

# Women for Progress hosts virtual Jackson Mayoral Debate



By Edelia “Dr. Jay” Carthan  
Staff Writer

Women for Progress of MS, Inc., along with sponsoring partners, hosted a 2021 City of Jackson Mayoral Debate, Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 7 p.m. virtually at Mississippi College School of Law. Only three of the eight candidates running for mayor participated in the debate. D’Andra Orey, professor of political science at Jackson State University and Donna Ladd, publisher, *Jackson Free Press* served as moderators for the debate. Incumbent Mayor of Jackson, Chokwe Antar Lumumba and Kenneth Wilson are the Democrats who participated in the debate along with Ponto “Ronnie” Downing, the only Republican that participated in the City of Jackson Mayoral Debate. Other candidates running for mayor of Jackson, but were not present, are Patty Patterson (D), Jason Wells (R), Shefeqah Lodree (I), Charlotte Reeves (I), and Les Tannehill (I). They will appear on the general election ballot. Sponsoring partners included the Jackson Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Beta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Nation-

al Coalition of 100 Black Women, Central MS Chapter, Jackson Free Press, Jackson Advocate, MS Black Women Roundtable, League of Women Voters Jackson, NAACP Jackson Chapter, and One Voice. Each candidate was given three minutes to respond to each question with no rebuttals. If a candidate wanted to respond to another candidate, they had to use their three minutes when responding to a question. Ponto Downing was the first to introduce himself. “Ponto R. Downing, the R stands for Ronnie not Republican. I guess the best way to describe me is a Jew by blood Jesus freak.” Mayor Lumumba introduced himself emphasizing his law background and his parents’ influence on his upbringing. Kenneth Wilson introduced himself as Ken Wilson and stated, “I am Jackson.” The first question or issue asked of the candidates was regarding infrastructure and the water crisis and any comments regarding the governor and Lt. governor. Mayor Lumumba stated how the city supports certain state buildings and services and does not receive compensation in return from the

**Debate**  
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# The first virtual commemoration of Bloody Sunday

## Mississippians react: Also a first without Civil Rights icon John Lewis

By India Fuller  
JSU Intern

The commemoration of “Bloody Sunday” 2021 looked a lot different this year, due to the COVID-19 safety guidelines. Sunday’s observance also marked the first commemoration without Civil Rights Icon John Lewis. Lewis was a civil rights activist and leader who served in the United States House of Representatives until his death in 2020. Lewis was one of the “Big Six” leaders that organized and marched down the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965. Alabama state troopers and police brutally attacked the marchers including Lewis while they marched for the right to vote. Pre-pandemic, an average of 40,000 people would usually be in attendance. There was still a way for it to be seen as if you were there. The commemoration was recorded live and you were able to buy tickets online to join the virtual activities.

*The Mississippi Link* talked with a few Mississippians to see how they enjoyed the commemoration virtually this year; in addition with the absence of beloved U.S Congressman John Lewis. Award winning Speaker and Mississippi singer Pam Confer, Ph.D., cultural diversity consultant said, “The words and works of a man never die. This is especially true of leaders like Congressman John Lewis. As many of our Civil Rights leaders assume their place in the spiritual world, we go on to give life to what they fought for.” “As we commemorate the 56th anniversary of “Bloody Sunday”, we remain assured that the Edmund Pettus Bridge will always stand, even sway, with fervor.” She further stated, “The bridge will



continue to carry the people, the passion, the policies, and the practices that will help America become the home that we all deserve. May we all continue to walk with Congressman John Lewis.” Many will no doubt remember the legacy. Jackie Hampton, publisher and co-owner of *The Mississippi Link*, wore a “Good Trouble” t-shirt on Sunday along with her three sisters to commemorate the 56th anniversary of the Selma Bridge Crossing. One of John Lewis’ most powerful quotes: “Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.” Hampton stated, “Last Friday night, I was on a conference call with my three sisters, Carolyn, Paulette and Gwen, as we now visit together each week by

phone, rather than in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we were discussing Bloody Sunday, my sister, who resides in Pennsylvania suggested we each wear our “Good Trouble” t-shirt on Sunday,” Hampton continued. “We each agreed, knowing it was simply a symbolic jester reminding us of how brutal that day was 56 years ago when John Lewis and others suffered brutal beatings in their fight for civil rights which became a turning point in the fight for voting rights,” which today these rights are being suppressed once again.” Michael Morris, public relations director, Department of Archives and His-

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# COVID-19: One year anniversary, then and now

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent, PhD  
Contributing Writer

Drs. Thomas Dobbs (State Health Officer) and Paul Byers (State Epidemiologist) joined forces with Jim Craig (Senior Deputy and Director of Health Protection) in a Zoom press conference exclusively for media personnel Monday, March 8. Facilitator Liz Sharlot guided the conversation with precision. Panelists articulated the historical context of COVID-19, the significance of vaccinating and the consequences of carelessness. Byers reported that long term facilities experienced 50% of deaths in March 2020 during the first wave. The second wave (which occurred after July 4 and moved through September) produced death deductions. Then in November 2020 there was a big surge. January captured 3500 cases and peaked with 57 deaths occurring in one day. Dobbs added that the first dose of shots was given in Mississippi Dec. 14



Byers

and was a culmination of over a decade of research. A booster from that time was that “over 130,000 shots were ad-



Craig

ministered in Mississippi last week. The average overall increase is 25%. Last week [the number] increased to 30%,”



Dobbs

according to Dobbs. He proceeded to encourage mask wearing and social distancing, despite Mississippi not now

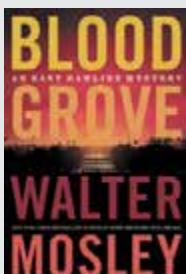
having a mandate. “Community testing began March 20 [last year] throughout Mississippi. March 24 was a great day for testing...A little over 1.7 million persons were tested in December. Since February 2021 more than 2 million Mississippians have been tested. Great teams [within the medical field] have made success. We started vaccinating January 4, 2021 [and have 19 sites],” stated Craig who then mentioned county-drive through vaccination sites: Calhoun – Coliseum; Bolivar – Delta State University; Warren – Vicksburg Mall; Sharkey/Issaquena County – Old Armory; Lawrence County – Ag-Center and Claiborne County – Alcorn University (to open March 22). Dobbs and Craig encouraged telephone calls for appointment availability with eligibility. The following are now included: all persons age 50 years or older; all teachers/staff/employees in K-12, preschool or childcare settings; law en-

**COVID-19**  
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Inside  
Mississippi told to pay \$500K to wrongfully imprisoned man



Blood Grove



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## Nissan Community News



Employees from Nissan Canton recently distributed nearly 4,000 cases of bottled water to coworkers affected by the ongoing boil-water advisory. In the wake of February's winter storms, many in and around Jackson did not have access to clean water for several weeks.



## Eddie L. James vying for Jackson City Council Seat Ward 4

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

Eddie L. James, candidate for Jackson City Council Ward, 4, said a group of friends and acquaintances approached him and said, "We need a good man to serve on the City Council and we think you are the man." Ward 4 is currently represented by Councilman De'Keither Stamps, who was elected in October 2020 to serve as state representative for House District 66.

James said he has served the city of Jackson for 25 years as a firefighter and people trust firefighters and he is ready to serve.

He is running on a platform that includes neighborhood improvement, reduction in crime, pay raises for city employees and an increase in minority business contracts.

James was born in Vicksburg, Warren County, Mississippi. He attended South Vicksburg High School where he was a popular student athlete. He played football, basketball, tennis and participated in track and field. During the summer, he was a lifeguard at the local pool. He obtained a scholarship in 1974 from Jackson State University where he majored in business and mass communication.

In 1975, James, made an historic move and became the first person from Vicksburg in the 20th century to run for state representative. Though he did not win his race, he said he opened doors for others such as the Vicksburg's first black mayor Robert M. Walker and the city's current Mayor George Flaggs, who was previously a state representative from the district.

For the past 20 years, James has been the sports voice at WMPR 90.1 F.M.



James

radio station spotlighting college and high school sports, especially inner-city schools. He has a large, dedicated following as his mottos is, 'No school is too big to garner all the media attention and no school is too small to be kept out of the limelight.'

James worked for Greyhound Bus Station for numerous years at the terminal and mechanic shop. He later became a firefighter for the City of Jackson where he presently works. During his career, he helped save the lives of citizens he rescued from fire perils. James is a first responder. Today, he is a community relations and a fire safety educator. He was named Firefighter of the Year by the Fire Department in 2004.

James is married to Peggy Hudson James. They have three children and five grandchildren. He stated, "There is so much on the line for the city of Jackson. We need someone who will represent the city and not sell us out."

"I won't sell us out," he said.



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## Bloody Sunday

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Confer



Hampton



Morris

tory, told *The Mississippi Link* that “Bloody Sunday” is a focus of the new exhibit that recently debuted. “I AM A MAN: Civil Rights Photographs in the American South, 1960-1970, features photographs taken by James “Spider” Martin during the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches.”

Morris also added that a startling photo of John Lewis being attacked by a police officer with a baton is also on display in the exhibit.

“The death of Congressman John Lewis is a tremendous loss to the civil rights community. His light shines on in the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. I was fortunate to attend the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of “Bloody Sunday” in 2015 with Mississippi movement veterans who recounted their stories of perseverance and struggle,” Morris expressed.

The exhibit debuted: I AM A MAN: Civil Rights Photographs in the American South, 1960-1970 can be seen at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in downtown Jackson.

## COVID-19

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forcement, public safety, fire services and emergency management officials; healthcare personnel; persons ages 16-49 with underlying medical conditions: cancer, chronic kidney disease, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease); down syndrome, heart conditions (i.e., heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies), immunocompromised from solid organ transplant, obesity (body mass index [BMI 40 kg/m2), pregnancy, sickle cell disease, smoking, diabetes or other medical conditions determined by the medical provider.

Dobbs mentioned that he had anticipated the virus: “Like a game, we prepare to play. It’s been an honor to serve at this time.”

Byers declared that there were a lot of dedicated workers within the health department at the outset of the pandemic. “In a lot of ways it has made us strong. [Many sacrifices have been made]. It’s been tough. The days are long. It’s affected us all,” he said.

“The public health people are actively involved. It’s rewarding to see workers administer the vaccine and to see people receive the vaccine. Workers have talked about the great opportunity to administer the vaccine,” Craig said accordingly.

Panelists ventured to the Center for Disease Control’s newly issued guidelines for persons who have been fully vaccinated: (1) may gather with other fully vaccinated individuals in small groups inside their homes without masks or physical distancing; (2) can visit vaccinated people from one other household who are at low risk for severe disease; (3) don’t need to quarantine or take a COVID-19 test if they have been exposed unless they are symptomatic, but should still monitor for symptoms for 14 days even if they are not in quarantine; (4) still wear a mask and social distance in public settings and avoid medium-sized to large gatherings and (5) delay travel and stay home to protect self and others from COVID-19.

At the end of the conversation panelists welcomed continuing telehealth which is a way to address issues like transportation. “We’ve seen it work,” noted Craig. Additionally, they concluded that there was a need for stability in funding. “Health care providers are still trying to make a difference during this pandemic. We’ve had amazing experiences. We have great workers. We have had so many tragic deaths. But there were a lot of heroes,” stated Dobbs.

Sharlot thanked media for coverage of Zoom conferences but warned that they could not photo shoot people getting vaccinated [due to the security policy].

## Debate

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state. “I hope we can demonstrate operational unity, and focus more on our common ends and objectives than our differences. What we have been able to do is leverage our one percentage sales tax in order to get 40 million dollars to go towards our infrastructure and water issue. It is important that whoever stands up here today knows the issue, knows the cost. I know the issue and I know the cost, and I have a history of being able to move beyond party lines and make things happen,” Mayor Lumumba responded.

Wilson talked about a letter he received three years ago saying the water wasn’t safe for pregnant women and here we are three years later and the water still is not safe. “We need a solution. People are suffering. In my administration, we will have a master plan and pursue all options such as the Stanford Act which is for disaster relief and emergency assistance. We will pursue all options so that the citizens of Jackson won’t have to go through this again,” Wilson said.

“As a Republican, I reflect the wishes and politics of two thirds of this state. I am not a Ronald Reagan Republican. I am not a Dwight Eisenhower Republican. I am not a Donald Trump Republican. I am a Tate Reeves Republican,” Ponto stated. “Because the last time I checked, he’s in charge so I am going to comply with him. I can get 470 million dollars. There’s a simple way to do that. Sell the airport.”

Some of the other issues discussed were police violence, crime and other municipal issues.

There were a lot of important issues mentioned during the Mayor’s debate. To watch the debate, go to the Women for Progress Facebook page.

All of the candidates were tested for the Coronavirus prior to the debate except Downing, the Republican candidate, who refused to be tested.

The partisan primary for mayor for the City of Jackson will be held April 6, 2021. The deadline for filing for this election was February 6. The top two candidates will square off April 26 in a runoff election if no candidate receives at least 50 percent of the vote in the primary election. The general election is June 8.

