

Health officer confirms Mississippi’s ‘4th wave’ of COVID cases



Dr. Thomas Dobbs

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

Mississippi’s top public health official said Monday that the state is seeing a rapid increase in COVID-19 cases in July.

“4th wave is here,” Dr. Thomas Dobbs, the state health officer, wrote on Twitter.

The Mississippi State Department of Health said 2,326 new cases of COVID-19 were confirmed Friday through Sunday. That is largest three-day increase of cases reported in the state since February.

As of Monday, the Health Department said Mississippi has had 329,130 confirmed cases of the virus since the start of the pandemic in the spring of 2020. The department said 7,468 people in the state had died from the virus.

Democratic state Rep. Jeramey Anderson of Moss Point posted the Health Department numbers on Twitter, and wrote: “Consequences of not getting vaccinated and poor mask wearing. Well Mississippi –

COVID
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College Hill Baptist Church welcomes new pastor

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The College Hill Baptist family welcomed Pastor Chauncy L. Jordan as their new shepherd by giving him a standing ovation after being introduced by Deacon Frank Yates as the 15th pastor in the history of the 114-year-old church located in West Jackson at 1600 Florence Avenue Sunday, July, 18, 10 a.m.

College Hill resumed in-person worship service the last Sunday in May, with limited participation restrictions, mask wearing and safe distance seating. Sunday was the first time since the beginning of the pandemic that Jordan preached in an in-person setting and he spoke of pivoting from a place of pandemic. He said, “We must pray, be patient and participate as we pivot together. He chose as his subject, “Let’s Do It Together.”

At the conclusion of his message, Jordan opened the doors of the church for non-members to consider becoming a member of College Hill, while the soloist of the day, Catia Madison, quietly sang, “I’m Free.” Madison was accompanied by



College Hill Pastor Chauncy L. Jordan

PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON

College Hill musicians under the direction of Rev. Andrew Lewis, minister of music.

It was during this time that Lashanda Jordan, Ph. D, Chauncy Jordan II, and Joshua Jordan surprised the pastor by

taking that moment to declare their desire to become members of the church on the first day of his leadership. Deacon John Morris presented the family as coming to join on their Christian experience.

Pastor Jordan was notably touched and turned his back as he seemed to wipe away a tear or two. He told the congregation that this is not something

College Hill
Continued on pages 2 & 3

Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area mourns the death of Elise Winter

Former Mississippi First Lady was founder of local Habitat affiliate



Former Governor William Winter and Former First Lady Elise Winter

The Mississippi Link Newswire

“People deserve to have a decent place to live.” – Elise Winter

Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area (HFHMCA) is mourning the loss of its founder, former Mississippi First Lady Elise Winter.

“It is with great sadness that we learned of Elise Winter’s passing,” said HFHMCA Executive Director, Merrill McKewen. “We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to the Winter family and her many friends.”

While Governor and Mrs. Winter were lifelong champions of public education and racial reconciliation, Mrs. Winter’s true volunteering calling was as founder of Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area in 1986.

“Mrs. Winter has been the ‘heart and soul’ of this organization, working tirelessly for more than three decades so that more

families in Jackson and the tri-county area will have a decent place to call home and a brighter future,” McKewen said.

Over the years, Mrs. Winter demonstrated her dedication with a hammer and a paintbrush as well as a phone and a Rolodex. “Potential sponsors, donors of building materials and volunteers could not overlook her enthusiasm for an organization doing so much good,” McKewen said.

Even in her nineties, Mrs. Winter was still active and visible on Habitat worksites, in the board room, and as an ambassador for Habitat in the community. She even arose early on a Saturday morning in February 2015 to help with the exterior painting on the 600th Habitat house built in the Mississippi Capital Area.

That build site was a far cry from the first one in 1986, Mrs. Winter noted. She often shared her vivid memories of the bitter

cold day when she and a small group of volunteers gathered in front of a Bratton Street plot to bless it for HFHMCA’s first home.

“It had rained the night before and the lot was dirt. So we ended up blessing a big mud puddle,” she said. “I would have never dreamed that day that we would ever get to more than 600 houses.”

“Through her faithful ‘love in action,’ she has breathed life into Habitat’s ministry, helping it grow from a prayer around a mud puddle on a gray, somber, cold day, into a vibrant ministry offering families decent, affordable homeownership,” said Slade Exley, president of HFHMCA’s Board of Directors. “More than 2,500 adults and children in the Mississippi capital area wake up every morning in a Habitat home. Her involvement with Habitat also has afforded thousands of Mississippians the op-

portunity to give back to their communities and to their fellow citizens through one of the nation’s most effective charities.”

For six years, Mrs. Winter also served on the Habitat for Humanity International Board with former President Jimmy Carter. Working in 2006 with Dick Molpus, former Mississippi Secretary of State and president of the Molpus Woodlands Group, she helped secure a \$100 million award for Habitat for Humanity International as a part of the historic U.S.-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement. This award supported the construction of more than 19,000 homes by Habitat affiliates throughout the U.S.

Her commitment inspired HFHMCA to create the Elise Winter Founders Award on the non-profit’s 25th anniversary in 2011, and she was the inaugural recipient.

The late Governor Winter was

Winter
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Inside
Mississippi marker honors 2 black men killed by Klan in 1964



Memoirs by Women Writers 2



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Rev. Chauncy Jordan becomes new pastor at College Hill

College Hill Baptist Church • Jackson, MS • July 18, 2021

PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON



It's good to be healthy.
It's good to be **Blue.**



MISSISSIPPI
It's good to be Blue.

College Hill

Continued from page 1

that they had discussed and was surprised when he saw them come forward.

Lashanda Jordan told the congregation it was her husband's message on "Let's Do It Together" that motivated her to unite with the church family. She later said to *The Mississippi Link*, "I am elated about our call to College Hill. I'm so humbled and excited about the opportunity to serve the members and community in which we have been planted and standing on tip toes of anticipation about what God is doing in this season."

In an interview with *The Mississippi Link*, Pastor Jordan responded to the question, what do you like most about pastoring? "I would say the people and the relationships that are formed while being able to walk beside individuals in their journey of life and faith is what I love about pastoring," he responded. "I'm a people lover and being in a position to serve and share with God's people their highs and lows is truly amazing."

In describing his first day Jordan said, "Sunday was amazing, amazing, amazing; just being in a corporate in-person setting was a sight to behold." He said he thoroughly enjoyed it because every now and then all the stars are lined up and Sunday was one of those days. He said, "everything felt right."

Jordan said his short term goal is to build upon current relationships and forge new relationships in order to work on God's plan and carry out his mandate and mission. He said he wanted to learn more about the history of College Hill, its' heartbeat and what allowed the church to survive. He referenced the Jewish leader Nehemiah who before supervising the re-building of the wall in Jerusalem, he first surveyed the land.

