



IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Richard Temple Middleton III

January 17, 1942 - June 24, 2021

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

When Richard Temple Middleton III departed his earthly home on June 24, 2021, the state of Mississippi and the entire world closed a book on an educator and a historian. A celebration of his life and of the Holy Eucharist was held at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Cathedral on Wednesday at 10 a.m.

The Rev. Brian R. Seage of The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi said at the homecoming celebration of his friend, “His educational fingerprints are known throughout Mississippi.” Seage said that Middleton was an incredible historian – a walking, talking history book. “He has affected so many people in our state and has planted seeds for generations to come,” he said.

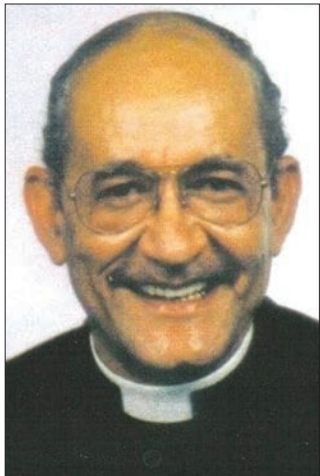
Seage spoke to a church filled with family, friends, parishioners, city leaders, formal classmates, formal students and others sayin, “We are indebted to him for the stories he shared and his interpretation of history. He said stories of his life should continue to be told just like the stories he told of the lives of others throughout history.

Walter Davis, a long-time friend told *The Mississippi Link*, “Richard was a proud, yet humble man, who had been parented (as was his siblings) to be hard-working, goal oriented, high achiever, God-fearing as well as a positive contributing force in the greater Jackson and Mississippi community.” He said, I have always been proud that we were Alpha brothers.”

Obituary

Richard Temple Middleton III, born January 17, 1942, was the oldest child of Colonel Richard Temple Middleton II and Johnie Beadle Middleton.

Richard, a native of Jackson, Mississippi, was educated in the public schools of Jackson and Vicksburg, Mississippi, Chicago, Illinois and Tacoma, Washington. His undergraduate and master’s degrees were earned at Lincoln University of Missouri and his doctorate at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He was a Woodrow Wilson-King Fellow. After earning his master’s degree, Richard joined the military and was a First Lieutenant in the United States Armed Forces in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.



Middleton

Middleton married Brenda Wolfe, a former Miss Tougaloo College, in 1968 and to this union two children were born- Jeanna Middleton Dampier and Richard Temple Middleton IV.

His professional career includes working as a professor of education at Tougaloo College, director of student teaching at Jackson State University, professor of educational leadership and an adjunct professor at Jackson State University.

He was an ordained Episcopal Priest and served as Rector of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Vicksburg and later at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Jackson, Mississippi from which he retired.

Richard was an accomplished writer and was very proud of his book entitled, “Eulogies and Memories” which is a collection of his personal funeral sermons and homilies. He has written articles for a number of scholarly journals and magazines, conducted numerous educational workshops and delivered many motivational presentations for various schools, colleges, churches and professional and civic organizations.

Middleton served on the National Executive Council of the Episcopal Church and at one time represented the Diocese of Mississippi.

He held membership in the following organizations: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, 100 Black Men of Jackson, Jackson 2000, Premier Class of Leadership Jackson, Who’s Who of Black Americans, The Union of Black Episcopalians, Pi Lambda Theta, Parents for Public Education, Smith Robertson Advisory Board, Advisory Board of

Middleton
Continued on page 3

Grand Opening of Howard D. Catchings Golf Driving Range & Putting Green



Howard Catchings

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

On Saturday, June 19, the grand opening of the Howard D. Catchings Golf Driving Range was held at 700 McDavid Avenue in Lambert, MS at 11 a.m.

“It was an exciting day,” stated the man of whom the driving range and putting green was named. Catchings told *The Mississippi Link*, “It was an exciting day because I can say, I got one flower before I died.

The celebrated day started with a motorcade of drivers meeting at the Holiday Inn in Batesville. The procession was led by motorcycle drivers that escorted them to Lambert, MS. Catchings said it was his birthday and there were so many people participating.

Upon arrival, Mayor Shirley Smith Taylor extended a welcome. Manuel Killebrew, president of the Quitman County Board of Supervisors also gave a welcome.

Pro Golfer Coach Robert “Bob” Ford Sr. gave history reflections of Golf Range & Putting Green.

Catchings said naming the driving range after him was the brain child of Jackson State University retired professor Hilliard Lackey, Ph.D., who now serves as visiting professor of Higher Education at JSU. He said that Lackey, who was from Marks, MS, just two hours from Lambert, wanted to do something good for the community. He simply said, “What a day.”

Catchings was born and educated in Mississippi and

is no stranger to new adventures. He has been in the insurance business for over 50 years. Prior to going into the insurance business he worked as a teacher in the Jackson Public School District.

Long-time friend, Ed Johnson not only attended the event but told many of his friends to come and be a part of what he knew would be a grand unveiling. He said, “I have known Howard Catchings for a long time and when I heard about the grand opening I wanted to be a part of it due to our long-time relationship and friendship.”

Johnson said the two played golf together, were both educators and once attended the same church. He said, “He has

Golf
Continued on page 3



Hilliard Lackey with wife Lillian Lackey



Ed Johnson



Coach Robert (Bob) Ford (L) with Catchings



Catchings with family members

Bill Cosby freed from prison, his sex conviction overturned

By Maryclaire Dale
Associated Press

Pennsylvania’s highest court threw out Bill Cosby’s sexual assault conviction and released him from prison Wednesday in a stunning reversal of fortune for the comedian once known as “America’s Dad,” ruling that the prosecutor who brought the case was bound by his predecessor’s agreement not to charge Cosby.

Cosby, 83, flashed the V-for-victory sign to a helicopter overhead as he trudged into his suburban Philadelphia home after serving nearly three years of a three- to 10-year sentence for drugging and violating Temple



Cosby

University sports administrator Andrea Constand in 2004.

The former “Cosby Show” star – the first celebrity tried and convicted in the (hash)MeToo era – had no immediate comment.

Cosby was arrested in 2015,

when a district attorney armed with newly unsealed evidence – the comic’s damaging deposition in a lawsuit brought by Constand – filed charges against him just days before the 12-year statute of limitations was about to run out.

But the Pennsylvania Supreme Court said Wednesday that District Attorney Kevin Steele, who made the decision to arrest Cosby, was obligated to stand by his predecessor’s promise not to charge Cosby, though there was no evidence that agreement was ever put in writing.

Justice David Wecht, writing for a split court, said Cosby had relied on the previous district at-

torney’s decision not to charge him when the comedian gave his potentially incriminating testimony in Constand’s civil case.

The court called Cosby’s subsequent arrest “an affront to fundamental fairness, particularly when it results in a criminal prosecution that was forgone for more than a decade.” It said justice and “fair play and decency” require that the district attorney’s office stand by the decision of the previous DA.

The justices said that overturning the conviction and barring any further prosecution “is the

Cosby
Continued on page 3

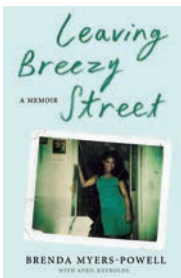
Inside

Mississippi native honored at retirement ceremony

Page 5



Leaving Breezy Street



Share this issue with a friend by mailing it to:

State History, Civil Rights Museums to honor birthday of Medgar Evers with free admission

Mississippi Link Newswire

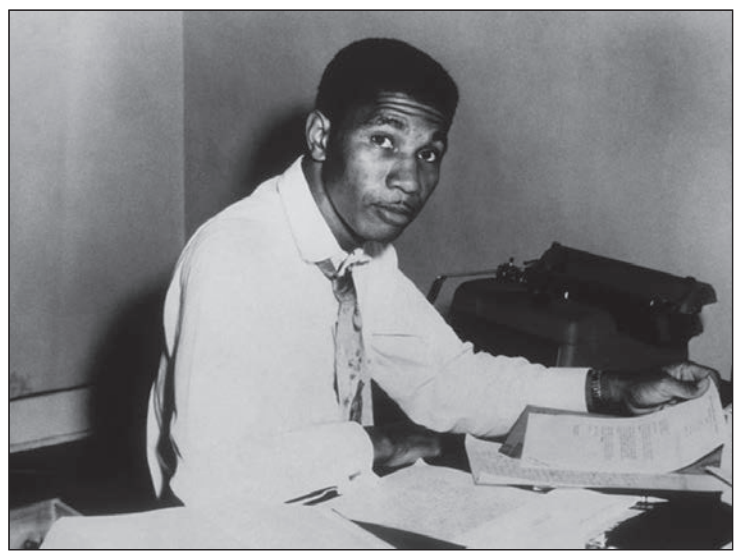
Civil rights icon Medgar Evers was born on July 2, 1925. In honor of his birthday, admission to the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and Museum of Mississippi History will be free Friday, July 2. Admission will also include the special exhibit, I AM A MAN: Civil Rights Photographs in the American South, 1960–1970.

Museum staff will highlight Evers’s life and legacy through guided tours at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

“Medgar Evers was an American hero, whose strength and tenacity is unequalled,” said Pamela D.C. Junior, director of the Two Mississippi Museums.

“In honor of the day that he was born, July 2, 1925, the Two Mississippi Museums will offer free admission to our visitors to read and to learn more about this great man who wanted freedom for all.”

A native of Decatur, Mississippi, Evers served in World War II and graduated from Alcorn A&M College in 1952. He began his civil rights journey as an insurance agent for the Magnolia Mutual Insurance Company in Mound Bayou. After a failed attempt to enroll in the University of Mississippi School of Law



Evers

due to racial discrimination in 1954, Evers began working with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to help organize boycotts and recruit local chapters in the community. His leadership skills and expertise eventually led him to become its first Mississippi field secretary.

Evers relocated to Jackson and established an NAACP field office in the Masonic Temple on John R. Lynch Street near Jackson State College. He organized voter registration drives; participated in local demonstrations, sit-ins and boycotts; and inves-

tigated numerous hate crimes, lynchings and cases of discrimination against African Americans across the state.

Safety precautions at the museums include requiring all visitors to wear masks and observe social distancing guidelines. Masks are available on-site.

Regular museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission to the museums is free on Sundays.

The museums are located at 222 North Street in Jackson.

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

In Memoriam Flora Bowman August 1, 1941 - June 18, 2021



Bowman

Obituary

Clock Started: August 1, 1941
Flora Nell Johnson Bowman was born August 1, 1941, to the late Willie B. & Katie Lee Johnson of Florence, MS.

Flora Nell was educated in the Rankin County School District in Florence, MS. She confessed Christ as her personal savior, and was baptized at an early age at Good Hope Baptist Church in Florence, MS.

She married the love of her life Melvin Bowman March 15, 1959, who preceded her in death. To this union, five beautiful daughters were born.

Her hobbies were cooking, hair styling, flower gardening, and collecting bears and dolls. She welcomed anyone who needed a place to stay into her home. She was called MaMaw by her grand and great grandchildren. Her friends and other family members call her “Nell.” She was a member of Greater Clark Street M. B. Church of Jackson, MS, under the leadership of the late Dr. S. L. Bowman. After his demise, she united with Black’s Chapel M. B. Church under the leadership of Pastor John O. McNeal where she served faithfully as a member of the Deaconess and Mothers Ministries, and others as needed.

Following her marriage, Flora Nell worked as a Nursing Assistant at Mississippi State Hospital. She later worked in their beauty parlor and was inspired to attend Charm’s Beauty School to obtain her cosmetology license. She went on to become an entrepreneur and the owner of “Hair Images.”

Time Called: June 18, 2021

Flora Nell’s earthly sojourn ended surrounded by loved ones at the home of her daughter, Flora Ann Robinson, who was her caregiver. She is preceded in death by her husband, Melvin Bowman and sisters, Villa Burks, Evelyn Jones, Pearline Johnson and Vera Johnson.

