



# Storm brings damage to Northeast Jackson homes



Clark's home was damaged by fallen tree in Lakeover subdivision.

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

Storms sweeping through Jackson Tuesday caused damage to several homes throughout the city with power lines down, trees resting on roof tops and vehicles, roads blocked by tree branches and debris and loss of power.

Many residents were trying to clean up outside their homes Wednesday morning as city crews were working to clear streets and restore power.

Marilyn Clark, retired educator with Jackson Public Schools, lives in the Lakeover subdivision. A tree fell through her house, destroying one side of her home.

Her husband, Fred, was taken to the hospital after a tree fell on him while outside. Clark said she was unable to get to him immediately because the door could not be opened. She said her husband's back and arm were hurt but she was grateful that no one else was very seriously injured.

Jay Johnson, photographer and City of Jackson Police Department employee, experienced damage to his home in the Norwood subdivision.

Johnson said, "My family and I are grateful that we were away from the house at the time of the storm, and no lives were lost. We are definitely thankful for our health and strength.

# "Preserving and Advancing Excellence" Tougaloo College Inauguration Week and 2021 Commencement

By Levell Williams  
Contributing Writer

It is said that one's true character shows only when tried with adversity. By that sentiment, Tougaloo College is a place full of people of unmovable character and enduring tenacity. Despite such difficulties as the COVID-19 pandemic and a host of accompanying troubles, Tougaloo celebrated the inauguration of its fourteenth president, Dr. Carmen J. Walters, as well as graduation for the Tenacious Class of 2021.

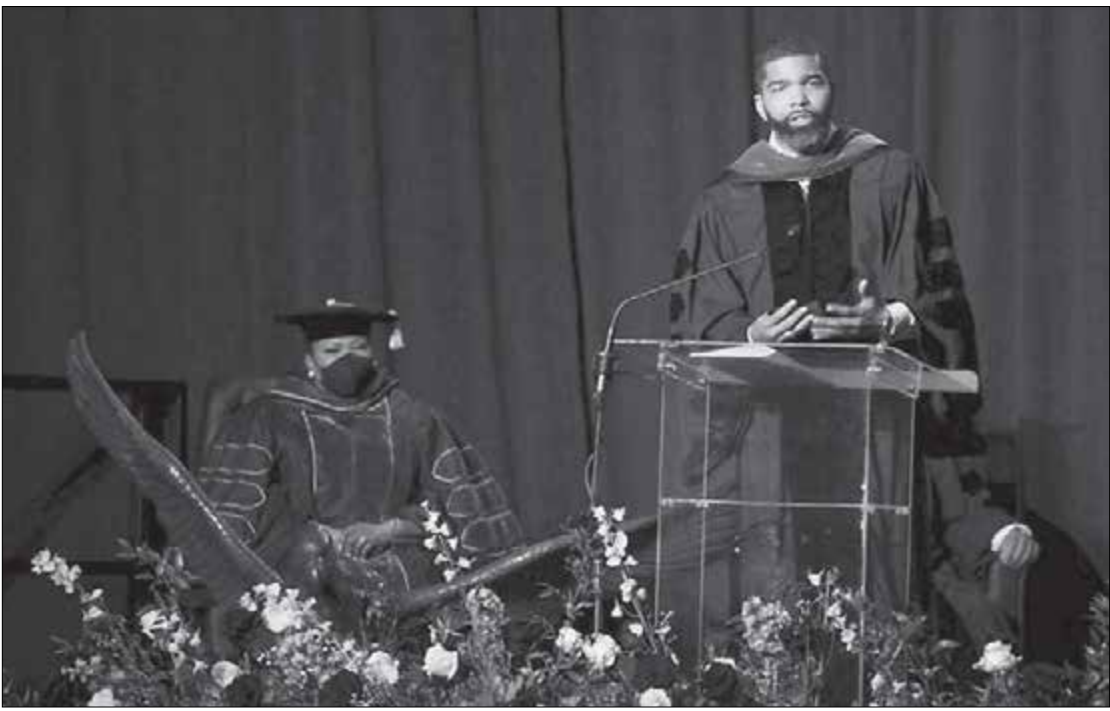
The inauguration events, which took place during the week of April 26 to May 1 on Tougaloo's campus and at other community locations, consisted of several events focused on funding and strategic planning for the institution.

Then, on May 2, the 2021 graduating class gathered at the Jackson Convention Complex for their commencement ceremony.

All events were live streamed, with limited in-person attendance by invitation, requiring face coverings be worn.

Due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic, the inauguration took place twenty-two months after Walters had already taken office. She had already led the institution in a standout year in donations and strategic planning, having received over \$6M in private donations.

The inauguration week celebration saw the unveiling of new institutional logo trademarks and a historic marker, the dedication of longstanding cam-



Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba at the investiture ceremony of the presidential inauguration of Dr. Carmen J. Walters, 14th president of Tougaloo College (left). CREDIT: KATHLEENE QUINN, TOUGALOO COLLEGE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

pus properties to friends of the college, and the strengthening of donor relationships.

On Saturday May 1, the formal investiture ceremony took place. As attendees entered the Kroger Gymnasium, they were met with the allure of the high, flower-adorned stage and the backdrops that transformed the place into a hall fit for esteemed dignitaries. Such was appropriate, for the ceremony would feature elected officials, administrators of other higher education institutions, revered organizational heads and respected clergy.

Many of these would dawn the stage to share kind regards for Walters, while others would

join via video to send their congratulations from across the nation.

Tougaloo alumnus Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba and president of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Mary S. Graham were just a few of those to congratulate Walters and wish Tougaloo well.

Graham would share heartwarming anecdotes of how she consoled Walters in the loss of her late husband, Wayne Walters. In fact, one through-line of the investiture was Walters' perseverance in the face of devastating hardships, namely the losses of multiple loved ones.

She had even lost a brother within a week of the inauguration celebrations. Nevertheless, Walters could be seen smiling warmly throughout the ceremony, wielding extraordinary grace.

The speakers were followed by several musical performances, including multiple selections by the renowned Tougaloo College concert choir led by Tougaloo Professor Karl Twyner. The result was a charged atmosphere and an audience left in awe.

At last the time came for Walters to address the audience. In her opening, she acknowledged past Tougaloo presidents, in-

*Tougaloo*  
Continued on page 3

# Banks calls special city council meeting on crime "Tackling Jackson's crime crisis"

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

With violent crime constantly climbing in the city of Jackson, Aaron Banks, president of the Jackson City Council, held a special council meeting in the form of a town hall at New Horizon International Church Tuesday night, with major emphasis on "Tackling Jackson's Crime Crisis." The meeting was live streamed on *Webelievedigital.com* and other social media outlets.

U.S. Congressman Bennie Thompson, as well as other government officials representing Hinds Count Sheriff's Department, Hinds County Supervisors, Hinds County Attorney's Office, Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Narcotics, Highway Patrol, U.S. Attorney's Office and



Banks



Thompson

others convened with the mayor and city council members in an effort to tackle a growing crime problem in the city of Jackson.

Banks stated that the key to decreasing crime in Jackson hinges on developing partnerships with others throughout the city, county, state and even the nation. The meeting also gave attendees hope.

Local businessman Socrates Garrett attended the meeting and said it was an excellent historic event.

He said, "When the chairman of Homeland Security is present, the US Marshall, the ATF, the MBN, Highway Patrol, Department of Corrections, the District Attorney, the Hinds County Sheriff, Chief of Police, Board of Supervisors and the clergy all meet with the mayor and the city council to tackle a crime problem, then crime must come down." Garrett said, "I am very, very hopeful."

Bishop Ronnie Crudup Sr., pastor of New Horizon, stated there are tremendous discussions already taking place in the churches relating to crime in the city and the clergy absolutely cares about what is going on. "Clergy are unified and

are willing to help by putting in time, effort and money to make a difference," he said.

Bishop F. L. Blunt of Greater Tree of Life said life is based on biblical principles. "When it comes to those that are perpetrators of crime, we need to stop talking about them, and start talking to them."

U.S. Congressman Bennie Thompson, 2nd District, addressed the council and strongly suggested they look into the many federal grants that are available to address the needs of the community. He suggested that the city and county work together so they would not overlap in the funds they were seeking in grants.

Hinds County District Attorney Jody Owens said there are over 3000 cases

in backlog that have not been heard and additional prosecutors and judges are needed.

Thompson, who is chairman of Homeland Security, said that funds are available for recruitment and training.

Mayor Lumumba said that poverty is a root problem of crime and money needs to be placed in peoples' pockets to help economic development and the elimination of so much crime.

Statistics show that over 139 murders that took place in the city of Jackson last year. Based on the numbers so far, the city is on track to exceed that number.

To view the entire meeting, go to *webelievedigital.com* and click on Jackson City Council – Tackling Jackson's Crime Crisis.





# 18-year resident vies for Byram’s alderman-at-large

## Harris-Allen: ‘My passion is to work with the entire city’

By Gail M.H. Brown, Ph.D.  
Contributing Writer

Roshunda Harris-Allen, Ed.D. will make “working together” the core of her work given the opportunity to serve as alderman-at-large for the City of Byram.

Harris-Allen has lived in Byram for nearly 18 years. “I have seen Byram grow,” she told *The Mississippi Link*. “No city is perfect; so of course, there are improvements that need to be made.” The associate professor of education at Tougaloo College said she wants to work with all the citizens, not just one ward, in “keeping Byram nice; keeping it a historic landmark.”

She pointed out that Byram is considered historically “the home of the Swinging Bridge” but “when you go to the Swinging Bridge, it does not look like an attractive historical landmark.”

She would also like to see economic growth along the area’s new parkway. “Currently, we have no lights on the parkway; we have no businesses on the parkway,” she said. “We can put some things out there to help bring economic growth to the city.”

Although Byram has grown, what Harris-Allen does not want to see is her city “flat line.” That is why, to her, it is important to keep it on a path for growth.

“My goal for the city of Byram is for us to work together to expand the quality of our community through education, preparation, advocacy, collaboration and enhancement to inspire individuals,



Harris-Allen

families and businesses to build a better Byram,” she said.

The Detroit native who came to Mississippi to attend “Thee I Love – JSU” and stayed, said she has made it her business to always get involved in helping every city in which she has lived. “I strongly believe in civic engagement,” she stressed. “I believe in spending my dollars, as much as possible, where I live.”

She said her mission as alderman-at-large, if elected, will be to help increase voter registration and voter turnout, enhance parks and recreation activi-

ties, work towards a solution to reduce flooding in low-lying areas, help with the planning and development of the new parkway, and develop a plan to maintain Byram’s historical landmarks. “Most importantly, I want to advocate for the needs and concerns of Byram residents and businesses,” Harris-Allen said.

“If elected, we, the individual families and businesses, can work together to address the concerns, the quality of community growth and expanding of great resources for the city of Byram,” she said.

Her supporters share a multiplicity of reasons they feel she is the best individual for the post.

“Dr. Harris-Allen is the best individual for Byram’s alderman-at-large because she has an authentic and honest desire for what is best for Byram,” Stephanie Bundle recently told *The Mississippi Link*. “She serves as an educator, advocate and coach for many of the families in the Byram area. She collaborates with city leaders as well as community members on initiatives working together to build a better Byram.” Bundle is with Lifestyle Education and Resource Services (LERS).

