor to us. It serves as a wit-

ness to the One who gives it to us. When all is said and done, when the race is finished and the baton has been passed perfectly, and the drink offer has been completely poured out so that not a drop is left, there is only this “The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for His heavenly kingdom.” What does it take to end well or to finish strong? What is the secret to coming to the end of your life with a sense of accomplishment, firm in the knowledge you have done what you set out to do? Timothy was in the third generation of believers. He followed in the footsteps of his grandmother and his mother. They

were among the first generation of believers who had never met Jesus, had never heard Him speak, or had not witnessed His miracles. Yet, they had believed in Christ. Even among second and third generation of believers, the faith was still fluid. The foundation was not yet firm. It was easy for false teachers to infiltrate young churches and lead new believers astray. This was the very challenge Timothy faced in his church in Ephesus. It was why Paul wrote to Timothy in the first place to help him get his bearings and stay true to the Gospel, to encourage him and keep him grounded. Instead of arguing about food sacrificed to idols, we

have disagreements over human sexuality. The topics that divide us may be different, but the challenge is still the same as it was in first century Ephesus. We are still trying to figure out how to stay faithful to Jesus in the context of an ever-changing secular world. So, while this letter is addressed to one person, the young pastor Timothy, its words offer something to us, as well. As Paul hands off the baton to his young protégé, he is also handing it off to us. *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

Holy Spirit: Still guiding after all these years

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“Should I take my black flat sandals to work?” was a question that took me nearly 10 minutes to answer one morning a few years ago as I was getting ready for work and I got it wrong. At first, I thought I should take them just so I could have an extra pair of shoes at work. On the other hand, I thought I wouldn’t need them since I’d never had an issue with my shoes at work. Thinking I’d come up with a good reason not to take them, I put them back in my closet. As I was leaving my bedroom, once again, I thought about taking them to work but this time I put them in my book bag. But just as I opened the door leading to my garage I thought about it and took them out telling myself that I’d take them on another day. Once again, as I started up my car, I thought I should go back and get them just in case something happened, but I shook off the thought and finally left for work. Chuckling at my indecisiveness, as I was pulling out of my garage I thought that it was so strange that I was having such a hard time making a really simple decision. However, later that day, I wished I had kept those black sandals in my bag. I was making my way across the campus to a meeting when I felt my right foot twist. I stopped, looked down and saw my shoe strap was loose. As I bent down to reposition the shoe and tighten the strap, I saw that the strap was torn beyond

repair. At this point, I was stuck. Whether I chose to go to the meeting or back to my office, I’d have to walk barefoot on the sidewalks. It was an especially hard decision because I hate walking around in my bare feet. After thinking a few seconds, I took off both shoes to keep my balanced and went to the meeting feeling the stinging pain of hot Texas concrete (it was over 90 degrees outside) on the soles of my feet. I realize now that my indecision about those black sandals was me really struggling, without knowing it, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Maybe I limit the Holy Spirit because I think it should only be concerned about the BIG things in my life, not a seemingly insignificant one like what kind of shoes I should wear. However, Jesus says in John 14:26 that, “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” I’m thankful for this experience because it reminded me the Holy Spirit is sent by God in unexpected ways to provide guidance regarding even the smallest details of our lives. Even more reassuring, with God there is no detail too big or too small about our lives that he is not concerned about. And I also learned to keep a pair of spare shoes in my office. *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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Lying and denying have become the mantra of Trump Republicans

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



Trump and members of the Republican Party are sore losers. They have filed 41 cases of voter fraud and election tampering and have had 27 of them denied, dismissed, settled or withdrawn according to NBC News. The president held a meeting a week ago with some of this Republican operatives to see if there was a light at the end of the tunnel and a path to victory. I believe he was told that it was dark in that tunnel. Meanwhile states are certifying their election results as true and accurate declaring Biden the winner. Also Mr. T 2 weeks ago terminated Chris Krebs, cybersecurity and infrastructure agency chief for his highly inaccurate remarks about voter integrity. “Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” We have heard this Bible verse many times. Be-

ing truthful was something we learned to do when we were children. If we told an untruth, we would be chastised for it. As adults, we realized that lying had its repercussions and they were not good. In order to deal with the ramifications of lying, just tell the truth. Be honest. That is exactly what Krebs did. He told the truth. In a tweet, Krebs said, “Honored to serve. We did it right. Defend today. Secure tomorrow.” Many in both parties are applauding the job that Krebs did. In our recent memory is the tampering by the Russians in the 2016 presidential election. Despite the Russian interference, Hillary Clinton conceded graciously to Mr. T. Then president Barack Obama did not make any attempts to thwart a smooth transition of power. Denise Turner Roth was the GSA (General Services Administration) administrator when Donald Trump won the 2016 election.

She said, “I was the GSA administrator under President Barack Obama. On the day after the presidential election in 2016, I ascertained that Donald Trump had won. My determination was based on several factors.” Records indicated those factors included Trump’s clear margin of victory and the states validating the results. Now in 2020, Mr. T cannot accept the fact that he will not receive a second term to be president of this country. Mr. T, sadly but factually it is what it is. You lost. There are those in the Republican Party who are telling him that it is over. Governor Larry Hogan of Maryland said, “Trump is making the U.S. look like a banana republic.” Chris Christie, former governor of New Jersey and a Trump supporter said, “Quite frankly, the conduct of the president’s legal team has been a national embarrassment.” He made these comments recently on the ABC program, This Week. Others like Senators Mitt Romney

from Utah and Susan Collins from Maine have also made statements telling the president that his time is up. It is slowly but surely becoming a reality to Mr. T and his loyalists that their sour grapes approach to contesting this election is not working. He is on the outside looking in and there is no chance. Bring on Little Anthony and the Imperials so the outgoing president can hear the song, I’m On The Outside Looking In. Time is on the side of Joe Biden. The sand in the hourglass is coming out which means this president will have to make some alternative plans. He will have a change of address. Finally, current GSA administrator Emily W. Murphy provided ascertainment papers that said Joe Biden won the 2020 presidential election. She gave up the stalling tactic and realized the inevitable which is Joe Biden will be the next president of the United States of America. Now, will the Republican Party come onboard?

All eyes on Georgia



By Ray Curry
Secretary-Treasurer, UAW

These days, like the old Ray Charles song says, I’ve got Georgia on My Mind. We should all be thinking of Georgia because come January 5, the state is positioned to make a tremendous change for the better – a change that will give President-Elect Joe Biden the opportunity for real legislation and real reform; for lasting and potent legislative buy-in to make laws once again (and it has been a while now) in service to the people. Laws that address issues important to the working men and women of this nation: healthcare, the economy, health and safety, equal justice for all, the environment, and the right to organize. And a real plan to take COVID-19 head on with a coordinated nationwide policy to address the ill effects, including relief for both businesses and the millions of sidelined workers who are just trying to hang on.

Come January 20, 2021, we will have a new President of the United States in Joseph Biden and the first female African-American Vice President Kamala Harris. This election was a hard-fought, intense race full of division and emotion. But in the end, as a record number of voters turned out (in person and via mail), it was a fair and legal vote that now gives us a leader who has been a long-time friend of labor, and an individual who represents much needed progress for this country.

I want to thank all my brothers and sisters from coast to coast for making sure our voices were heard in this election. Now however, we must collectively stand and fight with him. Simply put, there is still much to do to ensure that the president-elect has the ability to accomplish his restorative plan. Biden’s plan includes working together during this pandemic to find solutions, battling the current devastating economic and health care challenges, and continuing our fight for workplace rights and safety. Accomplishing this critical work must include control of the Senate – which has been held by Republicans since 2015, and has in that time, often served as a barrier to progress rather than a forward-thinking channel for progress. And it is down in Blue Georgia (never thought I would be saying that, but Sister Stacey Abrams knew) that we have the opportunity to remove that roadblock.

What’s a runoff? On election day, neither of Georgia’s Republican senators drew a majority vote. This moves both of their races to special rematches taking place in January. The outcome will determine control of the Senate and if we have a legislature that works together for working people – and with our president. Or it will determine that the political stalemate we have now continues; that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell will keep things in the same go nowhere circle we have had for years. A runoff election is required, under Georgia law, if candidates do not receive a majority (50% or more) of the vote. The Georgia runoff will occur on January 5, 2021. The results – depending on who wins – will swing the Senate majority to Democrats or leave McConnell and the Republicans in charge.

It’s the difference between do something or do nothing.