She leaves to cherish her memories and continue her legacy: five daughters, Dianne Henley (Leonard); Flora Ann Robinson (Zachary); Velma Cable (Jeffrey); Thelma Cousin (former spouse, John) and Catherine Lacy all of Jackson, MS; fourteen grandchildren, seventeen great grandchildren and four god-daughters; two brothers, Willie Murphy and Martine (Janie) Johnson of Florence, MS; five sisters, Helen Sutton of Los Angeles, CA, Ruby Claxton and Ella Murphy both of Florence, MS; Agnes (Joe) Miner of Jackson, MS, Geneva Sutton of McDonough, GA, five sisters-in-law, Jolinda Wade of Los Angeles, CA, Rose Morris, Diann Aldridge, and Willie B. Griffin (Tyrone) all of Chicago, IL, Roselyn Morris of Dallas, TX, a brother-in-law, Roderick Morris of Chicago, IL, special brother and sister, Avin L. & Lucille Brown of Madison, MS, a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



It’s good to be healthy.
It’s good to be Blue.

MISSISSIPPI
It’s good to be Blue.

Golf

Continued from page 1



Catchings and Leroy Walker



Willie Jones (L) and Ouanita Brown (R) with Catchings

always supported me so I wanted to be there to support him.”

Long-time friend and business partner Leroy Walker attended the event. Walker said of the driving range, “It’ll be an outstanding adventure for the children to participate in and one that the parents will feel good about because it’s in a controlled environment.”

The event was hosted by the Town of Lambert, Mayor Shirley Smith Taylor, the Mule Train Historical Society, Coach Robert (Bob) Ford and Dr. Hilliard Lackey.

When asked what Lackey thought of the event he said, “I found myself saying over and over again, that’s the greatest thing I have ever gone to in all my life. What could have been better than that?”

He went on to say it seemed that all the stars lined up as far as the timing of the event. He referenced the Juneteenth Holiday, a celebration of Howard Catchings birthday, the anniversary of the Poor People’s March on Washington and the first day of summer.

The evolution of the idea goes back to when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. preached a funeral sermon in Marks, MS in the late 1960’s for Armstead Phipps, who died of a heart attack while marching with the Mississippi freedom marchers. During that visit, Dr. King saw the hopelessness on the faces of the people from Marks and Lambert but Lackey said there was hope on the faces of the people the day of the event. He said it was like Christmas morning. There were 45 tents assembled with all kinds of food for sale and give-a-ways. He said It was like the state fair.

Driving range and putting green idea

Lackey, who attended school in Lambert and Marks, said he had a Moses Complex and when he left Marks in 1961 he said he would return and do something for what he refers to as the ‘twin cities,’ Mark and lambert.

When the idea came to him, he remembered how Howard Catchings learned to play golf so that he could network with golfers to help grow his business and rather than naming it after the great golfer Tiger Woods, he thought Howard Cathings would be the right namesake. He said this would give people in the twin cities and opportunity to meet and network and be exposed to golf. He said that the driving range would be easy to build because it doesn’t have 18 holes and that the green could be easily constructed as well. Lackey said, “It’s a start.”

He said the Mule Train Historical Society of which he being from Marks is president and the V.P. being from Lambert was pleased that the Howard D. Catchings Golf Driving Range & Putting Green would further promote their goals of education, health care and economic development.

After the unveiling of the Golf Range & Putting Green, an acceptance speech was made by Catchings. He said he was so excited because they not only dedicated the driving range and named it after him, but they also named the street after him as well as the club house. “What an exciting day,” he said. He told *The Mississippi Link*, “They called my name so much, I thought I was somebody.”

Middleton

Continued from page 1

Liberty Bank, Board of Margaret Walker Alexander Research Center, Board Member of St. Augustine College in Raleigh, North Carolina, Advisory Board of First American Bank, and was the only lay person to serve on the Examining Board Evaluation of University of Mississippi Medical Center.

He enjoyed reading and all genres of music. Middleton liked helping people and especially students. He considered his calling to be a shepherd to the sick. He was gregarious and a historian. He supported public education.

His greatest joy was that of being a good husband and father. Family was always first and he took pride in taking care of his family.

Richard hand wrote the “History of the Mississippi Middleton Family from the Early Twentieth Century Until the Current Time” (2019). His love and admiration for his father, Reverend Richard Temple Middleton II is manifested in that history. His father was, also, an Episcopal Priest and a college president which meant the family moved about. Richard’s ability to blend well with everyone was without a doubt born in that environment.

Middleton leaves to cherish his memory his wife Brenda of 52 years; two children – Jeanna Middleton Dampier and Richard Temple Middleton IV (Jessica); two brothers, Paul Beadle Middleton (Juliette), Michael Alfred Middleton (Julia); one sister, Jeanne Middleton Hairston (James deceased); eight grandchildren – Elizabeth Marie Dampier, Olivia Temple Dampier, Arthur Reginald Dampier, III, Elijah Denzel Dampier, Richard Temple Middleton V, Alonzo Jesus Middleton, Amanda Rose Middleton and Marco Rivas-Middleton and many other relatives, friends and students.

He will be remembered because of his loving and caring for others.

Cosby

Continued from page 1

only remedy that comports with society’s reasonable expectations of its elected prosecutors and our criminal justice system.”

As Cosby was promptly set free from the state prison in suburban Montgomery County and driven home, his appeals lawyer, Jennifer Bon-jean, said he should never have been charged.

“District attorneys can’t change it up simply because of their political motivation,” she said, adding that Cosby remains in excellent health, apart from being legally blind.

In a statement, Steele said Cosby went free “on a procedural issue that is irrelevant to the facts of the crime.” He commended Constand for coming forward and added: “My hope is that this decision will not dampen the reporting of sexual assaults by victims.”

Constand and her lawyer did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

“FINALLY!!!! A terrible wrong is being righted – a miscarriage of justice is corrected,” the actor’s “Cosby Show” co-star Phylicia Rashad tweeted.

“I am furious to hear this news,” actor Amber Tamblyn, a founder of Time’s Up, an advocacy group for victims of sexual assault, said on Twitter. “I personally know women who this man drugged and raped while unconscious. Shame on the court and this decision.”

Four Supreme Court justices formed the majority that ruled in Cosby’s favor, while three others dissented in whole or in part.

Peter Goldberger, a suburban Philadelphia lawyer with an expertise in criminal appeals, said prosecutors could ask the Pennsylvania Supreme Court for reargument or reconsideration, but it would be a very long shot.

“I can’t imagine that with such a lengthy opinion, with a thoughtful concurring opinion

and a thoughtful dissenting opinion, that you could honestly say they made a simple mistake that would change their minds if they point it out to them,” Goldberger said.

Even though Cosby was charged only with the assault on Constand, the judge at his trial allowed five other accusers to testify that they, too, who were similarly victimized by Cosby in the 1980s. Prosecutors called them as witnesses to establish what they said was a pattern of behavior on Cosby’s part.

Cosby’s lawyers had argued on appeal that the use of the five additional accusers was improper. But the Pennsylvania high court did not weigh in on the question, saying it was moot, given the finding that Cosby should not have been prosecuted in the first place.

In New York, the judge at last year’s trial of Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein, whose case helped sparke the (hash)MeToo movement in 2017, let four other accusers testify. Weinstein was convicted and sentenced to 23 years in prison.

In sentencing Cosby, the trial judge had ruled him a sexually violent predator who could not be safely allowed out in public and needed to report to authorities for the rest of his life.

In May, Cosby was denied parole after refusing to participate in sex offender programs behind bars. He said he would resist the treatment programs and refuse to acknowledge wrongdoing even if it meant serving the full 10 years.

The groundbreaking black actor grew up in public housing in Philadelphia and made a fortune estimated at \$400 million during his 50 years in the entertainment industry that included the TV shows “I Spy,” “The Cosby Show” and “Fat Albert,” along with comedy albums and a multitude of television commercials.



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Betye Saar (born 1926), *Sanctuary Awaits*, (detail), 1996. wood, glass bottles, metal wire, palm fronds, compass, sheet tin, screws, and nails, 61 x 36 x 22 in. Courtesy of the artist and Roberts Projects, Los Angeles, CA, EX.8646.6



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National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. Central MS Chapter Awards Annual Scholarships

Special to The Mississippi Link

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. (NCBW) Central Mississippi Chapter recently awarded \$7,000 in scholarships to high school seniors. The 2021 Virtual Scholarship & Awards Program recognized seven recipients from the Central Mississippi area. Parents, counselors, administrators, teachers, family members and chapter members were invited to join in this congratulatory annual event.

Guests in attendance proudly watched as each recipient was introduced, received the scholarship, noted the institution selected and prospective major. Each of the young ladies also shared reflections with the audience on the program's theme: "Rising to Excellence: Celebrating 12 Years of Academic Excellence."

The 2021 NCBW scholarship recipients are Brooklyne Edmond, Forest Hill High School; Keandria Franklin, Clinton High School; Khadari Johnson, Forest Hill High School; Trinity Johnson, St. Joseph Catholic High School; Kalyn O'Quinn, St. Joseph Catholic High School; Clinecia White, St. Joseph Catholic School; and Nia Williams, Murrah High School.

These outstanding young ladies are planning to attend Al-



Evans

corn State University, Albany State University, Jackson State University, Tougaloo College, Tuskegee University and Xavier University in the fall of 2021.

Lori Jackson Evans, a Jackson native, served as the Scholarship and Award speaker. Evans, currently resides in Cordova, Tennessee, where she serves as manager of Customer and Community Engagement for Region One Health.

During her inspirational words, she encouraged the scholarship recipients to stay the course and offered a college survival tool kit, an inspirational journal, and a list of books to refer to throughout their educational journey.

Gift bags were mailed to each recipient prior to the virtual event.



McCarter

Madison Grace McCarter, Miss Pinebelt Outstanding Teen, provided several musical selections to congratulate the scholarship recipients.

Wilda Holloway, First Vice President of Programs, acknowledged that the organiza-



Edmond

tion identifies deserving young ladies annually and encourages them with a scholarly award as they prepare for educational expenses upon entering college.

Each year NCBW Central MS Chapter commits itself to providing scholarships to young



Franklin

ladies in the Central Mississippi Area who plan to attend HBCUs. To date, NCBW Central MS Chapter has awarded over \$280,000 in scholarships to support young women in education.

Members of the Scholarship & Awards Committee are Wil-



K. Johnson

da Holloway, First Vice President of Programs; Katrina B. Myricks, Chair; LaVerne Gentry, Ethel Gibson, Mariea Jackson, Minnie Jones-Erharbor, Dovie Reed, Gaynell Tinsey, and Dolores Wright. Rita Wray is the chapter's president.



T. Johnson





O'Quinn



White



Williams



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- 3) **Proof of Hinds County residency** - lease, mortgage statement, current utility bill (light, water, gas or sewer), current phone or cable bill
- 4) **Child's Social Security number**
- 5) **Medical insurance of child (if applicable)**
- 6) **IEP or IFSP (if applicable)**
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Mississippi native honored at retirement ceremony

Capt. Ben McNeal retires after 30 years with US Navy

By Malena Dow
Special to The Mississippi link

Captain William “Ben” McNeal was honored in a retirement ceremony May 13, 2021, after 30 years of service to his country. The retirement ceremony was held at Memorial Plaza, Navy Memorial, Washington, D.C.

A native of Jackson, Mississippi, McNeal is the son of Bonnie McNeal Harris, retired educator, and Willie B. McNeal. A member of Cade Chapel Baptist Church, the Callaway High School graduate earned a bachelor’s degree in computer science in 1991 from Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

After commissioning as



McNeal

an Ensign through the ROTC Scholarship Program, McNeal reported for duty aboard the USS Kalamazoo (AOR6) in Norfolk, Virginia. While on active duty, he served as electrical officer, electronics material officer and fire control officer, earned designation as a surface

warfare officer and received a master of public administration from Troy State University.

McNeal attended the Naval Postgraduate School of Monterey, California, and earned a master’s degree in applied physics. While enrolled, he was selected for lateral transfer to the Engineering Duty Officer Community. After completion of the Engineering Duty Officer School in February 1998, he reported to Norfolk Naval helicopter deck as AIT coordinator and integrated logistics division head.

In August 2001, McNeal was assigned to the USS Wasp (LHD 1) in Norfolk, Virginia, as the command, control, communication, computers and

intelligence (C4I) and combat systems officer. During his time aboard the Wasp, he made a post-9/11 5th Fleet deployment as part of the first Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) and Information Technology for the 21st Century (IT21) enabled strike group.