# Tougaloo alumnae promote Heart Health with Google Award for Inclusion Research Grant

By **Levell Williams**  
*Contributing Writer*

Established in 2002 by epidemiologist and registered nurse Dr. Jeanne Charleston and colleagues, the Health Freedom: Path to Wellness program was designed to inspire people to gain “freedom” from cardiovascular disease risk factors, using evidence-based strategies and the inspiration of enslaved people who gained freedom via the Underground Railroad.

The Maryland-based nonprofit has long coordinated 5K Celebration Walks on historic locations on the Underground Railroad as the culminating event for participants of their six-week community health education programs.

However, in an increasingly digital world – and with the new remote aspect of life during the COVID-19 pandemic – the program has acquired new digital needs. Now, two Tougaloo alumnae are working to solve that problem.

Dr. Aqueasha M. Martin-Hammond, assistant professor at the Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis School of Informatics and Computing, and Dr. Tanjala Purnell, assistant professor of Epidemiology and Surgery and associate director of the Center for Health Equity at Johns Hopkins University, are incorporating digital features and capabilities into the Health Freedom project. To help make this possible, the longtime friends and colleagues have obtained funding through Google’s Award for Inclusion Research (AIR) grant.

“[It’s] daunting...[to be] the gatekeepers of something that was so important to them, for so long. But... we’re up for the challenge,” said Dr. Purnell, who was recently named the new executive director of Health Freedom. She and Dr. Martin-Hammond both majored in computer science and were Jackson Heart Study scholars while at Tougaloo.

Dr. Charleston, along with her colleague Ina Glenn-Smith and their community partners, dedicated Health Freedom to raising awareness of chronic disease prevention and treatment. According to Dr. Purnell, they and cardiologist Dr. Elijah Saunders pioneered multiple health advocacy methods in the 1970s that have since become popular among other health organizations, including the American Heart Association. Examples include training community members in Baltimore to be health advocates, conducting health outreach in barber shops, and using vehicles for mobile health promotion among black men.

Health Freedom often works



Martin-Hammond

closely with the AHA and other national organizations to promote public health. “The health education piece of this program is very closely aligned with the AHA’s Life’s Simple 7 recommendations for minimizing cardiovascular risks,” said Dr. Purnell. “That is something that many groups, nationally, are promoting for general heart health.”

Dr. Martin-Hammond spoke about the significance of receiving Google funds from the AIR grant, which had its first year of funding this year. “To know that they are invested in community-based work...speaks to the importance of the topic,” she said.

Drs. Purnell and Martin-Hammond shared their experience applying for the AIR grant. Applicants must limit their research teams to two principal investigators. The application is restricted to faculty members. Also, Google decides how much funding will be allotted to the applicant, up to \$60,000 USD for the 2020 cycle. “The process itself was pretty straightforward. Keep a lookout for [the AIR grant.] I believe they are planning to continue it,” said Dr. Martin-Hammond.

Dr. Martin-Hammond and Dr. Purnell shared their future plans for the Health Freedom program. “The goal is to...take this into the digital space [and] to make it scalable, so that more people can benefit,” said Dr. Martin-Hammond.

In addition to creating a virtual Underground Railroad Celebration Walk, they also plan to utilize computer-based persuasive technologies as well as tracking tools, in order to promote health education. They hope to have a pilot digital program available by June of 2021, in time to commemorate Juneteenth, a holiday celebrating the emancipation of enslaved people.

“One of the other goals was... to do something that we could eventually



Purnell

even take back home to Mississippi,” said Dr. Purnell. “We have such a rich history at home, not just the Underground Railroad, but... [pertaining to] paths related to the Civil Rights Movement, etc.”

Also, they would like to build upon the program’s legacy of community involvement, established by Dr. Charleston and colleagues. “[We know that] community-based participatory research is so important, when we are trying to make sure that programs are sensitive to the needs of the community,” said Dr. Purnell. Participatory designs are expected to yield valuable health statistics and to engage research participants in the study processes.

Finally, Dr. Martin-Hammond and Dr. Purnell shared their hopes to involve students in the ongoing work and legacy of Health Freedom. “The baton was passed to us, so eventually, we want to pass that baton to some other folks, and keep this program going for years to come,” said Dr. Martin-Hammond.

Among possible student roles are intern positions focused on documenting the past achievements of the Health Freedom program and roles in digital storytelling. “We want to pay tribute to those who came before us and all of the work that they’ve done in trying to promote health equity and social justice. We want to do all that we can... to keep the torch moving in the future,” said Dr. Purnell, echoing her colleague’s sentiment.

In an enthusiastic closing statement, Dr. Purnell said, “We’re coming... We want the best and the brightest, and where else can we find that but at our dear Tougaloo Eagle Queen?”

With the help of the Google AIR grant, Health Freedom: Path to Wellness will continue the legacy of the Underground Railroad and champion the mission of public health.



## Celebration of Life Rahim Matin Abdullah Salahadyn

*August 11, 1969 - February 23, 2021*



Rahim Matin Abdullah Salahadyn

Rahim Matin Abdullah Salahadyn was born August 11, 1969 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was the only child born to James Peters and the late Deborah Hughes (Adl Hadi Salahadyn). At birth Rahim was given the name Tyrone Edward Alexander Hughes. After embracing the Muslim faith, his mother changed his name when he was seven years old to Rahim. His family moved to Mississippi when he was 14.

Rahim found his church home at Faith Pentecostal Church under the leadership of the late Elder Donald J. Anderson. Rahim received the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues at Faith Pentecostal. He also began to learn how to operate the sound and video equipment in order to produce church services.

Rahim loved music. He played the tambourine, drums, led many songs and directed the Faith Pentecostal Church choir. One of Rahim's favorite songs was "God Don't Need No Matches."

In 1998, Rahim and his family joined New Horizon Church under the leadership of Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup Sr. and First Lady Jacqueline Crudup. He continued his work as director of audio/video, leader of the praise team, adult choir director, and male choir director. Rahim also served as a deacon at the South Campus. He recently relocated to the New Horizon Rankin Campus under the leadership of Pastor Jason Goree, where he headed the audio and video department. The final project Rahim produced was New Horizon Rankin's Worship After Dark that aired January 31, 2021 on Facebook.

Rahim was a graduate of Jim Hill High School's Class of 1988. He was an original member of The Casanovas, which was started in 1986 and Divine Determination which started in 1988.

In 2007, Rahim continued his education by

enrolling in the computer technology program of Virginia College. He was a President's Scholar and the valedictorian of his 2009 graduating class. At the time of his departure, Rahim was employed at the University of Mississippi Medical Center as a network engineer and systems administrator in the IT Department.

In 1995 Rahim met Syretta Ficklin. He lived in the Olin Park Apartments in the apartment across from Syretta. He was hopeful that she would be interested in him. When he finally got the nerve to speak to her, he asked Syretta if she would braid his hair. In May of 1998, Rahim and Syretta were married at New Horizon Church. Rahim loved his wife as she was his "chocolate dream." He respected his wife and treated her like the queen she was to him. His mission was always to make sure he took care of her every need. Rahim and Syretta endured many trials and tribulations together that made their relationship stronger and more solid. Together, they were the parents of seven children and the grandparents of ten.

Rahim was an awesome father. He taught his daughters how to be photographers. He taught his boys how to be men. He instilled in them the importance of taking care of family and to always put God first. He absolutely loved his grandchildren. He spoiled them every chance he got.

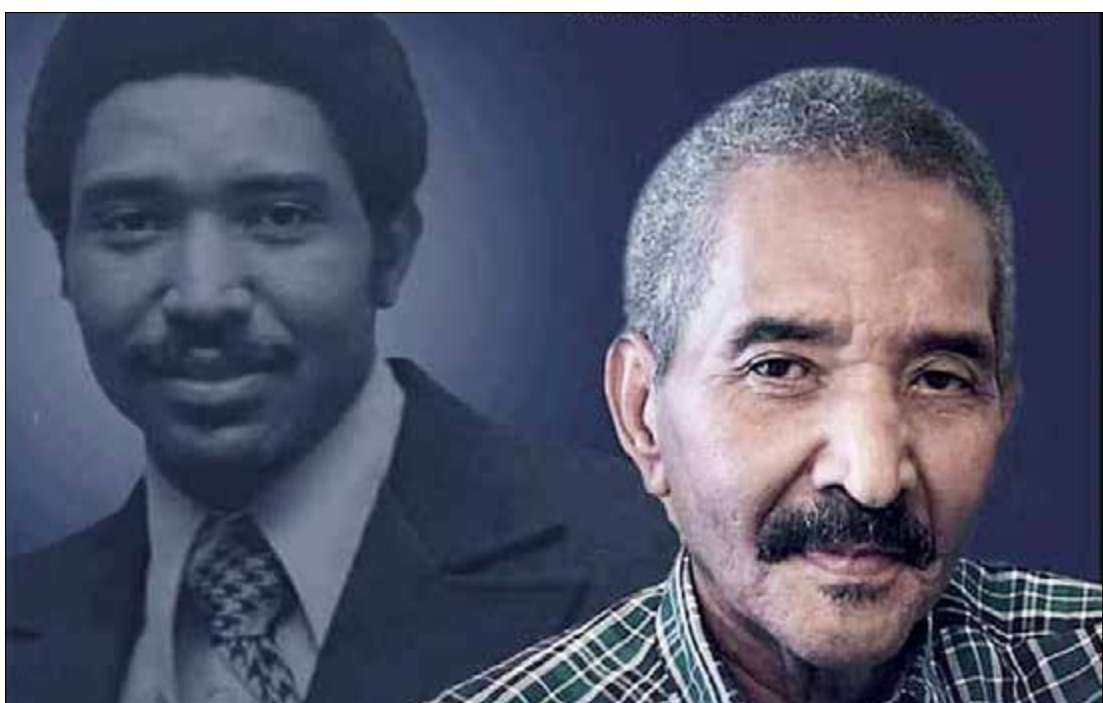
Rahim Matin Abdullah Salahadyn was preceded in death by his mother, Deborah (Adl Hadi Salahadyn) Hughes; his brother Khabir Salahadyn; his grandmothers, Mary Lucille Hughes and Bertha Lee Gunn; his grandfather Julius C. Hughes; and his grandbaby, Baby Brown.

He leaves a profound memory of love and devotion to wife Syretta H. Salahadyn, father James Peters, sons Christian Norwood, Rahim M. Salahadyn II, Aquarius Barbour (Jackelyn) and Brandon Brown, daughters Reneger L. Salahadyn, Deja I. Brown and Jaquavia Richardson (Kermin), sister Hadi Johnson, brothers Joseph Reed, Zakariyah Salahadyn, Jeremy R. Odie (Sharonna), Eddie Williams and Christopher Wheatley (Michelle), mother-in-law Annie J. Odie, grandmother Earner Thicken, sister-in-laws Valerie Odie Huggins (Louis), Ceri Salahadyn (Khabir), uncles Julius Hughes (Bobbie), L.E. Thicken (Ina), L.C. Thicken (Deborah), Martin Thicken (Patricia), aunts Jackie Powell, Joyce Hughes, Mary Lou Hughes, Susie Dandridge, Genise Stuckey and Gloria Thicken, grandchildren Shrese, Michael Aquarius, Zoe, Hayden, Journee, Tristian, Christianna, Malachi and Ava, spiritual brothers Pastor Jason Goree, Darrell Lovett, Jerry Jerdine (Tam-ra) and Walter Walker (Regina), and spiritual sisters Kimberly Williams and Darlene Kimple.

Services were held March 6, 2021 at New Horizon Church International in Jackson, MS.

## Remembering Henry Bruce Johnson

*January 5, 1950 - March 1, 2021*



Johnson

Henry Bruce Johnson was born January 5, 1950 to the union of Elder Thomas and Mamie B. Johnson in Simpson County, Mississippi and was raised in Chicago. During his high school senior year, his mother sent him to live with family in Mississippi due to gang violence.

After receiving his call to ministry, he relocated to Texas and from there would begin his education, marriage and ministry career. His last pastorate was in Jackson, MS which included an opportunity to be closer to his parents.

Johnson was ordained at the MacArthur Park Church of God (Texas). In ministry, he served as pastor of the Auswell Church of God, St. Augustine Church of God, Kendleton Church of God, and Central Community Church of God (MS). Additionally, he was the first chairman of the Southern Interstate Ministries Conference (SIMC) whose mission was to serve young people in southern states who lacked exposure. He was a national speaker for several conventions and founder of Straight Way Ministries.

From his union in holy matrimony to Marietta "Candy" Johnson were three children, known as "Bay Ridge babies" because they met and were employed in several capacities at Bay Ridge Christian College. Both of them were recruited as students by Bay Ridge College President Horace Germany. Johnson would later become vice-president of Bay Ridge Christian College, Kendleton, TX. His dream was to become president.

Johnson was gifted. His work background includes pastor, mechanic/mechanics teacher, skilled carpenter, commercial truck driver, and licensed chemical dependency counselor.