Similarly, Latoya Atkins-Elam concurs with Bundle’s assessment of Harris-Allen “I have known Dr. Harris-Allen for 14 years: first as a colleague, then an employee and now a close friend,” said Atkins-Elam, an instructional interventionist. “Dr Harris-Allen has a passion to impact the community in which she

lives by improving the quality of life for every Byram resident,” she expressed. “She is strong, knowledgeable, smart, compassionate and a leader who has what it takes to take Byram to the next level with the help of the people in the city.”

Atkins-Elam said she believes, as Harris-Allen, in properly raising up the next generation. “Dr. Harris-Allen has a strong background in leadership and youth development, Atkins-Elam explained. “She desires to use her knowledge and expertise to create a youth mayoral council to engage our youth in policy development and political activism.”

Harris-Allen’s campaign bio states that she is an “advocate for children and students of all ages and always finds opportunities to serve the community. She is the cheer coordinator and a cheer coach for the Byram Jr. Bulldogs; a mentor for the Byram-Terry Crown Club; a leader in hosting restorative justice peace circles at various schools and community organizations; and supports her family as a “soccer, football, track, baseball and cheer mom.” Her favorite quote is: Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be. – Rita Pierson.”

Bundle and Atkin-Elam both agree that Harris-Allen’s heavy education background will be an asset to the city.

“Her strong background in education means she understands policy and

system thinking, the importance of working with people, and looking for solutions to problems as a community effort. She also understands the importance of developing partnership within the community and the need to support families,” said Atkin-Elam.

Harris-Allen earned a Bachelor of Science in elementary education, a Master of Science in early childhood education and specialist certification in infant and toddler development. In May 2015, she earned a Doctorate of Education in early childhood education at Jackson State University.

Currently, she serves on the leadership team for the NAEYC Black Caucus; is a board member for Autism Mississippi, LERS (Lifestyle, Education, and Resource Services), the Justice Training Institute, and the JPS (Jackson Public Schools) Teacher Academy; a level leader with the Girl Scouts of America; is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Junior Auxiliary Byram-Terry, the Byram Chamber of Commerce, the Mississippi Association of Educators, the Poor People’s Campaign, and the Higher Education Literacy Council.

Harris-Allen is married to Dorian Allen, and they have four children, De’Andre, Dorian, Donovan and Dalis.

Harris-Allen said she and her supporters are respectfully asking for the citizens of Byram’s votes for a Better Byram Tuesday, June 8.



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## Tougaloo

Continued from page 1



Tougaloo College President Carmen J. Walters at the investiture ceremony during the inauguration celebration. CREDIT: KATHLEENE QUINN, TOUGALOO OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

cluding her predecessor, president emerita Beverly Wade Hogan, saying, “I am standing on their shoulders.”

Then, matching the saturated air of the moment, she ushered the audience into a congregational song, which the choir joined in, creating an experience akin to an energetic Sunday morning church service. “I wanted to have church this week,” she said. She expressed that she has endured hardships only by prioritizing God in her life, and she shared her desire to serve her students holistically, exemplifying spiritual strength as well as academic and otherwise.

Walters continued her speech, focusing on the ways in which she plans to uphold the theme of her administration: “Preserving and Advancing Excellence.” She listed longstanding qualities of the school and described their deep benefits to students, saying, “Those are worth preserving.” Items such as academic rigor and social justice activism were among the things she explained must be maintained and improved upon.

The inauguration ceremony concluded with the investiture of Walters, administered by Trustee Edmond Hughs, chair of the Board of Trustees, making her officially the 14th president and the second woman in history to hold the role. However, the distribution of honors had not yet finished. The following day, May 2, saw Walters and Hughs together at the 2021 commencement ceremony, presenting several honorary degrees and diplomas.

Gathering at the Jackson Convention Complex, graduates, friends and family arrived to the familiar bellowing of ceremonial drums in the distance, connoting Tougaloo College’s African ancestry. Although commencement was being held off-campus because of COVID-19, many of the traditional elements, were retained – as if affirming that they were “worth preserving.” Even the gonging of the iconic Woodworth Chapel bell tower would be emulated via video footage at the conclusion of the

ceremony.

The class salutarian, English major Anastasia Taylor, and valedictorian, mass communication major Tia Patrick, presented special addresses to the class. “...There’s no class out there with more passion, fervor and commitment to making their community better – to making their entire world better,” said Taylor in her heartfelt address.

Patrick followed with a speech that electrified the graduates and all the audience. “The Class of 2021 is made up of students who have worked tirelessly to ensure the betterment and preservation of the college and its legacy,” said Patrick. In a highlight of her speech, she emphasized a word of wisdom that she learned from her parents: “Proper preparation prevents poor performance.”

Taylor plans to take a gap year before pursuing a law degree, and Patrick plans to attend one of the several law schools to which she was accepted. The Tenacious Class of 2021 graduated with ninety-nine honors scholars.

All in all, the events of April 26 to May 2 were just glimpses at the work that has ensued at Tougaloo College throughout the trying times of the past year, as well as for the more than 150 years of the institution’s existence. President Walters and the graduating class are among those – though opposed on many sides – have proven capable of overcoming any obstacle in pursuit of the chance to change the world.

As the graduated Eagles go into the world, armed with their degrees, Walters will continue to nurture the Eaglets yet to take flight. Through growth in their critical thinking skills, social consciousness and spiritual wellness, their wings will be strengthened.

Ultimately, the world can expect a steady supply of young people of strong character, whose ideas and actions may come to be the foundation of many institutions and initiatives to come – each in its own right “worth preserving and advancing.”

*See commencement photos, page 15.*



Tougaloo College Class of 2021 valedictorian, mass communication major Tia Patrick, pictured at the commencement ceremony. CREDIT: TOUGALOO COLLEGE YOUTUBE PAGE

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CAN  
DO  
THIS



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# Phillip Willis Jr.

February 26, 1950 - April 26, 2021

Phillip Willis Jr. began his life's journey on February 26, 1950 inside the Banks Street family home. He was the fourth of nine children born to the late Phillip Willis, Sr. and Pernola Sandifer Willis in Jackson, Mississippi.

"Jr.," as he was fondly called while growing up in the infamous Washington Addition area, was baptized at an early age at College Hill Baptist Church. He was educated in the Jackson Public School System and was a 1968 graduate of Jim Hill High School. He attended Jackson State University where he proudly pledged membership in the Upsilon Epsilon (The mighty YE) Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated in the fall of 1969.

Phillip, a Vietnam veteran, joined the United States Navy in 1972 and served his country for four years during which time he was assigned duty aboard the USS Hepburn. After an honorable discharge, Phillip made California his home where he served in the United States Naval Reserve for eight years.

Phillip wanted to honor his father's teachings and reach for the stars in all he did. After being introduced by Uncle Joel over 35 years ago, he won the heart of and married the love of his life, Darlene Verlena Griffin. They married September 5, 1987 at Amos Temple CME in Oakland, CA. To this union



Willis

two handsome, intelligent and dedicated sons were born. Phillip loved his sons more than life and encouraged them to excel in each opportunity that came their way.

This family man was a teacher and motivator, who sought to give them life experiences to help them understand that "once a task has begun, never leave it til' it's done, be the labor great or small, the Willis family does it well or not at all!"

Phillip Willis Jr., was "the life of the party" with a sense of humor that lit up every room he entered. The jokester always left you with laughter and memories that will last forever. Whether it was a response of "Fine as the hair on a cat's behind" or "If I tell you a rooster dips snuff, look under its wing and get the box."

Phillip's days were spent

watching MSNBC which kept him enlightened on the latest world news. In his spare time he had a love for cooking, bowling and fishing. Phillip was a man of God, a proud husband and father.

Being a committed provider, Phillip always worked hard and gave his all. He successfully mastered the business world, including real estate, stock investments and entrepreneurship. He and his wife are the co-founders of the non-profit, Concerned Parents Alliance/College Bound programs, as well as the inaugural co-chairs of The Morehouse College Parents Council.

Phillip Willis Jr. was preceded in death by his parents; brother Walter Lee; his sister Theresa Ann; his niece Kylynn Diane Crape; and nephews Michael Christopher Osborne and Shawn Edward Washington II.

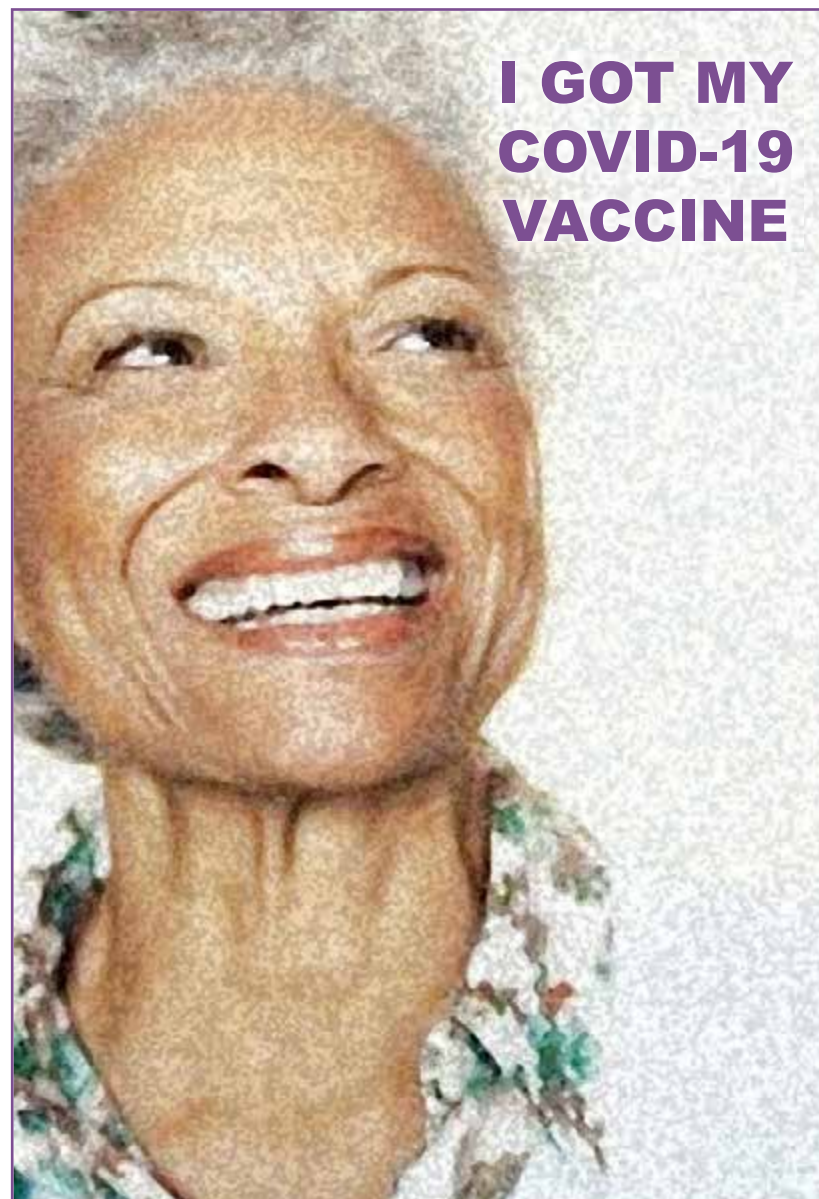
Phillip Willis Jr. departed this earthly journey in the early morning hours of April 26, 2021 surrounded by the love of family. On the day before, he rededicated his life to Christ, took his communion with the family and accepted a virtual membership to Triumph Baptist Church in Monroe, LA.