What’s at stake? Georgia Senate Democratic candidates, Reverend Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, will go head-to-head with Republican incumbents Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue in two separate runoffs. Warnock and Ossoff have been endorsed by the UAW because they are the best choice for UAW members, retirees and their families. They are the best choice for America, and the best choice for labor. Both candidates understand that two essential things must happen, and must happen quickly to address the economic and healthcare crisis in this country:

- From the very beginning, Ossoff and Warnock have taken the pandemic very seriously. Together – working with the new president and fellow Congressional members – they will work to get the COVID-19 pandemic under control to save lives and get people fully back to work.
- Warnock and Ossoff also understand that the economy isn’t working for working people. They will work to repeal tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations. They will encourage bringing back our jobs from overseas. Additionally, they will protect the Social Security and Medicare benefits we earned, defend our pensions and 401(k)s, and make it easier for workers to organize and form a union.

On the flipside, their opponents – Loeffler and Perdue – both support more than \$24 billion cuts to Social Security and \$500 billion cuts to Medicare. More importantly, they have both used the dire circumstances of a global pandemic to their benefit as both were caught red-handed making insider stock deals based on information about the severity of the pandemic that they kept from the public. Not exactly a move that gives you faith in their ability to serve on the behalf of the citizens they represent.

So, the good trouble that we must make this time around is going back home to the place where good fighting got its name. This is a historic moment in our history and Georgia holds the key. If Democrats gain both Georgia seats, the 50-50 tie in the Senate will mean that Vice President-Elect Harris will cast tie-breaking votes, carrying out a pro-labor agenda.

Given the rise in COVID-19 cases, President-Elect Biden must be able to make immediate decisions and pass legislation that address the challenges we all face and make tough decisions to protect all working Americans.

So please, if you live in Georgia, participate in this election. If you do not live in Georgia, consider finding a way to make your own good trouble: assist through phone banking or offer assistance to organizations supporting the Warnock and Ossoff campaigns.

On January 5, the entire country is looking to Georgia to make an essential difference in the future of our nation. We are looking to voters to elect candidates that will protect retirement security, rebuild our economy and implement a national plan to respond to the pandemic. The outcome of this election will affect every single person in this nation for decades to come.

Let us send our hearts and minds to Georgia in January. Let us get back to work for working men and women. Let us take an old sweet song and make it America’s. Georgia On My Mind.

Overcoming barriers through education – keep a careful eye on the Higher Education Act

By Harry C. Alford
National Black Chamber of Commerce



As the country watched in amazement while President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris solidified their lead in the historic 2020 election with record voter turnout, there was a new demographic represented – a woman of color who will be in the position to help lead our nation through one of our most trying economic and political times. And this woman attended one of our nation’s historically black colleges), Howard University, to boot. As the first female, first Asian American and first black vice president in this nation’s history, her path to success is an important reminder of the value of higher education.

Indeed, like many before them, these newly elected Democrats are committed to prioritizing expanded access to quality education, which is something those of all political persuasions can get behind. How we do this is much debated and it’s critical the new administration’s higher education agenda is devoid of red-tape and overreach, so that all types of students, regardless of their backgrounds or economic standing, are able to receive the education they seek.

One policy that opened higher education access for disadvantaged, lower income demographic is the Higher Education Act (HEA). The HEA was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965 and was intended “to strengthen the educational

resources of our colleges and universities and to provide financial assistance for students in postsecondary and higher education.” Significantly, it created low-interest loans for students. This access to financial support has been the lifeline for many low-income students. Without federal student aid, they would not otherwise be able to attend college. Quite simply, their families cannot afford to pay the costs of college. Despite the progress in 1965, Congress has repeatedly failed to reauthorize the HEA. We must now capitalize on our current momentum and make changes that drive expanded access and support for our low income, and often minority, students.

While most low-income students and their families have little or no money to contribute towards their education, it is an ironic twist that politicians layered in a controversial directive resulting in a formula that required at least ten percent of the money institutions received from students with Title IV benefits to include sources other than federal student aid. This policy counteracted the very purpose of Title IV and similar aid programs. The “90/10 rule,” as known in common parlance, instead hampers incentives for schools to enroll too many low-income, Pell grant-eligible and Title IV aid dependent students – the very people Title IV is meant to serve.

Looking to the next Congress, some policymakers think the remedy to problems created by the 90/10 Rule is to expand it. One idea is to move to a more strict 85/15 ratio. In other words, require students

to come up with even more money from other sources, which is often divorced from the reality of people from economically disadvantaged communities or working parents juggling multiple responsibilities. Remember, Title IV was enacted as a societal commitment to extend opportunities for people at the economic margins so it makes no sense to make them come up with more money on their own – especially not at a time when COVID-19 pandemic is wreaking disaster in the economy. Another solution offered is to treat benefits that veterans and active-duty personnel earn in their service as part of the 90 percent instead the ten percent in the 90/10 formula. The rationale for this is the belief that schools recruit veterans and service members specifically to improve their 90/10 rates. However, adding benefits our veterans and uniformed personnel have rightly earned to the category of students’ overall federal financial aid could threaten the operation of many schools. This would have the perverse effect of closing off options for people who served this country.

As more and more people now well know, government and other institutions have often overlooked critical populations – whether African Americans, lower income, veterans, etc. – and higher education has unfortunately not been spared of this discrimination. There are higher education institutions, like many proprietary institutions of higher learning, that have models that are correcting this historical disadvantage through open, roll-

ing enrollment, curriculum flexibility, and more personal, tailored attention to the individuality of the students. Our policies should indeed not hamper their progress. Further, Americans know the rising costs of higher education and the debt load students are carrying are all too often unsustainable. This is true for all schools – public and private, proprietary and non-profit. It afflicts not only low-income students but also those who are securely middle class but unable to rely on family to foot the enormous bill. Expanding the 90/10 rule would do nothing to address this reality.

We need to be careful about who we paint as the enemy as we put the pieces in place for education policy. The enemy in American society is ignorance, not institutions that are taking a chance on atypical students aiming to improve their lives through education and thereby better their communities. There is no evidence that the 90/10 rule has any connection to metrics that matter, such as whether students stay in school, complete their degrees, or land the jobs they want.

Victorious Democrats should rethink their pursuit to expand a flawed formula, brushing aside the unintended consequences of narrowing opportunities for the very people Title IV serves – the people Democrats say they want to help.