He received a bachelor's degree in theology from Bay Ridge Christian College, Kendleton, TX; masters degree in sociology, Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX; and licensed counselor, Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

In his leisure, he enjoyed fishing and hunting. He was a nature lover and outdoorsman who was also very competitive and enjoyed shooting pool, dominoes, checkers and Scrabble. He loved westerns, eagles and turquoise jewelry.

Johnson departed this life Monday, March 1, 2021 at the Hospice Center in Salisbury, N.C.

He was preceded in death by his son Jamel Johnson Sr.; grandson Thomas Johnson Jr.; former wife Rose Harper Johnson; both his parents Elder Thomas and Mamie B. Johnson; and four brothers Thomas Johnson, James Walter Johnson, Charlie Johnson and David Johnson.

He leaves to cherish his memory three children: Tamika Clarke, Rev. Tajuan Kyles (Sylvester) and Thomas Alva Johnson (Sharie); nine grandchildren: Jabre, Yasmeen, Jaily, Mikela, Sylvester "Trey," Jamel Jr., Jamea, Zanna Rose and Richmond; two great-grandsons: Isaiah and Josiah; three: brothers, Arthur Paul (Irma), Samuel (Wanda), and Daniel (Daphne) Johnson; one sister, Elnora (Carstelle); and a host of nieces, nephews and other family and friends.

The first memorial service was held March 6, 2021 at Moore's Chapel AME Zion Church in Salisbury, N.C.

A second memorial service will be held March 13, 2021 at 1 p.m. at Central Community Church of God in Jackson, MS.

## Mississippi House rejects plan to restructure history board

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
Associated Press

The Mississippi House on Tuesday rejected a proposal to restructure the board that governs the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

The nine-member board was established in 1902. Its members have always nominated their own successors and those nominees have been confirmed by the state senate.

Senate Bill 2727 said the Archives and History board could recommend nominees, but the governor or lieutenant governor could ignore those recommendations and nominate any person they want. The nominees would still need senate confirmation.

The proposal was pushed by senate leaders, who argued that Archives and History board members would be more accountable to the public if they were nominated by elected officials. But the plan was broadly condemned by historians who said the change could politi-



Rep. John Hines of Greenville stated the current Archives and History board is recognized nationally for the great work it's been doing in changing the image of MS

cize the way Mississippi examines its own legacy.

The House voted Tuesday to kill the bill, with only 19 members voting for it and 103 voting against it. The bill was held for the possibility of more debate in coming days, but supporters need to persuade 43 members to change their votes to revive it.

Democratic Rep. John Hines of Greenville spoke against the bill,

saying the current Archives and History board "is nationally recognized for the great work it's been doing in changing the image of Mississippi."

Among other duties, the Department of Archives and History operates the side-by-side Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and Museum of Mississippi History that both opened in late 2017. The civil rights museum, in particular, has been praised for an unflinching presentation of the state's violent history.

The department in 2020 also worked with a commission that designed a new Mississippi flag after legislators retired the last state flag in the U.S. that included the Confederate battle emblem. The Archives and History board president, former state Supreme Court Justice Reuben Anderson, also served as commission chairman.

Hines called the Archives and History board "a beacon of light and hope." Then, switching metaphors, he added: "If you make the best biscuits in town, why change

the recipe?"

No House members argued for the bill. House Accountability, Efficiency and Transparency Committee Chairman Randy Boyd, a Republican from Mantachie, tried to keep it alive by saying a final version could be negotiated to make changes in the senate proposal. But Boyd did not offer specifics, and he said he was unaware of any problems with the way board members have been selected.

Forty-six scholars who teach history at Mississippi colleges and universities signed a letter last month praising the Department of Archives and History and saying the method of selecting board members should not change.

"Whether conducting research in its vast archives, examining its artifacts spanning 13,000 years of Mississippi history, or participating in one of the department's many public events, we have directly experienced the incredible asset of a competent and well-run state history

## Sanders gets first SWAC win, Jackson State over Grambling 33-28

Associated Press

Aubrey Miller Jr. forced a fumble at the 1 with 1:04 left in the game, and Keonte Hampton recovered it to secure Jackson State coach Deion Sanders' first Southwestern Athletic Conference win, 33-28 over Grambling State on Saturday.

Miller had 17 tackles and Hampton had 15 for Jackson State (2-0, 1-0), which beat Grambling State (0-1, 0-1) for the first time since 2012 and ended Grambling's 16-game home winning streak that started in 2015.

Grambling State's late opportunity to go ahead was made possible when it forced Jackson State's Tyson Alexander to fumble into the end zone resulting in a touchback with 4:52 left. That set up Grambling State's drive to the goal line only to be undone by the decisive fumble, its first turnover of the game.

Alexander set career marks with 186 yards rushing and a 53-yard carry. Jalon Jones was 12-of-18 passing for 180 yards and rushed for 42 yards.

Jeremy Hickbottom was 24 of 35 for 237 yards passing with a touchdown for Grambling State.



# Tougaloo students attend UNCF/Mellon-Funded HBCU Art History Program with Yale Instruction

By Levell Williams  
Contributing Writer

Tougaloo College prepares its students to bring a unique and valuable element into every professional space. For three Eaglets, such an opportunity came in the form of the UNCF/Mellon Teaching and Learning Institute. During a three-day intensive workshop in December 2020, they learned from Yale University Art Conservators about art preservation and technical art history.

Junior chemistry major Micah Robinson, sophomore history major Sharon Jimmerson, and senior biology major LaShon Webb joined students from Tuskegee, Xavier, Fisk and Spelman for the art history program.

Prior to attending the program, each student shared their unique excitement.

Robinson said that she wanted to gain skills to communicate the value of art history to members of the public. “[What] you do isn’t important... unless you can share all your results with someone else,” said Robinson. Webb said that he wanted to learn more about curatorial skills and how to host a proper museum exhibit.

Jimmerson shared that she desired to increase representation of the artwork of women of color in museum collections. “Many museums are lacking equal representation by not having diversification in all facets of the organization including museum education staff, board of directors, curators, etc.,” she said.

The students also shared their thoughts



Micah Robinson

on how other students can pursue opportunities like the UNCF/Mellon Teaching and Learning Institute. “Be honest with what you want to do,” said Robinson. “If you want to do something, don’t let anybody hold you back.”

Each student also noted the importance of support from professors. “Professor Bruce O’Hara did a great job,” said Webb about his memorable experience in an art history course.

Each student shared their plans for utilizing their newly attained skills.

In addition to Webb’s plans to bring an artistic appeal to his medical profession, and Robinson’s goal to communicate the value of art to her community, Jimmerson shared some institutional goals. She said she would like to establish institu-



Sharon Jimmerson

tional connections between Tougaloo and Yale and to enhance her work in her fellowship at the Mississippi Museum of Art.

In addition to instructional growth, the young Tougalooans look forward to using art history in the realm of social justice. “There is a glaring ethical issue with museums being based into imperialism and colonialism,” said Webb. “Then we

get into eurocentrism... museums benefit from all of this.”

“Some artifacts have special religious and/or ceremonial rites associated with them,” Jimmerson noted, “so museums – particularly in the United States and Western Europe – are contributing to an unethical removal of sentimental materials from their place of origin.”

Robinson added, “That is the whole



LaShon Webb

idea of the program – to get more of a diverse view and opinion out there.”

With an education in art history through the UNCF/Mellon Teaching and Learning Institute, these students will be equipped with the tools to preserve and display valuable pieces of art. Whether in the laboratory or the museum, they will undoubtedly continue to bring unique contributions to every space.

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# Mississippi told to pay \$500K to wrongfully imprisoned man

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
Associated Press

A judge is ordering the state of Mississippi to pay \$500,000 to a black man who was wrongfully imprisoned more than 22 years and was tried six times in a quadruple murder case.

Curtis Flowers was released from prison in December 2019, months after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a district attorney had excluded black jurors from his trials. Flowers had spent years on death row.

Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch said in September that she would not try Flowers a seventh time in the 1996 slayings and a robbery that took place at a furniture store in Winona. He had been in custody since 1997.

In November, Flowers sued the state seeking compensation for wrongful imprisonment. Court papers show the attorney general's office agreed to his request.

Montgomery County Circuit Judge George Mitchell Tuesday ordered the state to pay Flowers \$500,000. That is the maximum allowed under a 2009 state law, which says the state can pay \$50,000 for each year of wrongful imprisonment, for up to 10 years.

Mitchell also ordered the state to make a separate payment of \$50,000 to Flowers's attorneys.

Flowers was convicted four times: twice for individual slayings and twice for all four killings. Two other trials in-

volving all four deaths ended in mistrials. Each of Flowers's convictions was overturned.

In June 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court tossed out the conviction and death sentence from Flowers's sixth trial, which took place in 2010. Justices said prosecutors' pattern of excluding black jurors from his trials was unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court ruling came after American Public Media's "In the Dark" investigated the case. The podcast recorded jailhouse informant Odell Hallmon in 2017 and 2018 recanting his testimony that Flowers had confessed to him.

The first six trials were prosecuted by the local district attorney. Flowers was still fac-

ing the 1997 indictments in December 2019 when a judge agreed to release him on bond.

The district attorney handed the case to the attorney general, and her staff spent months reviewing it before deciding not to go forward because of a lack of credible witnesses.

The four people shot to death July 16, 1996, in Tardy Furniture were store owner Bertha Tardy, 59; and three employees: Carmen Rigby, 45; Robert Golden, 42; and 16-year-old Derrick "Bobo" Stewart.

The NFL announced in December that players were wearing helmet decals to honor Flowers and other "victims of systemic racism, victims of police misconduct and social justice heroes."



Flowers

# Mississippians trace their family tree, and how one can trace theirs

By Isabelle Taft  
Associated Press

That's how it looked to Melissa Evans when she compared her family tree to the ones created by her third-grade classmates. Some of her white classmates had branches stretching back centuries. Evans, one of only a handful of black students at her school in Gulfport, traced her family to her great-grandparents.

When other students asked why Evans' tree was so short, their teacher didn't want to talk about slavery, how it tore apart black families in the United States, and Evans isn't sure it would have been the right setting for the conversation anyway. More than 30 years later, she remembers the feeling of embarrassment, of lacking something.

"Your feelings get hurt," she said. "You see all these people. They have a huge tree. And you're just sitting there like, that's something I never forgot."

That memory is part of what drove Evans, who still lives in Gulfport, to start carefully researching her ancestry as an adult. The research has taken her back to 1850, when some documents say an ancestor named Henry Hyde was born (other sources say 1854). She knows he spent most of his life working for a white family named the Dantzlars in Jackson County, but other details remain out of reach.

Evans's research sometimes keeps her up until 2 or 3 a.m., trawling Ancestry.com and checking online archives for names of her ancestors. It has introduced her to a previously unknown relative in Germany and showed that Michael Jackson is a distant relation.

By tracing her family tree, Evans hopes to rediscover some of the kinship ties that slavery destroyed, and to ensure they will never again be erased.

"Sisters and brothers were broken up," she said. "It's a shame, but it's just facts. All we can do is talk about it. A lot of people don't like to talk about the past, but in order for the past not to occur again, we have to talk about it."

learning more about where they came from.

And because the research often leads to the living descendants of slaveholders, it also provides a lesson in the possibilities and perils of attempting an honest conversation, across the country's racial divide, about the legacy and consequences of slavery in the 21st century.

## How To Start Researching Your Family Tree

Joyce Dixon-Lawson, who retired from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History last year as curator of research and genealogy, began hosting workshops on African-American genealogy in the early 1990s. As far as she knows, no one at the department had done that before.

Dixon-Lawson believes family history research should start with a conversation with the elderly members of your family. Take notes and ask questions to draw out details. Listen for the names of people and places.

Then, head to the archives. The federal government releases complete census information only after a 72-year waiting period to protect the privacy of living people. The most recent available census is from 1940 and is free to search online (it's easiest if you know where your relatives were living at that point).

Next, work backward. After finding a relative in the 1940 census, look for them and their household members in the 1930 census. Check every census, Dixon-Lawson says, even if you are certain a relative lived in the same place each time, because each census collected different information.

One Mississippi-specific resource is the "Enumeration of Educable Children," which lists the names and ages of school-age children, and is searchable online. State death records from 1912 are now also digitized and searchable online, thanks to the work of Christopher Smothers, an Atlanta-based genealogist and historian who specializes in African-American ancestry and has researched his own family in Mississippi.

Records, like the people who prepared them, can be faulty. Some faults are gifts: Mississippi's educable lists sometimes include adult family members, perhaps because the person com-

puting the list didn't understand what they were supposed to be doing.

Other faults confound. A relative may be excluded from a census, or the census taker may have misspelled the name. A county that exists now may not have existed in, say, 1880, so records that old may be somewhere else.

"And then you have courthouses that burned," Dixon-Lawson said.

Though few who are not genealogists realize it, this coun-

ty witnessed an epidemic of courthouse burnings in the 19th century, due to accidents and the Civil War. It happened in at least 12 Mississippi counties, including Jackson, plus many more that suffered unspecified "records loss."