His memory is forever cherished by his wife of nearly 34 years, Darlene V. Griffin-Willis, Ph.D.; sons: Phillip Willis III and James Cornelius Willis; siblings: Magnolia Osborne of Emeryville, CA, Spencer

Leon (Ruthie) of Walls, MS, Leroy Deron of Jackson, MS, Willie James of Jackson, MS, Beverly Stewart (Rev. Eddie) of Monroe, LA and Tony Calvin (DeVicki) of Grayson, GA; father and mother-in-love: James and Sheryle Griffin of Manteca, CA; six sister and brother-in-loves: Debra Young (Arthur) of Vallejo, CA, Dawn King (Terry) of San Leandro, CA, Dana Morgan (Charles) of Brentwood, CA, Denise "TT" Laws, Dianna "Yanna" Griffin both of Manteca, CA and Bettye Murphy of Mobile, Alabama. His memory will always be treasured by three special nephews Matthew Johnson, Robert Johnson, Spencer Willis, Jr. DrPH; three great nieces Shawnyce Washington, Kaia May Morgan and Maiyah Artis and great nephew Trecee Artis Jr. He will be missed by his aunts Carriel Johnson, Sharon Turner, Joy Bryant, Jeanne Martin, Doris Jean Ferguson and uncles Joel Dyels and Lee Newton. Phillip also leaves a host of additional nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, great great nephew, cousins, friends, classmates and frat brothers.

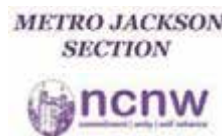
A celebration of life service was held May 1, 2021 at Amos Temple CME in Oakland, CA and a memorial service will be held May 15, 2021 at College Hill Baptist Church in Jackson, MS [http://livestream.colleg-hillchurch.org](http://livestream.collegehillchurch.org).

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## File your 2020 taxes by May 17th—even if you don't normally file—to get important cash and tax credits!

The recently enacted [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\)](#) included important benefits that can help get cash to your family and provide immediate tax relief. These include:

### Expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC):

• Families will receive **\$3,600 per child under age 6 and \$3,000 per child age 6 to 17**, half of which will be paid out in advance in monthly installments between July and December 2021

### Stimulus checks:

• The ARP included an additional round of stimulus checks in the amount of \$1,400 for each adult, child, and adult dependent.

### Expanded Child Care and Dependent Tax Credit (CDTC):

• Families will be reimbursed for up to 50 percent of their child care costs up to \$8,000 for families with one child and up to \$16,000 for families with two or more children. For example, a low-income family with one child that spends at least \$8,000 per year on child care will receive a refundable credit of \$4,000.

### Expanded Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC):

• Workers without dependent children will receive a much larger EITC benefit. This change nearly triples the maximum credit for these workers from \$543 to \$1,502.

• Young workers ages 19-24 who are not full-time students and workers ages 65 and older are newly eligible for the EITC. Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness and youth in foster care are now eligible for the EITC starting at age 18.

**Even if you don't have any income or don't normally file, you should file your 2020 tax return by May 17th deadline to get the cash to which you are entitled.**

This is an important step because:

• You might not have received all of the money owed to you and your family.

• You might be eligible for more cash benefits through tax credits, including for your children.

• You might be eligible to receive a stimulus payment now – this means cash immediately available for your family.

• You may also be eligible for additional, state-level tax benefits. Check whether your state offers additional benefits here.

While some of these benefits won't take effect until later in the year or until you file your taxes next year, it is important to file your 2020 taxes NOW so the IRS can send you and your family your benefits.

**Remember:** you do not need earnings from work to qualify for either the Child Tax Credit or the stimulus checks.

**Need help filling your taxes? Here are some resources to find free tax preparation assistance:**

To find a location for free, in-person tax help for those who qualify—including taxpayers who make less than \$57,000, taxpayers with disabilities, and Limited English-speaking taxpayers— check out [the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance \(VITA\) locator](#) to search by zip code.

For additional information on your tax refund, stimulus check, or how you can work with an IRS-certified tax specialist for free, check out [GetYourRefund.org](#), an initiative of Code for America (English and Spanish).

To do your taxes online for free, [check out IRS Free File](#) programs for families with incomes below \$72,000.

Are you a senior in need of tax assistance? Check out [Tax Counseling for the Elderly \(TCE\)](#) and AARP's [Tax-Aide Site locator tool](#) if you are age 50 or older.

If you need to find a legal service clinic or a taxpayer clinic, local legal services organizations and Low Income Taxpayer Clinics (LITCs) provide help to families in need of legal advice and tax preparation. Find one near you [here](#) and [here](#).

If you need an extension past May 17 to file your federal tax returns, check out this [IRS page](#) for resources on an extension until October 15

**DON'T FORGET: File your 2020 taxes by May 17th to get the money you and your family are owed!**

YOUR VOTE!  
MATTERS!



# JPS chief of staff appointed to Early Childhood Advisory Council

Mississippi Link Newswire

JPS Chief of Staff Michael Cormack has been appointed to the State Early Childhood Advisory Council (SECAC). On March 1, 2021, Governor Tate Reeves announced the council's new members. Cormack will represent the school district as a Local Education Agency that engages with early education and care services.

Named chief of staff of Jackson Public Schools in 2019, Cormack was instrumental in developing the district's five-year strategic plan which emphasizes a strong start for early learners through expanded access to high-quality pre-K. He leads the work of maintaining the district's movement toward achieving its priority commitments, which include access to full-day learning programs for four-year-olds, developing innovative



Michael Cormack Jr.

teaching and learning opportunities and facilitating joyful learning experiences for all students.

"I'm excited to lend my voice to the council in support of our district's strong start commitment," says Cormack. "We know that high-quality learning experiences for our youngest scholars set the stage for success not only in kindergarten but throughout their entire educational journey."

Reeves further underscores the point: "Expanded access to high-quality programs means that more children will be ready for kindergarten, thus allowing schools and districts opportunities to intervene earlier when deficiencies are identified."

Cormack began his career as a teacher and elementary principal in the Mississippi Delta region. As chief executive officer of the Barksdale Reading Institute, he supervised the Mississippi Building Blocks program, a forerunner to the Early Childhood

Academy program that supports professional development and curricular materials for childcare centers throughout the state.

He received his bachelor's degree from Boston College. His advanced degrees include a master's in elementary education from Delta State University, a master's in organizational leadership from Teachers College, Columbia University, and a doctor of education degree in education leadership and policy studies from Vanderbilt University.

The State Early Childhood Advisory Council is a group of individuals appointed by the governor to serve as his advisors on issues pertaining to early childhood education and care for children from birth to school entry. Established by the Head Start Act of 2007, the organization exists to ad-

vises the governor's office on matters related to young children and serves as a liaison between the governor's office and administrative agencies and providers.

The responsibilities of the SECAC include conducting periodic statewide needs assessments regarding early childhood quality and access and developing recommendations related to increasing participation, collecting data, educator professional development, improving standards, evaluating effectiveness and more.

The current council consists of 12 members appointed to fill required roles in the Head Start Act, nine members with relevant perspectives as determined by the governor, and four members representing early education and care providers across the state.

# Analysis: Mississippi legislators sidestep some issues

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
Associated Press

Mississippi lawmakers grabbed national headlines this year by banning transgender athletes from competing on girls' or women's sports teams. They walked away from some other divisive issues during their three-month session.

Republican Sen. Angela Hill of Picayune argued in favor of the transgender sports bill, and she stood behind Republican Gov. Tate Reeves as he signed it into law. Hill filed a separate bill that would have prohibited hormone treatments or surgery from being performed on transgender minors.

Senate Bill 2171, the "Transgender 21 Act," died because it was not brought up for votes in the Senate Public Health Committee and the Senate Accountability, Efficiency and Transparency Committee. Arkansas legislators passed a similar bill this year, pushing it into law over the veto of Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson.

Hill also sponsored Senate Resolution 56, which died when it was not brought up



Reeves

for a vote in the Senate Rules Committee. It would have had the Mississippi Senate express disapproval of "critical race theory," which examines the ways racism affects culture, politics and law.

In September, then-President Donald Trump issued orders banning federal agencies and contractors from using critical race theory in training. Critics said the Republican was trying to portray white people as victims to curry favor with conservative voters. Democratic President Joe Biden repealed the ban soon after he took office in January.



Hill

Hill is a Trump supporter, and her resolution said "critical race theory and related ideologies propagate divisive and untrue concepts that teach one race or sex is inherently superior to another and that individuals of one race or sex should be deprived of basic rights simply because of their race or sex."

While Reeves never publicly took a stance on Hill's resolution, he said Thursday during a Fox News event with other Republican governors: "There is not systemic racism in America. We live in the greatest country in the history of mankind."

House Concurrent Resolution 62, filed by Republican Reps. Chris Brown of Nettleton, Dan Eubanks of Walls and Dana Criswell of Olive Branch, was nearly identical to Hill's resolution. It died for lack of a vote in the House Rules Committee. Their resolution said: "we affirm our resolute opposition to the promotion of race or sex stereotyping or scapegoating and condemn the use of divisive concepts and theories that propagate such stereotyping and scapegoating."

Stereotyping and scapegoating based on race have been prevalent in Mississippi history. The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, near the state Capitol, gives a thorough account of lynching and other terrorism inflicted on black

people.

One of the atrocities examined in the museum is the 1955 killing of Emmett Till, a black 14-year-old from Chicago who spent that summer with relatives in the Mississippi Delta. Till was kidnapped and killed after witnesses said he whistled at a white woman working in a store in the tiny community of Money. His mutilated body was later pulled from the Tallahatchie River, and his mother insisted on an open casket at his Chicago funeral so the world could see the torture inflicted on her son.

In his 2017 book "The Blood of Emmett Till," author Timothy B. Tyson quoted the white woman from the store, Carolyn Bryant Donham, as saying she wasn't truthful when she

claimed Till grabbed her and made sexual advances.

During the legislative session this year, Democratic Rep. John Hines of Greenville filed House Resolution 1, which would have been an apology from the state of Mississippi for what happened to Till. The resolution died when it didn't come up for a vote in the House Rules Committee.

The resolution said that "in light of the recent confession by Carolyn Bryant that her story, which led to the death of 14-year-old Emmett Till, was fabricated and nothing but falsehoods, the time has come for Mississippi to apologize for its part in creating a toxic environment ... that ultimately led to the murder of Emmett Till."

The Mississippi Link™

Volume 27 • Number 28

May 6 - 12, 2021

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The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307 or e-mail us at: editor@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting items to be considered for publication is Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Subscriptions are \$32 per year; \$64 for two years or \$96 for three years.