Jordan said his long term goal is to insure an intentional effort to be a great example in a multi-generational church. He said it is the one place you can experience the growth of all age groups and he wants to be a vibrant leader in the community surrounding 1600 Florence Avenue. He said God was intentional in placing the church at this address and he wants it to be in line and in step to meet the needs of the people.



CH members welcome the First Family – (l-r) Deacon Vernon Jasper, Joshua Jordan, Chauncy Jordan II, Lashanda Jordan, PH.D, Deaconess Lenita Knight, Sis. Malena Dow.

COVID

Continued from page 1

you wanted it here it is. This is ridiculous and the deaths that will definitely follow were completely avoidable."

Mississippi has one of the lowest COVID-19 vaccination rates in the nation, and the increase of cases is happening as schools prepare for the new academic year. Classes begin July 26 in the northern Mississippi city of Corinth and in early to mid-August in most other districts.

The state Board of Education on Thursday adopted policies requiring all school districts to restart in-person learning as the main form of instruction for 2021-22. During the previous year, districts had the option for in-person or online instruction, or a combination of the two.

The education board said districts offering online classes must ensure students receive at least 5-1/2 hours of instruction per day, students have reliable internet access and those participating in distance learning must go on campus to take statewide assessments.

Districts will be allowed to offer schoolwide or districtwide distance learning if needed because of the pandemic or other emergencies, under the new policies.

The state Health Department released its own guidelines Thursday saying all eligible teachers, staff and students 12 and older should receive COVID-19 vaccination; masks should be worn inside schools by all people age 2 or older who are not fully vaccinated; and schools should maintain at least 3 feet (1 meter) of distance between students in classrooms.

The state's largest school district, in DeSoto County, said in its back-to-school plan that maintaining distance between students will be challenging.

"School districts have a limited number of buses, limited square footage in classrooms, and many



Rep. Jeramey Anderson

other efficiency-related obstacles," the DeSoto plan said. "Social distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible, and strategies will be implemented by school officials based on the feasibility of the unique space at each school and in each classroom."

The Health Department also said routine screening testing of asymptomatic unvaccinated students, teachers and staff is recommended. It said schools should continue to isolate students, teachers and staff who have COVID-19 and should continue to conduct contact tracing to identify people who should be quarantined.

Under the Health Department guidance, fully vaccinated students, teachers and staff do not have to wear a mask indoors, do not have to quarantine or be excluded from school if exposed to COVID-19 and do not have to be tested unless they show symptoms.

Winter



Continued from page 1

a steadfast supporter of his wife's work with HFHMC, offering this praise: "Elise has helped to interpret this state to those outside Mississippi and to fellow Mississippians in its best light, showing its best qualities, sharing her own sense of public service."

Mrs. Winter's response: "I've seen the plight of so many people and I've thought about mothers rearing children in horrible conditions. The need

just cried out to me."

Memorials honoring Elise Winter's service to HFHMC may be sent to Habitat for Humanity MISSISSIPPI CAPITAL AREA, 615 Stonewall Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39213 – or you can call 601 353-6060 or donate at www.habitatmca.org.

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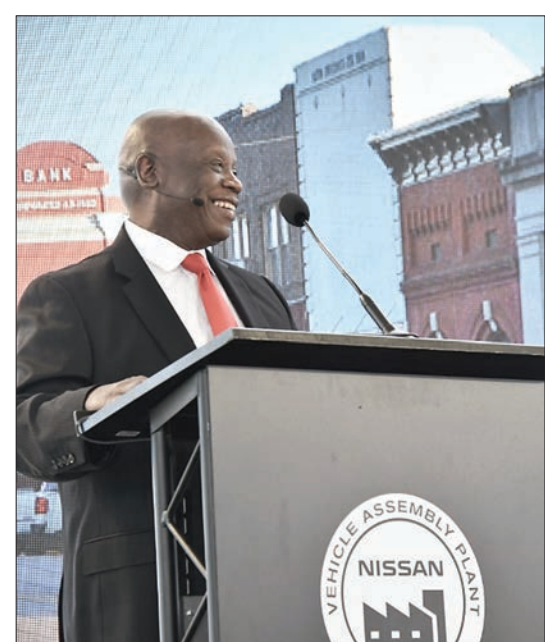
By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Tim Fallon, vice president, Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant said, "The Canton plant team is full of pride and ready to produce the next generation of one of the strongest, most rugged trucks in the market."

"The all-new Frontier has surpassed our expectations – setting new standards for mid-size truck capability, technology and power," said Fallon.



Tom Fallon, V.P. of the Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant welcomes Gov. Reeves.



Canton Mayor William Truly

PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY



New principals named at Blackburn, Callaway, Marshall and Walton

Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools has named new principals at four schools for the upcoming school year. The new appointees are:

- Dr. Rachea Williams at Marshall Elementary School
- LaRoy Merrick at Walton Elementary School
- Glenn Kane at Blackburn Middle School
- Dr. Shemeka Sutton-McClung at Callaway High School.

Williams most recently served as a JPS A3 summer camp principal at Casey Elementary and assistant principal at Bates Elementary. At Bates, she provided support in the areas of personnel administration, school testing, parent and student relations, and implementation of curricular standards. She began her career in JPS nearly 20 years ago and remains dedicated to student success. She has served as a teacher, literacy coach, academy coach and interventionist.

Williams holds a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice, a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Education, and Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in educational leadership, all from Jackson State University.



Williams

Merrick has spent a decade in JPS working with the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Previously, he served as an IB coordinator, responsible for planning and overseeing the implementation and management of the program; coordination of all IB-related activities, including implementing curriculum standards, designing and implementing professional development, overseeing the program of inquiry and unit development, and student recruitment and evaluation efforts; and facilitating the collaborative efforts of the Primary Years Program for grades K-5, Middle Years Program for grades 6-10, and the Diploma Program for grades 11-12.

Merrick began his career in



Merrick

JPS in 2011 at Siwell Middle School, Northwest Jackson Middle School, Jim Hill High School and Wingfield High School. He also has experience in central administration as a coordinator of the district's New Teacher Induction program.

Merrick holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration with a concentration in finance and a Master of Arts in teaching from the University of Southern Mississippi. He completed his Education Specialist Degree in educational leadership at Mississippi College, and he is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in educational leadership at Mississippi College.

Kane will replace Marvin



Kane

Grayer, who was promoted to the assistant superintendent of Middle Schools. Kane previously served as an assistant principal at Blackburn in support of administration and supervision of personnel, academic policy, school testing, design and delivery of professional development, and implementation of curricular standards. Before returning to JPS in 2017, he served in various positions in other school districts, including lead teacher, professional development coordinator and assistant principal. His career began in the New Orleans Public School District, where he taught middle school language arts at Charles J. Colton Renaissance Middle School before joining the fac-



Sutton-McClung

ulty at Hardy Middle School in JPS.