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	INV #	CASE #	YEAR/MAKE/MODEL	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
1.	20743	13-150545	1997 NISS KSX	1N6SD1654VC342582
2.	23596	15-100109	1981 OLDS CUTLASS	1G3AM69A1BD481718
3.	23725	15-115149	2014 LOAD CSS8	4ZECH182XE1058373
4.	24393	15-216086	1999 TOYOT UVL	1NXBR12E5XZ201761
5.	24615	16-009801	1997 LINC TOWNCAR	1LNLM82W8VY707269
6.	24779	16-030275	1999 ACUR RL	JH4KA9657XC004745
7.	24831	16-037517	2000 FORD TSS	1FAFP558YA226361
8.	24862	16-041752	2003 PONT VIB	5Y2SL62823Z474764
9.	24896	16-046727	2010 KIA RBL	KNADH4A31A6646363
10.	25003	16-060297	2016 PONT BON	1G2HX54C5KW285573
11.	25058	14-093499	2007 HOND CBR	JH2SC57037M304145
12.	25351	16-107353	1997 MERC MAR	2MELM75W3VX644946
13.	25387	16-113150	2014 CHEV CZT	1G1PCS585E7120403
14.	25418	16-117545	1993 BUIC CSP	3G4AG54N1P5607834
15.	25480	16-125889	1995 HONDA AEX	1HGC07257SA014396
16.	25553	16-135488	2005 PONT GAS	1G2NE52E65M179520
17.	25587	16-140553	2008 FORD TAU	1FAHP24W58G130583
18.	25691	16-156165	2004 LINC NAV	5LMFU27R34J138806
19.	25878	16-187725	1988 GMC SIERRA	1GTFC24KDZ509284
20.	25955	16-199098	2008 DEEH MT1	LXTCK1A08M063748
21.	25958	16-199538	2002 SATURN L10	1G8J554F22Y504333
22.	26188	17-007559	2000 CHEV SC1	2GCEC19T0Y1132305
23.	26388	17-038234	2003 CADI ESL	1GYEC63T73R284176
24.	26189	17-008912	2007 NISS ATS	1N4AL21E07C202496
25.	26592	17-071690	2011 JEEP SPO	1J4NT1GA2BD178130
26.	26593	17-071690	2004 LINC LLS	1LNHHM87A04Y622914
27.	26736	17-095242	1999 NISS ALT	1N4DL01D7XC101027
28.	26768	17-101871	BURNED (UNKNOWN)	BURNED (UNKNOWN)
29.	26850	17-119327	2006 NISS ALT	1N4AL11D76C109071
30.	26900	17-127938	1991 CHEV CLL	1G1BN53E6MW200777
31.	27022	17-105094	2005 CHEV MONTE CARLO	2G1WW12E659287275
32.	27148	17-160565	2003 NISS ABS	1N4AL11D63C270474
33.	27151	17-167483	2001 HOND ULX	1HGGC56451A098360
34.	27188	17-172043	2008 CHEV M/L	1G1ZG57B984285169
35.	27211	17-173675	2015 TOYT MTL	5YFBURHE9FP265080
36.	27245	17-180768	1998 BUIC LLF	1G4HRS2KXWH428023
37.	27287	17-186443	1993 OLDS CUT	1G3AG55N4P6402273
38.	27308	17-189730	2007 FORD SSL	1FAHP24T177G131432
39.	27321	17-191499	1996 FORD EPR	1FMCU22XK7UC95377
40.	27333	17-193480	2005 CHEV IMT	2G1WT55K369406449
41.	27384	17-201386	2007 CHEV SIL	2GCEC19C471588807
42.	27390	17-203001	2007 CHEV IMT	2G1WC58R479154978
43.	27396	17-203944	2001 CHEV VTR	1GNDU03EX14320988
44.	27463	18-003519	2008 STRN VUE	3GSC5L3E37D85092050
45.	27478	18-005533	2003 FORD EDD	1FMEU17W33L877831
46.	27487	18-006684	1998 LINC EXC	1LNFM81W6WY641742
47.	27510	18-010790	2006 CHEV LST	1GNDT13562144627
48.	27521	18-011399	1997 GMC SUB	3GKEC16R2V6509362
49.	27533	18-012777	1993 BUIC ROA	1G4BNS37OPR400643
50.	27571		1999 FORD EXPEDITION	1FMRU1761XLA39406
51.	27638	18-028078	2007 HOND UCL	1HGFA16547L101858
52.	27682	18-035108	2006 CHRY 3TR	2C3KA53G76H341240
53.	27732	18-041153	2000 DODG DUR	1B4HR28Y6YF255868
54.	27774	18-046354	2000 PONT GRM	1G2NV52E7YC551845
55.	27792	18-048537	1996 HOND UER	1HGCC5650TA130278
56.	27833	18-057341	2005 CHEV IMPALA	2G1WH52K359208314
57.	27846	18-059105	2011 CHEV MALIBU	1G1ZAE5U7BF197786
58.	27866	18-061659	2005 HONDA ACC	1HGGCM5855A191381
59.	27867	18-061752	2011 HOND ACCORD	1HGCS1887BA001824
60.	27887	18-063998	2003 OLDS ALE	1G3NLS2F13C292501
61.	27888	18-064267	2006 CHEV MAL	1G1ZT53876F134824
62.	27928	18-070224	2002 FORD CVR	2FAPF74W62X152520
63.	27938	18-071710	2006 CADI DTS	1G6KD57Y62U235476
64.	27945	19-073139	2006 MERC GRAND MARQUIS	2MEFM75W96X603316
65.	28055	18-091848	1998 BUIC PKA	1G4CW52K8W4634354
66.	28018	18-085915	2006 MERC PRM	1MEHMA42106G606918
67.	28060	18-092141	1998 CHEV GMT-400	1GCGC24RXW2188217
68.	28082	18-095964	2006 PONT G6	1G2ZG558364258288
69.	28088		2017 INFI Q70	JN8CS1MU3HM141101
70.	28095	18-097946	2001 ACURA TL	19UUA56982A000764
71.	28098	18-083586	1999 BUIC CEN	2G4W552M2X1474124
72.	28103	18-099228	2008 FORD FOCUS	1F4HP34N78W287468
73.	28104	18-099381	2008 CHEV IPL	2G1W58K889217880
74.	28105	18-099410	199 FORD F150	1FTEK15N9PKA87570
75.	28106	18-099416	2002 HOND ODYSSEY	5FNRL18062B034182
76.	28110	18-10095	2015 CHEV M/L	1G11A5SL3FU124750
77.	28127		2006 HOND UAX	2HGFG12846H529133
78.	28128	18-103279	2000 MERC MGL	2MEFM75WXY659655
79.	28129	8-103325	2001 BMW 7IL	WBAGH83A51DP34225
80.	28133	18-104116	2008 NISS VERSA	3N1BC11E48L442233
81.	28138	18-104742	1991 DODG B3W	285WB3528MK457486
82.	28145	18-105285	2006 HOND UEX	1HGGCM6546A047754
83.	28151	18-106401	2008 FORD FUS	3FAHP07148R189377
84.	28164	18-109382	2001 TOYT COROLLA	1NXBR12E51Z472617
85.	28183	18-110285	2003 CHEV TAHOE	1GNEK13ZXR285068
86.	28188	18-112841	2010 CHEV IMPALA	2G1WB5EK5A1168839
87.	28235	18-119460	2012 CHEV IMPALA	2G1WD5E34C1285186
88.	28271	18-125229	2011 CHEV MAL	1G1ZB5E1X8F128397
89.	28287	18-127949	2006 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE	1J4HS58N56C117276
90.	28291	18-128531	2008 FORD ESCAPE	1FMCU03198K876305
91.	28293	18-128595	2006 TOYT COA	1NXBR32E96247700
92.	28316	18-13348	2007 TOYT CMB	4T1BE46K57U060414
93.	28324	18-135260	2004 CHEV TAHOE	1GNEC13V04R268548
94.	28347	18-138489	1992 CHEV S14	1GCCS19ZXN8187741
95.	28349	18-138771	2009 CHEV HHR	3GNC413BX9S568394
96.	28352	18-139178	1998 CHEV GK1	2GCEK19R1W1179041
97.	28354	18-139241	2006 DODGE DQS	1D7HE48N665519696
98.	28412	18-147837	1999 MERC MAR	2MEFM75WXX614686
99.	28415	18-148606	2017 TOYO CAM	4T1BF1FK1HU304993
100.	28422		1996 TOYT COA	1NXBB02E1T2497239
101.	28430	18-150642	2008 CHEV IMPALA	2G1W5553981236790
102.	28431	18-150739	2005 NISS ASL	1N4AL11D25N437078
103.	28433	18-150944	2006 CHEV EQUI	2CNDL13F066145212
104.	28434	18-151051	2003 SATURN ION	1G8AW12F23Z185026
105.	28439	18-152439	2009 CHEV IMPALA	2G1W557M9X1284578
106.	28441	18-153072	2000 CHEV P/L	1Y1SK5281YZ416886
107.	28442	18-153340	2004 FORD CVL	2FAPF74W84X176790
108.	28453	18-154860	2006 NISS S18	3N1CB51D56L525902
109.	28475		2001 CHEV SILVERADO	1GCEC19W612296049
110.	28476	18-157999	1998 NISS ALTI	1N4DL01D2WC13197
111.	28481	18-159774	1998 PONT GFS	1G2WJ52K8WF318316
112.	28490	18-161860	2007 HYUN ACCENT	KMHCM36C77U001777
113.	28497	18-162756	2002 BMW 530	WBADT63442CH89619
114.	29498	18-163244	2000 FORD MUS	1FAFP4048YF246146
115.	28352	18-139178	1998 CHEV GK1	2GCEK19R1W1179041
116.	28503	18-162699	2003 MERCEDES CLK	WDBLK65G43T140943
117.	28507	18-164373	2010 LINC MKZ	3LNHL2GC9AR659889
118.	28511	18-162940	2005 CHRYSLER 300	2C3JA53G35H604365
119.	28536	18-1693660	2004 BUIC CXL	3G5DA03E455508332
120.	28537	18-169271	2012 FORD F/E	3FAHP0HA4CR357624
121.	28542	18-168863	2001 CHEV TAHOE	1GNEC13T81J284134
122.	28560	18-172562	2000 FORD ESC	3FAKP1135YR113494
123.	28569		1998 BUIC REG	2G4WB52K5W1406624
124.	28580		1999 ACU 3.5 RL	JH4KA9654XC003357
125.	28581	18-175604	1997 FORD F15	1FTDX18W0VKB61701
126.	28583	18-173268	2004 CHRY SEBRING	4C3AG42G84E094545
127.	28598	18-177552	1999 HOND UEX	1HGGC5654XA050351