Postmaster:  
Send all address changes to The Mississippi Link,  
P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307.

Advertising: For all advertising information,  
please call (601) 896-0084.

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# Industrial tech graduate hones emergency management skills, eyes JSU grad school

By L.A. Warren, MBA  
jsumsnews.com

Industrial technology major and summa cum laude graduate Amaris Alara Edwards is already putting her skills to work with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. Now, she's preparing to begin her studies this summer in JSU's Hazardous Waste Management graduate program. Edwards' bachelor's degree is concentrated in emergency management technology in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology.

Ultimately, she plans to seek full-time employment with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, where she's currently a contract employee as a disaster reservist.

A native of Byram, Mississippi, Edwards said she's grateful to JSU for preparing her for this career. During her time on campus, Edwards was a member of the Pre-Alumni Council, the NAACP, and the Student Government Association.

Her honors include inductions and involvements in Epsilon Pi Tau; Tau Sigma National Honor Society; the National Collegiate Scholars; and the Mortar Board.

"Jackson State University means a lot to me because I have always had love for my institution. Being a student at JSU has allowed me to meet some great advisers and mentors who have had a major impact on my success thus far. In fact, I'm a better speaker because of my experience at the HBCU. The organizations and students I have met on campus helped me to come out of my shy shell," Edwards said.

She described her upcoming graduation as a "huge accomplishment" despite some adversities. Leaping over those hurdles, Edwards continued to enroll in summer classes every year to stay on track with her classes so she could graduate on time.

"I've always tried to make the best of every situation, so enrolling at Jackson



State University was an excellent choice. The people here helped me to network with those in my career and with other students who are on the same career path as me. Now that I've earned my degree, I also plan to help others make network connections."

Edwards extends special acknowledgments to her parents and academic advisers. "They pushed me to work harder to achieve better. Because of what JSU has done for me, my future plan is to influence others to attend JSU and serve others," she said.

# Children's Defense Fund preparing to open Summer Freedom Schools



Freedom Schools are not just culturally responsive, but we invest in young people – developing their sense of self-agency that they can make a difference in their home, their community and in the world," expressed Starsky Wilson, who is expected to discuss Freedom Schools further, and the most recent CDF State of America's Children 2021, during the NNPA's annual summer convention in June.

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

The Children's Defense Fund has always lived by the motto that children are the future.

As young people of color are the majority of youth in America, the nonprofit organization is ramping up its Freedom Schools program.

Starsky Wilson, the president and CEO of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), said the schools incorporate "the totality of CDF's mission by fostering environments that support children and young adults to excel and believe in their ability to make a difference in themselves and in their families, schools, communities, country, and the world with hope, education, and action."

Wilson noted that students in the program are known as scholars.

"By providing K-12 scholars with rich, culturally relevant pedagogy and high-quality books that deepen scholars' understanding of themselves and all they have in common with others in a multiracial, multicultural democratic society, CDF Freedom Schools programs further empowers scholars to believe in their ability and responsibility to make a difference while instilling in them a love of reading to help them avoid summer learning loss," Wilson remarked during a live appearance on the National Newspaper Publishers Association's morning breaking news program, "Let It Be Known."

Recent Freedom Schools' surveys found that 65 percent of scholars liked to read, while 81 percent enjoyed talking about what they read. Approximately 86 percent reported they read many different kinds of books, 100 percent reported wanting to go to college, 98 percent reported they could achieve their goals, and 89 percent said they believed they could make a difference.

The CDF outlined the following behavioral benchmarks:

- Seventy-seven percent of scholars reported they were willing to listen to different opinions.

- Sixty-eight percent of scholars said standing up for what they think is fair.
- Sixty-three percent of scholars said that they could solve problems without yelling at others.
- Sixty-eight percent of scholars said that they know how to solve arguments without fighting.
- Seventy-nine percent of scholars said learning how to cooperate to solve problems.

"Freedom Schools are not just culturally responsive, but we invest in young people – developing their sense of self-agency that they can make a difference in their home, their community and in the world," expressed Wilson, who is expected to discuss Freedom Schools further, and the most recent CDF State of America's Children 2021, during the NNPA's annual summer convention in June.

Registration for the convention is free, and those interested can sign up at [www.virtualnnpa2021.com](http://www.virtualnnpa2021.com).

For the summer Freedom Schools program, CDF officials said they utilized the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's Reading Inventory to measure scholars' reading achievement.

They said 76.7 percent of scholars did not experience summer learning loss. While currently at a 60 percent participation rate, CDF is striving to increase this number by soliciting different workshop topic ideas that resonate with the community's needs.

"It's absolutely critical that we are there for our children," Wilson insisted. "We can't fall into a trap. I had a mentor who heard me say that I work hard, so my sons don't have to."

"He told me that everything I had said was good except for the last part. He said, 'the part about you work so hard, so they don't have to.'"

"Don't set them up for failure like that because the reality is that you pushed through the struggle as far as you could, so you prepare them for the struggle."



























# May 3-7 is Teacher Appreciation Week


Jackson Public Schools has been celebrating their teachers throughout the week. While it is always important to recognize how much teachers matter, this past year is especially significant. Many educators have worked around the clock to move their teaching online or to a hybrid format while continuing to support their students.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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# Coping with the changes that come with aging

**By Vince Faust**  
*Tips to Be Fit*

As we age we should take a look at where we're going. We're not working at a job everyday. We are not taking care of our children. We have no real schedule. Got a lot of leisure time on our hands. No place to be. We may have lost a brother, a sister or a spouse. We are alone. We now need to refocus our life. We need a plan for the rest of our life.

If you don't have a plan for your life you will loose a lot of yourself a little at a time. A plan gives purpose. Purpose motivates us. Our motivation can diminish as we age because our responsibilities have decreased. Life derives largely from expectations and goals. We now need to refocus our attention on a new set of priorities.

I'd like to see you write down all the things you want to accomplish in the next 2 to 5 years. I want them to include social, career, leisure time activities and health. These are long-term goals. This list can change as you begin to complete things on your list. Expand the scope of the list by explaining how you will accomplish your goals. These are short-term goals or action steps. Set up a time line as to when you will accomplish each goal. Plans with no beginning or end point will never get done. Remember you won't complete your list overnight. Be realistic with your timeline.



There are a number of areas in our life we should plan to add to our senior life plan. Exercise, better nutrition, good sleep hygiene and stress reduction are a few of them.

Exercise is an item that you should include in your senior plan. Strengthening muscles, tendons and ligaments with resistance exercise will make you stronger, help support the skeletal system and joints. Stronger muscles, tendons and ligaments can reduce your risk of having joint problems and help existing joint problems. You should talk with your doctor before you start because depending on what the joint problem, resistance training may aggravate it. You'll get stronger with age.

To stimulate muscle fibers to grow and increase in strength

a demand must be placed on the muscle. Resistance training does this. Calisthenics is a form of resistance training but lifting weights or using workout machines does a more effective job. I recommend using a combination of free weights (dumbbells and barbells) and machines. Using free weights during some exercises will give you more control over the range of motion you go through. Because machines can't possibly fit every body shape they don't provide a full range of motion with every exercise. People who don't have access to resistance training equipment can improvise with sandbags, plastic bottles filled with water or even canned goods.

You should do at least 30 minutes of exercise everyday of your life. Make sure you

plan it in you daily schedule.

Your exercise plan should include aerobic exercises. Doing aerobic exercises for up to twenty minutes will work the heart, lungs and circulatory system. You don't start to burn body fat until you're about 20-25 minutes into the workout. To burn significant amounts of body fat you should perform between 45 and 60 minutes of aerobic. If you're not already working out it may take you several weeks to reach this goal. You should start with between 5 to 20 minutes of aerobic activity at a moderate pace. As your body becomes stronger you want to increase your time and intensity (effort level) gradually.

As we get older nutrition plays an important part in our health. Most nutritional needs

of the older person are similar to those of their younger counterpart. Make sure you get in enough calcium, B vitamins and iron through a balanced diet. Keep a food diary for two weeks to determine what you need to add to your diet. An active person needs about 10 to 13 calories for every pound of body weight. You should eat 4 to 5 small meals that include 3 to 4 servings of fruits, 3 to 4 servings of vegetables, 2 to 3 servings of whole grains and 2 servings of proteins everyday.

Sleep should also be a planned activity. Good sleep hygiene is important to aging. Get less sleep than what you need and you'll find yourself stressed more often and you'll get sick more often. The amount of sleep needed each night varies among people. Each person needs a particular amount of sleep in order to be fully alert throughout the day.

Research has shown that when healthy adults are allowed to sleep unrestricted, the average time slept is 8 to 8.5 hours. Some people need more than that to avoid problem sleepiness; others need less. If a person does not get enough sleep, even on one night, a "sleep debt" begins to build and increases until enough sleep is obtained. Problem sleepiness occurs as the debt accumulates.

Many people do not get enough sleep during the week and then sleep longer on the weekends to reduce their sleep

debt. If too much sleep has been lost, sleeping-in on the weekend may not completely reverse the effects of not getting enough sleep during the week.

We all should reduce our negative stress levels. Stress is the mental, emotional and physiological response of the body to any situation that is new, threatening, frightening or exciting. Stress can be both positive and negative.

There are books and pamphlets, which explain how to practice techniques of dealing with stress. These include breathing techniques for relaxation, meditation, progressive muscle relaxation and autogenic training, which is a form of self-suggestion.

Other ways of dealing with stress include changing or improving personal character traits. These can include behavior changes such as assertiveness training, self-esteem enhancement, being flexible, improving organizational skills and time management.

Remember, there are many things that we can't control. But, we must maintain control over how we handle things. If you need to cry, scream, count to ten, smile or simply sigh do it. Take things in stride and work through it. Sometimes you just have to go with the flow.

We should engage in some form of social interaction on a regular bases. It takes a village to keep a person growing.

## Biden-Harris Administration delivers funds to support older Americans' health

**By Stacy M. Brown**  
*NNPA Newswire Correspondent*

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living has released \$1.4 billion in funding from the American Rescue Plan for Older Americans Act programs, including initiatives to support vaccine outreach and coordination, address social isolation, provide family caregiver support, and offer nutrition support.

The department also plans to fund justice programs to ensure the safety and protection of older adults.

According to a White House fact sheet released May 3, officials plan to distribute the funds as follows:

- \$750 million for meals for older adults. With this funding for Older Americans Act nutrition programs, states will be able to continue home-delivered meals as well as "drive-through" or "grab-and-go" meals for older adults who typically would participate in meal programs at community centers that have been closed due to the pandemic. It will also allow states to re-open meal program locations safely that might have closed during the pandemic.
- \$460 million for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) through the Older Americans Act. This funding provides help to those who need it for help with household



**In the first 100 days, the Biden-Harris Administration has taken significant steps to address the health and security of older adults, the White House stated. PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO / NNPA**

chores and grocery shopping; transportation to essential services (such as grocery stores, banks, or doctors); and case management. The funding can also be used to vaccinate older Americans and address the effects of extended social isolation.

- \$44 million for evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention. This includes programs to address fall prevention, managing a chronic disease, and programs to detect and reduce depression

among older Americans.