Kane holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of New Orleans. He completed a Master of Leadership in Education at Mississippi College.

Sutton-McClung returns to the district from Pearson Virtual Schools. She led a team of analysts devoted to providing services in academic and socialization areas for student academic growth and personal development. Before joining the Pearson family, she served as the director for Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment at Jackson State University. While at JSU, she served in various leadership roles and capacities, including

university accreditation and strategic planning.

Her previous tenure in the district includes serving as district director for student support, principal and assistant principal of Lanier High School, and classroom teacher at Callaway, Lanier and Wingfield High Schools. As a district and school leader, she led various projects and initiatives, including administration and supervision of personnel, curriculum and instruction, professional development, school finance, student development, and testing and assessment. Her specialty areas include data analysis, instructional leadership, professional development, school management, and student growth. She started her career in JPS teaching various science subjects, including biology, botany, chemistry, genetics, human anatomy & physiology and physics.

Sutton-McClung holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Jackson State University. She completed her Master of Science in teaching, Education Specialist in educational leadership and supervision, and Doctorate of Philosophy in educational leadership & supervision degrees at Jackson State University.

Outstanding alumni: Murrah grad Rigel Robinson joins The Cadets Drum Corps

Mississippi Link Newswire

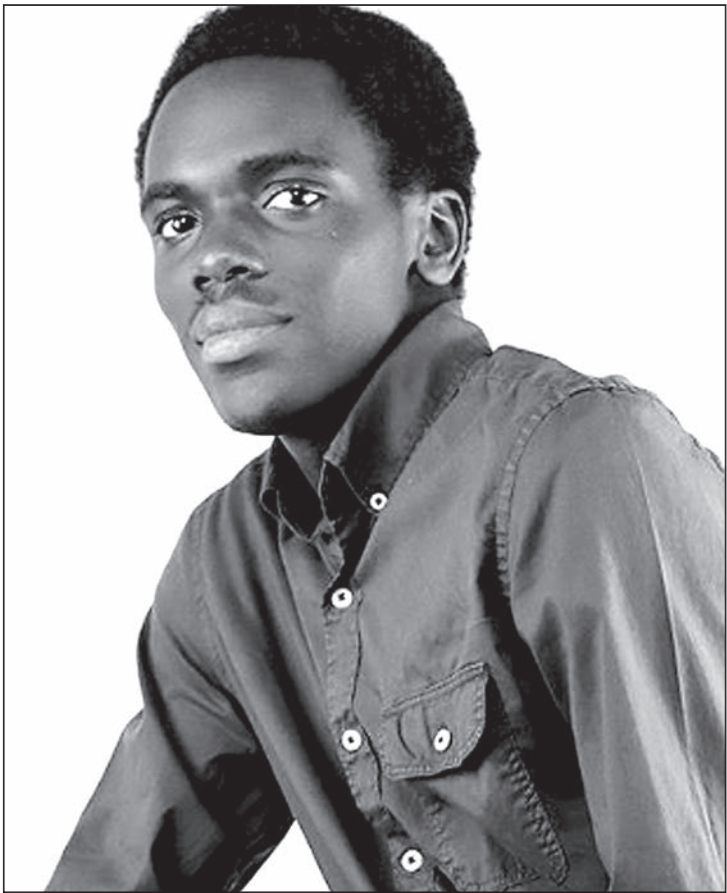
Murrah graduate Rigel Robinson Jr. is on tour this summer with The Cadets Drum Corps, a world-class competitive drum and bugle corps based in Allentown, Pennsylvania. The Jackson State University music major and trumpet section leader of the Sonic Boom is the first student from a Mississippi HBCU to be recruited by The Cadets. He reported to training with the corps at the end of June and will tour with them through August.

The experience culminates in a three-day performance to be held in Indianapolis.

Robinson was known as the soft-spoken leader of Murrah's Sound of Perfection trumpet section. He was a 2018 Delta State University High School Honors Wind Ensemble selectee. That same year, he was accepted into the prestigious Mississippi Lions Band and performed with the band in Las Vegas during the summer. Additionally, he was a member of the JPS All-City Band for three years.

His honors at Murrah include the Band Section Leader, Outstanding Musician, and Director's Leadership awards.

Though Robinson clearly excelled in music, he was also a high-performing scholar. He



Robinson

graduated from Kirksey Middle School as the 2014 valedictorian and was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. He graduated from Murrah in 2018 and will be starting his senior year at Jackson State University in the fall.

Robinson was groomed in a family dedicated to the Jackson

Public Schools. His father, Rigel B. Robinson Sr., is a literacy coach at Northwest Jackson Middle School in JPS. All of his siblings participated in the choir or band at Murrah High School.

"We proudly celebrate Rigel, and we are grateful to God for blessing him with these opportunities," said Robinson Sr.

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Member:



Sen. David Blount sponsors event to assist with bill and rental assistance: COVID vaccinations

Special to The Mississippi Link

Senator David Blount, along with Representatives Ronnie Crudup Jr., Zakiya Summers, and De’Keither Stamps, is sponsoring an event in Byram to help residents with Jackson water bills and back rent.

The Mississippi Home Corporation will assist citizens with paying their utility bills, rent or mortgage payments. The City of Jackson will help customers with delinquent and disputed water bills.

The Mississippi Department of Health will provide COVID vaccinations, especially important with cases of the Delta variant rising rapidly among unvaccinated people.

The event will be held at Crossroads of Life Church in Byram Saturday, August 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The church address is 6775 S. Siwell Road.

If someone is renting a house or apartment, the Home Corp. may be able to help pay up to 15 months of back rent. Those interested are asked to bring ID, copy of lease, proof of income (proof of participation in SNAP, MEDICAID, or TANIF, a paystub or tax return), most recent utility bills, if at all possible. More information on this program available at www.ms-rampers.com.

The Jackson water billing problems have been a serious

problem for years. The system has been severely compromised by failure to accurately bill customers and aging pipes and infrastructure.

Blount states that he has worked this year to pass legislation to clean up the books and help people satisfy disputed and delinquent accounts.

The City and the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff recently announced these programs to help customers:

1. Low-Income Assistance Plan (LIAP) – Available for any water/sewage arrearage for 24 months
 - Must show proof of participation in the MS Home Corp. rental assistance program
 - Must pay current bill for three months
 - Must apply for any federal or state utility aid programs
 - Must pay current bill plus \$10 for 24 months
2. Courtesy Payment Arrangement Plan (CoPAP) for those customers who do not qualify as low-income.
 - Available for customers with a 1-inch meters or less (residential and small businesses)
 - Must pay the current bill for three months
 - Must apply for federal and state utility aid programs
 - Must pay 40% over 24 months
3. Additionally, there will be

a Special Circumstances Panel for those experiencing extreme financial hardship. Special circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

- Instances of error
- Equipment failure
- Debt deemed uncollectable
- Unforeseen damage due to weather

4. Stranded Bills: A flat rate is being established for those who know they have a balance, but have not recently received a bill. The city can put customers on a flat rate so that payments may begin in order to enter the program.