Following his tour, McNeal reported to the Installations and Logistics Directorate (Code 04F) of the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) as the Pacific Fleet Afloat (C4ISR) installations and strike group manager, where he played a major role in developing the process for aligning the SPAWAR afloat modernization process with the newly implemented Ship

Maintenance (SHIPMAIN) processes.

In July 2005, McNeal reported as an officer in charge of SPAWAR Systems Facility, Yokosuka, Japan, with additional duties to the Naval Sea Systems Command as strike force interoperability officer for Commander 7th Fleet.

From 2010 to 2017, McNeal served as the deputy program manager and subsequently program manager of Program Executive Office for Command, Control, Communications, Computer and Intelligence (PEO C4I) PMW 160, managing the CANES Network system.

In August 2017, he assumed command of Program Execu-

tive Office for Enterprise Information Systems, overseeing the world’s largest intranet – the Navy Marine Corps Intranet and the Base Level Information Infrastructure for Outside of the Continental United States Navy Enterprise Network.

In October 2020, McNeal was appointed the Deputy Program Executive Officer (acting) for the Program Executive Office for Digital and Enterprise Services (PEO Digital).

McNeal’s personal awards include the Navy Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), the Navy Achievement Medal (three awards) and a Legion of Merit award.

City of Lexington alderman retires after 33 years of service

Special to The Mississippi Link

Alderman David Rule was first elected Alderman of the City of Lexington in July 1988 after defeating longtime incumbent Alderman Jack Farmer. He was sworn into office August 29, 1988 and retired June 30, 2021.

Rule developed a love for the City of Lexington as a child and always aspired to help move the city forward. To that end, he and

others in the community embarked on a massive registration drive to get those in the black community registered to vote. With only 180 blacks registered in the City of Lexington, there was much work to be done.

Rule and the community group went from door to door with registration forms. At the end of the registration drive, there were 625 black registered voters. Finally, they could have their voice heard during, not

only the special election that he won, but all city elections.

Rule was very proud when years later his classmate and friend, Clinton Cobbins, was elected mayor in 2013, becoming the first black mayor in the history of the City of Lexington.

Rule has always responded to the needs of his ward. Many of the constituents in his ward or in the City of Lexington viewed Rule as very dependable. For that reason, he has never been

defeated since 1988 and has often been unopposed. Many might say his record speaks for itself.

Although Rule is retiring, his love for the City of Lexington will always be evident and his prayer is that this great city will continue to move forward.

What’s next for Alderman Rule? He plans to spend time with family and friends, travel and attend sports events.



Rule

Jackson moves again to revitalize Farish Street district

By Justin Vicory
Associated Press

It might sound like déjà vu, but a recent development has city officials hopeful about the once vibrant Farish Street Historic District, and with it, a gradual return of the area’s prominence.

The Jackson City Council on Tuesday approved a masterplan for the possible redevelopment of a 40,000-square-foot building on the south end of the district. The building may be turned into a mixed-use facility for retail and office space featuring a culinary hub with multiple restaurant vendors. City officials hope the project will spur further development and investment in the area, in its heyday dubbed Mississippi’s Harlem for its economic vibrancy.

The project represents a new approach to development in the abandoned district, incremental and organic growth over multi-million dollar investment plans that have fizzled time and again.

We have the benefit of hindsight to see where we have failed, where there have been missteps,” Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba said.

It will take patience to redevelop the area, Lumumba said, something in short supply given the years of dashed hopes and stalled efforts to realize the district’s economic revitalization.

The question is, after nearly a half decade of failed attempts, will this project be successful?

A TROUBLED HISTORY

Farish Street was booming in the ‘50s, ‘60s and ‘70s. Once the epicenter of Jackson’s Black community, the street represented a self-sufficient economic island during the Jim Crow days of segregation.

But the businesses faded over more than a half-century and with them the number of shoppers and visitors, leaving



Farish Street

behind abandoned, dilapidated and decaying buildings. In some areas, all that remains is crumbling infrastructure hidden beneath outgrowth. Many residents – fearful of crime – refuse to travel anywhere near Farish Street after dark.

Various attempts at revitalization over the past 20 years have been thwarted by the inability of the city, developers and investors to get on the same page. What may have begun as good-willed discussions about how best to revitalize Farish Street and the Farish Street Historic District have broken down into seemingly endless legal wrangling.

CHANGES IN CITY LEADERSHIP, ECONOMY HAVE LEFT VISION UNCLEAR

Jackson has had five mayors in 10 years, and each has made attempts to tackle Farish Street.

Harvey Johnson Jr. was mayor in 1997 when the city tasked the Jackson Redevelopment Authority, a quasi-public urban development agency, with managing the area’s revival, giving the authority \$1.9 million to purchase 17 properties

on Farish Street. About five years later, Jackson Redevelopment Authority hired Memphis’ Performa Entertainment, which manages real estate on Beale Street, for a \$12 million project to help transform one area of Farish Street into an entertainment district.

The project was supposed to be up and going by 2006, but two years later, nothing had happened. In 2008, during Mayor Frank Melton’ administration, David Watkins and the now-defunct Farish Street Group, which Watkins led, took over Performa’s mortgages and debt.

Watkins was plagued by cost overruns on what was to be the centerpiece of the entertainment district, B.B. King’s Blues Club. Estimates to repair the club’s foundation ran in the millions and would require the help of additional partners, according to The Farish Street Project, a University of Mississippi study of the area’s historic and cultural significance.

Chokwe Lumumba, the current mayor’s father, was mayor in 2013 when the Jackson Rede-

velopment Authority canceled its lease with Watkins. But when Lumumba died unexpectedly five months later, plans for the street’s future were put on hold.

Today’s Mayor Lumumba, elected in 2017, released his administration’s strategic plan for the city in 2018. In the ambitious and comprehensive plan, developing Farish Street was considered one of several initiatives to grow Jackson’s tax base.

Since then, the city has been reviewing legal injunctions, organizing stakeholders and determining which incentives would boost community reinvestment. Initial development was expected to begin in 2020, according to the plan’s outline, but the coronavirus pandemic has delayed the work.

SKEPTICISM ABOUNDS

Given the long history of stops and starts, there is a good deal of skepticism over whether or not talks of the revitalization of Farish Street will lead to anything tangible.

“The potential is there, and I’m all for it, but we’ve heard this all before,” said Brad Franklin,

part of the original efforts to overhaul the district in 2010. Franklin was the director of entertainment and community engagement for Watkins Partners and the Farish Street Group. He now heads Mississippi Black Pages, an online directory and print publication that publicizes and advocates for Black businesses in Mississippi.

“There’s probably no one more familiar with the history of Farish Street and where we are now,” Franklin said on Wednesday. “Until we see an actual ribbon-cutting and walk into a building and see something going on, I’ll remain cautiously optimistic.”

He said the key to the district’s revival is to eliminate the red tape and bureaucracy that often come with government intervention. Franklin said he is also troubled by the involvement of Jackson Redevelopment Authority, which had a role in past development attempts that went nowhere, and is again working with the city on plans for Farish Street.

The authority owns about 26 parcels in the district, making it key to the overall development of the neighborhood.

WILL NEW JRA DIRECTOR TURN THINGS AROUND?

Latoya Cutts, formerly the downtown manager and head of development in Albany, Georgia, was appointed director of the authority in July of last year. Cutts has vowed to turn Farish Street around and hopes to spur a grassroots revival.

She said the newest proposed development, which would house multiple vendors in one space, will serve as a business incubator. Several local businesses have signaled interest in the development, but she declined to identify them.

“This project proposes a con-

cept of multiple businesses at the same time,” Cutts said. “If you put one business there, it will take time for that business to flourish and survive. It’s a place where they can grow up and grow out of there, like an incubator, and open the door for them to possibly open up in another space adjacent to the building.”

Jordan Hillman, director of the city’s Department of Planning & Development, called the review of the building, located at the intersection of Farish and Amite streets, a ‘catalyst project’ for the whole of the district. The central premise is take the lessons learned from past development failures and pursue a new approach, one that involves local businesses, he said.

“We don’t see a master developer coming in,” Hillman said. “What we do see is to getting a piece of the puzzle together that will lead to another piece of the puzzle. That is what has worked in other parts of the city in the past, such as Fondren, and also would be more respectful of the Farish Street history.”

TIME WILL TELL

The masterplan approved by the council on Tuesday will detail ways to turn the empty building into a mixed use facility with retail and office space and possibly a culinary hub featuring multiple restaurant vendors.

Franklin says he is 100% behind sensible revitalization efforts, so long as local businesses and the community are involved.

“We’ve been duped too many times,” Franklin said. “This is the sixth, seventh time.

“The most important thing at the end of the day is getting people in the buildings. If that happens and I hope it will the foot traffic will come.”

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MAID SERVICES AVAILABLE

Wells APAC Visual Arts
scholars win 14 Scholastic
Art National Awards

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Wells APAC students received 14 Scholastic Art National Awards, including 6 Gold Medal awards, 3 Silver Medal Awards, 1 Silver Medal Senior Portfolio award, The American Vision Award, Best-In-Grade awards for 7th grade and 10th grade, and the overall national Civic Expression Award.

Student winners of National awards were honored in a virtual ceremony with appearances by celebrity guests, including media magnate Oprah Winfrey, actress Reese Witherspoon and entertainer Kelly Clarkson.

The U.S. First Lady Jill Biden, also paid a special tribute to the educators who have inspired creativity in their classrooms and served as guides and mentors to their students throughout their creative journeys.

All award-winning artwork of JPS students was created in the classrooms of APAC teachers Renna Moore and Elise Payne.

National Award Winners

Individual National Award winners are as follows:

Specialty Awards

- Sarah Demus, “Voices in My Mind” – The American Visions Medal
- Dorianne Hines, “Let the Fire Burn” – National Civic Expression Award (\$1,000 prize) & Best In Grade Award (10th) (\$500 prize)
- Jaliyah Bell, “Put a Smile On” – Best In Grade Award (7th) (\$500 prize)
- Khai Thompson, “The Journey of a Black Boy in America” Art Portfolio – Silver Medal

Drawing & Illustration

- Jaliyah Bell, “Put A Smile On” – Gold Medal
- Sarah Demus, “Ready Player One” – Gold Medal
- Dorianne Hines, “Closed Windows” – Silver Medal
- Dorianne Hines, “What Happened to Us?” – Silver Medal

Painting

- Sarah Demus, “Voices in My Mind” – Gold Medal
 - Eleanor Goodwin, “A Lazy Summer” – Gold Medal
- Photography
- Isana Chapman, “The Calm Before the Storm” – Gold Medal
 - Madisen Bradley, “Southern Heat” – Silver Medal

Expanded Projects

- Dorianne Hines, “Let the Fire Burn” – Gold Medal

The 2021 National Awards Ceremony was held June 9 and is available to watch online. You can also take a virtual tour of the 2021 National Exhibition.

Regional Awards

In addition to an outstanding showing at the national level, these talented scholars won 201 Regional Awards which represents more than 40% of all awards presented to young artists from Mississippi. In the Regional competition, works created by Wells visual artists won:

- 4 out of 5 American Visions Nominee recognitions
- 50 Gold Key Awards
- 55 Silver Key Awards
- 95 Honorable Mentions
- 1 Gold Key Portfolio
- 1 Silver Key Portfolio
- 1 Honorable Mention Portfolio



Sarah Demus, “Voices in My Mind”



Dorianne Hines, “Let the Fire Burn”



Jaliyah Bell, “Put a Smile On”



Khai Thompson, “The Journey of a Black Boy in America”

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Member:



COVID-19 claims 15 people in the life of Milwaukee woman

By Carrie Antlfinger
Associated Press

The first person Kimberly Montgomery lost to COVID-19 was her aunt. She had trouble breathing, so her daughter dropped her off at the emergency room. It was the last time her daughter saw her alive.

Then, one after another, 14 other people in Montgomery's world – family members, friends, friends who were like family – succumbed to the same disease.