	INV #	CASE #	YEAR/MAKE/MODEL	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
128.	28605		2004 BUIC REGAL	2G4WB52K041344708
129.	28609	18-179130	2005 FORD F15	1FTRW12W55FB49781
130.	28610	18-179388	1995 VOLV 8/G	YV1LS5511S2229844
131.	28624	18-181019	2006 MITS ELM	4A3AB36F76E055033
132.	28634	18-182096	2001 CHRY PTC	3CBFY48B11T609822
133.	28646	18-183490	1996 DODGE RAM	1B7HC16YXTS533012
134.	28657	18-158656	2005 TOYT TUNDRA	5TBET341X5S479591
135.	28658		2007 TOYT COROLLA	1NXBR32E672880564
136.	28660	18-185817	2008 CHEV IMT	2G1WT58K089105152
137.	28661	18-184644	2005 CHEV IMP	2G1WF52E059256160
138.	28674	18-188143	2000 CHEV BLAZER	1GNCS13W3Y2182491
139.	28681	18-189102	2016 JEEP PATRIOT	1C4NPBB6GD649721
140.	28682		2003 PONT GPG	1G2WP52K13F146270
141.	28685	18-189599	1998 HOND CIVIC	2HGEG667KWH555909
142.	28690	18-190531	2001 FORD F150	1FTRX37W71KB05899
143.	28694	18-191385	1991 ACURA LEGEND	JH4KA7663MC044121
144.	28713	18-193951	1988 BUIC ELE	1G4CW51C9J1664516
145.	28719	18-194488	2003 MERC GRAND MARQUIS	2MEFM75W73K614794
146.	28724	18-183001	1989 CHEV PK	1GDCD14K2KE121578
147.	28737	17-078264	2005 ACURA TL	JH4KB16575C013120
148.	28739	19-000773	2000 AUDI A4	WAUDH28D9YA044613
149.	28746	18-195455	2002 GMC YUKON	1GKFK66U2J231345
150.	28797		2018 NISS REG	JN8AT2MV4JW31968
151.	28865	19-028776	2003 BUIC LCF	1G4HP52K74U119751
152.	28829	19-011008	1999 GMC SUB	3GKEC16R1XG543389
153.	28880	19-029146	2007 CHEV HHR	3GNDA33P47S617372
154.	28897	19-030923	2001 TOYT COA	1NXBR12E21Z484126
155.	28900	19-031427	1995 TOYT 4RUNNER	JT3VN29V5S0042141
156.	28946	19-038758	2005 CHEV IPL	2G1WH52K559325733
157.	28947	19-039954	1999 FORD TAURUS	1FAFP53U4XA305111
158.	28984	19-046345	2009 KIA SPO	KNDJF24697557219
159.	29008	19-051095	1999 PONT GAS	1G2NE52E6XK826730
160.	29031	19-055332	2008 DODG SQ1	1D7HA182485596232
161.	29033	19-017865	2014 FORD F150	1FTFW1R64EFC48116
162.	29084	19-066810	2007 CHEV HHR	3GNDA23D47S511231
163.	29094	19-066484	2002 CADI DFW	1G6KD54Y52U027543
164.	29112	19-072571	2012 TOYT COROLLA	5YFBUEE7CP060974
165.	29113	19-068660	2002 FORD EXPLORER	1FMYU60E12UC04075
166.	29114	19-071059	2014 NISS SENTRA	3N1AB74P0EY234819
167.	29123	19-076185	2001 MERC MAR	2MEFM75W41X683004
168.	29124	19-076235	1997 HOND UEX	1HGGC56653VA207194
169.	29141	19-079974	2005 HOND ACCORD	3HGCM56445G701265
170.	29143	19-080475	2006 CHEV COBALT	1G1AK15F367886390
171.	29152	19-083030	2014 FORD FSE	1FADP3F20EL260904
172.	29155	19-083645	2004 PONT GRAND AM	1G2NE52F04M569326
173.	29168	19-085900	2006 MERC PR4	1MEHMA431166617604
174.	29169	19-088617	2005 NISS ALT	1N4AL11D25C302243
175.	29171	19-086722	2014 CHEV TAHOE	1GNEC13V44R232118
176.	29183	19-064853	2001 INFI QX4	JNRDR09X41W203642
177.	29199	19-091305	2016 CHEV M/L	1G1ZB5T55FG352593
178.	29201	19-092941	2011 DODGE NITRO	1D4PT4GK48W508216
179.	29203	19-079402	2005 CHEV AVALANCHE	3GNGEC12286G139951
180.	29205	19-095341	1995 FORD RANGER	1FTRC10A0U9A5723
181.	29212	19-097503	2000 BMW 3I2	WBAJA384YFP78884
182.	29213	19-098305	2001 STRN SC2	1G8ZY127B12117283
183.	29216	19-096313	1998 HOND ACCORD	1HGCG16S1WA048676
184.	29217	19-093093	2001 CHEV SILVERADO	1GCEK19T1K1E161530
185.	29219	19-098598	2005 CHEV RINOXINQ	2CNDL13F356801696
186.	29232	19-100692	1999 SUZV SV6	J51VP529K1200790
187.	29236	19-101501	1999 CHEV SC1	2GCEC19V5X1221562
188.	29255	19-103649	2010 TOYT PRIUS	1JDKN30U1A0016055
189.	29256	19-103804	2016 CHEVROLET CRUZE	1GTBXSMDJ2765976
190.	29272	19-107710	1985 BUIC ELECTRA	1G4CW693ZT1511168
191.	29276	19-108563	2004 TOYOTA CAMRY	4T1BE32K2Z0567571
192.	29281	19-110020	2002 FORD ESC	3FAFP13P8R2D08365
193.	29285	19-093830	2005 CHEV IMP	2G1WH52K059395446
194.	29293	19-117836	2003 CHEV SUBURBAN	3GNEC16Z43G169597
195.	29298	19-112411	2002 BUIC LESABRE	1G4PHS2K644104562
196.	29313	19-114527	2001 JAGU S-TYPE	SAJDA0N13F1L94568
197.	29315	19-114883	1997 TOYT ARUNNER	JT3GNY97RVX005367
198.	29317	19-115292	1991 HOND CIV	1HGED3553MK028140
199.	29318	19-115775	2008 DODG AVENGER	1B3LC5K68N9659138
200.	29331	19-117288	2003 CHEV SC1	1GCEC14V732211463
201.	29332	19-114829	1999 BUIC PRK	1G4CW52K7K4648827
202.	29349	19-121063	1990 FORD F150	1FTDF15Y2LX08981
203.	29370	19-124635	2000 TOYT COROLLA	1NXBR12E9Y3240437
204.	29374	19-125453	2006 FORD CV	2FAHP71W86X138136
205.	29378	19-126555	1980 BUIC REGAL	1G4GKA79XFW444383
206.	29385	19-128047	2002 FORD MUSTANG	1FAFP40472F154159
207.	29410	19-133230	2004 FORD EXPEDITION	1FMRU151XYL463701
208.	29417	19-134581	2006 HOND ACCORD	JHMCMS56496C002974
209.	29431	19-137386	1998 FORD CROWN VICTORIA	2FAFP71W9W103578
210.	29438	19-140312	1994 TOYT CAM	JT2GK13EXR0043367
211.	29449	19-142018	1997 FORD RING	1FTRC10A3VU086196
212.	29455	19-144086	2003 CHEV IMPALA	2G1WF52E3X9125606
213.	29463	19-145969	1999 HYUN ELL	KMHJF25F3XU833186
214.	29473	19-148464	2007 HOND VT600	JH2PC21477M802445
215.	29484	19-150517	1993 LEXUS GS	JT8J547EFP0045415
216.	29509	19-154125	2010 CHEV MALIBU	1G1ZB5E4XU4152377
217.	29510	19-154860	2003 TOYT CAMRY	4T1BE32K43U731162
218.	29511	19-154892	2002 VOLK PASSAT	WVWPE36K388ZT26235
219.	29528	19-157077	2019 JEEP CHEROKEE	1CP4L1B9K3D323028
220.	29536	19-158302	2007 CHEV LST	1GND1S353ZT159213
221.	29537	19-158863	2007 NISS SEN	3N1CB61E571725310
222.	29541	19-159238	1995 FORD F150	1FTEF15N35NA78583
223.	29545	19-160821	2003 FORD TAU	1FAFP5524Z3222235
224.	29550	19-161426	2002 OLDS ALERO	1G3NL52F0C205704
225.	29552	19-161640	1996 LINC TOWN CAR	1LNLM82W1T767815
226.	29553	19-161728	2006 CHEV IMPALA	2G1WHS7K691146096
227.	29554	19-161880	1996 HOND ACCORD	1HGCD5686T413096
228.	29559	20-024670	1995 LINC TOWNCAR	1LNLM38W1S7674321
229.	29563	18-172983	2004 CHEV SILVERADO	1GCEC14X142773699
230.	29566	19-163508	2010 HYUN ACCENT	KMHCH4AC6A0493235
231.	29571	19-164714	2006 KAWK MCC	JKAEXM1F6M1418252
232.	29572	19-164754	1997 GMC SC1	2GTEC1989V1285555
233.	29576	19-164374	2000 NISS MGS	JN1CA31D8YTS11000
234.	29587	19-166847	1999 HONDA CRV	JHLRD284XCU012358
235.	29595	19-168347	2002 FORD CROWN VICTORIA	2FAFP7W8X1W57994
236.	29596	19-167986	1999 CHEV G1	2GCEC19R1W1220572
237.	29610	19-169555	2006 PONTIAC G6	1GZ2F558464147103
238.	29619	19-150807	2000 NISS MGS	JN1CA31D2Y7506200
239.	29622	19-170897	1994 TOYT PICKUP	J74RN93PKRS106655
240.	29624	19-170977	2016 HOND CIVIC	2HGFC4804GH00184
241.	29626	19-171146	2005 CHEV CAVALIER	1G1C12F257177448
242.	29627	19-171520	2009 TOYT CAM	4T1BE46KX9J916552
243.	29636	19-170851	2014 TOYT MTL	2T1BURHE3CK076522
244.	29647	19-164969	2008 KIA SPECTRA EX	KNAFE121685516138
245.	29648	19-173645	2006 FORD CROWN VICTORIA	2FAFP71W16XX124912
246.	29656	19-175843	2001 CHEV SC1	2GCEC19V171248155
247.	29659	19-172565	2007 CHEV COBALT	1G1AK15F477223212
248.	29665	19-177004	2003 FORD RANGER	1FTYR15E63P807619
249.	29669	19-175307	2004 CHEV IMPALA	2G1WF52E349348961
250.	29689	19-172954	2007 CHEV HHR	3GNDA13D175629473
251.	29704	19-180659	2007 TOYT CJS	4T1BK46K97U503379
252.	29719	19-181548	2002 CHEV SILVERADO	1GCEC19V32223584
253.	29728	19-182670	2010 GMC ENCLAVE	5GAER2378X166114
254.	29746	19-184322	2005 GMC ENVOY	1GKDT13562535970
255.	29754	19-185704	2014 TOYT CAMRY	4T1BF1FK7E0830688
256.	29756	19-185906	2006 MAZD MZ6	1YVFP80C235M35165
257.	29761	19-186205	2002 INFI I35	JNKD0A31A227016739
258.	29773	19-189984	2012 ACURA TL	19UUA8F58KCA011294
259.	29797	19-186754	2000 BUIC REGAL	2G4WHS55C41306870
260.	29740	19-183758	2005 PONT GRA	2G2WPS52X51340631
261.	29803	20-001281	2010 ACURA TL	19UUE525AA010008
262.	29805	19-190182	2007 FORD EXPLORER	1FMFU64670UB01027