- \$145 million to help family caregivers support their loved ones. This funding for the National Family Caregiver Support Program will assist family and informal caregivers to provide in-home supports, including counseling, respite care, training and more.
- \$10 million to safeguard the health and welfare of residents in long-term care facilities. These funds will support State Long-term Care Ombudsman programs to advocate

on behalf of residents of long-term care facilities across the country. This money will allow ombudsman programs that are advocating for residents to safely go back into facilities after they had to discontinue that support during the pandemic, and continue to promote the health, safety, welfare, and rights of residents.

The announcement coincided with a presidential proclamation honoring May 2021 as Older Americans Month.

"The proclamation recog-

nizes that older Americans and families have faced substantial challenges during the last year, and their resilience and strength have made our country stronger," administration officials stated. "Older adults deserve to age with dignity and have equitable access to the long-term care system, regardless of race, sexual orientation or gender identity, disability, or socioeconomic status.

"The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to expanding access to health care,

nutrition services, caregiving, and opportunities to age in place for all older Americans."

In the first 100 days, the Biden-Harris Administration has taken significant steps to address the health and security of older adults, the White House stated.

In addition to the funding announced recently, the Administration has:

- Expanded Funding for Home and Community Based Services.
  - Increased Access to Affordable Housing for Seniors.
  - Provided COVID-19 Vaccinations and Testing for Elderly Residents of HUD-Assisted Housing.
  - Expanded Nutrition Assistance for Low-Income Seniors.
  - Proposed Robust Investments in the Caregiving Economy.
- "The American Jobs Plan proposes to invest an additional \$400 billion to expand access to these long-term services and supports for older Americans," administration officials stated.
- "This investment will also support well-paying caregiving jobs that include benefits and the ability to collectively bargain, building state infrastructure to improve the quality of services and to support workers.
- "The funding will take significant steps to help older adults get high-quality care in their homes and communities."



# Giving heed to Satan

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



When I see broken homes and things going wrong, I wonder what evil disease has gotten hold of that family. In Genesis 3:7 you can read that Satan talked to Eve. Verse 7 says, “And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed figs leaves together and made themselves aprons.” Verse 14 reads, “And the Lord God said unto the serpent, because thou hast done this, thou art cursed

above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.” Bible students know that God created a wonderful place for Adam and Eve to live. He prepared a beautiful garden, and He put in that garden everything necessary for their well-being. It was complete and met their every need. I believe that the souls of Adam and Eve were completely satisfied in that home, but the devil came in the form of a serpent and spoke to Eve about the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It was not an ordinary tree.

Many times, people have a secure, happy home, a good family, and are blessed with wealth and good health, but then the devil comes along and plants evil in their minds, and they forget the needs of their souls. For example, the husband may step out on the wife and the wife may step out on the husband. Next, the home breaks up, leaving brokenhearted little children. In our world today, the courts are filled with divorce cases, and schools have difficulty finding out who the real grandparents are because of the confusion and divisions from broken marriages and remarriages. That kind of life

can never satisfy the soul. The soul needs God. The best place to turn is to Jesus Christ. The best place to take the children is to Jesus Christ. If you are not a church-going person, you ought to get started. You need to go to a church where Bible truth is preached so that you can get what your soul needs. It is not the flesh that you need to satisfy so much. The soul stands in need of help from God. Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joy nes Road Church of God, 31 Joy nes Road, Hampton VA 23669. He is a member of the National Association of Evangelism Church of God, Anderson, Ind.

# Hot water cornbread and mama’s wisdom

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



In honor of Mother’s Day, I want to share one of my favorite experiences with my mother. As we prepare to celebrate our 2nd

Mother’s Day in a pandemic, take time to encourage the mothers in your life. And if you have lost your mother, be encouraged by the memories and imprint of love they had on your life.

“Girl, I can make that...and I can’t cook,” laughed one friend as I explained my difficulty making hot water cornbread a decade ago over lunch. What puzzled me was that I was able to make so many other things...with or without a recipe: turkey and dressing, red velvet cake, red beans and rice, etc. That was until I came up against hot water cornbread. It seemed like no matter how many times I tried, it never came out right. I shamefully finally accepted the fact that I would never be able to make it.

My first attempt fell apart while still in the skillet. Rookie mistake, I tried again a few weeks later. This time, they not only fell apart, they also turned pitch black in minutes. Not to be discouraged, I decided that when I visited my parents again I’d get the “secret” to hot water cornbread from my mama.

The next time I visited my parents, I noticed she was getting ready to make some hot water cornbread and shared my problem. My mama very patiently explained in detail how to make it as I watched her. She even let me mix one batch (flavored with jalapeno peppers) under her supervision.

She said the key is having the right amount of each ingredient

as she watched me. “Perfect,” she said as she took the first golden brown pieces out of the hot grease. I was happy because I’d conquered the mountain. Or so I thought.

A few months later when I tried to make it by myself at my house, they didn’t break apart. But the first batch turned out so hard and flat that I threw the uncooked mixture away and vowed to never make hot water cornbread again.

Years later, I got the courage to try again. This time after consulting with my mama another three times (including while the water was boiling), I made the hot water cornbread. This time, they came out wonderfully: golden brown on the outside and moist on the inside.

What I learned from my mama is that successfully making hot water cornbread depends on whether the water is hot enough, the grease is fresh, and the corn meal is mixed with the right amount of sugar, flour and salt. The key is learning how to balance each one.

It’s similar to our spiritual growth, Romans 5:3-5 explains how “suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” Each is a new level of spiritual maturity that comes by learning to better balance the various areas of your life.

This week’s column is dedicated to my mama Nealie Riley and all the mothers who have the patience to share their wisdom with us. Happy Mother’s Day!

Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of “Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email preservedby-purpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

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# The Supreme Court can protect black lives by ending qualified immunity

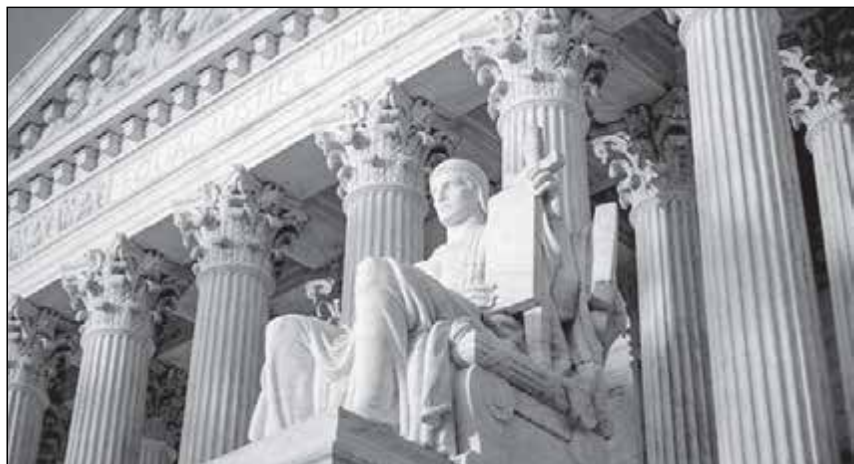
By David Johns  
Executive Director  
National Black Justice Coalition

Last year, we witnessed another crushing blow in the fight to end police violence against black people. Only one of the three officers involved in the murder of Breonna Taylor was charged in the case. However, they were not charged for causing her death; rather, they were indicted on charges of destroying property.

The three officers responsible for the murder of Breonna Taylor are not the first to walk free after killing an unarmed black person, and unfortunately, especially if things continue as they are, they will not be the last. Things continuing as they are, includes the decision to only charge one Louisville police officer for the destruction of property, which sends the message that black lives do not matter to law enforcement agencies.

In addition to the trauma associated with black death by police officers we are repeatedly denied the time and space to mourn those that were stolen from us. We can't even get through a trial on the killing of one unarmed black man without the killing of another unarmed black man. Here we are again, this time mourning the loss of Daunte Wright, who was killed by police officer Kim Potter in Minneapolis, Minnesota – the same city that has just witnessed a guilty verdict in the case of Derek Chauvin, who killed George Floyd last May. As the country awaited this verdict, Ma'Khia Bryant, a 16-year-old black girl in Columbus, Ohio was killed by a police officer when she called them to intervene in a dispute with another teenager.

At the National Black Justice Coalition, we prioritize ending policies that put all black lives at risk. We support the shifts in our legal practices required to honor that all of our lives matter, in theory, and in practice. For that reason, I truly believe that if we are going to have a conversation about increased police accountability; we need to start talking about the courts and qualified



The Supreme Court is a deliberative body and the perspective of a black woman will ensure decisions that are more inclusive of diverse lived experiences. PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO/NNPA

immunity – a defense to excessive force available to officers. Chauvin may have been found guilty of Floyd's murder, but the fact remains that this legal protection will continue to put black people in danger at the hands of the police.

Qualified immunity is legal protection created by the Supreme Court that shields government officials from being held liable for constitutional violations – such as the right to be free from excessive police force – as long as the officials didn't violate "clearly established law." It was invented by the court in 1967, as a way to protect public officials who believed their actions were authorized by the law.

Fifteen years later in *Harlow v. Fitzgerald*, the court expanded the defense of qualified immunity. Instead of upholding the requirement of public officials acting in "good faith" in order to be shielded from liability, even officials who used excessive force would be immune from being held legally accountable for their actions.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor called qualified immunity a "one-sided approach" that "transforms the doctrine into an absolute shield for law enforcement officers." Sotomayor went on to say that qualified immunity "sends an alarming signal to law enforcement officers and the public. It tells officers that they can shoot first and think later, and it tells the public that palpably unreasonable

conduct will go unpunished."

Following the direction of the Supreme Court, lower courts mostly dismiss police misconduct lawsuits on grounds that there is no prior court decision with nearly identical facts. This results in seeing what happened with Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Tony McDade (a black trans man who was murdered by a member of the Tallahassee Police Department the same week as George Floyd was murdered) and Breonna Taylor, happening over and over again – police officers having full ability to fatally shoot black people with impunity, across the country and regardless of jurisdiction.

A Reuters study found that since 2005, the courts have shown an increasing tendency to grant immunity in excessive force cases and that trend continues to accelerate.

Daunte Wright's untimely murder – just like Breonna Taylor's and George Floyd's – is another example of why now is the time for a black woman Supreme Court nominee. Only one legal entity can end the enactment of qualified immunity and remove the protection itself, and that is the United States Supreme Court.

We need judges that understand what it means to have a loved one not come home because an officer perceived their skin color to be a crime punishable by death as well as how dangerous it is

to tell police officers to shoot first and think later. We need judges that know what we mean when we scream, "I can't breathe."

Simply put, qualified immunity upholds a culture of impunity where government officials in general and police officers, in particular, are not held accountable for using excessive force and violence against unarmed individuals.

Qualified immunity blocks mechanisms from holding the police accountable for their actions. Where there is no accountability, there is no justice. An outcome where only one is charged for causing George Floyd's death would be a failure of the law; a failure that could be solved by ending qualified immunity and widening the pathways for holding law enforcement accountable for the violent harm caused to our communities.