There was the retired police officer who was an usher and deacon at her church. A friend's brother who was a restaurant cook. A close friend who was a nurse caring for virus patients in Atlanta. A cousin who came home from the hospital after 12 days thinking she was getting better, but didn't. An artist and drummer for an African dance company.

It was an unimaginable string of losses in the year since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, and all but one of those who died was black, like Montgomery.

"I don't know if I ever will ... process all of them," said Montgomery, 59. She added: "The shock factor it never wears off. But it tempers."

Nationwide, black people represent about 12 percent of the population, but they account for nearly 15 percent of all coronavirus deaths of known race, according to the APM Research Lab, which is tracking mortality from the disease.

More than 3,000 black Americans have died from

COVID-19, and they have the second-highest mortality rate of all racial groups, behind Indigenous people.

At the same time, Montgomery has seen her community grapple with a nationwide reckoning on race and policing and other systemic issues. Her personal pain has only strengthened her resolve to work for the public good – including in her job as director of intergovernmental relations for the city of Milwaukee.

"Hearing the statistics ... seeing the incidents in Minnesota and the George Floyd incidents and the Kenosha incidents, that's what keeps me going," she said. "Because these victims are looking like me."

Montgomery has spent much of her time in the past year advocating for COVID-related funding for Milwaukee. She's also working with the Milwaukee alumni chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, a historically black sorority, to raise awareness about vaccines and testing through social media and virtual events.

She works closely with Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, who says Montgomery has always known the importance of her work, but he's recently sensed more urgency.

"This is not a theoretical exercise for her. It's very real," Barrett said.

Her experiences, he added, have sharpened his perspective as well: "It brings home how devastating this last year and this pandemic has been."

Montgomery de-emphasizes

her own bereavement, saying others have suffered greater losses, of spouses or parents. She grieves for her friends and family, especially her cousin Ingrid Davis, who took her mother to the emergency room, never to see her again.

Davis, who also lost a cousin to COVID-19, says she stays home a lot due to the pandemic, so she does not see Montgomery as much, but they talk often.

"Kim is a social butterfly," she said. "I call her the second mayor of Milwaukee, but I think that with all that has happened, I have seen a little decline of that."

Montgomery works mostly from home and is diligent about wearing a mask when she's out. She gets tested before visiting her parents in Tennessee, terrified she will infect them.

"I get very emotional about that. I find myself getting upset if people, if I see individuals who don't even have the mask over their nose. It's ineffective. And it really bothers me," she said.

But Montgomery also has a newfound appreciation for life, noticing things like the birds chirping in the background when she speaks to her 31-year-old son on the phone. She is one of those people who laughs easily and a lot, earning the nickname "Sunshine" throughout her life.

Still, COVID-19 is never far from her thoughts.

"My prayer every night is for any and everybody who's dealing with this disease."

CDC Director urges parents to get their teens vaccinated

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Rochelle Walensky reiterated the agency's call for parents to vaccinate their children.

In an email statement, Dr. Walensky urged parents who may have questions to speak with their child's health providers or with local pharmacists or health departments.

"I strongly encourage parents to get their teens vaccinated, as I did mine," Dr. Walensky asserted.

Until they are fully vaccinated, adolescents should continue wearing masks and taking precautions when around others who are not vaccinated to protect themselves and their family, friends and community, Dr. Walensky continued.

"I ask parents, relatives and close friends to join me and talk with teens about the importance of these prevention strategies and to encourage them to get vaccinated," said



Vaccination is our way out of this pandemic," said Dr. Rochelle Walensky.

Dr. Walensky.

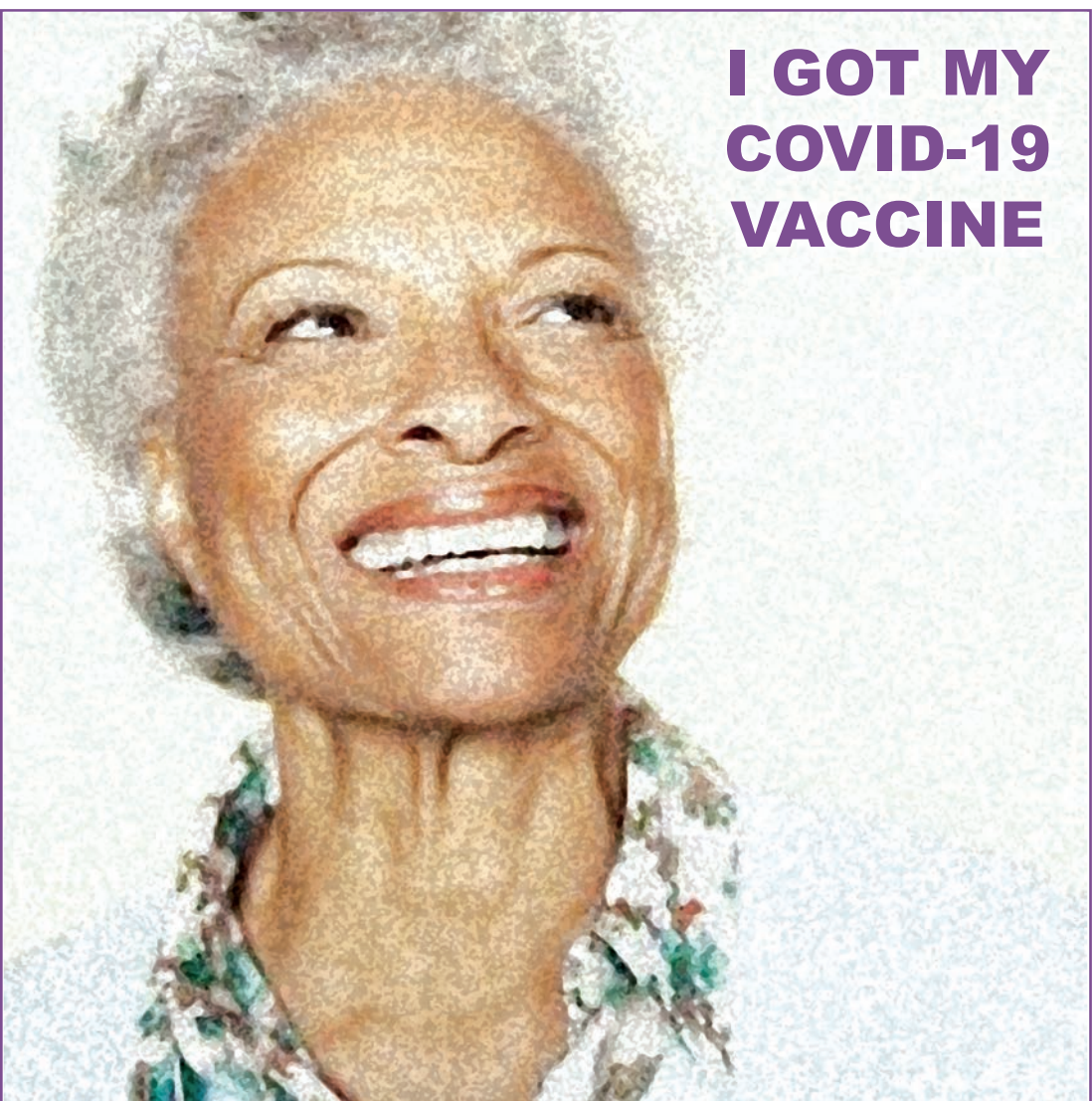
"If parents or their teenagers have questions or concerns, I suggest they talk with their adolescent's healthcare provider, local health department, or neighborhood pharmacist."

On Friday, June 4, the CDC's weekly report forced the agency to redouble its efforts to get adolescents and young adults

vaccinated.

"Vaccination is our way out of this pandemic," Dr. Walensky stated.

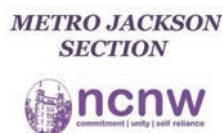
"I continue to see promising signs in CDC data that we are nearing the end of this pandemic in this country; however, we all have to do our part and get vaccinated to cross the finish line."



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P R E S E R V E D

Diamond life

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Nearly 30 years ago when I worked as an administrative assistant, I had a sign over my work area that read “a diamond is a chunk of coal that made good under pressure.” Part of the reason that I kept this sign for daily inspiration was because I was unfulfilled with my job and needed the assurance that this quote meant that I would ultimately come out a better person.

Like so many others, I often find myself in a position where I am trying to maintain balance in my life while still effectively handling pressure. Much like the piece of coal, there are experiences, good and bad, that are designed to bring pressure to my life. For example, I began 2020 praying to see and hear God in a

more intimate way.

In 2020, my daddy died and I lived and worked most of the year in complete isolation because of the global coronavirus pandemic. What I heard from well-meaning friends and family who saw me living through these chaotic moments and my responses to it, were statements intended to uplift me like “You can handle it...you’re a strong black woman.” However, my unspoken response was “how much stronger do I need to be?”

A few years ago, I listened to a sermon by Dr. Claudette Copeland in which she was talking about the advantages and disadvantages of being a strong black woman. She said that pressure makes a man strong...but it makes a woman hard. When I heard the words, I thought about it for a few minutes and agreed with its simplistic truth.

As women, especially African American women, we are

encouraged to be strong in our jobs, churches and families but seemingly are criticized if we become too strong or too independent. Unfortunately, some women have accepted this stereotype and say, “I pay my own bills and don’t need a man for anything.”

Copeland’s point was that women do have to sometimes handle situations and experiences that can make us bitter or angry and that we had to endure so much with so very little support. Part of the reason why this happens is because in order to handle pressure emotionally and spiritually, women choose to turn our emotions off, like a faucet, instead of taking the flood of emotions to God. We may even choose to not lean on those that God has placed in our lives for support because we don’t want to “bother them.”

But as hard as the situation may be, we must work just as hard that we don’t allow it to

make us emotionally inflexible, distant and dysfunctional.

Even though I wish my daddy was still alive and that I’d had companionship during the pandemic, those 2020 experiences have made me stronger, wiser and more valuable. Job 23:10 reminds us about how testing by God is designed to make us stronger: “But he knows the way that I take. When he has tested me, I shall come forth as gold” - Job 23:10.

It’s not always easy to do, but we have to remember that God has designed us to be like that little chunk of coal that becomes a valuable diamond because of the pressure.

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

Spiritual people are needed

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



Spiritual people are not individuals who are lifted up in themselves or who are proud and arrogant. Spiritual people are those who can come to the rescue of brothers and sisters when they are weak spiritually from being attacked by the enemy of souls, or from being under temptation. We read in Galatians 6:1 these words, “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”

There is an especially important job for spiritual people to do involving the salvation of souls, the restoration of people who might have given themselves over to a fault or who might have been overtaken in some other way.

Spiritual people are called upon by God to bring help and assistance. Spiritual people will go to pray; they have a prayer closet. They take heed to the words of the Thessalonian writer when he said in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, “Pray without ceasing.” When you find someone doing that, you are most likely looking at a spiritual individual. It involves a great work, James 5:19-20 says: “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert

him; let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

I want to be like this part of the work of a spiritual person. I want to be an individual who can be defined, according to God’s Word, as spiritual.

We read in 1 Corinthians 1:12-16, these words, “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

We can say that Jesus was a spiritual individual; that should be without controversy.

Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton VA 23669. He is a member of the National Association of Evangelism Church of God, Anderson, Ind.



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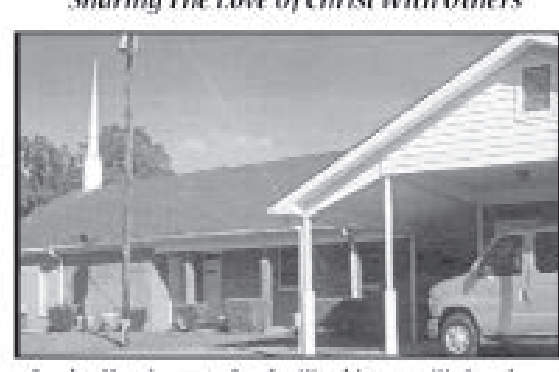
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The Black Press: Vanguards of our history Guardians of our future

By **Nina Turner**
Politician and Educator



For decades, the Black Press has been the vanguards of the black community’s history and the guardians of our future. They have been one of the few institutions that have acknowledged our pain while making space for our promise. Both the journalists and the publishers who employ them have been critical in telling our stories in an accurate and balanced way. They have also forced larger outlets to pay attention to the issues of importance to our communities.