LEGAL

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

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

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

LEGAL

Advertisement

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATION (SOQ)

FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO UPDATE THE CURRENT SOLID
WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The City of Jackson (City) is requesting qualified firms submit a Statement of Qualifications for the purpose of updating the current solid waste management plan and other related professional services as they arise on a task order basis.

The proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- A. Experience, company background, qualifications and references as demonstrated in similar engagements
- B. Expertise of key personnel to be assigned to the contract
- C. EBO Plan and commitment to exceeding MBE and FBE participation goals

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan, with the bid submission, in accordance with the provision of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's EBO Executive Order shall disqualify a contractor, bidder, or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at 601-960-1055. Copies of the Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 200 South President Street, Room 223, Hood Building, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

Attendance by Proposers intending to submit on the project is required. All potential Subcontractors and other interested parties are invited to attend.

Proposals (one signed original plus five copies) and the EBO Plan (one signed original plus five copies included with the proposal) shall be submitted in a sealed package and plainly marked on the outside of the package: "STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO UPDATE THE CURRENT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN". Proposals must be submitted to the Office of the City Clerk, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 by no later than 3:30 p.m., local time, on Tuesday January 5, 2021.

Interested firms may obtain a copy of the detailed Request for Proposals at no charge from the City's Website at <http://www.jacksonms.gov/bids> or from:

Lakesha Weathers, Solid Waste Manager
City of Jackson
Department of Public Works
Warren Hood Building
200 South President Street
Jackson, MS 39201
lweathers@city.jackson.ms.us

Dr. Charles Williams Jr., PE, Director
Department of Public Works

11-26-2020, 12-03-2020, 12-10-2020

LEGAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Jackson (City), Mississippi is requesting proposals from qualified engineering firms for selecting a consultant with which to negotiate a Professional Service Contract for the Wastewater Collection System Improvements design, bidding, and construction phase services described in the RFP. The proposals will be rated based on criteria including, but not limited to, the following:

- Proposer's qualifications, experience, and client references.
- Demonstrated understanding of the scope of the project and ability to complete the work in conformance with project requirements.
- Experience and qualifications of Project Manager, key staff, and subcontractors assigned to the project.

Qualifications must be submitted to the Office of the City Clerk, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 by no later than 3:30 p.m. local time, on Tuesday, December 22, 2020.

Interested firms may obtain a copy of a detailed Request for Proposals, any proposal addenda, can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic Proposals may be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions related to the electronic proposal submission process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814. Interested firms who are interested in receiving a detailed Request for Proposals, any proposal addenda by email can send a request to Charles Williams Jr., PE, PhD, Director of Public Works/City Engineer at cwilliams@jacksonms.gov.

One copy of the offeror's Proposal together with a PDF file of the Proposal on a flash drive or disk shall be deposited with the City Clerk, City Hall, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for Friday, December 11, 2020 at 1:30 P.M., local time, at the Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39205. Attendance is encouraged for all proposers and prospective subconsultants on this project.

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
2020 FLOOD DISASTER STREET RESURFACING PROJECT
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at the City Clerk's Office located at 219 S. President St., for supplying all labor, materials and equipment as required under the plans and specifications for the construction of 2020 Flood Disaster Street Resurfacing Project. Please address envelope to City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205.

The entire project must be completed within (60) calendar days. The contract will be subject to liquidated damages in the amount of seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) per calendar day for each consecutive calendar day in which the contract time is exceeded.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a precondition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) plan. Failure to comply with the City's ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact Yika Hoover Minority Business Development Manager at (601) 960-1611 or thoover@jacksonms.gov. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the Program are available at 200 South President Street, Warren Hood Building, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, and Proposals forms are on file and open to public inspection on the 4th floor (Engineering Division) of the Warren Hood Building located at 200 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39205. One (1) copy of the Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents may be procured at the Engineering Division office on the 4th Floor of the Hood Building, upon payment of \$50.00 dollars for each set, which will not be refunded. All request and questions regarding plans and specifications can be directed to Tony Howard, Project Construction Manager, (601) 960-1651 or thoward@jacksonms.gov. The Standard Specifications adopted by the City Council may be procured from the Department of Public Works, if desired upon payment of \$5.00 dollars for each specification.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on December 18, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. local time, in the 5th floor conference room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

"Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814."Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi law and possess a certificate of responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Contractors establishing its classification as to the value and type of construction on which it is authorized to bid. Each bidder must deposit with its proposal, a bid bond or certified check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid for the work, payable to the City of Jackson, as the bid security.

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

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

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

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

11-26-2020, 12-3-2020,

LEGAL

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Department of Municipal Clerk will be open Sat. November 28th, 2020 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p 2 Special Run-off Election.

The last day to vote by absentee ballot for the Ward 2 Special Municipal Election will be Saturday December 5th, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

11-26-2020, 12-3-2020

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City As a precondition to selection, each proposer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan with the proposal submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a proposer from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact Ms. Yika Hoover, Minority Business Development Manager with the Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1856 or thoover@jacksonms.gov. Copies of the City of Jackson's Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications, and a copy of the program are available at the following location: 200 South President Street, Room 223, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.

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

11-26-2020, 12-3-2020, 12-10-2020

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Advertisement for RFQ
RFQ 2020-02 Property Manager and Commercial Real Estate Broker

Sealed, written formal rfq proposals for the above rfq will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), January 05, 2021 at which time and place they will be publicly opened. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all rfqs, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any rfq if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date rfqs are opened.

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

11-26-2020, 12-3-2020,

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFPs

RFP 2020-22 ACT Support 2020

RFP 2020-23 Standards-Aligned Assessment
for Student Practice and Enrichment

Sealed, written formal rfp proposals for the above rfp will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), December 11, 2020 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all rfps, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any rfp if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date rfps are opened.

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

11-26-2020, 12-3-2020,

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, 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.

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.

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 January 19, 2021.

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

Terry Williamson, Legal Counsel

11-26-2020, 12-3-2020, 12-10-2020

LEGAL

Notice of Sale
Abandoned Vehicle

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.

2008 MAZD 4F2CZ02Z58KM19752
Registered to: Carliss Robertson
Amber R. Brown
Well Fargo, Lien Holder
Date of Sale: Dec. 4, 2020
Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services;
6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213

Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids. Time: 10:00 A.M.

11-19-2020, 11-26-2020, 12-3-2020

LEGAL

Notice of Sale
Abandoned Vehicle

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.