The Supreme Court is a deliberative body and the perspective of a black woman will ensure decisions that are more inclusive of diverse lived experiences. The failure of qualified immunity shows that we need better representation and that now more than ever, we need Supreme Court nominees who are committed to preserving justice. For the She Will Rise campaign, it is important that the next Supreme Court nominee be a black woman who understands the danger qualified immunity presents for our nation's most vulnerable communities.

Black women are uniquely qualified to recognize who is left out of Supreme Court decisions because black women know what it is like to be constantly excluded from the table. As Thurgood Marshall was often referred to as the conscience of the court, a black woman SCOTUS nominee could be poised to continue that legacy with demonstrated empathy for those with his shared experience of oppression and injustice.

With this in mind, the Supreme Court has the potential to exercise its power to end this qualified immunity and finally hold police accountable so that there are no more Breonna Taylors, Daunte Wrights or George Floyds.

# The landscape of nursing homes has changed since COVID-19

By Morgan Bridgeman  
Contributing Writer



The cases and deaths of elderly people combined have changed how nursing homes operate. Since the pandemic started, most nursing homes shut down outside visitors in order to keep the residents safe. Residents are constantly being tested for the virus and have to maintain social distance from other residents.

Not only are the residents impacted, workers at the nursing homes are impacted. Regular staff workers at nursing homes are tested so that they do not bring the virus into work from home. Residents and other staff members have had to change how they interact as well.

It has been almost a year since the Coronavirus pandemic came into the United States and caused havoc. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can be passed from person to person. The transferring of this disease has resulted in many people dying. The main group of people that this pandemic has affected is elderly people because they are more susceptible to the virus. These deaths caused nursing homes to change how they operate.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 8 out of 10 COVID-19 related deaths reported in the United States have been adults 65 and older. The high death rate for adults 65 and older is mainly because of pre-existing conditions that make it harder to fight the virus.

"Residents have taken a tremendous loss in quality of life and death. They are isolated from family visits and the simple things of life which has caused an increase in depression," said RN Shawana Williams-Lewis, a nurse who travels to multiple nursing homes in Mississippi.

Nursing home workers try to help residents not feel so alone. They think of ways to help residents become interactive with each other while not being that close to each other. There are many activities being planned around different nursing homes to help keep the morale of residents high. Staff workers are also trying to keep residents connected to their family members since they cannot physically see each other.

"We have had to find creative ways to interact with residents. The most effective way has been the purchase of iPads and scheduling FaceTime visits," said Selina Shanks, a Mississippi social worker at a nursing home.

Nursing homes have had to think outside the box during this pandemic. Even after this pandemic is over, certain COVID-19 practices will continue.

According to *Newsday*, nursing homes will from now on be on high alert when it comes to health and safety protocols. Social distance will continue to be a thing especially if residents are sick. Family visits will also be more technology-based than physically-based.

"This pandemic has shifted how we operate in the nursing home and it will most likely stay this way because we want to keep as many residents healthy as possible," said RN Tonja Johnson, a director of nursing at a Mississippi nursing home.

Morgan Bridgeman, a junior mass communications major at Alcorn State University, is a contributing writer to the campus newspaper "The Campus Chronicle." During the summer of 2020, she was a student intern at The Mississippi Link.

# So why should I be ashamed?

By Dr. Froswa Booker-Drew  
Founder and CEO of Soulstice Consultancy

Shame and guilt are two powerful emotions. I think many of us have experiences from our childhood that shape who we are because of those moments of being laughed at, bullied or even violated by others. If we are not careful, those emotions drive us to cover them up with addictions to food, sex, overspending or other self-destructive behaviors.

Guilt is about behavior. Shame is about how we see ourselves. We can change behavior but what happens when we don't feel that we can change ourselves? One of the first examples of shame was in the book of Genesis in the Bible. Genesis, 2: 25 states that "Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame." The serpent comes, twists what God said and based on inaccurate information, they made a decision. They went against God's command and ate the fruit.

In Chapter 3:7, "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and



We cover up our shame with layers of other issues that keep us weighted down and unable to really address what we are feeling. PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO/NNPA

I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." 11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" 12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" Shame did not enter the lives of Adam and Eve until they were aware that they were exposed. In their discovery, the immediate response was to hide.

They covered themselves and instead of addressing their vulnerability of being naked, they covered it up. God was obviously fine with their nakedness/vulnerability because they were created that way. Yet, we can see this

as weakness instead of seeing it as the opportunity for freedom. For many of us, we do the exact same thing. We cover up our shame with layers of other issues that keep us weighted down and unable to really address what we are feeling. Isn't it interesting that instead of taking responsibility, Adam blamed Eve for his decision?

Shame often keeps us from looking in the mirror, afraid of what we'll see or experience when we allow ourselves to be vulnerable. We also hide not only from ourselves, but we hide from God. We allow our shame to keep us from being in relationship with God because we feel worthless, unacceptable and dirty.

Scholar Brene Brown researches guilt, shame and vulnerability. She

says that shame is an "intensely painful feeling or experience of believing that we are flawed and therefore unworthy of love and belonging." We experience "uncertainty, risk and emotional exposure. When we feel dark emotions – when we feel grief or shame or fear, scarcity, disappointment – we feel risk and uncertainty, and we feel emotionally exposed and raw. But vulnerability is also the birthplace of love, joy, belonging, trust, intimacy, creativity and all of the good things."

Vulnerability isn't a bad thing. What would have happened if Adam had been honest about what occurred instead of hiding and blaming? What would have occurred if they both remained in their initial state, naked and without shame? God wants us to be in that space of openness and willingness to commune even when we want to retreat away from the pain. It is within those moments of transparency with God and with ourselves, that we can experience a deeper relationship. We can also change the narrative from one that the serpent gives us filled with inaccuracies about ourselves to one that is liberating, freeing and honest.

Dr. Froswa' Booker-Drew is the founder and CEO of Soulstice Consultancy, specializing as a partnership broker and leadership expert for companies and organizations to thrive with measurable and meaningful impact.





# CLASSIFIED

LEGAL

Advertisement for Bid

Bid 3185 Pest Control Services

Electronic and sealed 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) May 19, 2021, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all 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

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

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered 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.

5-6-2021, 5-13-2021

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding  
Advertisement for Bid

Bid 3186 Interior and Exterior Improvements for Raines Elementary School

Electronic and sealed 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) June 02, 2021 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conferences concerning this project will be held at 156 N. Flag Chapel Road, Jackson, MS 39209 on May 13, 2021 at 02:00 P.M. 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.jpssdm-projects.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 Durrell Design Group, PLLC, 500-G East Woodrow Wilson Ave., Jackson, MS 39216, Phone: 601-708-4788, or Email: contact@durrelldesigngroup.com.

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered 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.

5-6-2021, 5-13-2021

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding  
Advertisement for Bids

Bid 3187 Structural Improvement for Johnson Elementary School

Electronic and sealed 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) June 02, 2021 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conferences concerning this project will be held at 1339 Oak Park Dr., Jackson, MS 39213 on May 18, 2021 at 02:00 P.M. 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.jpssdm-projects.com. A \$100.00 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 Durrell Design Group, PLLC, 500-G East Woodrow Wilson Ave., Jackson, MS 39216, Phone: 601-708-4788, or Email: contact@durrelldesigngroup.com.

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered 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.

5-6-2021, 5-13-2021

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFP

RFP 2021-11 Online and Blended Learning

Electronic and sealed rfp proposals for the above rfp will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), May 20, 2021, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all rfps, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any rfp if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date rfps are opened.

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

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered 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.

5-6-2021, 5-13-2021

LEGAL

Advertisement for Bids

Bid 3189 Child Nutrition Frozen Food, Meat Products, Crackers and Chips

Electronic and sealed 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 (Local Prevailing Time) May 28, 2021, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all 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

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

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered 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.

5-6-2021, 5-13-2021

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding  
Advertisement for Bid

Re-Bid 3162 Brinkley Middle School Renovations

Electronic and sealed 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) May 26, 2021 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conferences concerning this project will be held at 3535 Albermarle Road, Jackson, MS 39213 on May 13, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. 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.jpssdm-projects.com. A \$100.00 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 Charles Bunniran at Allen & Hoshall, Phone: 601-977-8993, Fax: 601-949-4344 or Email: cbunniran@allenhoshall.com.

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered 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.

4-29-2021, 5-6-2021

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding  
Advertisement for Bid

Bid 3188 Lake Elementary School Renovations

Electronic and sealed 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) June 03, 2021 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the Lake Elementary School Renovations project will be held at 472 Mt. Vernon Ave., Jackson, MS 39209, May 19, 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 bid documents at www.jpssdm-projects.com. A \$100.00 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 Joseph Crain at Eley Guild Hardy Architects, Phone: 228-594-2323, or Email: jcrain@egh.ms.

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered 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.

4-29-2021, 5-6-2021

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFP

RFP 2021-12 JPS Seeks a Pool of Partners to Provide Content-Area Support/Job Embedded Professional Development (Process Standard 20) and Administrative and Instructional Coaching Support

Electronic and sealed rfp proposals for the above rfp will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), May 20, 2021, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all rfps, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any rfp if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date rfps are opened.

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

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered 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.

5-6-2021, 5-13-2021

LEGAL

Advertisement for Bid

Bid 3184 Fuel, POL and Fleet Management

Electronic and sealed 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) May 17, 2021, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all 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

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

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered 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.

4-29-2021, 5-6-2021

LEGAL

Employment Ad

Hinds County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA) Board of Trustees seeks a full-time Executive Director to oversee the day-to-day operations of HCEDA, including the management, utilization and conservation of its financial, human and physical resources, under the authority and supervision of the HCEDA Board of Trustees.

Minimum qualifications include a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in business administration, economic or community development, urban & regional planning, engineering, or a related field, along with a minimum of five (5) years' experience in economic or community development, urban & regional planning, or a closely-related profession and with a proven track record of successfully locating new capital investments.

Advanced degree(s) and CEcd designation and/or EDFP certification is preferred.

Salary will be based upon experience.

Applications must be received by June 10, 2021.

For additional details regarding this role as well as information on how to apply, visit <https://selecthinds.com/careers>

4-29-2021, 5-6-2021, 5-13-2021, 5-20-2021, 5-27-2021, 6-3-2021, 6-10-2021

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI  
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT


IN THE MATTER OF THE LAST WILL AND  
TESTAMENT OF JERRY HOPKINS, DECEASED NO.: 25CH2:20-PR-00067

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 12th day of November 2020 by the  
Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi to the undersigned Executrix upon the Estate of  
Jerry Hopkins, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present the  
same to the Clerk of this Court for the probate and registration according to law within (90) days  
from the first publication of this notice or they will be forever barred.

DATED this the 2nd day of March, 2021.