Blunt says, “I hope these programs will help the many customers who have experienced problems with their water bills over the past few years. Fortunately, there are new federal programs to pay these bills. I hope this is the first step to fixing Jackson’s billing problems.”

Blunt thanks Pastor Trey Hammond at Crossroads of Life Church for opening the church to help the Byram/Terry community. He also thanks the citizens for the opportunity to work for Hinds County in the State Senate.

Blunt can be contacted by e-mail (dblount@senate.ms.gov) or by calling his office at the Capitol (601-359-3221). He is also on Facebook and Twitter (@sendavidblount).

Mississippi marker honors 2 black men killed by Klan in 1964



Thomas J. Moore, who lives in Colorado Springs, Colo., speaks Thursday, July 15, 2021, in Meadville, Miss., at the dedication of a Mississippi historical marker about the 1964 Ku Klux Klan kidnapping and killing of his brother, Charles Eddie Moore, and friend Henry Hezekiah Dee.
AP Photo/Emily Wagster Pettus

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

Friends and relatives gathered Thursday in a tiny town in southwestern Mississippi to dedicate a new state historical marker honoring two young black men who were kidnapped and killed by Ku Klux Klansmen 57 years ago.

Investigators found the remains of college student Charles Eddie Moore and lumber mill worker Henry Hezekiah Dee in a backwater of the Mississippi River in July 1964. It happened as officers were searching for three civil rights workers who had disappeared from central Mississippi the previous month.

Military veteran Thomas Moore, 78, said Thursday that the new marker helps ensure his brother and their friend and high school classmate, Dee, will be remembered and that they won’t just be footnotes in the history of what the FBI called the “Mississippi Burning” case – the Klan killings of Michael Schwerner, James Chaney and Andrew Goodman.

Moore, who lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado, told people Thursday under the hot summer sun in Meadville that while “Black Lives Matter” is a theme now, “they mattered back then, too.”

James Ford Seale and

Charles Marcus Edwards briefly faced state murder charges in the deaths of Dee and Charles Eddie Moore in 1964, but the charges were dismissed because local law enforcement officers were in collusion with the Klan, federal prosecutors said in 2007.

Prosecutors said Seale was with a group of Klansmen in May 1964 when they abducted the two 19-year-olds from a rural stretch of highway, took them into the woods and beat and interrogated them about rumors that black people in the area were planning an armed uprising. The victims were thrown in the trunk of a car, driven across the Mississippi River into Louisiana and then were weighted down and dumped into the water while still alive.

Many people thought Seale was dead until 2005, when Thomas Moore and a Canadian broadcaster, David Ridgen, found him found living in a town near where the teens were kidnapped.

Federal authorities opened a case, and Edwards became the government’s star witness after he was promised immunity from prosecution.

When jurors were out of the courtroom one day during Seale’s 2007 trial, Edwards apologized to the victims’ fam-

ilies.

“That released me from the cell I had locked myself in,” Thomas Moore said Thursday, recalling the apology.

A federal jury in Jackson, Mississippi, convicted Seale of kidnapping and conspiracy. He died in federal prison in 2011.

Shannon Sieckert of Walnut Creek, California, has worked for a civil rights education organization and helped Thomas Moore apply for the Mississippi historical marker.

“The state needed to officially recognize these two men, that their lives mattered, that they were important,” Sieckert said.

Dunn Lampton, the U.S. attorney who prosecuted Seale, died in 2011 after being injured in a crash. His twin brother, Dudley Ford Lampton Sr., said Thursday that the prosecutor developed a bond of trust with Thomas Moore because both served in the military.

Dudley Ford Lampton Sr. said his brother told him: “If I can convict Mr. Seale, I believe justice will be done.”

During the ceremony, Thomas Moore led about two dozen people in singing a gospel song: “I will trust in the Lord ‘til I die.... I’m going to treat everybody right ‘til I die.... I’m going to stay on the battlefield ‘til I die.”

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Delta variant now makes up 83 percent of all U.S. COVID cases

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The delta variant of the coronavirus now accounts for roughly 83 percent of all U.S. COVID-19 cases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky announced Tuesday, July 20.

“The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 variants is to prevent the spread of disease, and vaccination is the most powerful tool we have,” Dr. Walensky asserted during a U.S. Senate hearing.

On July 3, the CDC noted that the delta variant accounted for about half of U.S. COVID cases.

That number has dramatically increased. The latest delta surge also has led to increases in hospitalizations and deaths, Dr. Walensky stated.

She remarked that deaths have risen by about 48 percent over the past week, and the U.S. now averages 239 COVID-related fatalities each day. Dr. Walensky insisted that the surge could have been prevented.

“Each death is tragic and even more heartbreaking when we know that the majority of these deaths could be prevented with a simple, safe, available vaccine. she demanded.

“About two-thirds of U.S.



counties have vaccinated less than 40 percent of their residents. That has allowed for the emergence and rapid spread of the highly transmissible delta variant,” Dr. Walensky continued.

President Joe Biden previously set a vaccination goal of reaching 70 percent of eligible adults by July 4, but the U.S. fell short.

Medical experts have warned that the delta variant is highly contagious and easily transmitted compared to other strains. “The reason it’s so formidable is the fact that it has the capability of transmitting efficiently from human to human in an extraordinary manner, well beyond any of the other variants that we’ve experienced, up to now,” Dr. Anthony Fauci, the White House’s

chief medical advisor, said during the Senate hearing.

Dr. Ebony J. Hilton, the medical director for Good Stock Consulting, LLC, and Associate Professor, Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Virginia, repeatedly warned that the combination of vaccine hesitancy, the refusal to wear masks, and the delta variant would create the perfect

storm for a worsening pandemic.

Expressly, Dr. Hilton has noted that COVID-19 deaths in predominately white communities have continued to rise at dramatic rates. She said the snapshot provides a glimpse into just how bad the pandemic remains in African-American neighborhoods.

“We see the disparity starting to close, but not because black people are dying less, it’s

because white people are dying more,” Dr. Hilton remarked. “Between February and March, 58,000 white Americans died of COVID, and it’s largely because of the ‘I don’t want to wear a mask,’ crowd.”

Dr. Hilton concluded that all should strongly consider getting vaccinated, and everyone should continue wearing masks. “People are dying today, and they are likely leaving behind orphans,” Dr. Hilton determined. “We know that one in 9 black children were already likely to see foster care in their lifetime. Because of COVID, imagine how many now if we are not taking it seriously and not getting vaccinated? It is not worth the risk. We have an agent, an intervention that has been proven safe, and it works.”