## Records And Family Stories Aren't Perfect

Finding an ancestor in the archives may be possible only with a mind open to alternate spellings, inconsistent dates and contradictions of family lore. All family stories should be viewed with some skepticism until confirmed with documents.

Dollie Gathings, who began her genealogy research in the pre-digital era, spent 15 years searching for relatives in one census. She went line by line, for the entire county, until she found them, their names totally misspelled but ages a perfect match.

Gathings, 77, lives in Byram, Miss. and has spent countless hours at Mississippi archives, quietly perusing documents alongside other genealogy researchers. She said it's not uncommon for a sigh of relief and joy to punctuate the silence,

signifying someone has broken through a brick wall.

"We don't pay it any attention, because we know that feeling," she said. "The ancestors, we stand on their shoulders, and they deserve to be known and recognized and their names spoken. That's one of the things that keeps me going."

## 'You Don't Tell Me What I Can't Get'

When Brenda A. Beal, who now lives in the Atlanta area, started researching her Mis-

issippi family roots in the late 2000s, she called MDAH. The archives employee told her that enslaved people were not included in the census prior to 1870.

"And he said, 'So, if you're looking to find information further back than that, you probably won't find it,'" Beal recalls.

When she hung up the phone, Beal sat at her desk and cried. Growing up in Michigan, slavery had seemed very distant.

"It was like a whole new light bulb had come on for me," she said.

But Beal was not deterred.

"You don't tell me what I can't get," she said.

Beal found her great-grandfather, Anthony Smart, in the 1880 census. He and his mother, Sarah Smart, were living in Attala County in the household of a man named Sam Chambers. But Beal did not know who the Chambers were, or if she had found the right Anthony and Sarah Smart. So she set aside the information in a "Miscellaneous" folder for puzzle pieces that don't yet fit together.

It took a few years and the re-

discovery of a misplaced docu-

ment, but Beal eventually confirmed that Sarah Smart was her great-great-grandmother. She also located a death certificate for Sarah Smart's oldest son, George, which revealed Chambers was Sarah Smart's maiden name.

Several years later, a relative Beal found through her research told her about a document containing information about their shared ancestors: an 1858 slave registry that, unusually, listed some full names as well as ages and genders for the people it described.

The registry listed Sarah Chambers, her brother Sam and some other siblings, along with their mother Mariah. It also listed Sarah "Sall" Wilson (some documents list her surname as Parker), who was Mariah's mother and Beal's great-great-great-great-grandmother. Wilson was born in South Carolina, most likely around 1800. (The documents give a range of dates for her birth.)

With those names, Beal was able to locate her ancestors in the 1870 census: Mariah Chambers was head of household, living with her children and her mother, Sarah Wilson. Wilson was still living by the time of the 1880 census, but she is listed as sick. Beal assumes she may have died not long after, but has not been able to find a document recording her death.

The person who owned Beal's ancestors was named William McWillie, a South Carolina banker who moved to Mississippi in 1845 and became the state's governor in 1857.

Though Beal has traced several generations of her enslaved ancestors, many details of their lives remain mysteries to her. She wondered, for example, exactly how they made the journey from South Carolina to Mississippi. One document she found from 1902 describes the trip this way.

"In October, 1845, Col. McWillie accompanied by his family, with a long train of carriages, wagons, negroes and horses crossed the states between South Carolina and Mississippi to make a home in the West."

## How To Find An Enslaved Ancestor

Christopher Smothers, the Atlanta genealogist who helped get

Mississippi death records digitized, recommends people looking for enslaved ancestors trace their family members back to the 1870 census.

There's a good chance that in 1870, they were still living in the area, or even on the same plantation, where they had been enslaved, Smothers said. The Freedmen's Bureau, which supervised labor contracts for formerly enslaved people during this era, may also have relevant records.

Then, look at county land records to identify the major plantation owners in the area. Search conveyance records, slave schedules and deeds for each of these land owners.

"That whole cloak of misinformation and ignorance really dissipates when you understand that we were a part of the American capitalistic system, and in order to document that, you needed to be concrete about who owned what and what was being conveyed from who to whom," Smothers said. "The information exists."

Not all black Mississippians were enslaved before the Civil War. In 1840, the state had 1,366 free black residents, a number that had declined to 773 by 1860 (425,000 people were enslaved in Mississippi at that point), as southern states made it more legally difficult to free enslaved people. Most free black Mississippians lived in the Natchez area.

Ja'el Gordon, a Baton Rouge-based historian and genealogist who leads the Louisiana chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society and is in the process of chartering a Mississippi chapter, pointed out that migration across state lines was not uncommon for free black people. Louisiana was home to the largest free black population in the Deep South, numbering nearly 19,000 in 1860.

Some free people of color, like the famous Natchez barber, businessman and diarist William Johnson, owned slaves.

"Feelings are going to be there, whether that's talking about consent or talking about free persons of color who owned other persons of color themselves," Gordon said.

Read more online at  
www.themississippilink.com





## A walk a day can help keep breast cancer away

By Vince Faust  
*Tips to Be Fit*

A recent study found that postmenopausal women that walk an hour a day have a 14% lower risk of breast cancer compared with their inactive counterparts. If you also did at least one hour of strenuous physical activity daily you'll have a 25% lower risk for breast cancer. Physical activity can lower your risk by reducing hormones, improving weight control, improving glucose metabolism and insulin sensitivity and lowering inflammation.

In another study of both premenopausal and postmenopausal women they found that women that did 10 hours of moderate exercise a week that included walking had a 30% lower risk for breast cancer than those that were sedentary. The theory is that their exercise reduced body fat and enhanced cell repair.

Walking will also supply you with the following benefits:

- ...Lower resting heart rate
- ...Faster recovery rate after work or exercise

- ...Lower resting blood pressure

- ...Better cardiovascular efficiency

- ...Increase blood/oxygen volume

- ...Decrease LDL (low density lipoproteins, Bad Cholesterol)
- ...Increase HDL (high density lipoproteins, Good Cholesterol)

- ...Lessen the risk of blood clots

- ...Strengthen the heart

- ...Help reduce weight by burning body fat

- ...Increase energy

- ...Make bones stronger

- ...Reduce stress from anger, frustration, change, etc.

Walking is one of the best ways to get in part of your workout. It's safe, healthy, fun, inexpensive and easy to start.

Walking, like other aerobic exercises, should produce a training effect. "Training effect" is your body's ability to recover from physical stress such as exercise or work.

When you use a high impact exercise to get in your



aerobics, you put 3 to 4 times your body weight on every joint in the body. That's not to say you shouldn't use high impact exercises such as jogging, but you should be aware of the problems that can be associated with them. When you walk, the impact of each step is only 1-1/2 times your body weight.

Unlike many other aerobic exercises walking is relatively free from many of the hazards of aerobic exercises. Aerobic exercises such as jogging, jumping rope or high impact aerobic can cause joint pain, stress fractures, muscle pulls and other problems. Studies have shown that you can get the same benefits by walking sixty minutes, four times a week at a slower pace as you can by running thirty minutes three times a week.

Although walking is relatively free from injuries you can still overdo it. If you begin to feel pain, stop walking for a couple of days, then slowly work your way back into your program.

Start walking at your own level, even if it's only for a few minutes. Then gradually build on the time, pace and distance.

Tips that can help you get started:

- ...Go for a walk when your energy level is low (it will give you a boost)

- ...Walk to work

- ...Walk before breakfast

- ...Walk in the mall if the weather is bad

- ...Get a friend to walk with you

- ...Walking is also a good way to spend quality time with your mate or your children

### A Quick Walking Program

1st week

Walk 20 minutes.

Record the distance.

Walk the same distance and time three times during the week.

2nd week

Walk for 25 minutes.

Keep a record of the distance

Walk the same distance and time three times during the week.

3rd week

Walk for 30 minutes.

Keep a record of the distance and time.

Walk the same distance and time three times during the week

To continue, increase the time by 3 to 5 minutes each week. Keep a record of both the time and the distance.

Try to have at least one day of rest between your walking workouts for the first two months if you've never been involved in exercise.

After you've reached 60 minutes you may want to use the same time and increase the distance. Continue to increase the distance weekly until you can't increase your distance during the 60 minutes. You then have to decide if you need more aerobic exercise. For most people 60 minutes of walking near maximum pace is all you'll need to

stay aerobically fit.

When walking or running you should always face on coming traffic. Facing the traffic will give you a chance to see what's coming and give you more time to react. So that you'll be seen wear bright clothing during the day that doesn't match your surroundings. Day glow orange is an excellent choice. At night you want to wear white or reflective clothing. You can even carry a flashlight.

There are a few other safety features you want to take into consideration when walking outside. Walk with a friend. Avoid isolated and poorly lit areas. Always let someone know what route you're taking and when you expect to return. Carry identification. Do not wear headphones they make you less aware of traffic sounds, dogs, approaching strangers and can cause problems with your equilibrium. If you can, use a route that others use when working out so you'll be less likely to be a victim of foul play.

If you're going to walk outside during the day you should wear sunglasses. Everybody needs sunglasses, and not just in the summertime. Exposure to ultraviolet light over the years can damage the lenses of the eye. Make sure the sunglasses you use provide UVA and UVB protection.

So, what are you waiting for? Start walking your way to a healthier, happier lifestyle.

## Fully vaccinated people can gather without masks, CDC says

By Mike Stobbe  
*AP Medical Writer*

Fully vaccinated Americans can gather with other vaccinated people indoors without wearing a mask or social distancing, according to long-awaited guidance from federal health officials.

The recommendations also say that vaccinated people can come together in the same way – in a single household – with people considered at low-risk for severe disease, such as in the case of vaccinated grandparents visiting healthy children and grandchildren.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced the guidance Monday.

The guidance is designed to address a growing demand, as more adults have been getting vaccinated and wondering if it gives them greater freedom to visit family members, travel or do other things like they did before the COVID-19 pandemic swept the world last year.

"With more and more people vaccinated each day, we are starting to turn a corner," said CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky.

During a press briefing Monday, she called the guidance a "first step" toward restoring normalcy in how people come together. She said more activities would be ok'd for vaccinated individuals once case loads and deaths decline, more Americans are vaccinated, and as more science emerges on the ability of those who have been vaccinated to get and spread the virus.

The CDC is continuing to recommend that fully vaccinated people still wear well-fitted masks, avoid large gatherings, and physically distance themselves from others when out in public. The CDC also advised vaccinated people to get tested if they develop symptoms that could be related to COVID-19.

Officials say a person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the last required dose of vaccine. About 31 million Americans – or only about 9% of the U.S. population – have been fully vaccinated with a federally authorized COVID-19 vaccine so far, according to the CDC.

Authorized vaccine doses first became available in December, and they were products that required two doses spaced weeks apart. But since January, a small but growing number of Americans have been fully vaccinated, and have been asking questions like: Do I still have to wear a mask? Can I go to a bar now? Can I finally see my grandchildren?

The guidance was "welcomed news to a nation that is understandably tired of the pandemic and longs to safely resume normal activities," said Dr. Richard Besser, president and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and a former acting director of the CDC.

"I hope that this new guidance provides the momentum for everyone to get vaccinated when they can and gives states the patience to follow the public health roadmap needed to reopen their economies and communities safely," said Besser, in a statement.

But Dr. Leana Wen called the guidance "far too cautious."

The CDC did not change its recommendations on travel, which discourages unnecessary travel and calls for getting tested within a few days of the trip. That could seem confusing to vaccinated people hoping to visit family across the country or abroad.

The new guidance also says nothing about going to restaurants or other places, even though governors are lifting restrictions on businesses, said Wen, an emergency physician and public health professor at George Washington University who was formerly Baltimore's health commissioner.

"The CDC is missing a major opportunity to tie vaccination status with reopening guidance. By coming out with such limited guidance, they are missing the window to influence state and national policy," Wen said, in an email.

The CDC guidance did not speak to people who may have gained some level of immunity from being infected, and recovering from, the coronavirus.

*Associated Press reporter Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.*

## ASU announces partnership with Claiborne County Office of Emergency Management to establish a COVID-19 vaccination site

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

In an effort to dramatically increase coronavirus vaccinations in one of the hardest-hit counties in Mississippi, Alcorn State University announces a new partnership with Claiborne County's Office of Emergency Management to establish a COVID-19 vaccination site on the university's campus.

"For many high-risk residents in Mississippi's rural areas, they are they facing statewide vaccine shortages and often must travel long distances," said University President

Felecia M. Nave. "Alcorn State University is doing all we can to assist our community in the fight against COVID-19. We know that community members are not just our neighbors, they are part of the Alcorn family."

Marvin Ratliff, Claiborne County Emergency Management director, appreciates the opportunity to partner with the university to provide vaccinations to area residents.