  
ANN HOPKINS, Executrix

Solicitor: Howard R. Brown  
Attorney and Counselor at Law  
Post Office Box 158  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205  
MSB# 10631

Published in: The Mississippi Link

4-22-2021, 4-29-2021, 5-6-2021

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## LEGAL

### Legal Notice

We, the member of Perusa Investments LLC/DBA Swinging Bridge Discount Liquor, intend to make application for a transfer of a Package Retailer permit as provided for by the Local Option Alcoholic Beverage Control Law, Section 67-1-1, et seq., of the Mississippi Code of 1972, and Annotated. If granted such permit, I propose to operate as a limited liability company under the trade name of Perusa Investment LLC/DBA Swinging Bridge Discount Liquor, located at 2 Holiday Rambler Ln, Byrum, MS of Hinds County. The name(s), title(s), and address(es) of the owner(s)/ partners/corporate officer(s) and/or majority stockholder(s)/member(s)/ trustee of the above named business are: Jorge Gonzalez. If any person wishes to request a hearing to object to the issuance of this permit a request for a hearing must be made in writing and received by the Department of Revenue within (15) days from the first date this notice was published. Requests shall be sent to: Chief Counsel, Legal Division, Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 22828, Jackson, MS 39225.

Date of First Publication: April 29, 2021. This the 28 day of April A.D., 2021.  
4-29-2021, 5-6-2021

## LEGAL

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY FOR CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE JMAA'S AIRPORT DISTRICT OFFICE BUILDING: FAA TENANT INTERIOR UPGRADES PROJECT AT THE JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT JMAA PROJECT NO. 004-21

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is seeking bids for construction and related services in connection with: JMAA's Airport District Office Building: FAA Tenant Interior Upgrades Project at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (the "Work").

Sealed bids to perform the Work will be accepted at 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Friday, May 28, 2021 (the "Bid Deadline"). Bids shall be accepted by email, mail, or hand delivery as follows:

Email: 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 open and read publicly all bids on Friday, May 28, 2021 at 4:05 p.m. (CST) (the "Bid Opening"), in the Staff Conference Room, Third Floor of the Main Terminal Building at JAN. JMAA invites Bidders and their authorized representatives to be present at the Bid Opening.

Questions and communications regarding the bidding procedure and schedule on this project should be directed: Name, Title, email address, and telephone number. Dr. Dexter M. Brookins, Director of Procurement, dbrookins@jmaa.com, 601-664-3516.

The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) Bidder's company name; (ii) Mississippi Certificate of Responsibility Number; and (iii) the wording: JMAA's Airport District Office Building: FAA Tenant Interior Upgrades Project at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, JMAA Project No. 004-21." If the submission is submitted via email, the identification information must be provided in the email subject line. If the submission is submitted by hand delivery or mail, the identification information must be marked on the outside or exterior of the bid envelope or container.

JMAA will not consider any submissions, including bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids received, after the Bid Deadline for any reason whatsoever.

JMAA will award the Work to the lowest and best bid as determined by JMAA in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Information for Bidders. Plans and specifications related to the Work are considered part of the Agreement. Any Addenda issued clarifying and/or changing plans and specifications; clarifying and/or changing instructions in the Instruction to Bidders; and/or answering questions in relation to the Instructions to Bidders shall become part of the Information for Bidders.

The Information for Bidders and bidding documents for the Work can be found at <https://jmaa.com/partner-with-us/procurement/>. The website will be updated periodically with addenda, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Work.

JMAA will hold a Pre-Bid Video Conference on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. (CST) using the following login information:

Link:  
<https://jmaa.zoom.us/j/93452170791?pwd=UnZlTXNHUWVvKMYnJDa3AVNkIeXUT09>  
Meeting ID: 934 5217 0791  
Passcode: 293050

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

JMAA reserves the right to amend the plans and specifications for the Work by Addendum issued before the Bid Deadline; to reject any and all bids; and to waive technicalities in the bid proposals.

JMAA has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprises contract goal of 0% for the Work solicited by this RFB.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
DATE: May 6, 2021

5-6-2021

## LEGAL

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION

#### ZONING CASE NO. 4127

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 Joseph & Shelby Gray has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Special Exception to operate a one chair beauty salon within a R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District on property located at 540 Warrior Trail (Parcel 50-197) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lot 10, Block J, Cherokee Heights Subdivision, a Subdivision according to a map of Plat thereof which is on file and record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson Mississippi, in Plat Book 3 at Page 48, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, May 26, 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 WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS OR VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO May 19, 2021.

WITNESS my signature this 29th day of April 2021.

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

5-6-2021, 5-20-2021

## LEGAL

### Advertisement for RFP

#### RFP 2021-10 Pool of Providers to offer Translation, Transcription, and Interpretation Services

Electronic and sealed rfp proposals for the above rfp will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time), May 14, 2021 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all rfps, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any rfp if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date rfps are opened.

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

4-29-2021, 5-6-2021

## LEGAL

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

#### ZONING CASE NO. 4128

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 Offtop Autoplex, LLC has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for the operation of a used car lot in a C-3 (General) Commercial District for the property located at 5502 North State St. (Parcel 500-1082) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING SITUATED IN SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 6 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF NORTH STATE STREET (OLD US HIGHWAY 51) WITH THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY CULLEY DRIVE, AS BOTH ARE PRESENTLY LAID OUT AND IN USE (APRIL 30, 1969); RUN THENCE SOUTHERLY 850.7 FEET ALONG THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF NORTH STATE STREET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; TURN THENCE LEFT 90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES AND RUN EASTERLY 170 FEET TO WESTERN BOUNDARY OF NORTH MEADOWS SUBDIVISION; TURN THENCE RIGHT 90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES AND RUN SOUTHERLY ALONG SAID BOUNDARY 160 FEET; TURN THENCE RIGHT 90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES AND RUN WESTERLY 170 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF NORTH STATE STREET; TURN THENCE RIGHT 90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES AND RUN NORTHERLY 160 FEET ALONG THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF NORTH STATE STREET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

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, May 26, 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 WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS OR VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO May 19, 2021.

WITNESS my signature this 29th day of April 2021.

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

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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. Prod  
4. Grope  
10. IOU part  
11. Never walked on  
12. Beret  
13. Donating  
14. Dummy  
16. “To the right!”  
17. Eye infection  
18. Mr. \_\_ (tv horse)  
20. Act  
22. Gorilla “king”  
26. Boxer Muhammad  
29. Earthy  
31. What the Ringling Brothers have  
33. Palter  
34. Treble  
35. Adam’s wife  
36. Fumes  
37. Thief’s hideout

DOWN

1. Toilets  
2. Wait for  
3. Miss Boop  
4. Apple type  
5. Marry  
6. I want my \_\_\_\_  
7. Penal institution  
8. \_\_ Ranger  
9. Adjoin  
15. Marry  
19. 10 liters (abbr. for dekaliter)  
21. Plant seed  
23. Eyed  
24. Childlike  
25. Neophyte  
26. Acting (abbr.)  
27. Italian currency  
28. Spring flower  
30. Usages  
32. Hertz

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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 Marilyn Monroe

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ

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

I DON’T MIND MAKING JOKES.  
K MFI Q SKIM SAZKIW RFZGO  
BUT I DON’T WANT TO LOOK LIKE  
YHQ K MFI Q BAIQ QF TFFZ TKZG  
ONE  
FIG

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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.

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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Cryptogram Solution

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ

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

I DON’T MIND MAKING JOKES.  
K MFI Q SKIM SAZKIW RFZGO  
BUT I DON’T WANT TO LOOK LIKE  
YHQ K MFI Q BAIQ QF TFFZ TKZG  
ONE  
FIG

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Sudoku Solution

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

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Week of May 2, 2021



# Darryl Strawberry tells Black Press how everyone can make a turnaround in life

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

Just as it did when he first arrived in the major leagues 38 years ago, Darryl Strawberry's name evokes awe.

His picture-perfect left-handed swing that launched 335 home runs and drove 1,000 RBIs, remains one of baseball's all-time pleasing memories.

But even at the height of his superstardom, the South Central, Los Angeles-born athlete suffered.

"My life was fractured," Strawberry revealed in an interview with the National Newspaper Publishers Association and the Black Press of America's live morning news program, "Let It Be Known."

"Like many who come from the inner-city who didn't have a male figure in their life – I didn't have a father – my pain led me to my greatness, but my greatness would eventually lead me to destructive behavior," the candid former slugger revealed.



I'm glad for my walk, my road," Strawberry declared. "People say, 'you could have been in the Hall of Fame,' but look at me now. I am an evangelist, and I'm encouraging people about life. It all works out as long as we don't quit." PHOTO: DARRYL STRAWBERRY POSES WITH FAN, AUGUST 2016, NYC / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Strawberry opens up even more in his new book, "Turn

Your Season Around: How God Transforms Your Life."

In the book that he writes with author Lee Weeks, Straw-

berry, now an evangelist, explains how individuals heading in the wrong direction can move positively.

He is candid in writing about tragedy, personal failure and transforming injustice.

Despite winning four world championships with the New York Mets and New York Yankees, Strawberry fell victim to drug addiction, spent time in prison and battled cancer.

His co-author noted that "Strawberry's life story is proof that you can overcome life's adversities one decision, one step at a time. It's time to turn your season around."

There were "lots of expectations about me when I first came up to the big leagues in 1983," Strawberry recalled. "I always tell young people that expectations are not who you are. The only expectations you should have are for yourself and not what others put on you."

With the sweetest of swings and five-tool talent, Strawberry faced the pressure of mounting expectations even as a teen. "I was the black Ted Williams,

the next Willie McCovey," he told the Black Press during his 25-minute interview.

"It got to a place where I had to have confidence in myself and just be myself," Strawberry continued. "You can't be anyone else. God has made each of us unique."

Because of his off-the-field challenges, Strawberry didn't make the Hall of Fame. Now, as focused and determined to help others as he's ever been, Strawberry shrugs off those who remind him of what he could have accomplished.

"I'm glad for my walk, my road," Strawberry declared. "People say, 'you could have been in the Hall of Fame,' but look at me now. I am an evangelist, and I'm encouraging people about life. It all works out as long as we don't quit."

Strawberry's new book, Turn Your Season Around, is available at most book-sellers, including [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [barnesandnoble.com](https://www.barnesandnoble.com).

## Calls for justice at N.C. funeral of Andrew Brown Jr.

By Ben Finley  
and Jonathan Drew  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The Rev. Al Sharpton issued a powerful call for transparency and the release of body camera footage at the funeral Monday for Andrew Brown Jr., a black man shot and killed by deputies in North Carolina, likening withholding the video to a "con" job done on the public.

"I know a con game when I see it. Release the whole tape and let the folks see what happened to Andrew Brown," Sharpton told mourners in a fiery eulogy at the invitation-only service at a church in Elizabeth City.

"You don't need time to get a tape out. Put it out. Let the world see what there is to see. If you've got nothing to hide, then what are you hiding?" he said, to loud applause.

A judge ruled last week that the video would not be released for another month pending a state investigation into the April 21 shooting of Brown, 42, by deputies attempting to serve drug-related search and arrest warrants.

An independent autopsy commissioned by his family said that he was shot five times, including once in the back of the head. The shooting sparked days of protests in the city in rural northeastern North Carolina.

Other speakers included Brown's sons as well as civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who is representing Brown's family. Calling Brown's death an "unjustifiable, reckless shooting," Crump told mourners the legal team would continue fighting for justice and transparency, including the release of deputy body camera footage of the shooting.