Dr. Hilton concluded. “Look at the studies. We have 77 percent of people saying that they are not fully back to being themselves after they have experienced COVID. “They have brain fog and other problems. It is not worth the risk, especially when we think about how the delta variant has shown to be more contagious and more transmissible for our younger generation. We are setting ourselves up for a crisis.”

Mold, scarier than you think

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Mold can live in a number of places. Some are more obvious than others. We always look in the obvious places like damp basements, steamy bathrooms and storage areas with old cloths and books. But there are other places we’d never suspect

that could also harbor mold.

All molds can cause damage to your home and can lead to eye, nose, throat and lung irritation. When you have a mold allergy or chronic lung condition such as asthma, you can be at risk for more severe symptoms and complications.

About 15% to 20% of Ameri-

cans are allergic to mold. This can cause them to sneeze, have a runny nose, swollen eyelids, an itchy throat and wheezing. Even if you are not allergic to mold, the exposure to mold can irritate your eyes, skin, nose, throat and lungs. Mold can even cause permanent lung damage.

Mold can affect us the most

in places with poor ventilation and high humidity in less than 24 hours. Your problem will start after you inhale the spores. The mold spores will produce toxic substances known as mycotoxins that cause an immune response.

Mold can smell but does not always have a strong odor Most people described the smell as musty. Some have said it smells earthy, meaty, wet socks or rotten wood. As mold grows in your house it will emit gases known as microbial volatile organic compounds or MVOC’s.

Mold can be found indoors and outdoors. Mold can get into your house through an open doorway, window or vent. It can also come in through your heating and air conditioning systems. Outside mold in the air can also attach itself to your clothing, shoes and pets and be carried into your house.

The mold spores then drop on places where there is moisture and start to grow. Materials such as dust, paints, wallpaper, insulation materials, drywall, carpet, fabric and upholstery can support mold growth.

But there are a lot of places we’d never think would harbor mold.

A few surprising mold hot spots:

Hot Spot #1 – your refrigerator

Mold will grow in your refrigerator. The most common mold in your refrigerator is stachybotrys chartarum. Any mold in your refrigerator can cause health problems for you



and your family. It takes 24 to 48 hours for mold to germinate and grow.

Combine one tablespoon of baking soda with one-quarter of warm water. Dip a clean cloth in the bucket, and begin wiping down all refrigerator walls, shelves, and drawers. You should do this at least once a month.

Hot Spot #2 – your washing machine

Mold in your washing machine can make you sick. If the strain of mold is severe, a dangerous lung infections or even death could occur. Mold in your washing machine can spread spores into the fabric of your clothes. You can develop itching or skin rashes from this exposure. Mold will grow quickly and can thrive off of laundry detergent.

Once a month you should run your washing machine on it’s hottest setting using a mixture of one cup of baking soda, one cup of bleach and one-half cup of powdered washer detergent. You should also leave your detergent reservoir open when it’s not in use.

Hot Spot #3 – your coffee-maker

A 2011 study from NSF International found that about half of the coffee had mold growing in the water reservoirs.

To combat the mold you should once a month fill your coffee maker’s water reservoirs with a 50/50 mixture of water and vinegar and run the coffee maker for a cycle. Rinse the reservoir and run it again

with just water. Everyday you should allow your water reservoir to dry.

Hot Spot #4 – your toilet bowl and tank

Toilet mold is very common. Toilet mold is a fungus that thrives in a warm, moist, dark environment. It isn’t necessarily one specific type of mold.

To get rid of toilet mold pour 1 cup of vinegar into the toilet bowl and another cup of vinegar in the tank with the water. Let the toilet sit for 15 minutes then flush.

Hot Spot #5 – your toothbrush


Scientist have found the flu virus, staph bacteria, E. coli, yeast fungus and strep virus on our toothbrushes.

Mix together 50/50 baking soda and water until it forms a paste. This mixture will remove mold stains and prevent future growth. After applying it to your brush use a small brush to scrape away any mold-stained spots. You can also just change your toothbrush.

To clean or remove mold in your house

Wipe hard surfaces with a suitable commercial product, soap and water or a heavily diluted bleach solution. Always dry all surfaces after use to prevent mold from reappearing. Wash or wipe porous surfaces and check regularly to see if mold has returned, as it can infiltrate these materials.

Mold in your house won’t always cause serious health problems, but you should always remove it.




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P R E S E R V E D

Taking the limits off God

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



"I'm not a man, I cannot lie. I know the plans for your life, I'm asking you to dream again, believe again and take the limits off of me."

— Israel Houghton

These words from the song "Take the Limits Off" by Israel Houghton point to an aspect of living a Christian life that can sometimes be difficult.

As Christians, we believe God is a miracle-worker but find it hard to take the limits off Him to do "exceedingly and abundantly," as Ephesians 3:20 says.

How do you take the limits off God who is beyond space or time? You have to first acknowledge that you've put

limits on Him not by a lack of faith but by having a narrow faith and low expectations.

There have been times in my life when I found myself proudly proclaiming freedom as a Christian but living with low expectations of God. And lately, I've had conversations with friends who have the same problem.

For example, one friend shared how excited she was to start a business. She knew that she had exercised great faith by starting the business. However, now that she'd made such a big step of faith, she found herself dealing with the fears and uncertainty of what to expect in the future.

She was happy that the business was doing well but was also scared because she felt pulled to dream even bigger. Even though she'd dreamed big by starting the

business in the first place, she was making excuses and was uncomfortable with following the even bigger vision that God was showing her. I knew how she felt because I'd been there myself many times.

For example, when I was looking to purchase a home a few years ago, I started looking at homes that were 5 years old or less. After not having much luck, I talked to my real estate agent about how difference in price it would be to have a home built. After looking into it, I was surprised to learn that it was cheaper to have the house built. In the end, I had the house built just like I wanted it and learned to trust God in a totally new way.

Taking the limits off God is not about being greedy but about realizing that the same God who blessed you with

\$10 also can bless you with \$1,000. We just have to have faith to boldly go to Him and ask for the greater blessing.

I've often struggled with asking God for more in certain areas of my life because I felt like I was being selfish. However, God had to remind me that he had been waiting to give me the greater blessings.

God is waiting to bless us and won't force us to take the "limitless" blessing if we don't ask for it. But He'd rather give us that limitless blessing.

Shewanda Riley is a Dallas, Texas based author of "Love Hangover: Moving From Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

Making decisions

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



Decisions are a part of life. We all must make decisions. Some people do not like to make decisions. Others will not make decisions themselves, but they allow other people to make decisions for them. In other words, they flow with the crowd.

High School students need to make decisions about what courses to take. After graduation, they need to make decisions about whether to attend college or about what vocation to choose. Every decision has its pluses and minuses.