2006 DODG Vin: 1D4HD48N46F174662
Registered to: Evans, Michael or Remona
TGS Auto Sales & Titlmax, Lien Holder
Date of Sale: Dec. 11, 2020
Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services;
6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213

Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids. Time: 10:00 A.M.

11-26-2020, 12-3-2020, 12-10-2020

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HBO Max Offer: Access HBO Max only through HBO Max app on Roku.com. HBO Max also includes HBO channels and HBO On Demand on AT&T TV. Data rates may apply for app download. **AT&T TV: \$19.95 ACTIVATION, EARLY TERMINATION FEE (\$350), FEE FOR EACH MONTH REMAINING ON AGMT., EQUIPMENT NON-RETURNABLE ADD'L FEE APPLIES** Price varies. CHOICE 100 TV Plan: 1 HBO TV device included for well-qualified customers; otherwise 2 (2). New residential customers only, excluding DIRECTV and 4+ service TV customers. Best's offer. **AT&T TV: AT&T TV requires high speed internet. Recommended minimum 24 Mbps for optimal viewing (min 8 Mbps per stream). Limit 3 concurrent AT&T streams. CHOICE 100 TV Plan: 10k & 24k per hour. Pricing: \$64.99 for first 12 mos. only. After 12 mos. or based on eligibility, then prevailing rate applies. \$17.99/mo. for CHOICE 100g, unless converted or changed prior to end of the promo period. Includes: CHOICE 100g, 1 HBO TV device, included for well-qualified customers; otherwise \$120. Add'l devices and fee \$120 each on an installment, non-qualified customers must purchase additional devices up front. Additional fees & taxes. Price includes Regional Sports fee of up to \$8.49/mo. which is extra and applies to CHOICE 100g and HBO Max, and certain other add'l fees & charges. **AT&T TV Subject to AT&T TV terms and conditions.** And in the U.S. only. Includes Family and U.S. High Speed. AT&T TV service will continue monthly or the promotional price charged per payment method on file, unless you cancel, subject to any applicable promotional terms. Price cannot be the full 14 days of early termination notice the included AT&T TV device within 14 days of start to avoid 120 min. return fee. Additional devices purchased in accordance with agreement subject to additional terms and conditions. See cancellation policy at att.com/help/cancel and also apply with us to learn the return status. Once you've canceled, you can access AT&T TV through the remaining monthly period. **We reserve the right to change any partial month period or unexpired contract.** Complete device only. **Pricing, channels, features, and terms subject to change & may be modified or discontinued at any time without notice.** Some offers may not be available through all channels and in select areas. **Regional Sports & Local Channels:** Not available in select areas. Channels vary by package & billing region. Device may need to be in billing region in order to view. **AT&T TV:** Limit 3 concurrent streams per account. Programming subject to blacked-out restrictions. Learn the apply. See your Order Confirmation email and also contact help for details for more details. **HBO Max:** Access HBO Max through HBO Max app on Roku.com with your AT&T log-in credentials. Compatible device or browser required. **Use of HBO Max is subject to its own terms and conditions, see hbo.com/terms-of-use for details. Programming and content only, to change.** View cancellation of your video service prior to the end of the HBO Max. **Limit:** Access to HBO Max account per AT&T account holder. May not be available without other, credits or discounts. 30 days from start of cancellation. HBO Max is only available in the U.S. and certain U.S. territories where a high-speed broadband connection is available. Minimum 16 connection is required. Viewing on mobile devices. HBO Max is used under terms. **Offers may not be combined with other promotional offers on the same service and may be modified or discontinued at any time without notice. Other conditions apply to all offers.** ©2020 AT&T Intellectual Property. AT&T and the globe logo are registered trademarks and service marks of AT&T Intellectual Property. All other marks the property of their respective owners.**

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.

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after December 11, 2020 the City of Jackson will submit a request to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes for the release of Lead-based Paint Hazard Reduction Grant funds under Title X of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act to undertake the following project:

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Lead Safe Jackson Housing Program.

Purpose: The purpose of the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction (LHR) grant program is to maximize the number of children under the age of six years protected from lead poisoning by assisting states, cities, counties/parishes, Native American Tribes or other units of local government in undertaking comprehensive programs to identify and control lead-based paint hazards in eligible privately-owned rental or owner-occupied housing populations. Location: This program will operate in the legal city limits of Jackson, MS. Project/Program Description: Lead Safe Jackson Housing Program including Healthy Homes Supplemental grant award, for the purpose of providing Lead Interventions that reduce or prevent childhood lead poisoning in children under the age of six (6) that reside in homes that receive interventions. Ultimately, the goal of the Lead Safe Jackson Housing Program is to increase the number of residential properties that are free from Lead-based Paint Hazards and to eliminate other health related hazards. This will be accomplished by providing lead-based paint testing, removal/abatement, and minor rehabilitation activities. A total of 78 properties will receive lead interventions and some of those properties will also receive minor rehabilitation to ensure the health and safety of the residents. Tier 2 site specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the tier 1 broad review for each address under this program when addresses become known. Level of Environmental Review Citation: Categorical exclusion subject to the Federal Laws & Authorities cited in 24 CFR 58.5, specifically 58.35(a)(3) and 58.35(a)(4).

Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review:

- Airport Hazards – Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones: 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D
- Flood Insurance – Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and Notional Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 (42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a)
- Contamination and Toxic Substances – 24 CFR 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)
- Historic Preservation (National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particular sections 106 & 110; 36 CFR Part 800)
- Noise Abatement and Control (Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B)
- Wetlands Protection (Executive Order 11990, particularly section 2 & 5)

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any):

- Airport Hazards – Once a property is identified to have lead hazards present, the Environmental Review Specialist will determine if the property is within 2500 feet of a civilian airport. If the property is in the proximity of the airport, appropriate APZ or RPZ/CZ assurances will be requested from the local airport authority.
- Flood Insurance – FEMA flood maps will be pulled for each approved property to document the location in relation to flood zones. If a property is located with a flood zone, the client must provide a copy of the Flood Insurance Declaration for the file. If there is no flood insurance, the property will be denied, and appropriate notification letter will be mailed.
- Contamination and Toxic Substances – Appropriate maps from NEPAAssist and Enviromapper will be used to determine if any on-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances found that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property. In the event that toxic substances are found, the appropriate mitigation measures will be completed, if financially feasible.
- Historic Preservation - For every property that is proven to have lead-based paint hazards, a letter will be mailed to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History including a picture of the front façade of the property, the year the property was built, and a detailed scope of the work to be perform. MDAH will decide regarding the properties historic status and recommend mitigation measures, if necessary. The City of Jackson will follow all mitigation measure, if applicable.
- Noise Abatement and Control - Once a property is identified, the appropriate noise level calculations will be performed if a property is found to be within

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Week of November 29, 2020

President-Elect Biden names all-women senior communications staff

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

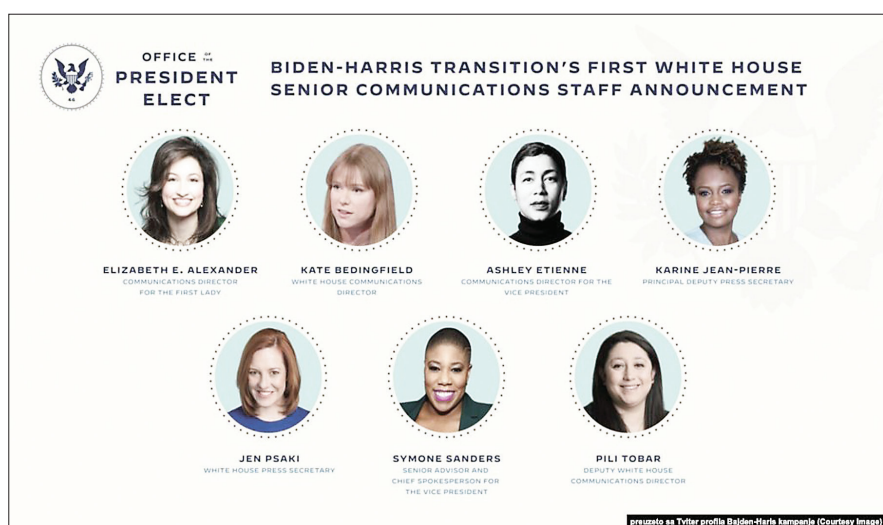
Chicago is a mecca of basketball talent. High school ballers have had tremendous success at top colleges and universities, and some have gone on to impressive NBA careers. S.T.A.R. Development wants to connect Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to the Midwest’s pool of talent, especially in a COVID-19 environment that has affected many of these schools’ ability to travel.