And now, as we sit at the crossroads of progress and retrogression, our hope lies in strengthening this storied institution.

The challenges facing our community are serious. In multiple states there are attempts to roll back access to the ballot. In communities across the country, black and poor people live under the daily threat of gun violence. Even in education, black people and other marginalized groups are fighting for high quality instruction. Black educators and others are also being told that they cannot discuss this nation’s complicated history with race and racism with bans on Critical Race Theory. The hope for our future lies, in part, on a thriving Black Press.

What I am saying comes as no surprise to honest students of history. It is also not lost on black people, who have long seen the arcs of their lives traced and covered by an activist-oriented Black Press.

It is not just in the juxtaposition of the black media and larger, non-black media institutions that one sees the value of institutions that are anti-racist, culturally aware and committed to truth. But every community benefits when the people within it, become the architects of narratives that emerge about said group’s own past, present and future.

For too long black commu-

nities, and other marginalized groups, have suffered when the people who tell their stories do not look like them. In fact, in seeking to understand the origins of the race riots in the summer of 1967, the Kerner Commission found that the lack of diversity in the news media was a contributing factor. The commission was formed at the behest of President Lyndon Baines Johnson and tasked with uncovering the roots of the riots. Among other things, they found that when it comes to media, black people were not being hired in numbers proportionate to their population, and many people felt that the lens through which the media told and interpreted the black community’s stories was inherently racist. Some even felt that the media was receiving their information directly from police, at a time of growing mistrust between the black community and police.

The commission famously stated that America was moving toward “two societies, one white; another one black.” The group recommended that policymakers “mount programs on a scale equal to the dimension of the problems, including closing the gap between promise and performance.” It understood that a big hole required a big shovel.

And while the Kerner Commission outlined ways to improve media coverage of the black communities, black journalists and publishers have long lamented the need to have communities of color behind and in front of the camera. Long before the Kerner Commission report, the black community knew and understood that the Black Press was the key to fair representation and balanced coverage. It wasn’t just that the Black Press traced and tracked the arcs of our ancestors’ lives, but it was the one place where both our struggle and triumph was chronicled. It was the one place where the people telling the news had a vested interest in telling it fairly; they experienced the same classist, racist, sexist and homophobic treatment as the communities they

were writing about.

It was also a home for black journalists committed to not only telling the news but providing historical context. From the first black-owned and operated publication, the Freedom’s Journal, commitment to covering abolition to other publishers who viewed their role not only as mouthpieces for the movement but activists as well.

They were a direct challenge on mainstream publications that attacked African Americans and gave cover for slavery. From Ida B. Wells-Barnett’s Memphis Free Speech, black journalists and publishers were on the frontlines of opposing slavery, lynching and the in-humane treatment of black people.

But the Black Press has also provided context, explaining the context of our lives. For instance, the *Chicago Defender* chronicled with distinction the great migration of Southern blacks to Northern cities.

In search of “warmer suns” as author and journalist Isabel Wilkerson noted, black people moved north, bringing with them their wounds, talents and hopes for brighter days. The great migration then, is a lens through which we can understand modern immigration struggles.

In the same way that the black community embraced our own long before other communities did so, the Black Press has been an anchor, sharing news and commentary from a historically honest lens. When white publications refused to print the obituaries of black people, ignoring us in life and death, the Black Press was a dutiful companion. When white publications minimized or ignored our accomplishments and career highlights, our community took refuge in the media institutions that we not only created but sustained through subscriptions and advertising.

EBONY and JET magazines became not only sources of pride, but dispatches from the field, reporting on our trauma, yes, but our triumphs too.

When mainstream media largely ignored the black community, or positioned us in an unfavorable light, the Black Press has been the lighthouse that has illuminated our paths. It is only reasonable then, that I honor not only black journalists but the associations that have given them cover. The National Newspaper Publishers Association, the National Association of Black Journalists have supported the people – black journalists and black newspaper publishers – who have supported us.

Today, at a time when there are legitimate efforts to clamp down on the honest telling of our history and anything that threatens those in power, a thriving Black Press is not just a ‘nice to have,’ it is a must have. From Texas to Florida, and outlying states, there is a movement in school boards and state legislatures to prevent the teaching of Critical Race Theory, a lens through which to understand America’s history with race.

This is why the emergence and/or growth of black-owned and operated publications such as the *Black News Channel*, *The Grio*, *The Chicago Defender*, and the *Call & Post* newspaper is so encouraging. They help ensure black people are the narrators of our stories.

In these times where we appear to be asked to re-litigate the victories our ancestors won decades ago, we cannot meet this moment without a strong Black Press. As we think about what is needed for our communities to succeed, we cannot overstate the importance of investing in black media. The investments include infusions of capital, giving Black Press first rights of refusal when it comes to breaking news and supporting black journalists.

The Black Press has been the vanguards of our history and the guardians of our future. For this reason, they deserve our salute and resources too.

Nina Hudson Turner (born December 7, 1967) is an American politician and educator from Ohio. Find out more at <https://ninaturner.com/>

Has Rudy Giuliani come to the end of his road?

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



Be careful about the company you keep. I heard that expression multiple times as I was coming of age. What my parents told me stuck with me. This advice has been a staple of my life.

I have lived long enough to have been around many different people. Some have been sinister and sly. My interactions with them were minimal. I saw quickly they were up to no good.

The scenario that happened to me probably happened to you, too. We learned our lesson for our momentary insanity and bad judgement.

Rudy Giuliani was around a slick dude, Donald Trump, and believed in the hemlock he was serving. Now, he has paid a dear price.

Last week, Giuliani was suspended by an appellate court from practicing law in New York state.

The court wrote, “Giuliana’s conduct immediately threatens the public interest and warrants interim suspension from the practice of law.”

Arguably, Giuliani went from the hall of fame to the hall of shame. His conduct in recent years has been deplorable and desperate. He was a man unhinged and unethical. Giuliani was once the Manhattan U.S. attorney. Now, he is a suspended lawyer.

Of course, America remembers him as the mayor of New York city during the 9/11 tragedy. He was hailed for his strength and wisdom during this time.

Some people called him America’s mayor. Now, he is simply a fractured figure, a mere shadow of his former self.

What happened to him? It is my opinion that one man happened to him and that was Donald Trump.

One man, Giuliani spent most of his life upholding the law. The other man, Donald Trump spent his life breaking the law.

Mr. T convinced him to be his personal lawyer. Giuliani,

once a reasoned man with principles became unreasonable with no principles.

This is what happens when you get hooked up with a crook. His behavior rubbed off on Giuliani.

Giuliana became Trump’s mouthpiece. He spewed out lies and innuendos about the election. He bought lock, stock and barrel Trump’s big lie.

Months before and after the election, Giuliani became a pried piper for evil. He even looked the part as he sweated his way into trying to convince us that Trump was king of the world.

He continued his assault on democracy in the role he played in the January 6 nightmare. He never thought there would be consequences to his actions. He must have thought that Mr. T would save him.

The former president had no intention in throwing him a lifeline. He left him in the dark and in the cold. Giuliani got caught in the Trump vortex and could not get out.

Well known attorney Ronald Minkoff said, “This is about the integrity of the bar, and that’s really the issue here. It’s really unfortunate that somebody of Giuliani’s stature should have this happen to them. But his actions and the evidence show that his actions warranted this.”

Yet, some have come to his defense.

Former New York Police Department Commissioner Bernard Kerik is leading a go fund me account for him. He said, “We have created the Rudy Giuliani Freedom Fund. This is the official Defense Fund for this American Patriot.”

The question at the inquiry bench is whether the former president will be contributing to the fund. Does Trump have any real money to contribute and whether Giuliani’s legal team would accept it. It is both laughable and pathetic at the same time.

This is only the beginning of this saga. It has the elements of a soap opera. Let us call it the rise and fall of Rudy.

Stay tuned for weekly episodes.

Reflections on America’s Independence observance

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



Because of where America stands today on the ever present issue of race, the following reflections are offered from the first two paragraphs of the Declaration of Independence, signed July 4, 1776. First, the Preamble, which has much bearing on where we stand today as a nation:

“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the

Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, they should declare the causes which impel them to separation...”

The Republican Party and all its state affiliates seeking to abolish voting and civil rights, have provided living proof that the political “bands” they are connected to do not include us, as people of color. The voter suppression laws, murder of black people by law enforcement and the biased prison sentences for the murder of blacks such as that given to Derrick Chavin, are clear proof that there is no belief that “that all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Before we get too excited about the cookouts and holiday celebrations with fireworks across this great land, let us reflect on some of the words of Frederick Douglass which appear elsewhere in this issue as his Fourth of July Speech of 1852 in Rochester, New York. Let’s look at Independence as being incomplete because of the disparity that Douglass found between black and white. Today such disparities exist at every level, in spite of the efforts of so many whites who have joined with blacks in the struggle.

Douglass asked in his speech: “Are the great principles of political freedom and natural justice, embodied in that Declaration of Independence extended to us?” It would appear that in

160 years, many of his questions remain unanswered.

The inequality of slavery still exists today in the minds and behavior of many Americans who cannot accept that America is a melting pot of all nations. “Out of many, one.” That melting pot includes people of color. The key requirement is that we as people of color must never accept less than equality in all things.

While we may not technically be slaves, as reminded by the recent declaration of Juneteenth as a federal holiday, many of us are still mental slaves to mediocrity and the acceptance of less than what we should have. If some of us remain slaves to inequality and injustice, then the following question Douglass raised is appropriate today:

“What to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer; a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him your celebration is a sham, your shout of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade and solemnity, are to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety and hypocrisy – a thin veil to cover crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages.”

In conclusion: what should we do? We should review the America to whom Frederick Douglass spoke. We should weigh against his words how far we have come. We should

celebrate Juneteenth; the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments; the Emancipation Proclamation, which had not been thought of when he wrote this speech; civil rights, voting rights and equal employment opportunity as well as an integrated armed forces.

While we are remembering and celebrating the U.S. Supreme Court Decision of Brown vs. Board of Education, let us remember that our schools are more segregated now than ever before. Yes, we can take some time out to celebrate that which we should have already enjoyed, as stated elsewhere here.

What is the 4th of July? That which I must still fight for to make real in the lives of those who look like me.

LEGAL

Notice of Sale Abandoned Vehicle

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.
1994 GEO PRIZM 1Y1SK5364RZ040361
Registered to: Nelson, Keith
Dennis Smith Auto Sales, Lien Holder
Date of Sale: July 2, 2021
Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213
Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids.
Time: 10:00 A.M.

6-17-2021 6/24/2021 7/1/2021

LEGAL

Notice of Sale Abandoned Vehicle

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.
1984 BUIC REG 1G4AJ47A4EH441268
Registered to: Frank Hobson, Jamie Ranson
Date of Sale: July 2, 2021
Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213
Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids.
Time: 10:00 A.M.

6-17-2021 6/24/2021 7/1/2021

LEGAL

**IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
BEATRICE CARTER, DECEASED
FREDDIE CARTER, PETITIONER**

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Testamentary on the Estate of BEATRICE CARTER, Deceased, having been granted to me on this 28th, day of June, 2021, by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Jackson, Mississippi, to FREDDIE CARTER as Executor of the Estate of BEATRICE CARTER, Deceased, Notice is hereby given that all persons having claim(s) against said Estate to present such claim(s) to the Clerk for probate and registration according to law within ninety (90) days of the First Publication of this Notice, or they will be forever barred.

Respectfully submitted,

Freddie Carter
Freddie Carter, Executor of the Estate of
BEATRICE CARTER, Deceased,

Of Counselor:
Chester Ray Jones
Chester Ray Jones, Esq., MSB # 3191
Counselor and Attorney-At-Law
P. O. Box 5141 - Jackson, MS 39296
(601) 953-6491; chetjones4545@yahoo.com

7-1-2021

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
ALEXANDER PIETER SMITH, A MINOR, DECEASED**

CAUSE NUMBER: P-21-325

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on the 9 day of June, 2021, by the Chancery Court of the First Judicial District of Hinds County [MEC.] 5 to the undersigned Lisa M. Teeuwissen as Administratrix of the Estate of Alexander Pieter Smith, a Minor, notice is hereby given, pursuant to MISSISSIPPI CODE ANN. §91-7-145 (1972) to all persons having claims against the Estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court. Failure to have a claim probated and registered by the Clerk of the Court granting Letters within ninety (90) days from the first publication of the Notice to Creditors will bar such claim as provided by MISSISSIPPI CODE ANN. §91-7-157 (1972).