We are living in an age when higher education is pushed. The idea that the higher the academics, the more money you can make is conveyed as something people are pressured to do. Today more girls are enrolled in college than boys. This has changed because of the grab for the money. You should never make any decision merely based on money. Money can become a snare. The more money a person makes, the more he wants; then the more he has, the more he spends. It is a never-ending process.

Not everybody is college material. Not every young man should give his life to the academic side of life. College can cost you your soul if you are unable to handle it.

I am not downing education, but you must put Christ first in whatever you decide. If God leads you to go to college, He will keep you; but God will not lead you anywhere that will cause you to lose your soul.

You have decisions to make about employment, such as where you are going to work, who pays the highest wages, and how much church you might miss. You may say, "Oh, but look at the money I will be making." You need to consider your soul before you make such decisions.

Sacrificing your spiritual life for financial gain is foolish. Your financial gain can only go with you as far as the gate of death, but your soul is going to go into an everlasting eternity. You need to work on protecting and taking care of your soul.

We find in Psalm 46:10 these words, "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Congratulation to all graduates! *Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joyne's Road Church of God, 31 Joyne's Road, Hampton VA 23669. He is a member of the National Association of Evangelism Church of God, Anderson, Ind.*

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(Fellowship following
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Texas Democrats are getting into ‘Good Trouble’

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



One year after the death of the great civil rights icon John Lewis, a group of Texas Democratic lawmakers is following Lewis’s lifelong call for people to make “good trouble” and “necessary trouble” to secure equality and justice for all. Congressional Democrats should bring the same level of commitment to resisting and overturning a new wave of voting restrictions that voting rights activist Stacey Abrams has labeled “Jim Crow 2.0.”

Here’s why dozens of Texas lawmakers are in Washington, D.C. this week.

Texas is the latest Republican-run state where legislators and the governor are trying to impose new voting restrictions – banning drive-through and 24-hour early voting, restricting distribution of absentee ballots, imposing new voter ID provisions – that they hope will make it harder for Democrats to win future elections. Their voter suppression laws are aimed at black and brown voters and others more likely to support Democratic candidates.

Republican officials are

also trying to make former President Donald Trump happy by giving credibility to his false claims that the 2020 election was stolen from him. They’re using his lies about “election fraud” and “election integrity” to justify new restrictive voting rules.

In Texas, Republicans control the state House and Senate. And hard-right Gov. Gregg Abbott is eager to do Trump’s bidding. Back in May, Texas Republicans tried to push their election bill through the House just before the close of the legislative session. Because the Texas House is required to have two-thirds of its members present to conduct official business, Democratic legislators stopped the bill from passing by walking out of the chamber.

But Gov. Abbott is so set on getting his new voting law that he ordered legislators to come back into session this month to push it through. To prevent the state’s Republicans from forcing new voting restrictions into law, more than 50 Democratic legislators left the state.

Gov. Abbott and Republican Senate leaders have threatened lawmakers with arrest to try to force them to attend the session. And he has said he will keep calling

special sessions until he gets his way. That’s why the Texas legislators came to Washington, D.C. They brought an urgent message to members of Congress: the only way to protect voters from voter suppression at the state level is to pass national voting rights legislation.

The House of Representatives has previously passed the For the People Act, which would reverse many new voting restrictions and includes a number of priorities specifically outlined by John Lewis during his lifetime, and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, which would help prevent future voter suppression efforts from taking effect. Both are essential to protect democracy and voting rights. But right now Senate Republicans are using the filibuster to block the For the People Act, and they could do the same to the VRA.

President Joe Biden has just made a strong speech in defense of voting rights. He denounced new voter suppression efforts. And he called for the Senate to pass the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

I am grateful that President Biden has called attention to the urgent need for congressional action. Now we need him to use his leadership

to get voting rights legislation through the Senate. And if Republicans continue to block it using a filibuster, he must work with Senate leaders to break through that obstruction.

John Lewis nearly died in the struggle to pass the national Voting Rights Act. He dedicated his career in Congress to defending it. I am steeling myself for the disgust I will feel when Republican officials praise him on the anniversary of his death at the same time they are undermining the cause to which he devoted his life.

Texas Democrats are honoring John Lewis by making good and necessary trouble. It is time for Democrats in Washington, and any Republicans committed more to country than party, to do the same.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way. Jealous has decades of experience as a leader, coalition builder, campaigner for social justice and seasoned nonprofit executive. In 2008, he was chosen as the youngest-ever president and CEO of the NAACP. He is a graduate of Columbia University and Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and he has taught at Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania.

The president needs to pull out all stops

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



Last week, Majority Whip Clyburn, Democratic leader in the U.S. House of Representatives, made the observation that the “Filibuster” currently being used in the U.S. Senate to block the Voting Rights Bill as well as the George Floyd Bill, is a matter of tradition and not a part of the U.S. Constitution. There was also a reference to how former President Lyndon Johnson used the full weight of his office as president to secure the needed votes to get the Voting Rights Act passed.

It is a known fact that the President of the United States has far more power and influence than the Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate in the person of Mitch McConnell. Every Republican member of the Senate at some point is going to need something from either the president or a cabinet office within his administration.

The passage of the Voting Rights Act by the Senate will undo most of what the states are doing with voter suppression. As suggested by Congressman Clyburn, now is the time to put all power and influence behind getting the Senate to act, not only on infrastructure as slated for this week, but, by all means, the Voting Rights Act. These items cannot wait and should not be held up.

President Biden needs to remember that without the Black Vote, he would not be in the White House. Without the influence of Congressman Clyburn endorsing him when he did, Biden would not have gotten the nomination of the Democratic Party to run for President. The Black Vote has to be as important to the president, if not more so,

than Donald Trump is to the Republican Party

The Texas Democratic Delegation, fleeing that state and coming to Washington, D.C. to lobby for the Voting Rights Act as a means of stopping voter suppression in that state, has given new meaning to the words, “All Gave Some, But Some Gave All.”

President Biden has spent enough years on Capitol Hill to know where the bodies are buried and who placed them. He and Chuck Schumer cannot continue to play “Gentleman Jack” with Mitch McConnell. McConnell must be stopped by any means necessary. That would appear to mean dealing with the Filibuster by any means necessary. This must be done before the end of July when the Congress goes on recess.

One thing should be remembered about Capitol Hill and the Legislative Process: There is always a loophole and a back door to solve every problem. Politics is never absolute about anything. The vice president, while doing all she can, is not a substitute for the Office of the President applying full power. To our Civil Rights leaders, your only message can be: Out with the filibuster, and passage of the Voting Rights Act. No in-betweens.

If we did not let the pandemic stop the protest and emergence of our votes to take back the White House, we must not allow the pandemic’s resurgence, Republican gerrymandering of the Congressional districts because of tampering with the Census, or radical conservative acts of terrorism under the “Big Lie” to stop the salvation of democracy that we all are fighting for.

Let’s call the Republican offices, their home districts and anyone who supports them and let’s make this happen before the end of July 2021.