"It gives the Claiborne County Board of Supervisors great

pleasure to partner with Alcorn in providing vaccinations to the citizens of Claiborne County," said Ratliff. "Alcorn is a resource to the community. The goal is to have a vaccination site that was easily accessible for individuals within our community who otherwise may not have been able to receive the vaccine. Alcorn stepped in to make this dream a reality. We thank Ms. Collins, Dr. Nave and the Alcorn team."

A drive-through facility will be available March 23, from

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vaccinations will be given on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

According to Alcorn's COVID-19 Response Coordinator Jennifer Riley Collins, "At their appointment time, registrants can come to the vaccination site where they receive counseling regarding the vaccine, their vaccine, and then will be asked to stay for about 15 to 30 minutes. This is all done in the comfort of their own car, which allows for especially vulnerable residents to stay socially dis-

tanced."

During the time that they spend on campus, the health-care staff and community volunteers will make sure that they're safe and register them for their second-dose appointment, as well as get them their vaccine card.

"The goal of this vaccination site is to accelerate getting the vaccine into the arms of Mississippians," Riley Collins added.

All appointments for vaccinations at the Alcorn State University site must be made

through MSDH's vaccine appointment system and will be based on the eligibility guidelines established by the agency. Appointments cannot be made with university or county offices.

To make an appointment, visit covidvaccine.umc.edu or call 877-978-6453. Appointments are expected to become available on the state site beginning Tuesday, March 9.

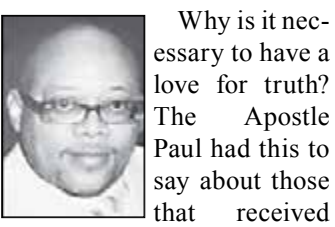
For more information, visit www.alcorn.edu/vaccination for directions.



# The truth shall make you free

PART 2

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



Why is it necessary to have a love for truth? The Apostle Paul had this to say about those that received not a love for the truth. – And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believe not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” (2nd Thessalonians 2:11-12).

Another reason for possessing a love for truth is expressed by the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 4:1, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith

(truth), giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”

There are multiple aspects to truth presented here. Solomon said that we must buy the truth. He did not mean that truth could be purchased with a monetary exchange. He meant that truth is so essential to spiritual life that we must seek for it with all our hearts. Solomon did not stop with “buy the truth,” he added, “Sell it not!” In other words, have such a great love for truth that you will never depart from it.

Departing from the faith (truth) once we have received it has grave consequences which are far more serious than if we had never known it. Jesus taught that if we fail to walk in the light (truth) as it shines upon our pathway, we go into darkness, and “how great is that darkness” (Matthew 6:23).

In addition to having a love for the truth, we must also have an unloving disposition toward all that is false. The Psalmist spoke well when he said, “Through thy perceptions (truth) I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.” (Psalm 119:104). Again, the Psalmist speaks, “Thy word (truth) have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” (Psalm 119:11). Though the Psalmist’s words be few, they speak volumes.

When Jesus was with His disciples’ here on earth, He was their Comforter, Guide

PRESERVED

## Blessing of resurrection and restoration

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



In 2007, playwright, director and actor Tyler Perry released the eagerly anticipated, Why Did I Get Married? to both positive critical reviews and great box-office success. Despite what a few critics dismissively labeled an “African-American” buppie movie, Why Did I Get Married? expanded the cinematic road that Perry traveled in his 2005 hit” Diary of a Mad Black Woman.” Perry’s movie showed the importance of resurrection and the process of restoration.

I also liked it because it touched on one of the blessings that I’ve written about previously: restoration. This film illustrated the blessings of restoration where we embrace God’s grace and are no longer held hostage by the mistakes of our past and resurrection where we accept that sometimes in order for God to bring to life the seeds of destiny some things must die.

riages. And then it happens: the truth comes out about the secrets in each marriage...and the immature hopes of their marriages die. However, Perry shows that once that truth is exposed, the seeds of a new beginning can be planted and the hopefulness of restoration can take place.

The couples in the movie had marital trouble but it was their overcoming those troubles that gave them the foundation for their future marital success.

Sometimes things die because we neglect them. In other cases, God allows them to die so he can resurrect them. Whatever the case, God has the final say so on what lives or dies...and what gets restored.

The restoration process can be difficult because we must choose to submit to change. Resurrection also makes us see that God might not wipe the slate clean. Instead, He often chooses to use those things that we think disqualify us to be the thing that propels us into our future.

Part of the blessings of resurrection and restoration is that they appear to come in negative and unwanted packages initially. Similarly, we may have to let go of a dream or change our attitude about something or someone. As we continue a focus on resurrection during Lent, we are reminded of its importance to our growth as Christians. Once we let those old things die, we then have the great opportunity to see God use that negative thing be the foundation for us to give and live again.

Why Did I Get Married showed that in order for something to be resurrected, it must die first much like the truth in the scripture John 12:24 that says, “I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” What died for some of the couples was the fantasy of what the relationship was and what grows is a shocking realization of what the relationship is.

One of the movie’s strengths is the fast-paced and well written dialogue of the couples during their annual retreat in the beautiful Colorado Rocky Mountains. The snow capped mountains provide a perfect backdrop image for the seemingly impassable mountains of deceit, anger and self-centeredness that plague the couple’s marriage.

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 [preservedbypurpose@gmail.com](mailto:preservedbypurpose@gmail.com) or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.



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# Black Americans must now fight on all fronts

By Dr. John Warren  
San Diego Voice and  
Viewpoint/NNPA Member



While some of us are spending our time watching the news or wondering how we are going to survive the pandemic, now is the time to understand the battles we are in and determine what we must do individually and collectively. Here are the issues:

(1) We must be clear that we support a conviction in the George Floyd murder trial. Nothing less is acceptable. We must voice our call for a conviction in all our media outlets. There can be no cover up or ac-

quittal.

(2) We must look closely at each state that has a Republican governor or legislative majority seeking to pass voter suppression laws such as limiting days and times of voting, reducing ballot drop boxes and the number of precincts available in our communities. We can't wait to litigate. We must follow the example of the state of Georgia and register every voter possible, secure voter identification cards or help voters obtain them in advance of the state laws that are going to pass with Republican majorities in the legislatures and organize voters against Republicans seeking office or re-election in 2022 so that they don't get a

majority in the U.S. Congress or the U.S. Senate. Georgia set the example, now let's follow it in every state.

(3) We must urge the passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, H.R.1.

The bill has passed the U.S. House of Representatives, we must now find the five or 10 votes needed in the Senate to add to the Democratic votes necessary for passage. Every senate and congressional district has people seeking to replace the incumbent. We must find those people and support them if they support us. The late Julian Bond once said, "No permanent friends, no permanent enemies, just permanent interest."

We must study the White Nationalists, and the Republicans who no longer care about the American people, only maintaining their "White Privilege" at the expense of the rest of America.

In the midst of this, we must reassess our spending habits and our loyalties. We must know who financially supports those who are against voter participation, those who support police unfair treatment of blacks, in particular, and people of color in general and those who oppose America helping the most needed and most vulnerable among us.

It sounds like a big task, but we start where we live and build from there. Let's get busy.

# When Harry met Kay



Harry and Kay Alford

By Harry C. Alford  
National Black Chamber  
of Commerce

It was the city of Detroit where Kay and Harry met. Who would have guessed it? A fun loving and "wild" man from Southern California versus a nice and sweet pretty girl from the "Heartland" of Indiana. But it happened and has been going strong for over 40 years.

Harry had a reputation of being a girl chaser and would work a rotation of 5 or 6 during a designated period. He had two divorces on his resume and an enormous "team" of broken hearts in between.

A popular guy on the Detroit nightlife while Kay was new to the city working her first corporate job as a sales representative with Colgate Palmolive. Prior to working with Johnson & Johnson sales division, Harry earned his sales skills with Procter & Gamble.

One sunny afternoon Harry was traveling through Detroit Metropolitan Airport with his local sales force on their way to a conference in Dallas, Texas. He ran into a friend of his who suggested he come over to his table where he and his team were having lunch. He said, "Harry, I want you to meet my new sales rep. I believe you are going to like her (knowing my reputation for chasing the prettiest of ladies). There she was sitting down with that gorgeous smile and rookie demeanor. My eyes laid on Kay DeBow and the "lightning" struck. She was on her way to a conference in New York City so we exchanged business cards and committed to some quality time upon our return to the Motor City.

I told one of my sales reps. that if I ever meet that foxy lady again, I will end up marrying her. He laughed but I meant every word of it from the bottom of my heart. Her smile, honey colored skin, legs that resembled Wille Mays' baseball bat with hips and a bustline to match. I said to myself if it is meant to happen then Lord please make it soon.

Two months later we ran into each other in a Farmer's Jack supermarket. I immediately put this rap on her: This is a tough city with a very rough business environment. However, I sort of ran this place. Ask around about me. In fact, I would make a great mentor for a young rookie as yourself. If ever you want to probe my mind and pick up some good training "tips" please call my voicemail.

It did not take long. In 20 minutes, I had a message from Kay saying she wanted to start the "training." The next day we had our first breakfast date which later turned into a lunch and then into an after-hours bar date.

The next day I drove her through rural Ontario replete with a cabin restaurant. That evening we pulled into a fancy hotel and consummated our super-duper love affair.

Three weeks later we had moved in and so, the beginning of this 40-year love affair began

its fantastic "voyage."

If you have watched the sitcom "Martin" and notice at the beginning of each show they have a picture of a hotel. That is the "Parkstone" in the English Village neighborhood of the Eastside of Detroit. That is where we first lived. Truly, it was beautiful times.

For our first vacation, I wanted to make it something that would be most memorable. We came up with a trip to Las Vegas and a stay at the MGM Grand Hotel. That visit would become instrumental in showing our love and devotion for each other. Yes, it was that hotel that had one of the largest fire disasters in history and killed 84 people.

It was like yesterday on that Friday morning when we heard this screaming tenant running down the hall shouting "We are all going to die! You must run for your lives!" Then we heard a bunch of fire engines surrounding the grounds. I looked out the window and saw a bunch of firemen running. I opened the window and asked what is going on? They said just go back to your room and we are going to put out a fire. "Put out a fire" – quite an understatement.

I casually went to the restroom to brush my teeth and start our day. Immediately, I noticed black smoke billowing from the local vent and then it hit me – THIS IS BIG!

It was time for my Army skills to kick in.

I told Kay to get dress and prepare to leave when I return. I ran down the hallway and saw that all the elevators were shut off and people where bumping into each other as they hurried to exit somehow.

The stairwells were filling up with smoke like a chimney. I made the decision and said to Kay, "We are going out the window." She replied – "We are on the fifth floor!" I said yes but there is a rose garden below with grass and soft dirt. We go or else will die.

I tried to convince the people around us to do the same. They refused. When the legal depositions started coming out we found that those who refused to jump out our window like us all died of smoke inhalation.

We jumped out but it came at a cost. I broke my ankle and five toes. Kay did much worse. She broke two bones in her vertebrae and an ankle. Thanks to that soft grass.

Kay's rehabilitation took a year and a half including two major surgeries. I worked through my injuries. My bosses allowed me to work from the home and nurse Kay in the process. The bonding we went through sealed our love forever. Five years later my remarkable lady delivered twin boys and this family hasn't looked back since.

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

# Universal peace requires universal justice: The global significance of the 5th Rally of Hope

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



I believe The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s words from the past are still true and relevant today: "Peace is not the absence of war, but it is the presence of justice." The recent international 5th Rally of Hope was sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation, an NGO organization with consultative status with Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The global virtual Rally of Hope reached over 320 million people on more than 400 digital platforms in addition to print, TV and radio media coverage February 27, 2021. World leaders from Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America issued a united call for peace throughout the world.

Hak Ja Jan Moon, co-founder of the Universal Peace Foundation delivered a major address

at the Rally of Hope under the theme "Building Partnerships for Peace based on Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values."

Mark Phillips, the prime minister of Guyana, in his address, asked and answered a pertinent question: "What does a future built on peace look like?" It is when world leaders, decision-makers, and even religious leaders join to collectively plan and develop ways to respond to the requirements of peacebuilding... and building strong partnerships."

It was the president of Cape Verde, Jorge Carlos Fonseca, as an African leader respected throughout the continent of Africa, who made a direct response and applicable observation that was aligned with the enduring legacy and memory of Martin Luther King Jr. Fonseca emphasized, "More than just the mere absence of war, peace, as a value and as an asset, is a blessing that is achieved through tolerance, solidarity and respect for people's differences. I believe that in order to build a better world, to strengthen democracy and encourage citizenship, it is not only the economy that is important, values are also fundamental and ... change must begin now."

Amidst the continuing international spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was important that global leaders did join together virtually to commit leadership, resources and a focus of social justice, health justice, economic justice, and global partnerships to strive for peace throughout the world.

Speaking on behalf of the Black Press of America, via the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), I know that the Rally of Hope was timely and a much needed event. Now the work of making-peace and justice-seeking should accelerate in all the nations that participated in the Rally of Hope.