“Our goal is to support the HBCU athletic structure and assist budget restricted small school programs,” said Anthony Welch, founder and president of Serious Threat Athletic and Recruitment (S.T.A.R.) Development. “Our work focuses on helping to develop college athletic recruitment plans, mentoring athletes and parents and working as a liaison between college recruiters and student-athletes. Ultimately, we want to help increase our youth’s chances of receiving financial assistance for higher education.”

Welch brings years of basketball experience to his work with HBCUs and small schools.

He played under the legendary coach Lou Henson at the University of Illinois, helping the team win the Big Ten Championship in 1984. He was drafted in 1986 by the Dallas Mavericks, later played in the Continental Basketball Association and overseas.

In 2011, he launched a sports marketing business designed to showcase high school athletes. His interest in and support of HBCU basketball deepened when his sons went to HBCU



Livingstone College and played on the school’s first ever team to win a CIAA Basketball Championship in 2014.

Most of the more than 100 HBCUs are in the South and are not able to make recruiting trips to Midwest cities like Chicago, Detroit and Indianapolis. According to Welch, while big name talent is heavily recruited, there is still a wealth of talent with skills that would be tremendous assets to college programs, particularly HBCUs that are getting more media attention with the signing of top talent like five-star high school basketball recruit Makur Maker who chose to attend Howard University.

S.T.A.R. Development provides talented student-athletes that are under the radar and coaches with limited recruiting budgets access to one another through a free recruitment platform of services from athlete scouting reports to recruitment profile development to distribution of player videos to college coaching staffs. The website also has a

feature called S.T.A.R. Watch, which highlights talented players. Post pandemic, S.T.A.R. is planning a spring HBCU prospect recruiting event to bring together some of the Midwest’s best high school talent.

The S.T.A.R. Development team’s passion for their work and commitment to supporting HBCUs has been well-received by college coaches. “Serious Threat Athletic and Recruitment Development is great stuff. We are big supporters and value their assistance in recruiting from Chicago,” says Lonnie Blow Jr., head coach at the Virginia State University.

As HBCU coaches plan for basketball during and after the pandemic, S.T.A.R. Development is dedicated to providing no-cost recruitment support that can assist them in their work to build winning teams.

For more information on Serious Threat Athletic and Recruitment (S.T.A.R.) Development, visit www.serious-threat.com.

A ‘Black Parade’ Grammys: Beyonce leads with 9 nominations

By Mesfin Fekadu
AP Music Writer

Beyonce is bringing her Black Parade to the Grammys: The pop star’s anthem about black pride scored multiple nominations Tuesday, making her the leading contender with nine nominations.

Beyonce picked up song and record of the year bids with “Black Parade,” which she released on Juneteenth, the holiday that commemorates when the last enslaved African Americans learned they were free. The song, which reached the Top 40 on the pop charts, is also nominated for best R&B song and best R&B performance. Beyonce’s “Black Is King” film that highlighted black art, music, history and fashion is up for best music film while “Brown Skin Girl,” a song dedicated to dark-and brown-skinned women, is nominated for best music video. The singer also earned three nominations for her slick guest appearance on Megan Thee Stallion’s No. 1 hit “Savage.”

A winner of 24 Grammys, Beyonce becomes the second-most nominated act in the history of the awards show with 79 nominations.

Beyonce is only behind her husband Jay-Z and Quincy Jones, who have both earned 80 nominations each. Jay-Z picked up three nominations this year for his contributions to Beyonce’s songs: He co-wrote “Black Parade” and “Savage,” thus earning nominations for song of the year, best R&B song and best rap song. Jay-Z has won 22 Grammys throughout this career.

Beyonce’s domination this year came as a surprise since the singer did not release a new album. Other surprises, well snubs, include pop star the Weeknd being completely shut out and earning zero nominations despite having a No. 1 album, multiple hit singles and winning the coveted Super Bowl halftime performance slot. Luke Combs, who dominated the country charts and set records on streaming services this year, was also surprisingly shut out of nominations.

Instead, multiple nominations went to Taylor Swift, Dua Lipa and Roddy Ricch, who each earned six nominations and followed Beyonce as the second-most nominated acts.

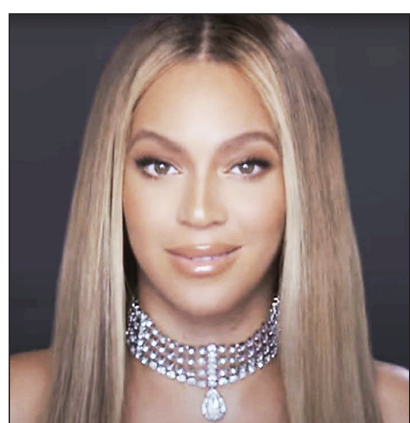
Lipa, who won two Grammys last year, earned bids for album of the year with “Future Nostalgia” as well as song and record of the year for her hit “Don’t Start Now.” Swift, whose last two albums didn’t garner nominations for album of the year, is competing for the top prize with her surprise album “folklore.” If she wins, she would become the first artist to win album of the year three times.

Other album of the year nominees include: Post Malone’s multi-hit “Hollywood’s Bleeding”; Coldplay’s “Everyday Life”; HAIM’s sophomore release “Women In Music Pt. III”; Jhene Aiko’s atmospheric R&B project “Chilombo”; English musician Jacob Collier’s multi-genre release “Djesse Vol. 3”; and the deluxe edition of Black Pumas’ self-titled debut album.

Tracks competing with Beyonce’s “Black Parade” and “Savage” for record of the year include DaBaby and Ricch’s “Rockstar,” Malone’s “Circles,” Lipa’s “Don’t Start Now,” Billie Eilish’s “Everything I Wanted,” Black Pumas’ “Colors” and Doja Cat’s “Say So.”

“Black Parade,” “Don’t Start Now,” “Everything I Wanted” and “Circles” are also nominated for song of the year – a songwriter’s award – along with Swift’s “cardigan,” Ricch’s “The Box,” JP Saxe and Julia Michaels’ “If the World Was Ending” and H.E.R.’s “I Can’t Breathe,” her protest anthem addressing police brutality.

Several songs that emerged following the deaths of George Floyd,



Beyonce

Ahmad Arbery and Breonna Taylor were nominated for Grammys, including Lil Baby’s “The Bigger Picture” (best rap song, best rap performance), Anderson .Paak’s “Lockdown” (best melodic rap performance, best music video), Mickey Guyton’s “Black Like Me” (best country solo performance) as well as Beyonce’s “Black Parade.”

“I think it’s meaningful. I think it’s reflective of what’s going on in our world,” Harvey Mason Jr., the Recording’s interim president and CEO, said of multiple protest songs earning nominations this year. “Musicians, artists, writers and producers write about what’s going on in their lives. We tend to be fairly emotional people. When there’s things happening, it’s going to come out in our music and our art.”

Megan Thee Stallion, who released her highly anticipated debut album last week after finding success with hit singles and mixtapes since 2018, scored four nominations including best new artist. She will compete with rapper-singer Doja Cat, pop singer Noah Cyrus, country singer Ingrid Andress, multi-genre DJ-producer Kaytranada, rappers Chika and D Smoke and indie rocker Phoebe Bridgers, who earned four nominations and helped female acts dominate in the rock categories.

Nominees for best rock performance and best rock song include Bridgers, Fiona Apple, HAIM, Grace Potter, Brittany Howard of Alabama Shakes and Big Thief, led by Adrienne Lenker. Female performers also dominated in best country album, including Andress, Miranda Lambert, Brandy Clark and Ashley McBryde. The foursome Little Big Town, which features two female vocalists, round out the five nominees.

K-pop kings BTS earned their first-ever Grammy nomination after years of having success on the pop charts. They will compete for best pop duo/group performance with their No. 1 hit, “Dynamite.”

Other first-time nominees include the Strokes, Megan Thee Stallion, Michael Kiwanuka, Jay Electronica and Harry Styles, who became the first One Direction member to earn a Grammy nomination.

Several acts earned posthumous nominations, including John Prine (best American Roots performance, best American Roots song), Nipsey Hussle (best rap performance), Leonard Cohen (best folk album) Pop Smoke (best rap performance) and songwriter LaShawn Daniels (best gospel performance/song).

And A-list entertainers hoping to reach EGOT status are getting a chance to earn their Grammy Award, including Renee Zellweger, who is nominated for best traditional pop vocal album for “Judy” – a performance that won her a second Academy Award – while Meryl Streep is nominated for best spoken word album for “Charlotte’s Web.”

Kanye West, who has won 21 Grammys, only scored a single nomination this year – for contemporary Christian music album for “Jesus Is King.”

Songs and albums released between Sept. 1, 2019 and Aug. 31, 2020 were eligible for nominations this year. Winners will be announced at the live show Jan. 31.