Keeping Historically Black Colleges and Universities in a bright permanent light

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



The brilliance of HBCUs is creating a buzz in the higher education community. Some would argue that the notoriety around them is at an all-time high.

If you went to an HBCU like I did, the pride you have has been multiplied. They are getting kudos monthly. Alumni of these schools are blazing trails and capturing honors as well as opportunities.

Scholars and stars who graduated from Historically Black Colleges and Universities are crossing the academic sands with distinction. Their journeys are bringing them back full circle to their roots.

Say it loud, I’m an HBCU grad and proud!

Many would say that HBCU graduates and African Americans as a race have landed many positions at PWs (Predominantly White Institutions). Now, if you are black and did not go to an HBCU, you want to work at

an HBCU.

Take for example, Nikole Hannah-Jones who attended the University of Notre Dame and received her bachelor’s degree.

Until last week, Nikole Hannah-Jones was on the journalism faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She had a treasure trove of honors and awards at UNC. She received the Young Alumni Award in 2017; the Distinguished Alumna Award in 2019 and was inducted into the N. C. Media Hall of Fame in 2020.

Hannah-Jones had also won the Pulitzer Prize in 2020 for her work on The 1619 Project.

She said, “I have loved the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill since I was a child watching Tar Heels basketball on television.” These comments came from her as she resigned her would be tenured position at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She has moved on to a more prestigious position.

Hannah-Jones is now The Knight Chair in Race and Journalism at Howard University in Washington DC.

Howard University is one of the most renowned HBCUs in the country. It was founded in 1867.

Another African-American scholar, Ta-Nehisi Paul Coates, will also join the Howard University faculty.

Their road to HU will be a reminder to many of the power and influence that our schools have in America. It is my thinking that more African Americans in higher education and other fields will want to cast their futures with HBCUs.

The power of publicity gave us an inside view at what happens when black people test traditional systems. We come out stronger and better for it.

In the coming months and years, our schools will be more coveted destinations and not off-road detours. Faculty will see them as their first choice for employment.

With more distinguished HBCU faculty, will come more students of all ethnicities. Recruiting high caliber students will become less difficult.

Partnerships with corporations are becoming more frequent. They are seeing the

viability and value of HBCUs and their graduates.

Seeking out these alliances will influence the diversity of the workforce and will also provide more internship opportunities for students.

The pandemic made our campuses pause over the past year. It appears now that in the coming months, they will be back. There will be some modifications and it will be up to each school to define what those modifications will be.

Students will return to the “block” to talk in between classes. They will have big stories to tell and maybe some big laughs, too.

We as alumni must continue to support them with our time, money and connections. We can do no less.

HBCUs have been beacons of excellence for years. By being proactive, we can have a hand in their growth for decades to come. We take pride in them because of what they have done for us.

Historically Black colleges and Universities have been steadfast and have never wavered from their mission.

New efforts to provide fast and reliable Internet to more Americans

StatePoint

Access to reliable home broadband has never been more crucial. Over the last year, we’ve experienced a shift to remote work and virtual learning that will likely last far beyond the pandemic. This rapid shift has revealed just how inaccessible home internet is in the US, particularly in rural America.

Today, 28 percent of rural Americans – about 15 million people – have no access to high-speed internet. And nearly 40 percent of the rural Americans who do have access to high-speed home broadband only have a single option in their area. That means zero choice, which often means higher prices and slower internet speeds.

Lack of reliable home internet also has tremendous, short- and long-term impacts for students – like lower test scores and limited opportunities after graduation. Even before the pandemic, more than 9 million of America’s 56 million school-age children did not have access to reliable internet and were unable to complete after-school assignments. Now, because of the pandemic, an unprecedented 50 million students across the country are learning remotely full- or part-time.

Aimed at bringing high-speed internet to those who need it most, T-Mobile recently launched

its wireless internet solution, T-Mobile Home Internet, to more than 30 million households across the country, including 10 million homes in rural areas and small towns. Here’s how it works:

Working just like any other broadband service by connecting wirelessly in your home instead of through a cable, T-Mobile Home Internet service makes use of the same extensive 5G network T-Mobile smartphones run on in areas where the network has extra capacity. This service is available at a simple, fixed price of \$60 per month after AutoPay – equipment included – without data caps or annual service contracts. New customers can expect to see average download speeds of 100 Mbps, supporting streaming, zooming, remote learning, all at the same time.

T-Mobile Home Internet is available to anyone at an eligible address, regardless of whether they’re a current T-Mobile customer or not. To get started, customers can check whether their home is eligible by visiting t-mobile.com/isp.

The pandemic has heightened and highlighted the importance of reliable internet access at home. Fortunately, new efforts are helping to expand access where it’s needed most.

Crossword Puzzle

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

- ACROSS**

1. Acting (abbr.)

5. Small fruit seeds

9. Make less distinct

10. Tie down

11. Baby’s “ball”

12. Egyptian capital

13. African nation

15. Winter sport

16. Arctic toothed whale

18. Multiple molecule compound

21. Boxer Muhammad

22. Worship

26. Nonmilitary

28. State

29. All

30. Star __ (tv show)

31. Cincinnati baseball team

32. Not there
- DOWN**

1. Reduce (abbr.)

2. Pincer

3. Bass horn

4. Grandparent

5. School group

6. Scots’ neighbors

7. Fur-lined coat

8. Loot

10. Frightener

14. Rawly

17. Ghost

18. Pacemaker

19. __ Oyl (Popeye’s girlfriend)

20. Dwelt

23. Past

24. Vessel

25. Glance over

27. Internal Revenue Service

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Cryptogram

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

Hint: Quote by Muhammad Ali

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

T K A H L P X G A Y A P Z X Y O L P R O X P K O Y X
A P Z X Y G O X R Z

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Sudoku

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

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

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Crossword Solution

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

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Cryptogram Solution

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

T H E M A N W H O H A S N O I M A G I N A T I O N
K A H L P X G A Y A P Z X Y O L P R O X P K O Y X
H A S N O W I N G S .
A P Z X Y G O X R Z

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Sudoku Solution

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

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Hip Hop Icon Biz Markie dies at 57



Biz Markie at the 2016 Juice Crew Reunion (BBC KINGS NYC)/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/FLICKR

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Hip Hop has lost another legend. Biz Markie, the rapper, producer and actor whose hits included “Just a Friend” and “Nobody Beats the Biz,” has died at the age of 57.

Nicknamed “The Clown Prince of Hip Hop,” Biz was born Marcel Theo Hall in Harlem, across the then Triboro Bridge from Queens, where he would cut his teeth collaborating with MCs and DJs like Big Daddy Kane, Marley Marl and Roxanne Shanté.