The pendulum of history is now swinging steadily in the direction of millions of people

throughout the world who are crying out for freedom, justice, equality, equity, empowerment and peace. It is strategically wise, therefore, for world leaders not only to hear the cries of their people," but also to respond in a manner that ensures both justice and peace.

I remain optimistic hopeful because here in the United States, millions of people at the grassroots level are organizing and building effective movements and engagements for equality, justice and peace. Dr. King's concept of a "Beloved Community" is more relevant today than back in the 1960s.

Let's continue to rally. Let's continue to pray. Let's continue to mobilize peacefully and internationally. Let's continue to stand up and speak truth to power.

Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and is executive producer and host of The Chavis Chronicles (TCC) on PBS TV across America.

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**Electronic Bidding  
Advertisement for Bid  
Bid 3174 Phase II and III Projects at Various Schools  
(JPS 2018 Bond Construction Program)**

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 07, 2021 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

- A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the Package A sites of this bid package (North Jackson, Dawson and Watkins) will be held at North Jackson, 650 James M. Davis, Jackson, MS 39206 on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 2:00 P.M.; Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged.

- The Pre-Bid Conference concerning the Package B sites of this bid package (Lester, Key and Baker) will be held at Lester Elementary School, 2350 Oakhurst Dr. Jackson, MS 39204 on March 12, 2021 at 2:00 PM. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged.

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order digital bid documents at [www.jpdsmsprojects.com](http://www.jpdsmsprojects.com). A \$150.00 non- refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online

orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact John McBride at JBHM Architects, Phone: 601-352-2699 or Email: [jmcbride@jbhm.com](mailto:jmcbride@jbhm.com).

Until further notice, all hand delivered proposals submitted between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to the JPSD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

3-4-2021, 3-11-2021

LEGAL

**Advertisement for Reverse Auction Bid  
Re-Bid 3153 Mobile Device Storage and Charging Carts**

Reverse Auction bidding for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) March 30, 2021, at which time Reverse Auction bidding begins electronically. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date Reverse Auction bid opening ends.

Specification responses must be submitted for this bid event. Specifications are due no later than (5:00 p.m., March 22, 2021) local time to be the given the opportunity to participate in the auction. Vendors submitting acceptable specification responses will be invited to participate in the electronic reverse auction at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com) on March 30, 2021 beginning at 10:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. local time. Vendors must be registered with CentralBiddinginordertoparticipateinthereverseauction. Foranyquestion-concerningthereverseauctionprocessor how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

3-4-2021, 3-11-2021

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**Electronic Bidding Advertisement for  
Bid 3175 Forest Hill High School Performance Arts Renovation**

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 09, 2021 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the Forest Hill High School Performance Art project will be held at 2607 Raymond Road, Jackson MS 39212 on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 2:00 PM. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order digital bid documents at [www.jpdsmsprojects.com](http://www.jpdsmsprojects.com). A \$150.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Chris Myers at CDFL, Phone: 601-832-6424 or Email: [cmyers@cdfil.com](mailto:cmyers@cdfil.com).

Until further notice, all hand delivered proposals submitted between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to JPSD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

3-4-2021, 3-11-2021

LEGAL

**Electronic Bidding  
Advertisement for Bid  
Re-Bid 3106 Lanier High School Exterior Window Restoration**

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 13, 2021 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning this project will be held at 833 West Maple Street, Jackson MS 39203 on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 2:00 PM. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at [www.jpdsmsprojects.com](http://www.jpdsmsprojects.com). A \$150.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact John McBride at JBHM Architects, Phone: 601-352-2699 or Email: [jmcbride@jbhm.com](mailto:jmcbride@jbhm.com).

Until further notice, all hand delivered proposals submitted between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to JPSD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

3-4-2021, 3-11-2021

LEGAL

**Electronic Bidding  
Advertisement for Bid  
Bid 3173 Walton Elementary School Renovations**

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 08, 2021 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the Walton Elementary School Renovations project will be held at 3200 Bailey Avenue, Jackson, MS 39213, Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order digital bid documents at [www.jpdsmsprojects.com](http://www.jpdsmsprojects.com). A \$ 150.00 Non- refundable deposit shall be required on each printed set of bid specs/documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407- 0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Joseph Crain at Eley Guild Hardy Architects, Phone: 228- 594-2323, or Email: [jrcrain@egh.ms](mailto:jrcrain@egh.ms).

Until further notice, all hand delivered proposals submitted between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to JPSD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

3-4-2021, 3-11-2021

LEGAL

**Announcement  
Press Release for City of Jackson**

The City of Jackson will have the following voting precinct changes for the upcoming 2021 Municipal Elections to be held on the following dates and for the following wards:

- Primary- April 6th
- Primary Run-off- April 27th
- General- June 8th

Ward 1

- Precinct #45 (St. Phillips Church) has temporarily moved to McLeod Elementary School (Precinct #36) located at 1616 Sandalwood Place; voting will be held inside the cafeteria. Signs and directions will be posted for your convenience.

Ward 3 "For Municipal Elections Only"

- Precinct 12 (Bonner Institutional Church) will be open
- Precinct 50 (St. Luther Church) will be open

Ward 4

- Precinct #24 (Formally French Elementary School) voting will now be conducted at George Kurt's Fieldhouse Gymnasium located at 125 Gymnasium Drive

Ward 5

- Precinct #89 (Formerly located inside the Metrocenter Mall) voting will now be conducted at Greater Mount Bethel Church located at 4125 Robinson Road.

Ward 6

- Precinct #96 (Formerly Miracle Temple Evangelistic Church, 418 Lakeshore Drive) voting will now be conducted at Fire Station #22 located at 1590 Lakeshore Drive.
- Precinct #94 (Formerly located at Higher Ground Family Worship, 3520 Forest Hill Road) voting will now be conducted at Willowood Community Center located at 229 Lake Cove Drive

3-4-2021, 3-11-2021, 3-18-2021

LEGAL

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING  
ZONING CASE NO. 4118**

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Harwell Paymon has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to C-3 (General) Commercial District to provide for consistency in the zoning for the property and to allow for the operation of a second hand store at the property located at 801 Cooper Rd. (Parcel: 838-98), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Indexing Instructions: Lot One (1), Block One(l), Oak Forest Subdivision, Part Eleven (11), a subdivision in the according to a map or plat on file and of record in City of Jackson, First Judicial District. Hinds County Mississippi as shown by the map or plat thereof on file and of record of Plat Book 18 at page 17, in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson Mississippi, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description and Part of the Southeast Quarter (SW ¼ SE ¼ SE ¼) of Section 24, Township 5 North, Range 1 West, First Judicial District of Hinds County Mississippi.

Parcel One

Lot One (1), Block One(l), Oak Forest Subdivision, Part Eleven (11), a subdivision in the First Judicial District of Hinds County Mississippi as shown by the map or plat on file and of record in plat book 18 at page 17, in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of the description.

Parcel Two

All that part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Southeast Quarter (SW ¼ SE ¼ SE ¼) of Section 24, Township 5 North, Range 1 West, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, which lies North of the North line of Cooper Road, South and West of the Southwestern side of the New Caney Creek Channel and East of the East line of Lot 1, of Block 1, of Oak Forest Subdivision, Part 11, a subdivision in Hinds County Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows:

For a point of Beginning, begin at the Southeast of corner of Section 24, Township 5 North, Range 1 West, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, said point being 34 feet measured North 1 degrees, 42 minutes east from and iron stake at the northwest corner of Lot 1, of Block C, of Oak Tree Park, Hinds County, Mississippi Section 24 and 25, Township 5 North, Range 1 West, for a distance of 660.2 feet to the Southeast corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast of the Southeast Quarter (SW ¼ SE ¼ SE ¼) of said Section 24, continue thence North 89 degrees 00 minutes West along the South line of the said Section 24; for a distance of 36.5 feet: run thence 0 degrees 50 minutes East for a distance of 14.84 feet to an iron stake marking the intersection of the West line of Oak Forest Drive with the North line of Cooper Road, as both streets are now laid out and improved, said point also being 354.27 feet measured South 89 degrees 02 minutes East along the south line of Oak Forest Subdivision – Part 11 extended Easterly from the Southeast corner of Lot 1 of block, Part 11, Hinds County, Mississippi run thence North 89 degrees 02 minutes West along the said North line of Cooper Road for a distance of 168.19 feet to an iron stake; then, using this point as the POINT OF BEGINNING for the parcel of land being herein described, continue thence North 89 degrees 02 West along the said North line of Cooper Road for a distance of 186.08 feet to an iron stake at the Southeast corner of said Lot 1 of Block 1 of oak Forest Subdivision — Part 11; turn thence to the right through a deflection angle of 90 degrees 00 minutes and run North 0 degrees at 58 minutes East along the East line Lot 1 of Block 1 for a distance of the North 165 feet to an iron stake at the Northeast corner thereof; turn thence to the right through a deflection angle of 23 degrees 35 minutes and run North 24 degrees 33 minutes East for a distance of 15 feet to an iron stake on the Southwest side of the New Caney Creek Channel; turn thence to the right through a defected angle of 111 degrees 12 minutes and run South 44 degrees 15 minutes East along the Southwestern side of said New Caney Creek Chanel for a distance of 253.71 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; and containing an area of 17,124 square feet.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/ VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAIN-SWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO MARCH 17, 2021.

WITNESS my signature this 24th day of February 2021.

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

3-11-2021, 3-18-2021

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6255



## LEGAL

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of Jackson, Mississippi, at 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 or at Post Office Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 PM, local time (CT), Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

**The demolition and cleaning of parcel 220-8-1 located at 2365 West Highway 80 (Metro Inn)**

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 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 provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Ordinance. 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 the Office of Economic Development at 601-960-1055. Copies of the ordinance, 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 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 Documents may be obtained from and/or examined at the offices of the Community Improvement Division located at 200 S. President Street, Suite 331, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Telephone 601.960.1054. Prospective bidders may obtain copies of all materials required for bidding purposes. There is NO charge for electronic or e-mail copies. Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic bids can be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

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

by: LaTonya Miller, Manager  
Community Improvement Division of Planning and Development

3-4-2021, 3-11-2021

## LEGAL

### REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY FOR SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE TAXIWAY BRAVO REHABILITATION PROJECT AT THE HAWKINS FIELD AIRPORT JMAA PROJECT NUMBER 003-21

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is requesting Statement of Qualifications and Expressions of Interest (each, a "Statement of Qualifications") to provide engineering and related services (the "Services") to JMAA in connection with Taxiway Bravo Rehabilitation Project, JMAA Project No. 003-21 at the Hawkins Field Airport (HKS).

JMAA will receive sealed electronic or printed submissions only. All submissions of Statement of Qualifications to perform the Services will be accepted until **Friday, April 9, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on (the "Deadline")**. Bids shall be accepted by email, mail, or hand delivery as follows:

Email: [bids@jmaa.com](mailto:bids@jmaa.com)

By mail or hand delivery: JMAA's Administrative Office, Suite 300  
Main Terminal Building  
Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport  
100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208

JMAA will not consider any Statement of Qualifications received after Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Statement of Qualifications ("RFQ") is on file and open for the public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFQ, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents, and Criteria for Selection.

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Dr. Dexter M. Brookins, JMAA Director of Procurement, as follows:

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority  
Attn: Dr. Dexter M. Brookins, Ph.D.  
Director of Procurement  
100 International Drive, Suite 300  
Jackson, MS 39208  
Telephone: (601) 664-3516  
Facsimile: (601) 939-3713  
Email: [dbrookins@jmaa.com](mailto:dbrookins@jmaa.com)

or, JMAA's website at (<https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement/>).

JMAA will hold a Pre-Submission Video Conference on **Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. (CST)** using the following login information:

Link: <https://jmaa.zoom.us/j/93452170791?pwd=U0ZlTXNhaUwvYkMvYmJDa3lvNkZlUT09>  
Meeting ID: 934 5217 0791  
Passcode: 293050

By Telephone: 1-301-715-8592 (USA)

Attendance at the Pre-Submission Video Conference is **mandatory** for all those submitting Statement of Qualifications as a Prime Consultant for the Services.

After evaluation in accordance with the criteria set forth in the RFQ, JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent marked first on the list. If such negotiations fail to produce an agreement, in form and content, satisfactory to JMAA, within a reasonable period of time, then JMAA may reject the first-ranked Respondent. In that event, JMAA will follow the same process with the other Respondents, in the order of their ranking, until a Respondent agrees to and enters into an agreement satisfactory to JMAA.

JMAA reserves the right to: (1) reject any and all Statement of Qualifications, for any reason, any time before execution of a contract with a Respondent selected by JMAA to perform the Services, and (2) waive any and all informalities and irregularities in the selection process.