"We are here to make this plea for justice because Andrew was killed unjustifiably,



Mourners attending the funeral for Andrew Brown Jr. at Fountain of Life Church in Elizabeth City, NC. AP PHOTO/GERRY BROOME

as many black men in America have been killed: shot in the back. Shot, going away from the police. And because Andrew cannot make the plea for justice, it is up to us to make the plea for justice," Crump said.

A long line of mourners filed into the church, many wearing white T-shirts with Brown's image and the words, "Say his name." In the lobby, a wreath of red and white flowers with a ribbon bearing the message, "Rest in Peace Drew," referring to Brown's nickname, stood next to a tapestry with images of him. As the service started, an ensemble sang songs of praise including, "You're the Lifter," while some mourners stood and clapped.

Family members have said that Brown was a proud father of seven, who was known for entertaining relatives with his stories and jokes.

Brown's family asked Sharpton to deliver the eulogy because they felt the civil rights leader would properly honor his legacy. Sharpton recently delivered the eulogy for Daunte Wright, who was shot and killed by a police officer in Minnesota.

Among the mourners arriving at the church was 40-year-old Davy Armstrong, who said he went to high school with

Brown and lived near him while the two were growing up. He said Brown seemed to be doing well when he ran into him recently before the shooting.

"He was very humble, very generous. He said he was doing good," said Armstrong, who works in construction. "We hear about this on TV all the time. But when it's someone so well known and so respected, it's pretty painful."

The Rev. Dwight Riddick, a pastor at Gethsemane Baptist Church in Newport News, Virginia, said he was there to support the family and the cause against black men being killed by police.

Riddick added that Brown's killing has caused flashbacks to his own childhood, when he witnessed excessive force by police in Chesapeake, Virginia. He said several officers arrested his childhood neighbor and close friend, who was black. His friend later died in prison.

Riddick, now 63, was a teenager at the time. "This is almost like a scab being knocked off of a wound," Riddick said. "We've seen too many African American males who've lost their lives at the hands of police officers and even at the hands of African Americans. We want to see the violence on both sides stop."



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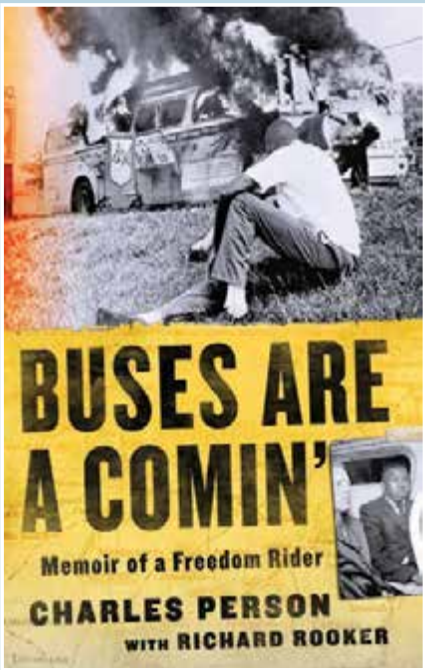
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BOOK REVIEW:

BUSES ARE A COMIN'

BY CHARLES PERSON WITH RICHARD ROOKER

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By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

Your seat has been reserved. You're excited about this trip, but also nervous; you've never been where you're going and you hope this is a one-and-done trip. Still, going there is necessary for you and for the future so grab your bags. Author Charles Person says "The Buses Are A Comin'" and you're on-board. He didn't know it then, but Charles Person grew up in poverty. His family was rich in love,


wealthy at mealtimes, affluent when it came to lessons, they had an abundance of fun, but he was in tenth grade before he realized that his extended family lived in a tenement on the south side of Atlanta, in Buttermilk Bottom. His father worked two full-time jobs to make ends meet. His mother was a domestic and, in effect, had "two families." He'd never thought about the facts until then, and it shamed him. Two years later, when he was about to graduate from high school, he was enraged when

he had to turn down his preferred college because of lack of money. It seemed to be the final insult after a lifetime of insults and he railed against it, until his grandfather asked Person what he was "going to do about it." Papa demanded an answer. Person decided on an HBCU that was close to home, one he could afford. After walking three miles from his home to Morehouse, the first day was awkward but Person stayed. He wanted the education, wanted to follow the words of

John Kennedy, who asked what he could do for his country. As it happened, at this same time, the indefatigable Civil Rights leader Lonnie King was in Atlanta, too. When told by an Atlanta department store owner to go home and take his fellow protesters with him, Lonnie vowed to come back in the fall with "thousands." And, says Person, "I was one of them." Sometimes, it seems that in a haste to tell the story, history glosses over a lot of details. "Buses Are A Comin'" sets

many omissions straight – after it tells a tale so intimate and so filled with joy-cum-despair that it nearly takes your breath away. Indeed, author Charles Person tells his own story so well that you can feel the floorboards sway in his "tenement" home. Surprisingly, he writes about the many elders who didn't want their children to march, seeing the danger; and those who did, despite it. There are details here that aren't discussed much, and other details that add to the national story.

And then Person turns "memoir into memorial" by turning his sights on Lonnie King, who was obviously a giant in Person's eyes. King, he suggests, is one of the Civil Rights Movement's most unsung heroes, but Person doesn't forget others who marched for change – including his contemporary, John Lewis. This is a book you hand to readers too young to remember the Civil Rights Movement. It honors and it sings out names. Read it; "Buses Are A Comin'" will keep you in your seat.



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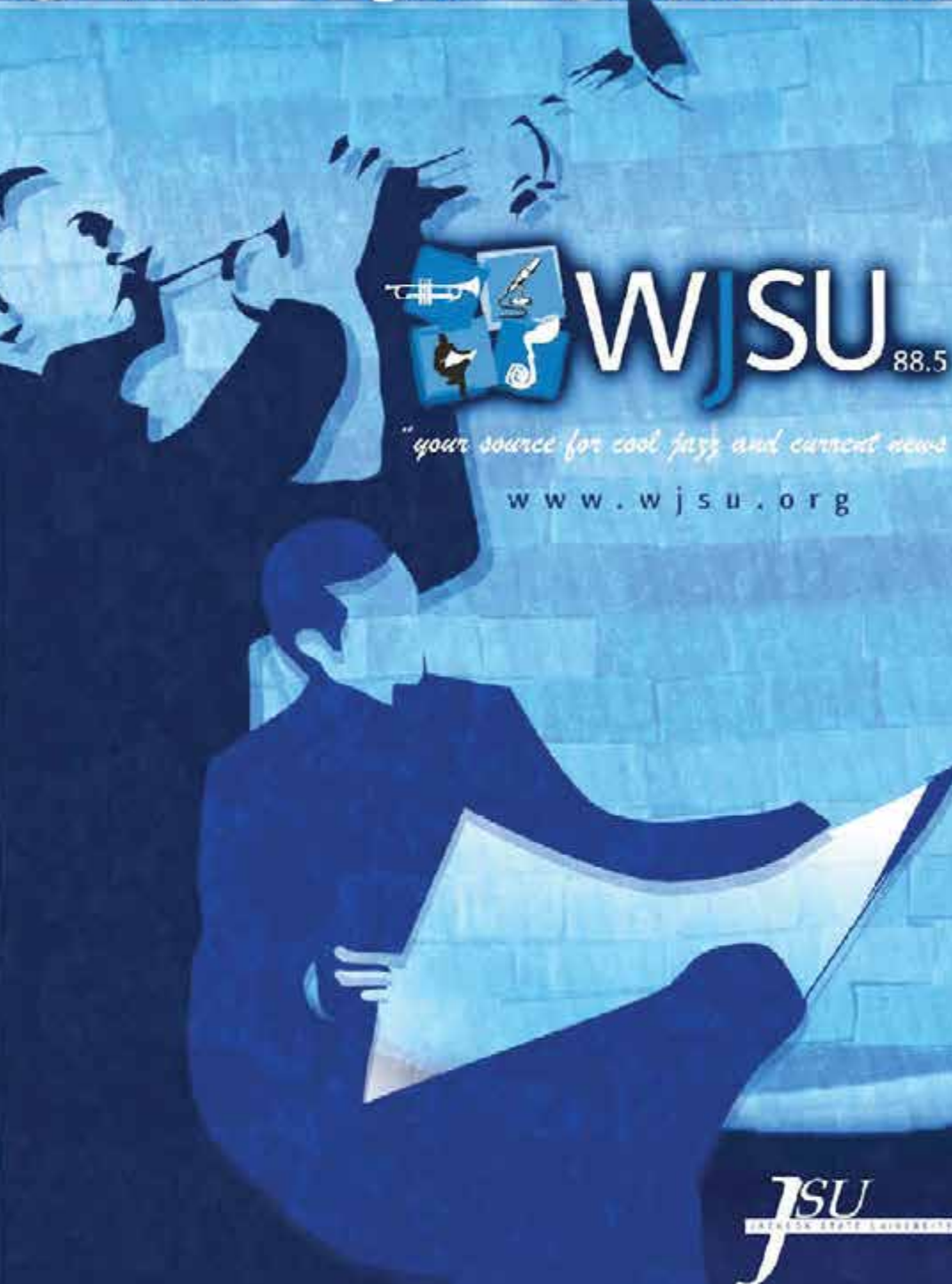
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  - Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to apply
  - Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.

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

# Cool And Current



**WJSU** 88.5

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WRTM-FM 100.5 FM, JACKSON'S SOUL, RHYTHM AND BLUES AND SOUTHERN SOUL STATION PLAYING MORE VARIETY, LESS TALK AND THE MUSIC ADULTS WANT TO HEAR!



# Tougaloo College Commencement Exercises

*Jackson Convention Center • Jackson, MS • May 2, 2021*

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



## Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

**HCSD actively recruits, retains and develops highly competent, caring and student-focused staff**



If you are looking to join a team that provides an engaging and empowering environment that ensures success for all students, we invite you to join the HCSD 2021-2022 team today. Call 601-857-5222 and ask for Beverly Hay.

**Raymond High School Weekly Highlights**



Sharon Jimerson, a RHS graduate and sophomore history and sociology major with an emphasis in African American Studies and pre-law minor at Tougaloo College, continues to provide support to the school.



Members of the RHS 2020-2021 Football Team

**UEMS Pre-K Weekly Highlights**

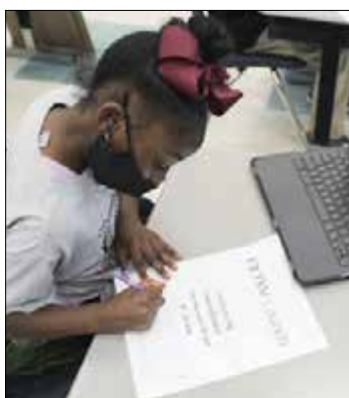


Mu Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. provides students with resources during ACT prep classes.



RHS senior Demerius Page signs a football letter of intent with Millsaps College.

**GRI STEM Program Weekly Highlights**



**BEEMS Jackson Hinds Student Clinic Weekly Highlights**







Paid for by the  
U.S. Department  
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# CAN I GET A COVID-19 VACCINE?

**YUP.** Everyone 16 and older is now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. And since vaccines prevent nearly 100% of hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID, making the decision to get your vaccine is a very smart move.

Find vaccines near you at  
[vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov), or call 800-232-0233.