California judge tosses sexual assault suit against Russell Simmons

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

A California judge has tossed out a \$10 million lawsuit, alleging sexual assault, against hip-hop icon and business mogul Russell Simmons.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Mark Epstein granted Simmons’ attorneys’ motion to dismiss the lawsuit after the alleged victim chose to remain anonymous. The judge said that he found that the woman’s claims were legally time-barred since the alleged incident occurred in 1988, and her suit wasn’t filed until March 2018.

“Plaintiff has incontrovertibly admitted that the alleged incident occurred in 1988,” the judge wrote in the ruling released this week. “In calculating the limitations period...she would have had to file her action in 1998.”

“Having received no response from plaintiff during the two weeks following the entry of that minute order ... judgment is hereby entered in favor of the defendant, Russell Simmons,” Epstein wrote.

Simmons, who faced several allegations of sexual assault dating back to the 1980s, has always maintained his innocence, and his representatives routinely have held up the Def Jam Records founder’s lifelong contributions and advocacy for women’s rights.

After starting Def Jam Records, Simmons hired Carmen Ashurst as the label’s president.

Ashurst’s hiring as the only woman to head Def Jam, made history as no other major music label employed a



Simmons

woman as its president.

Simmons’ spokeswoman, Thomasina Perkins, of Capitol Public Relations in Washington, D.C., said her client was pleased with Epstein’s decision.

“We are grateful for the ruling made in this case, although it was dismissed on a technicality, my client has always maintained – and upon review it is clear – he has never met this woman; nor has she produced anyone with whom she has told the story in over 33 years,” Perkins remarked.

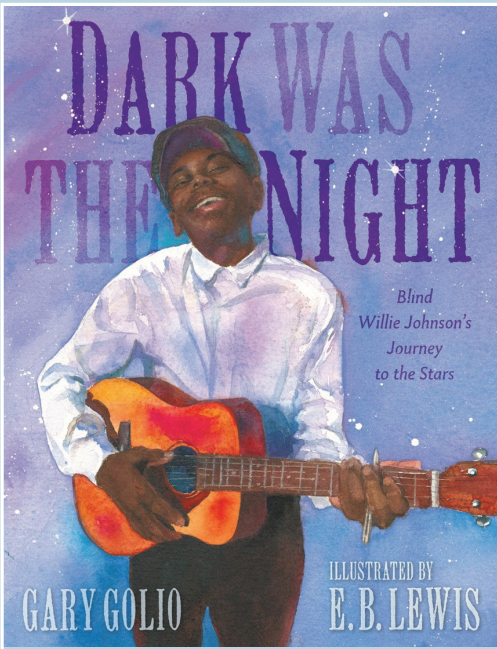
“Mr. Simmons continues to be in full support of women and what they bring to the world. There have been generations and generations of trauma and injustice ... it is time for constructive dialogue and healing to begin. This particularly important dialogue

will help move the women’s movement to its next phase,” Perkins added.

Perkins continued, noting that “Russell Simmons has stated God whispered in his ear; that one day he will be an active part of the healing and the necessary bridge-building process. He is praying for a healthier world for his daughters to inhabit.”

She further noted that Simmons remains focused on promoting a post-pandemic lifestyle for those dying of preventable pre-existing health conditions.

“As he has stated to me on numerous occasions, there is so much work to be done,” she offered. “My job is to ensure Mr. Simmons goes about doing the work of promoting the lifestyle changes that I’m sure will save lives.”



BOOK REVIEW:

DARK WAS THE NIGHT:

BLIND WILLIE JOHNSON’S JOURNEY TO THE STAR

BY GARY GOLIO, ILLUSTRATED BY E.B. LEWIS

C.2020, NANCY PAULSEN BOOKS

\$17.99 / \$23.99 CANADA • 32 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

It’s almost time for lights out. Just before that, though, you have a ritual: you wash your face, brush your teeth, put on your jammies, crawl into bed, and get a bedtime story. Then it’s lights out until morning but before your good-night kiss tonight, ask for one last thing. Ask for “Dark Was the Night” by Gary Golio, illustrated by E.B. Lewis. In a tiny Texas town in 1897, little Willie Johnson was born on a bright, sunny January day.


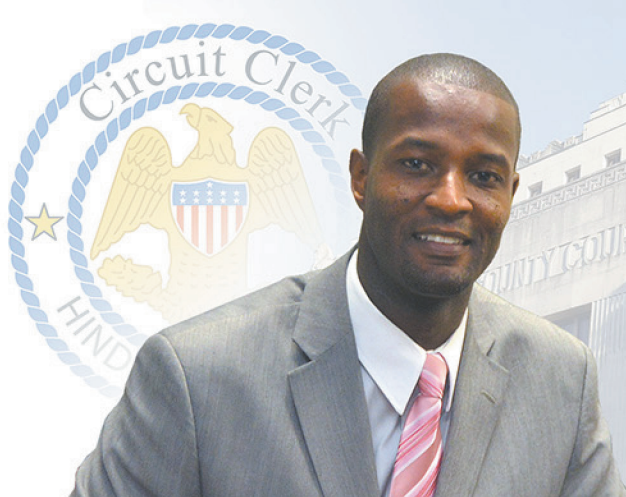
Willie’s family didn’t have much money, and so when he was a small boy and his parents noticed how Willie loved to sing, his father made a guitar for him from a cigar box and a wooden board. The boy would strum and sing all day long, and that’s how Willie Johnson learned to play the guitar. But then “some light went out of [his] life...” His mama died, and not long after that, when Willie was “seven or eight,” he went blind. So Willie couldn’t see, but that

didn’t stop his voice, did it? No, he could still sing in church and at home, and “on street corners.” He could still strum his guitar – a real one now, one that could sound like it was “laughing or crying” – and he played his audiences “the way a preacher would.” And that’s what he did: he traveled by train, into towns where cotton farmers gathered on Saturday mornings, and he’d sing raspy and powerful, making his guitar laugh and cry and people would put a few coins in

a cup so that Willie Johnson had something for supper and a place to lay his head for another night. He played and played until one day, a man came to hear Willie sing, and the man offered to make a new thing called phonograph records and pretty soon, everybody knew the name of Willie Johnson. He was “a shining star.” That was true almost a hundred years ago. And it’s still true today... For the older child who hears this story at bedtime – and “Dark

Was the Night” makes an excellent bedtime tale, by the way – there may be some question. How can a century-old story still be relevant? The answer lies in author Gary Golio’s afternotes. There, he explains that when NASA sent Voyager I into space some forty years ago, included was a time capsule of audio clips, and Johnson’s song with the same title as this book. Nice to know, but your child is likely to care much more about Johnson’s life story, which is

inspirational and shows the strength of will and talent, despite adversity. There’s also magic in this book, which comes in E.B. Lewis’ washed-watercolor illustrations: alone, they tell a wordless tale that appears as sad, elated, or determined, all of which are perfect for children who are pagers more than readers. Older preschoolers may enjoy this book, but starwatchers up to age 8 will love it best. Find it – then sneak “Dark Was the Night” in before lights out.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

HCSD High Schools Celebrate Homecoming



Dear Faculty, Staff Parents and Community Members;

This year, I am reminded of how many of our district family and community members have served in the armed forces as we host our Annual District Veterans Day Recognition. It is a proud time to be able to recognize so many men and women in our District family for their service and we are humbled that they have now chosen to serve the students and families in our community.

Although events to recognize our veterans' efforts may be different in the schools this year due to the pandemic, I am honored to be a part of a district that continues to place great emphasis on celebrating our veterans. As a nation, we will come together to celebrate these individuals, their service and our freedom. It's a responsibility that we should all honor and work toward preserving for generations of Americans.

I would like to send a wholehearted thank you to all veterans in the Hinds County School District family and community, especially those who are parents, guardians, mentors, role models and educators for our students. Your service shows us the strength of our country and allows our district to educate children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

The service and sacrifice of our country's veterans allow us to continue to be a District of Innovation while providing an engaging and empowering environment that ensures excellence for all students.

Thank you for your service.
Delesicia Martin, ED. D.
Superintendent of Education
Hinds County School District

Terry High School Homecoming Highlights



RHS Football



RHS Football



RHS Football



RHS Cheer Squad



RHS Homecoming Court



RHS Band



Pictured L-R: Elijah Moncure, Mr. RHS; Cornelius Brown, Homecoming King; and Shanya McFarland, Homecoming Queen

RHS AFJROTC Highlights



Head Coach, Kris Thigpen and Players



THS Cheer Squad



THS Coaches and Players



THS FB Players



THS Band



Pictured L-R: Courtnee Evans, THS 2020 Homecoming Queen; Cliff Newell, Principal; and Akemi Ward, 2019 Homecoming Queen



Pictured L-R: Kaliya Jenkins, THS 2020 Football Queen; Cliff Newell, Principal; and Jada McNairy, 2019 Football Queen



THS 2020 Homecoming Court

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