JMAA has established a DBE contract goal of **30%** for the Services solicited by this RFQ.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: 03/04/2021

*Paul A. Brown*  
Paul A. Brown, Chief Executive Officer

3-11-2021, 3-18-2021

## LEGAL

### NOTICE OF APPEAL FOR A VARIANCE

#### ZONING CASE NO. 4113

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that the Alex & Sonia Walker have filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a side yard Variance for the west side of the property located at 1426 Woodshire Dr. (Parcel 738-1131) from the required five (5) feet side yard depth for properties zoned R-1A (Single-family) Residential District to allow for the continued placement of the existing accessory structures in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lot 62 Wildwood North Pt. 3

Said application was heard by the City Planning Board on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 with a recommendation to deny. The applicant has filed an Appeal of the recommendation of the Planning Board. The Case will be heard at the City Council's Zoning Meeting in the Council Chambers, First Floor, City Hall, 219 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 2:30 p.m., on Monday, March 15, 2021.

WITNESS my signature this 25TH day of February 2021.

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

2-4-2021, 3-11-2021

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Crossword Puzzle

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

- ACROSS
1. Type of partnership
4. N. A. Indian
10. Ram’s mate
11. Debated
12. Caesar’s twelve
13. Reveled
14. Takes the lid off
16. Wily
17. Was looked at
18. Medium frequency
20. Hey!
22. Reflect
26. Check
29. Pirate’s wooden leg
31. Loan shark
33. Hear
34. Sports car brand
35. Representative
36. Macadam
37. Ornament
- DOWN
1. Acura’s competitor
2. Tangle
3. Keep free of ice
4. Retired persons association (abbr.)
5. Colorful glass
6. Gone by
7. Severs
8. Foot part
9. Whirl
15. Some
19. Madagascar franc (abbr.)
21. Musical production
23. Extreme
24. Dried up
25. African nation
26. Cluster
27. Afloat
28. Cold person’s noise
30. Little Mermaid’s love
32. Male sheep

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Cryptogram

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

Hint: Quote by Julia Child



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

L WBVKFC Q HUUS TLO ERBVCF  
N N' EE N E  
KBCT LN L FLFC Q NUUF TLO WUKK

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Sudoku

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

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

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Crossword Solution

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

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Cryptogram Solution

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

I WOULD N'T KEEP HIM AROUND  
L WBVKFC Q HUUS TLO ERBVCF  
LONG IF I DIDN'T FEED HIM WELL  
KBCT LN L FLFC Q NUUF TLO WUKK

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Sudoku Solution

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

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3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)

DOLLAR GENERAL

2030 N Siwell Rd

DOLLAR GENERAL

4331 Highway 80W

DOLLAR GENERAL

5990 Medgar Evers Blvd

DOLLAR GENERAL

1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)

DOLLAR GENERAL

304 Briarwood Dr

DOLLAR GENERAL

2855 McDowell Rd

DOLLAR GENERAL

104 Terry Rd

J & A FUEL STORES

3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.

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Northside Drive

MCDADDE’S MARKET #2

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Jackson Medical Mall

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110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS

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Terry Road

CLINTON

DOLLAR GENERAL

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TERRY

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RAYMOND

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Raymond, MS

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120 E. Main Street,

Raymond, MS

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RAYMOND CITY HALL

110 Courtyard Square, Raymond

RAYMOND COURTHOUSE

UTICA

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Mississippi Hwy 18

PITT STOP

101 Hwy 18 & 27

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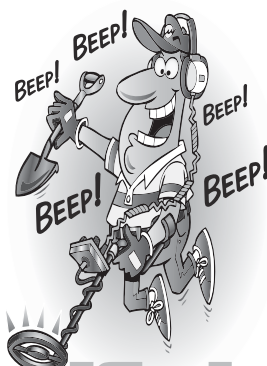
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Week of March 07, 2020



# Senate and House pass \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan



The American Rescue Plan also provides \$15 billion to the Emergency Injury Disaster Loan Program, which provides long-term, low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration.

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

President Joe Biden promised help was on the way to an America still battered by COVID-19, and after a marathon session of debate known as vote-a-rama and some dissension in the Democratic ranks – particularly Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia – the U.S. Senate finally passed the president’s \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Saturday, March 6.

“Today, the Senate passed the American Rescue Plan bringing us one step closer to delivering much-needed relief,” President Biden said from the White House shortly after the measured passed along party lines.

“When I took office, I promised help was on the way. Thanks to Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer and Senate Democrats, we’ve taken one more giant step forward in delivering on that promise. I hope the American Rescue Plan receives quick passage in the House so it can be sent to my desk to be signed,” the president continued.

Schumer (D-N.Y.) declared just prior to the vote that “we’re not going to make the same mistake we made last time when Congress did too little to help the nation rebound, locking us into a long, slow, painful recovery. We are not going to be timid in the face of big challenges.”

Following the vote, Schumer spoke with the president on the telephone.

“He put together a great plan. It was just right,” the senator remarked.

“It was strong and deep, but also very popular.”

The vote was the first significant test of the Biden Presidency.

It served as a litmus test of how united Democrats would be after four years of having debilitating Donald Trump-led legislation rammed through a favorable Senate.

During the four years of Republican control, a host of Democrat-proposed bills stalled in the upper chamber in what became known as former Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s graveyard.

Manchin, who has discovered new and swing-vote power, has wielded it mightily, forcing changes to the bill that was passed by the House a week earlier.

The West Virginia moderate objected to the president’s and other Democrats who fought to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. That portion of the bill was removed to facilitate the legislation getting through the reconciliation process. Manchin held up the vote for hours wanting – and receiving – a change from \$400 to \$300 to the federal unemployment insurance addition to the bill.

Ultimately, the bill passed along party lines 50-49 – one Republican senator was absent, and therefore, Democrats didn’t need Vice President Kamala Harris’ tie-breaking vote.

The bill still must be returned to the House for final approval before it heads to President Biden’s desk for signature.

Once the bill becomes law, it’s believed that the IRS would quickly begin sending out a new round of stimulus payments. Single tax filers making \$75,000 or less would receive

\$1,400, while married couples who file jointly and make less than \$150,000 would receive \$2,800.

Families will also receive \$1,400 per child, and adult children claimed as dependents would also receive \$1,400.

Unlike previous stimulus payments, single tax filers making at least \$80,000, or couples earning more than \$160,000, will not receive a check.

It’s also important to know that the IRS will determine eligibility based on either a 2019 or 2020 tax return.

If you have not filed your 2020 taxes, the government will use 2019 income.

Individuals who may have lost their jobs or whose incomes decreased in 2020 should file as soon as possible.

Otherwise, the IRS will use your 2019 income.

Like the previous stimulus, you are not required to pay taxes on the payments, and those owing child support or student debt to the federal government will be protected from garnishment.

However, lawmakers did not make provisions to protect anyone from garnishment who might have private debt.

The bill allows for the first \$10,200 of unemployment payments tax-free, and those who receive food stamps will see a 15 percent increase in those benefits through September. Families whose children’s schools have remained closed are also in line to receive EBT benefits through the summer.

The legislation sends about \$20 billion to state and local governments to help low-income households cover back rent and utility bills.

It also contains a provision that allows families with minor children to claim a larger tax credit this year.

Those who qualify would receive a child tax credit of \$3,600 for each child under six.

Families will also receive \$3,000 for each under age 18, up from the current credit of up to \$2,000 per child under age 17.

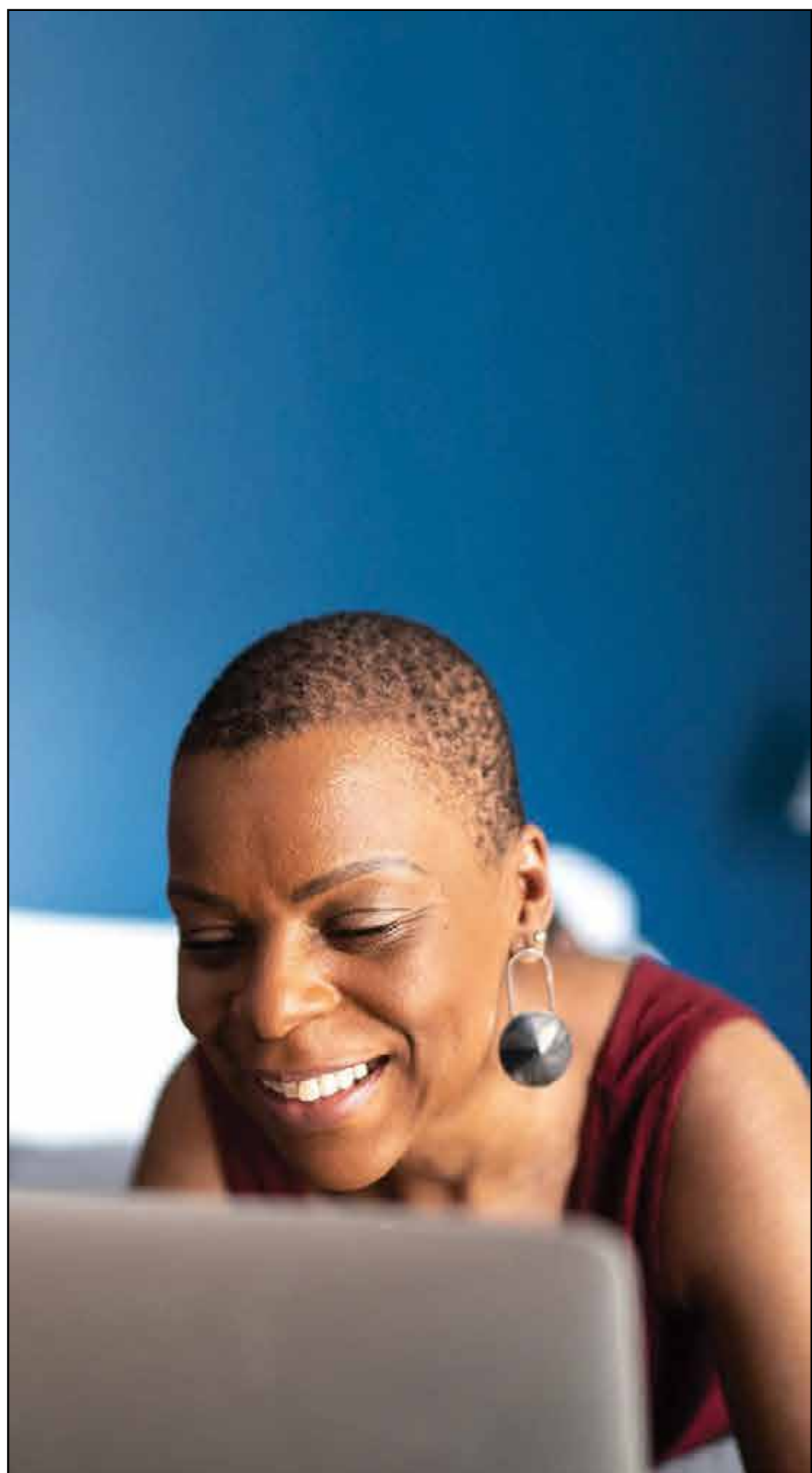
The American Rescue Plan also provides \$15 billion to the Emergency Injury Disaster Loan Program, which provides long-term, low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration.

Severely impacted small businesses with fewer than 10 workers will be given priority for some of the money.

Additionally, more people will qualify for higher premium subsidies through the Affordable Care Act.

“Today’s passage of bold relief legislation is exactly what Georgians had in mind when they sent me to the Senate to help our state recover from the devastation of this once-in-a-century pandemic and corresponding economic downturn,” stated Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.).

“For months, families and communities across the nation have been waiting for the substantive federal assistance they need to pay their rent, buy food and medicine, safely reopen all of our schools and keep essential workers on the job – and because of Georgia, that help is finally just around the corner.”



## Girls’ nights IN are gonna take COVID-19 OUT

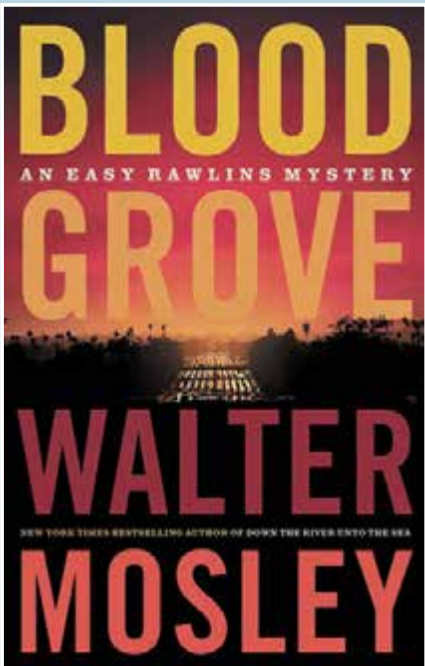
We don’t get enough laughs these days. But, wherever they are, our friends are as close as a click. Vaccines are coming. But until enough of us are vaccinated, we still need to slow the spread. We can watch our distance, and not let COVID-19 keep us apart.

Learn more about vaccines and slowing the spread at  
[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



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BOOK REVIEW:

BLOOD GROVE:  
AN EASY RAWLINS NOVEL

BY WALTER MOSLEY  
C.2021, MULHOLLAND BOOKS  
\$27.00 / \$34.00 CANADA • 309 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

Keep your eyes open. Don't blink. Sometimes, that fraction of a second is all you need to miss something. Blink, and you may wonder if it really happened, or if you just think it did. Blink again, and you just don't know. So keep them peepers open because, as in the new novel "Blood Grove" by Walter Mosley, bad things can happen in a second.