This the 9 day of June, 2021.

Lisa M. Teeuwissen
LISA M. TEEUWISSEN,
ADMINISTRATRIX OF THE ESTATE OF
ALEXANDER PIETER SMITH, A MINOR,
DECEASED

PIETER TEEUWISSEN, MSB# 8777
ANTHONY R. SIMON, MSB # 10009
Simon & Teeuwissen, PLLC
621 Northside Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39206
Telephone: 601-362-8400

COUNSEL FOR THE ESTATE

6-17-2021, 6-24-2021, 7-1-2021

LEGAL

Jackson Redevelopment Authority Jackson, Mississippi Proposals For Lawncare Services For Various J.R.A. Properties – Summer 2021

INVITATION FOR BID

Sealed Bids for the e rive s for bus hogging, u tting and property e aning at a rious properties loa ted throughout a b n, Mis s ppi will be ree ie d by the a b n Redee lopment Authority (R A) at the Porter Building, 218 South Pres- dent Street, a b n, Mis s ppi, 3rd Floor until 2:00pm on Monday 19 u ly 2021, and thereby public y opened and read.

Separate e aled bids will be ree ie d for a s ngle prime Contrab . Bids b all be on a unit prie b as s as india ted on the Bid Form.

Bidding Documents are available at the JRA offices at 218 S. President Street, 3rd Floor, a b n, MS 39201, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm. Contab Mary Ealey at (601) 960.1815 or meale@jrams.org.

R A will hold a non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conferene at 2:00pm on 15 u ly 2021, in its 1s Floor Conferene Room, loa ted at 218 S. Pres dent Street, 3rd Floor, a b n, MS 39201. All v s tors are urged to wear a fae -o e ring to ens re protet ion againsts trans is on of COVID-19 and prat ie e t al dis anc ng at all times ins de the building. The Owner will trans it to all prop et ie Bidders of reo rd s b Addenda as the Owner o n s ders nee a ry in res one to que s ions aris ng at the o nferene . Oral b tements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effect ie .

7/1/2021

LEGAL

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ALEXANDER PIETER SMITH, A MINOR, DECEASED

CAUSE NUMBER: 21-PR-00325

**LISA M. TEEUWISSEN,
AS ADMINISTRATRIX OF
THE ESTATE OF ALEXANDER PIETER SMITH,
A MINOR, DECEASED**

PETITIONER

VS.

**THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF
ALEXANDER PIETER SMITH,
A MINOR, DECEASED**

RESPONDENTS

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION


THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

**TO: THE HEIRS-AT-LAW AND WRONGFUL DEATH BENEFICIARIES OF
ALEXANDER PIETER SMITH, A MINOR, DECEASED**

You have been made respondents in the suit filed in this Court by Lisa M. Teeuwissen, as Administratrix of the Estate of Alexander Pieter Smith, A Minor, Deceased. You are summoned to appear and defend against the Petition for Determination of Heirship and Wrongful Death Beneficiaries filed against you in this action at 1:30 P.M. on the 9th OF AUGUST, at the HINDS COUNTY CHANCERY COURTHOUSE IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, and in case of your failure to appear and defend, a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the Petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you

Issued under my hand and seal of said Court, this the 11 day of June, 2021.



Hon. Eddie Jean Carr,
Hinds County Chancery Clerk

BY: *E. J. Carr*, D.C.

PREPARED BY:
ANTHONY R. SIMON, MSB # 10009
SIMON & TEEUWISSEN, PLLC
621 NORTHSIDE DRIVE
Jackson, Mississippi 39206
Telephone: 601-362-8400

COUNSEL FOR THE ESTATE

6-17-2021, 6-24-2021, 7-1-2021

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFP

Re-Bid RFP 2021-03 JPS Seeks a Pool of College/University Partners to Provide Teacher Certification Program Support and an English as a Second Language (ELS) Endorsement

Elet ronic and e aled rfp propoa ls for the aboe rfp will be ree ie d by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South Pres dent Street, a b n, Mis s ppi, until 10:00 A.M. (Loa l Prea iling Time), u ly 26, 2021 at whib time and plae they will be public y opened and read aloud. The Board of Tru ees ree re s the right to reject any and all rfp s to waie informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any rfp if approved for forty-five calendar day s from the date rfp s are opened.

Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing Bettie d nes at bjone@jab n.k 2.ms us or a lling (601) 960-8799, or doc ments may be pib d up at the aboe address or downloaded from P S webs te at www.jab n.k 2.ms us

Until further notie , all hand delie ry propoa ls delie red between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (loa l prea iling time) the date the bid is b eduled to open, must be delie red to P SD Board Room, 621 South State Street, a b n, MS 39201.

7/1/2021, 7/8/2021

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFPS RFP 2021-17 JPSP Seeks a Pool of Providers for Afterschool Activities and Programs RFP 2021-18 JPSP Seeks a Software Solution for Program Evaluation

Elet ronic and e aled rfp propoa ls for the aboe rfp will be ree ie d by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South Pres dent Street, a b n, Mis s ppi, until 10:00 A.M. (Loa l Prea iling Time), u ly 20, 2021 at whib time and plae they will be public y opened and read aloud. The Board of Tru ees ree re s the right to reject any and all rfp s to waie informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any rfp if approved for forty-five calendar day s from the date rfp s are opened.

Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing mishelton@jab n.k 2.ms us a lling (601) 960-8799, or doc ments may be pib d up at the aboe address or downloaded from P S webs te at www.jab n.k 2.ms us

Until further notie , all hand delie ry propoa ls delie red between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (loa l prea iling time) the date the bid is b eduled to open, must be delie red to P SD Board Room, 621 South State Street, a b n, MS 39201.

7/1/2021, 7/8/2021

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFPS RFP 2021-19 JPSP Seeks a Partner for Strategic Resource Planning RFP 2021-20 JPSP Seeks a Vendor to Conduct a Facilities Condition Assessment

Elet ronic and e aled rfp propoa ls for the aboe rfp will be ree ie d by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South Pres dent Street, a b n, Mis s ppi, until 10:00 A.M. (Loa l Prea iling Time), u ly 22, 2021 at whib time and plae they will be public y opened and read aloud. The Board of Tru ees ree re s the right to reject any and all rfp s to waie informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any rfp if approved for forty-five calendar day s from the date rfp s are opened.

Proposal forms and detailed specifications may be obtained free of charge by emailing mishelton@jab n.k 2.ms us a lling (601) 960-8799, or doc ments may be pib d up at the aboe address or downloaded from P S webs te at www.jab n.k 2.ms us

Until further notie , all hand delie ry propoa ls delie red between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (loa l prea iling time) the date the bid is b eduled to open, must be delie red to P SD Board Room, 621 South State Street, a b n, MS 39201.

7/1/2021, 7/8/2021

LEGAL

CITY OF JACKSON 2021

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

The City of Jackson's Office of Housing and Community Development hereby notifies interested Applicants of funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the following grants: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA).

The City will conduct an in-person Application/Proposal Workshop session on Friday, July 9, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at the Jackson Police Department Training Academy, 3000 St. Charles Street. Organizations interested in applying for 2021 funding for CDBG, ESG, or HOPWA funds are encouraged to attend the Workshop to receive instructions and information on completing the applications/proposals. Masks are required and social distancing will be enforced.

Application/Proposal packages for 2021 CDBG, ESG, and HOPWA will only be accepted electronically via email. Electronic submission instructions will be included in the application instructions.

Applications will be available on July 9, 2021. To download applications and instructions, please visit: <https://www.jacksonms.gov/housing-community-development/>

The deadline to submit all applications electronically is by 5:00 p.m. on August 13, 2021.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, no application/proposal packages will be accepted at our office or by mail.

For more details contact the Office of Development Assistance Division at 601-960-2155.

6-24-2021, 7-1-2021

LEGAL

Advertisement for RFP RFP 2021-16 K-2 Assessment Platform

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), July 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 rfp s, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any rfp if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date rfp s 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 JPSP Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

7/1/2021, 7/8/2021





President Biden seeks to expand access to legal counsel for vulnerable citizens

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

President Joe Biden directed the U.S. Attorney General to submit a plan within four months to expand the Department of Justice’s access to justice work.

The president also announced that he and Vice President Kamala Harris would re-establish the White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable to prioritize civil legal aid and expand access to federal programs.

The directives are part of the administration’s efforts to expand access to legal representation and the courts.

“As President Biden knows from his experience as a public defender, timely and affordable access to the legal system can make all the difference in a person’s life – including by keeping an individual out of poverty, keeping an individual in his or her home, helping an unaccompanied child seek asylum, helping someone fight a consumer scam, or ensuring that an individual charged with a crime can mount a strong defense and receive a fair trial,” White House officials commented in a Fact Sheet.

“But low-income people have long struggled to secure quality access to the legal system. Those challenges have only increased during the public health and economic crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic,” the administration noted.

“At the same time, civil legal aid providers and public defenders have been under-resourced, understaffed and unable to reach some of the people in greatest need of their services.”

During the prior administration, the Department of Justice’s access to justice work, formally launched as an initiative in 2010, was effectively shuttered.

According to a memorandum, to restore the Department of Justice’s leadership in this area, President Biden is directing Attorney General Merritt Garland to submit a report to the president within 120 days that outlines the department’s plan to expand its access to justice work.

The president ordered the Justice Department to start this work immediately.

The administration also said it is re-committing to the White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable mission, which was initially established in 2015 to



The Presidential Memorandum is the Biden-Harris Administration’s latest action to protect vulnerable Americans, reform the justice system, and advance racial equity, the White House said.

raise federal agencies’ awareness of how civil legal aid could increase employment, family stability, housing security, consumer protection and public safety.

According to the Fact Sheet, the White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable will be co-chaired by the attorney general and the counsel to the president or their designees.

It will convene federal agencies to identify ways to address some of the most pressing legal services challenges that we face today – including those posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The federal government has a critical role to play in expanding access to the nation’s legal system and supporting the work of civil legal aid providers and public defenders,” administration officials remarked.

“President Biden’s executive action today will reinvigorate the federal government’s role in advancing access to justice and help ensure that the Administration’s policies and recovery efforts can reach as many individuals as possible.”

The Presidential Memorandum is the Biden-Harris Administration’s latest action to protect vulnerable Americans, reform the justice system, and advance racial equity, the White House said.

On his first day in office, they noted that the president issued an executive order establishing a government-wide initiative to put equity at the heart of each agency’s priorities and management plan.

“His discretionary budget request called for \$1.5 billion in funding for grants to strengthen state and local criminal justice systems, including by investing in public defenders. Improving access to counsel in civil and criminal proceedings builds on each of these efforts,” the White House concluded.

President Biden, Chaka Khan and others celebrate The Black Press at NNPA Convention

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

President Joe Biden helped to kick off the National Newspaper Publishers Association annual summer convention with a ringing endorsement of the Black Press of America.

The president, who campaigned on the promise of equity and inclusion and whose appointments, hires and policy have targeted uplifting black and minority communities, extolled the virtues of black-owned newspapers and media companies.

“It’s an honor to join you and celebrate 194 years of the Black Press and 81 years of the NNPA,” the president stated.

“The theme of your conference this year: Black Press Matters, could not be more fitting. The stories we tell, the news we cover matters. The work you do at the NNPA matters.”

The president recalled visiting Tulsa, Oklahoma, earlier this year on the anniversary of the Black Wall Street massacre. “We would not know nearly as much as what happened there if it were not for the Black Press,” President Biden declared.

“The same is true of stories of today. I know times are tough in the industry and every advertising dollar matters. We need your input, we need your important independent voices as much as ever,” he continued.

The president thanked NNPA President and CEO Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., and NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards for the work that the Black Press does each day.

“Thank you for informing us all,” he exclaimed.