From the hollow look in his

eyes, it was obvious that the skinny, nervous white man standing before Easy Rawlins was a veteran. The guy, Craig Kilian, sported a bruise on his left temple and a bunch of Franklins in his hand, and claimed that another veteran sent him to WRENS-L Detective Agency because Easy Rawlins was trustworthy. The story he told Easy probably wasn't. Some time before, Kilian said, he was camping in the mountains around Los Ange-

les, dealing with his demons in the moonlight when he heard a woman scream outside a cabin nearby. He ran to her and found her tied to a tree, then he wrestled with a bear of a black man, stabbing him in the chest before Kilian was hit in the head and knocked out. When he woke up, there was no woman, no man, and no blood. Did he kill a man, or just think he did? Finding a ghost or a dead man, neither is simple. Easy started by going to the veteran's hang-out where Kilian said he

first heard Easy's name. He took Christmas Black to the mountains, where Black said that there were more than three people at the cabin. Kilian's mother got a visit, so did a beautiful escort, a stripper and so did a corpse named Alonzo. The case could've gone in any direction, but when the owner of a "talent agency" came looking for him with two goons and guns, Easy Rawlins knew that the next step was his... You know how it is: you get to the end of a chapter in a book

you're reading, and you sense that that's a good place to slip in a bookmark and stop for the night. But author Walter Mosley won't let you do that. Get "Blood Grove," and you might as well just put that bookmark in a drawer. Set in 1969, in a Los Angeles that resembles a small town, this book is full of everything you want in a mystery – foremost, a smart private detective with an attitudinally-matching name, a California-sized heart, and what seems like three extra

sets of eyes so he never misses a thing, even if you do. Wrapped up in a dark atmosphere and more murders than you can almost keep track of, that's the ultimate delight. For fans, Mosley goes the extra step, offering a chance to catch up with the dark characters that Rawlins has called "friends" in past novels. If you're not a fan, grab this book and you will be quick. Just don't grab it after dark: "Blood Grove" will keep your eyes open all night.



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

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

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

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

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

**Services of the Clerk:**

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

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

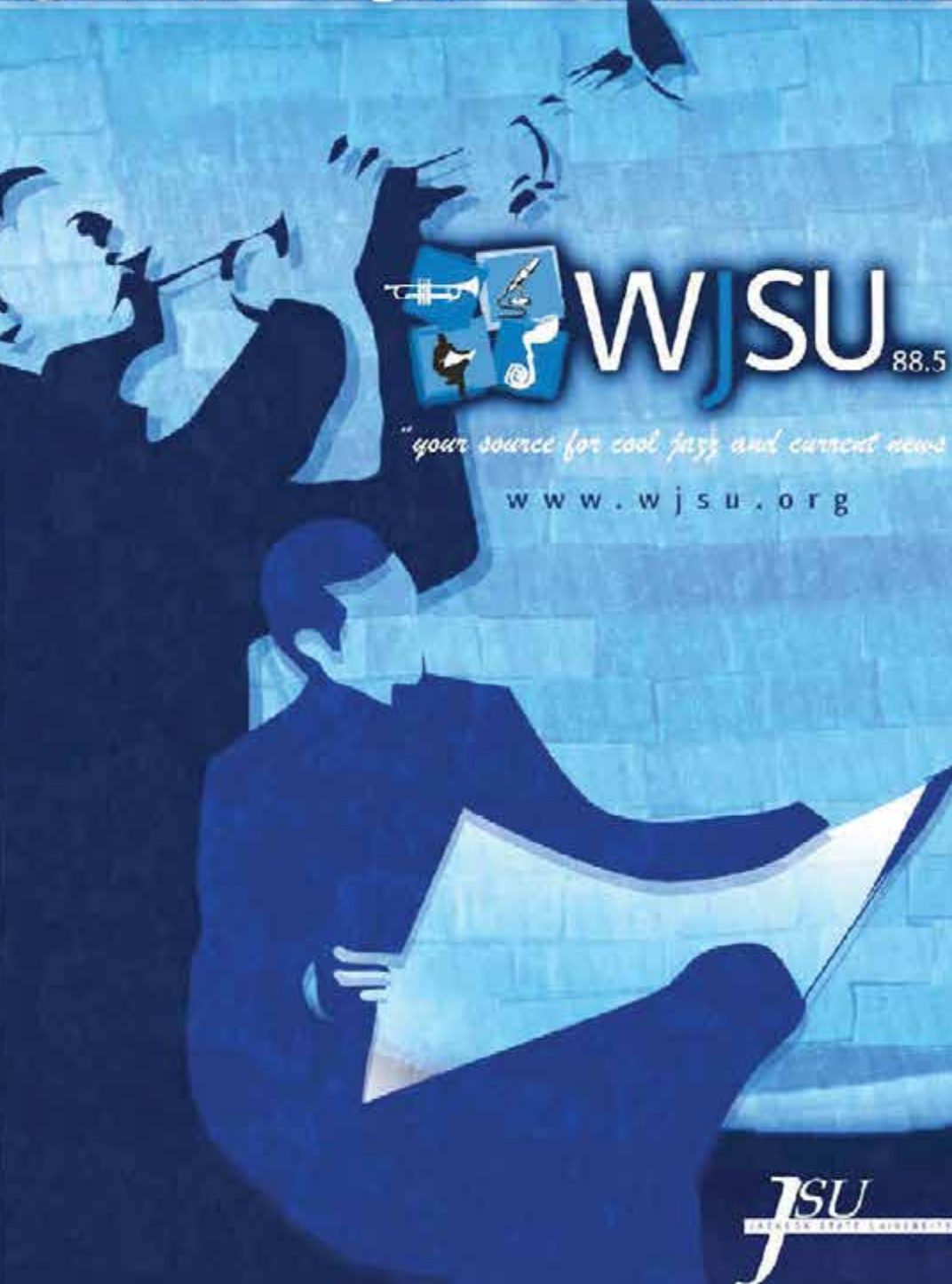
- You must be registered 30 days before the Election.
- Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election


**MARRIAGE INFORMATION**

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

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# College Hill Youth Ministry hosts water and food give-away

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

The College Hill Baptist Church Youth Ministry, under the direction of Linda Rush, youth director, hosted a water and food give-away Sunday for community residents that were impacted by the recent Jackson water crisis. The event, held outside the church at 12 p.m., was kicked off live on Face Book by Andrew Lewis, minister of music at College Hill. A prayer was offered by Calvin Peoples, associate minister.

More than 2000 cases of water were distributed to approximately 290 cars. As cars pulled away, you could hear voices echoing thanks to the youth and other volunteer workers.

The water was donated by College Hill church ministries, World Central Kitchen, Mississippi Food Network, Hinds County Board of Supervisor Bobby “Bobcat” McGowan, District 5 and Senator Sollie Norwood, District 28. Food was provided by the Manship Wood Fired Kitchen. The Hinds County Sheriff’s Department and City of Jackson Police Department were

on hand to help with traffic.

The youth ministry was assisted by 75 volunteers to include College Hill members, local civic and community organizations, and Jackson State University students. The church is located at 1600 Florence Avenue, Jackson.

Lewis was very pleased with the give-away. He stated, “Sunday was an epic day from beginning to end and validated that our work must continue to transcend the four walls. The unity was infectious.”

Lewis continued, “Ironically Sunday was also the day that most churches had to regroup from one year ago when the COVID-19 pandemic escalated. In the midst of it all, God has covered us. I applaud our youth for leading the way and making an impact in the community.”

Rush said, “I commend College Hill’s youth for having the desire to aid our community during this time of crisis. I was very proud of their hard work and efforts and the community was very grateful to receive the water. We firmly believe that doing for others is doing for Christ.”



Youth Ministry Back Row: Tobias Barnes, Chloe Nash, Ashley Knight, Robert Clark IV, Kevon Harris, Blake Hanberry; First Row: Lanae Williams, Linda Rush (leader), Leah Clark, Carter Barnes. PHOTOS BY MEMBERS OF COLLEGE HILL





## February ends on a virtual Black History first for one West Jackson church

Youth talent and retired Navy officer, endodontist and Durant, Miss. native featured

By India Fuller  
JSU Intern

Holy Temple M.B Church in West Jackson made its history, Sunday, Feb. 28. It held its “first virtual” Black History Program due to the COVID-19 safety guidelines.

The program began with a Black History reading by Drummer John Lacy, who shared facts about famous jazz drummer Tony Williams of the 1960s.

Selective speeches and creativity followed from the youth ministry. Azalea Oliver and her sister Aamia McGee presented Historical Perspective on Jazz and Creative Dance. McGee danced to “Go Down Moses” by the late Jazz Great Louis Armstrong. Corey McGee portrayed the late famous U.S. Congressman John Robert Lewis.

With his face filling the computer screen, adorning a big, happy smile, little Coby McGee yelled, “I am somebody. I am Colby McGee!”

Other activities included a portrayal by Khloe Smith of recent history maker, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, the first woman and first woman of color to serve in that position. A poetic skit titled “I Can’t Breathe” (written by Gail M.H. Brown, Ph.D.) was performed by Logan Scott, Khaliyah Love and De’Kiyah Tompkins.



Dr. Langston D. Smith, guest speaker



Reagan Lynne Davis as Dr. Mae Jemison



Colby McGee yells “I am somebody”

The virtual event also included out-of-town participants. Dr. Mae Jemison (in space suit and helmet) was portrayed by Reagan Lynne Davis of Baker, La. Her mother, also of Baker, sang The Negro National Hymn: “Lift Every Voice and Sing” (James Weldon Johnson). A choral selection was rendered by Edison Brown, III, a music education major from the University of Southern Mississippi. From Syracuse, N.Y., public school educator and SU graduate student Jada Brown

sang an old Negro Spiritual, “Troubles of this World” (Mahalia Jackson).

The featured guest speaker was Retired U.S. Navy Officer and Endodontist Dr. Langston D. Smith. Smith, a Durant, Miss. native. He sounded the alarm for action with a very in-depth Black History chronology which accelerated into a call for three critical steps by African Americans and other people of color.

In a recent telephone interview from his Florida vacation home,

Dr. Smith told *The Mississippi Link* a few key points from his speech titled, “Where do we go from here.” He stressed the need for eliminating health disparity, black political involvement/engagement, and education improvements. “The only way we are going to go from here to get to there is if the black community gets more involved,” Dr. Smith urged.

“Oh, he blessed my spirit!” said Gale McGowan, a virtual attendee. “Out of all his accom-

plishments, he has not forgotten his Mississippi roots. Besides, he is my Alpha Phi Alpha brother. Another part that blessed my soul was the little girl astronaut. She was awesome.”

Senior Pastor Audrey Lynne Hall spoke highly of the speech that Dr. Smith conveyed. Her favorite part was his call for eliminating health disparity and improving education. “I hope Dr. Smith’s speech inspired the youth and that we can put these key points into action, not just in

Jackson but across the country,” Hall said.

Hall is also a history maker: the first female pastor of a Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson and other professional achievements. She was portrayed in the program by Kasey Pinkston via a poem titled “The Little Black Girl from Enterprise, Miss.” Hall was highlighted several years ago by *The Mississippi Link* in March during Women History Month.

Holy Temple MBC PR Ministry also contributed to this article.

## Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

### Congratulations to Raymond High School Boys Basketball Team 4A State Runner-ups



The RHS boys basketball team and coaching staff are to be congratulated for finishing as the 4A State Runner-up this season. The rangers returned to the championship game after bringing back only two players who averaged more than six minutes a game last season. Highlights from 2020-2021 program include the following:

- Boys team went 22-6
- State Runner Ups
- Over the last 4 years this senior class accumulated a 105-25 record which is a 81% winning percentage
- 5 straight trips to the State Championship Games
- Region 6-4A All District Team
  - Marlon Kidd- Sr
  - Keith Miller- Sr
  - Tremaine Dixon- Jr
  - Jabarie Robinson- Jr
  - Chris Fuqua- Jr
- District Offensive MVP- Jabarie Robinson
- District Defensive MVP- Tremaine Dixon
- District Sportsmanship Award- Kswaya Moffett
- Scholar Athlete Award- Tremaine Dixon
- North/South Junior All-Star Representatives
  - Tremaine Dixon- Player
  - Jabarie Robinson- Player



MHSAA 4A Scholar Athlete Award- Tremaine Dixon



Coach Tony Tadlock accepting Trophy



### Community Bank hosted financial literacy presentation and makes donation to Terry High School



THS students received donation from Community Bank. Students pictured L-R include McKenzie, Erin, Zoe, Ally, Eniyah, Camberly, Lauren, Torri, Erykah, Chandler, Kaleigh and Shamyia



Elaine Toney, mortgage loan originator with Community Bank speaks with students on financial literacy through Zoom presentation.