The conference kicked off with a stirring exhibit of more than 100 front pages of African American newspapers sponsored by the Google News Initiative.

Carter Richards, Chavis and Convention Chair Terry Jones offered opening remarks.

Dr. Anthony Fauci and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky participated by speaking on the importance of vaccinations and how vital the Black Press of America remains after 194 years.

“The Black Press is critically important,” Dr. Fauci declared.

“Medical co-morbidities are particularly high in African American communities, and



that is why getting the vaccine is so important.”

Racism is at the root of much of the health disparities in America, declared Dr. Walensky.

“We must take action,” she insisted. “We are so grateful for [The Black Press’s] voice and to your reporting and commitment to truth.”

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), and White House Senior Advisor and Director of Public Engagement Cedric Richmond, also joined the conference to reaffirm Washington’s commitment to Black America and the NNPA.

The NNPA, the 81-year-old trade association representing the 230 African American-owned newspapers and media companies that comprise the Black Press of America, hosted the annual convention from June 23 to June 26.

While the convention regularly occurs in cities throughout the country, the pandemic forced the NNPA to hold the event virtually for the second consecutive year.

This year’s theme highlighted how significant the Black Press remains, its vitality in the many communities it serves, and the transformative vision that has helped keep the millions of subscribers informed.

Pfizer Rare Disease, AARP, General Motors, Reynolds American, Comcast, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Education Trust, the Small Business Administration, Wells Fargo, American Petroleum Institute, Facebook Journalism Project, and others hosted, sponsored or participated on panels to provide vital information for publishers and the public-at-large.

Zillow, the Knight Founda-

tion, U.S. Census, Comcast Universal, Molson Coors, Nissan, BHERC, Northrop Grumman and Nina Turner for Congress, also counted among convention sponsors.

During the convention, the NNPA Fund hosted its annual Messenger Awards to recognize the outstanding work of journalists and newspapers in the Black Press.

Hosted by NNPA Fund Chair Pluria Marshall Jr., and NNPA Fund Vice Chair Sonny Messiah Jiles with special guests Stacey Abrams and the Rev. Al Sharpton, winners included the *St. Louis American*, *Birmingham Times*, *Houston Forward Times*, *The Final Call*, *Richmond Free Press*, *Texas Metro News*, *The Afro American*, *Michigan Chronicle*, *New Pittsburgh Courier*, *Our Weekly Los Angeles*, *Houston Defender*, *Savannah Tribune*, *Atlanta Voice*, *Jackson Advocate*, and the *Seattle Medium*.

Winner of three Society of Professional Journalists Awards this year, the *Washington Informer* did not participate in the Messenger Awards.

The NNPA also presented its annual Legacy Awards where Darnella Frazier, the African American teenager who courageously filmed the police officer kneeling on George Floyd’s neck, received the Ida B. Wells National Photojournalism Award.

The Rev. John P. Kee was honored with the 2021 National Gospel Transformative Award, while Earth, Wind & Fire lead singer Philip Bailey was presented with the 2021 National Lifetime Achievement Legacy Award for Outstanding Achievement, Impact and Creative Genius.

Scotty Barnhart, the leg-

endary Count Basie Orchestra leader, received the 2021 National Performance and Outstanding Leadership Award, and the Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson took home the 2021 National Achievement and Outstanding Leadership Award for his work as President and CEO of the Children’s Defense Fund.

The NNPA also presented Congresswoman Joyce L. Beatty (D-Ohio) with the 2021 National Congressional Leadership Award and Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison with the Outstanding and Courageous Leadership Award.

Dr. Kizzemkia Corbett received a special Leadership Award for her work in developing the life-saving coronavirus vaccine.

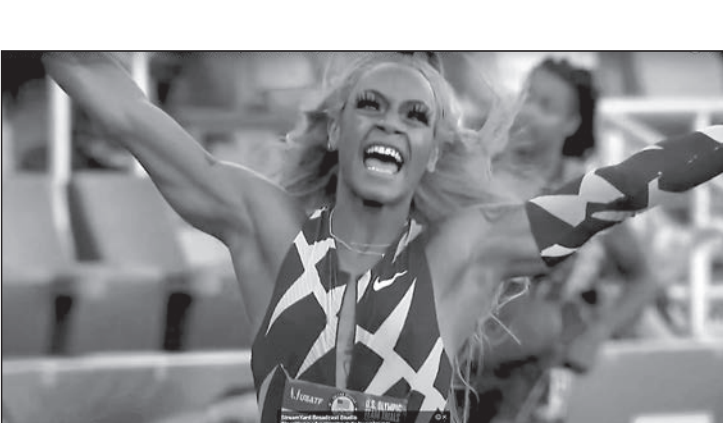
Ten-time Grammy winner Chaka Khan received the 2021 National Lifetime Achievement Legacy Award for Decades of Creative Genius and Outstanding Leadership for Freedom, Justice and Equality in American and Throughout the World. The legend also headlined a night of entertainment with a mini concert.

The Rev. Kee performed his hit, “I Made it Out,” while Nu-Soul and Jazz artist Candice Hoyes proved a worthy opening act with an electric performance.

We know we are the trusted voice in the black community, and ‘resilient vitality’ is who we are,” Carter Richards proclaimed.

“Our black newspapers have thrived, and so many more are getting to the level that we want them to be. I’m so proud of the Black Press for all the work they are doing in the community and for the work they are doing to help each other.”

Sha’Carri Richardson bolts into history and into Tokyo Olympics



Richardson PHOTO: VIDEO SCREEN CAPTURE / NBC SPORTS / YOUTUBE

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

With lightning-like quickness and a will to dominate, Sha’Carri Richardson is on her way to the Olympics in Tokyo.

The 21-year-old native of Dallas, Texas, won the women’s 100-meter final during the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials.

Richardson’s victory came in just 10.86 seconds – amazingly, it was an eye-lash slower than her head-spinning performance

in the semifinal heat, where she crossed the finish line in just 10.64 seconds.

Many are comparing the Olympic-bound track and field star to greats like Florence Griffith-Joyner, and Gail Devers. Richardson has remained humble, and she credits her grandmother, Betty Harp, for much of her success.

“My grandmother is my heart, my superwoman,” Richardson told Runners World.

“To have her here at the biggest

meet of my life, it’s just amazing. That probably felt better than winning the races, just being able to hold her after becoming an Olympian.”

Already turning heads in and around the sport, Richardson further raised eyebrows when she dominated the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Team Trials in Eugene, Oregon.

Jumping out to a fast start, Richardson appeared to purposely slow down toward the end

of the race and point toward the clock, which registered her dramatic timing.

“Nobody knows what I go through,” Richardson said in a post-race interview with ABC.

“Everybody has struggles, and I understand that. But y’all see me on this track, and y’all see the poker face I put on. But nobody but [my family] and my coach know what I go through...and I’m highly grateful to them. Without them, there would be no me.”

Comic Con event held in Jackson, MS

MS Trade Mart • 1200 Mississippi Street • Jackson, MS • June 26-27, 2021

PHOTOS BY KEVIN ROBINSON



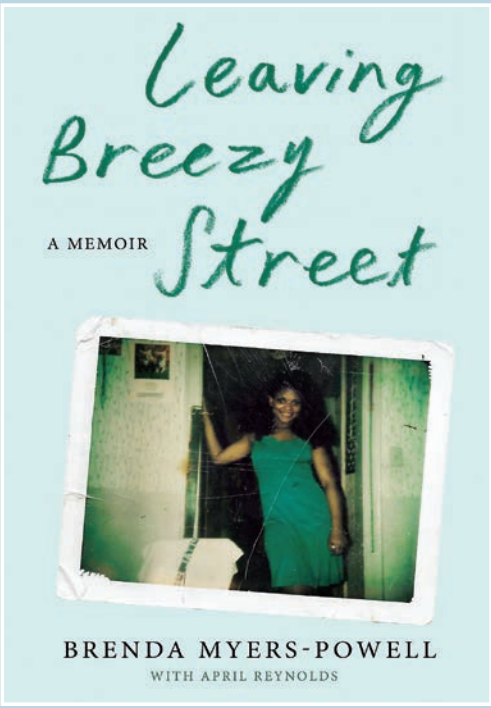
Dole Foods partners with Boys & Girls Club in Jackson, MS in Culinary Arts Program

Othor Cain is director of Strategic Programs/Media Operations, BGCCM.

Jackson, MS • June, 17, 2021

PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY





BOOK REVIEW:

LEAVING BREEZY STREET: A MEMOIR

BY BRENDA MYERS-POWELL WITH APRIL REYNOLDS
C.2021, HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY
\$26.99 / \$36.99 CANADA • 288 PAGES

Mississippi Link Newswire

Sometimes, you just gotta get out.

You need a weekend in a remote cabin or high-end spa. You gotta get out of those clothes at days’ end. You need a breath of fresh air, new scenery, something to distract you.

Sometimes, you need to get out for your sanity. Other times, as in the new book “Leaving Breezy Street” by Brenda Myers-Powell (with April Reynolds), you need to get out for your life.

They told her that her mother

loved her very much.

Little Brenda Myers had to take her aunts’ words for it; her mother died before Brenda could walk, and so she was raised by her grandmother. Ma’Dea’s home was safe and warm, nobody ever went hungry, but the woman couldn’t keep Myers from being molested, starting when Myers was just four years old.

It continued: at ten, she was removed from Ma’Dea’s house due to alcoholism and physical abuse; a year later, the uncle who took her in began molest-

ing her. Myer returned to her grandmother’s house, “from the frying pan to the fire,” where she endured the least egregious trauma until she got pregnant.

At age fourteen, she realized that she needed money to raise an infant.

On Good Friday, 1973, she took the train to downtown Chicago and turned her first tricks. She came home with “almost four hundred dollars.”

Ma’Dea, she says, “didn’t ask one question.”

That was the beginning of years of horrors. Myers was

captured by a pair of “Gorilla pimps” who beat her to control her; though she was a minor, they took her across state lines and raped her until she didn’t care. She escaped, returned to the streets, sold herself for cash, a place to stay, clothing, and eventually, drugs, when all she really wanted was nurturing.

“Folks tell me, ain’t all that happen to you,” she says. “I wish it hadn’t... I wish to God I was lying my head off.”

Here’s a warning, so take it seriously: if you like your memoirs sweet and tender, back away

from this one. “Leaving Breezy Street,” the title of which refers to the alter-ego and pseudonym author Brenda Myers-Powell used for work, is anything but warm and fuzzy.

It. Is. Brutal.

But then again...

At the risk of being a spoiler here, there’s a happy ending or four in this memoir, including the empowering, steely, and emotional update on Myers-Powell’s life today, a tale-with-in-a-tale that’ll make you teary-eyed. Those tears will happen partly out of relief because

whew! what Myers-Powell tells is like some kind of horror story but the monsters are real – yet, curiously (and much to a reader’s chagrin), she respects her past and leaves a lot unsaid.

That doesn’t include celebrities, whose names pepper this memoir.

Just bear in mind that this book is packed with profanity but there’s also a laugh or two, in a dark kind of way. Still, if you want a tale that’ll drop your jaw every few pages, “Leaving Breezy Street” is the book to get out.



July 6, 2021
-11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. (cst)-
**USDA-FSA Farm Loans and Programs/
Improving Soil Health and Water Quality**
Zoom Workshop Webinar ID:94993023972
Webinar Passcode:191830 (Registration Required)
Please visit www.intouchcommserv.com for more information about Intouch Community Services Inc.



**un/lock the
SECRETS
IN THE SOIL**

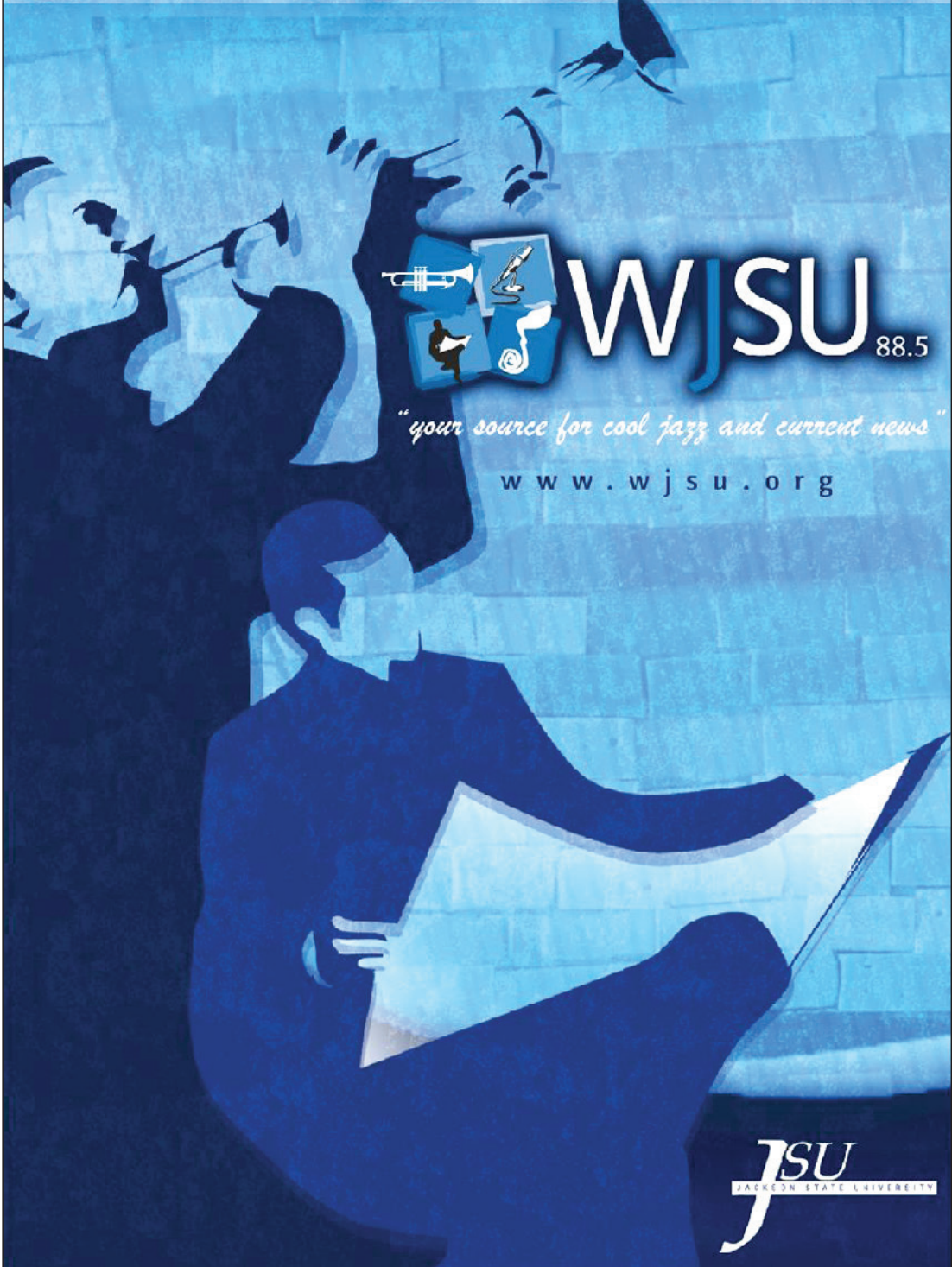
**Workshop for New,
Beginning, and Limited-
Resource Farmers**

Topics:
*Soil Health, Soil Health Strategies, Water Quality Improvement,
Drainage Water Management*
FSA Loans (Direct Loan, Micro Loan)
The American Rescue Plan



- USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.
- Questions should be directed to cmayes@intouchcommserv.com.

Cool And Current



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ADULTS WANT TO HEAR!**

Grassroots organization and local USDA connect to help disadvantaged farmers

‘Land was only made once; value it,’ concluded HLGP President Henry Anderson Sr.

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

Do you know that just as you would appraise a house to assess its value it is equally critical to do the same for your timber and/or land? If you do not, you might discover that you are selling yourself cheap or giving away your family legacy.

It was this and a myriad of other resourceful information farmers, beginning farmers, ranchers, youth and the public received during an eye-opening Agriculture Informational Fair, Monday, June 27. Held in Saints College/Academy Auditorium, Lexington, Miss., the event was coordinated and hosted by the Holmes Livestock and Growers Project (HLGP) in collaboration with the Holmes County USDA NRCS and FSA Service Center.

Some audience members appeared captivated to the edges of their seats.

HLGP is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization built on a membership of farm families in Holmes County, Miss. and surrounding areas.

“It was indeed a very interesting awareness outreach; I am glad my wife and I came to support HLGP and the great things it is doing in our county,” said Leslie Greer, co-founder of the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC). The CSLC, also a 501(c)3 non-profit has successfully implemented two of USDA NRCS’s federal outreach programs; one, a youth outreach and the other, farm information awareness.

“This informational outreach is one of the many things that we do as a part of our mission,” said Henry Anderson Sr., HLGP president. “We work with small farmers to promote sustainability and



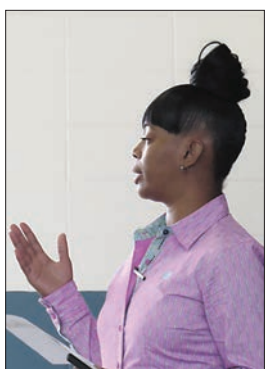
Biologist Alex Harvey
PHOTOS BY GAIL HM BROWN



HLGP President Henry Anderson Sr.



Holmes County Extension Director Betsy Padgett



HLGP Secretary/organizer Kimberly Clayton



Presenters Henry Anderson Jr., Kimberly Clayton, Alex Harvey, Fernando Vazquez, Larry Pate and James “Jim” Corley

create legacies for future generations to enjoy the earth’s natural resources.”

HLGP Secretary and Outreach Organizer Kimberly Clayton welcomed the attendees, and HLGP member Derrick Scott presented the occasion. Speakers and presenters of the free event included USDA NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist, Area 4 Fernando Vazquez, Holmes County Extension Director (Retiring) Betsy Padgett, USDA FSA Holmes County Director Jim Corley, Farm Service Agency Loan Director Larry Pate, NRCS Easement Team Leader Rick Hagar, USDA NRCS Assistant State Conservationist and Area Conservationist for the Delta Area Taharga Hart (a Holmes County native), and Professional Consulting Forester and Wildlife Biologist Alex Harvey.

Each of the presenters provided a wealth of information and resource materials. Farmers and others left the event with handfuls of pamphlets, brochures, including the MSU Extension Service Garden Tabloid dubbed as the “Garden Bible,” according to Padgett.

Hart covered general details about new initiatives, new staff,

etc. He pointed out that Holmes County manage most of the programs in the state, and he highly emphasized that if anyone has questions about USDA, please feel free to contact the office.

“We encourage the farmers to stop by the office and talk with us,” said Vazquez. His office covered eligibility criteria for applying for financial assistance.

“This step is very critical for farmers, because it helps them understand what documentation they need to be eligible for USDA programs. We encourage farmers to keep track of their farm records (# of cows, acres, crop, irrigation, yields, etc.),” he said.

Vazquez also covered their main conservation programs, (i) the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which provides technical and financial assistance to producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against drought and increasing weather volatility.

(ii)the Conservation Steward-

ship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns. CSP pays participants for conservation performance – the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

An interesting awareness from the event was the critical importance of timber appraisals presented by Alex Harvey, who is also founder and president of Legacy Land Management, LLC, a black-owned natural resources management firm.

In a later interview with *The Mississippi Link*, Harvey stated that “first, a timber appraisal gives a landowner the ability to make better informed decisions regarding their assets.” He shared that “far too often, landowners in minority communities do not hire consulting foresters to advise them and this leads to their timber being purchased for much less than it’s actually worth.”

Harvey, who graduated from the Holmes County Public School District, explained that an appraisal gives a landowner a frame of reference for which products they have in their forest, (ex. pulpwood, chipnsaw, saw timber

etc.), how much of those products they have and what their market value is at that time. Each has a different value (ex. saw timber is worth more than chipnsaw and pulpwood).

“Unfortunately, many forest landowners are taken advantage of when they sell their timber directly to a timber buyer and don’t hire a professional consulting forester to help them. This happens to black and white landowners alike however, it tends to have a more negative effect within minority communities because African American families tend to have less financial wealth to begin with. I would also add that minority communities are perhaps taken advantage of more often in this regard,” Harvey said.

During the event, he relayed a story of an elderly African American woman who had lost her husband three months prior to a timber buyer showing up at her home on a Sunday evening with an \$80,000 check in hand for her timber. She rejected the offer and attended a timber valuation workshop that she had read about. There, she was introduced to a consulting forester who later appraised her timber was valued at nearly \$500,000. She was

shocked.

The audience was amazed to learn that some timber can be just that valuable.

Attendee Gregory Crenshaw, who is interested in starting a cattle business, said the farm seminar was very helpful in providing information about farming, tree logging and ways to acquire cattle, and how to start your own vegetable gardens and fish ponds. “I really enjoyed the workshop,” he expressed.

HLGP also recognized its outstanding youth in agriculture with gifts. Each of whom had recently represented the county well in state 4-H competitions.

President Anderson thanked the speakers, presenters, audience and everyone who helped with the event. He left everyone with this food for thought: “Land was only made once; value it.”

For more information about HLGP and its membership, call Henry Anderson at 662 834-4893 or Kimberly Clayton at 662 639-1010.

For more information about USDA NRCS and FSA, contact your county service center. For Holmes County, call 662 834-4688.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Hinds County School District will hold a public hearing by Teleconference on Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 5:00 P.M. in the Board Room of the Hinds County School District’s Central Office, 13192 Hwy 18, Raymond, MS. At this meeting, the proposed FY21-22 budget will be presented.

Entergy Customer Services Manager Recognized by Hinds County School District



L-R: Dr. William Sellers, Assistant Superintendent; Tammy Rankin, Entergy Customer Service Manager; Dr. Delesicia Martin, Superintendent; and Dr. John Neal, Associate Superintendent

State Representative Stephanie Forster Partners with Hinds County School District for Food Giveaway



L-R: Dr. William Sellers, Assistant Superintendent and State Representative / Event Organizer Stephanie Forster



L-R: Dr. William Sellers and Honorable Mayor Lekentric Caston of Edwards, MS



L-R: Lashurn Williams, Principal/BEEMS and State Representative, Stephanie Forster

Kids First Education Recognize Hinds County School District and Mississippi Department of Education State Parent of the Year



L-R: Aleesham Hudson, HCSD & MDE Parent of the Year, Chuck Poer, VP of Sales and Regina Ginn, Director of Marketing with Kids First Education



L-R: Regina Ginn, Director of Marketing; Aleesham Hudson, Parent; and Chuck Poer, VP of Sales



L-R: Dr. John Neal, Associate Superintendent/HCSD; Aleesham Hudson, Parent; and Chuck Poer, VP of Sales

Jackson Tri-County H.S. JROTC Top Cadets received awards throughout May

Awards presented by Sam Clay, Post Commander; Aaron Honeysucker, Sr. Vice Commander; Jeffory McKenzie Jr., Vice Commander; Ira Turner, Quartermaster; Marshand Crisler, Trustee; Comarde George Williams; Comarde James Bennett; Gladys McKenzie, Auxiliary President; and Debra Turner, Auxiliary Jr. Vice President
Members from Brooks W. Stewart, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 9832

Jackson, MS

NAMES OF TOP CADETS LISTED WITH PICTURES BELOW. PHOTOS BY JEFFORY MCKENZIE



Terry High School – Cadet Jeremy Williams



Pearl High School – Cadet Asia Thompson



Forest Hill High School – Cadet E'Jacia Adams



Callaway High School JPS Cadet – Jasmine Taylor



Jim Hill High School – Cadet Cydnee Burgess



Lanier High School – Cadet Tre'Diamond Taylor



Murrah High School – Cadet Elizabeth Hawkins



Wingfield High School – Cadet Christopher Brown



Velma Jackson High School – Cadet Joseph Sharp



Germantown High School – Cadet Kaddie Clark



Raymond High School – Cadet Reuben Bowman



Madison Central - Cadet Irene Bishop