Biz also made his mark in Manhattan at clubs, where he quickly became the center of attention. He rose to fame with the Juice Crew, working day and night with the famed DJ Mr. Magic, who helped Biz hone his skills as a beatboxer and become one of the most influential figures in music.

Biz’s death follows that of other icons in 2021 like DMX, Prince Markie Dee, Shock G, and Whodini’s Ecstasy.

“My close friend Biz Markie is gone at 57,” hip hop star and actor Ice T wrote on Twitter. “We shared a tour bus, our very 1st tour ‘The Dope Jam Tour.’ We were all so young and hype.”

NBA Hall of Famer Earvin Magic Johnson wrote, “RIP to my friend and music legend Biz Markie. A DJ, rapper and producer, Biz Markie really knew how to rock a party. Cookie and

I will never forget when he came to our 25th-anniversary event in Europe and kept everyone on the dance floor.”

And Questlove paid tribute with a lengthy post of many examples of what he learned from Biz.

“Biz built me man,” Questlove wrote. “In my early, early stages, it was Biz who taught me the real places to cop records. Biz taught me what cities had good digging. Biz taught me where to collect 45s. Biz taught me where to collect 8-track tapes. Biz ‘tried’ to get me into Star Wars action figure collecting. Biz taught me where in Tokyo I should go to collect vintage iron-on decals.” Questlove continued:

“This cat was one in a million. He taught me a lot. I’m using all of the education he taught me. We will miss him.”

Not only did Biz find acclaim in music, but his unique talent also earned him a successful television and film career. Biz appeared in films like “Men in Black II,” “SpongeBob SquarePants,” “Black-ish,” and the fun children’s show, “Yo Gabba Gabba!”

In 2014, Biz revealed in a nationally televised interview that he had Type 2 diabetes and declared his will to live while revealing that he had lost 140 pounds. “I’m going to be Biz Markie until I die,” he asserted in a later interview. “Even after I die, I’m going to be Biz Markie.”

Jamaica seeking \$10.6 billion in Slave Trade Reparations from Great Britain



State officials of the Caribbean nation said they are asking Great Britain to pay \$10.6 billion (USD) in reparations.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Jamaica has put a price tag on slavery and is sending the British government the bill.

State officials of the Caribbean nation said they are asking Great Britain to pay \$10.6 billion (USD) in reparations.

The former British colony served as the center of the slave trade, where Africans were kidnapped, enslaved, and forced to work on sugar cane, banana and other plantations. That free and inhumane labor greatly enriched the slave owners.

“We are hoping for reparatory justice in all forms that one would expect if they are to really ensure that we get justice from injustices to repair the damages that our ancestors experienced,” Olivia Grange, Minister of Sports, Youth and Culture, told the Reuters news service. “Our African ancestors were forcibly removed from their home and suffered unparalleled atrocities in Africa to carry out forced labor to the benefit of the British Empire. Redress is well overdue.”

In the U.S., Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee has

pushed H.R. 40, a bill to form a commission to study reparations for African-American victims of the transatlantic slave trade. “Has anyone addressed the question of slavery and its comprehensive impact on black Americans in this country? This is what H.R. 40 will do,” Jackson Lee remarked.

While H.R. 40 doesn’t place a specific monetary value on reparations, it does focus on investigating and presenting the facts and truth about the unprecedented centuries of brutal enslavement of African people, racial healing, and transformation. The bill would fund a commission to study and develop proposals for providing reparations to African Americans.

The commission’s mission includes identifying the role of federal and state governments in supporting the institution of slavery, forms of discrimination in public and private sectors against freed slaves and their descendants, and lingering adverse effects of slavery on living African Americans and society.

Jackson Lee, who sits on numerous House committees,

including the Judiciary, Budget, and Homeland Security, has made the reparations legislation her top priority during the 117th Congress.

“I think if people begin to associate this legislation with what happened to the descendants of enslaved Africans as a human rights violation, the sordid past that violated the human rights of all of us who are descendants of enslaved Africans, I think that we can find common ground to pass this legislation,” Congresswoman Jackson-Lee pronounced.

In Jamaica, officials displayed shackles, coffles, slave collars, cotton screws, bear traps, branding irons and other items used to control slaves as stirring evidence for the case for reparations.

“We need a sense of outrage directed at those who could do such things to other human beings,” Verene Shepherd, a Jamaican resident, wrote in a petition on the Facebook page of the country’s National Council on Reparations. “Reparations now,” Shepherd declared.

According to the National Library of Jamaica, about

600,000 Africans landed in Jamaica during the slave trade. “Seized from Spain by the English in 1655, Jamaica was a British colony until it became independent in 1962,” the Reuters report noted. “The West Indian country of almost three million people is part of the Commonwealth, and the British monarch remains head of state.”

Britain prohibited trade in slaves in its empire in 1807 but did not formally abolish the practice of slavery until 1834. To compensate slave owners, the British government took out a 20-million-pound loan – or \$27.7 million U.S. – and only finished paying off the subsequent interest payments in 2015.

Slaves and their descendants have never received compensation. “I am asking for the same amount of money to be paid to the slaves that were paid to the slave owners,” Mike Henry, a member of the ruling Jamaica Labor Party, told Reuters. “I am doing this because I have fought against this all my life, against chattel slavery, which has dehumanized human life.”

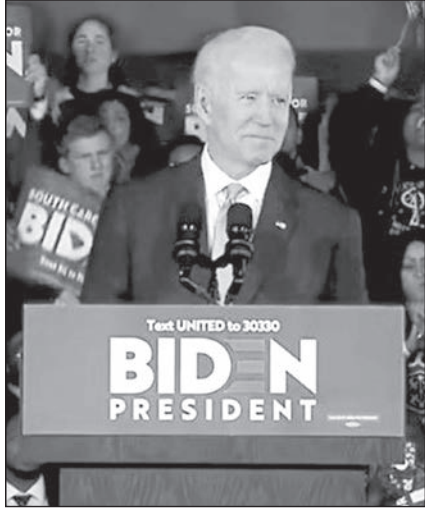
An update on President Joe Biden’s promise to “have our backs”

By Congressman James E. Clyburn (D-SC),
House Majority Whip

July 20, 2021, marked six months that Joseph R. Biden has been president. When I endorsed Joe Biden for president in January 2020, I said, “We know Joe, but most importantly, Joe knows us.”

In his remarks following the endorsement, Joe Biden pledged that, if given the opportunity, he would nominate a black woman to the United States Supreme Court, something that is long overdue. In his first official act as presidential nominee he picked a woman of color to be his running mate. And when he was declared winner of the presidential contest, Joe Biden acknowledged the pivotal role blacks played in his success, declaring that he would “have our backs.”

Joe Biden has accomplished a lot, and a lot remains to be done. I maintain that the best predictor of future performance is past behavior. I also maintain that this country does not need to be made great. It already is. Our challenge is to make



Biden

the country’s greatness accessible and affordable for all its citizens. To meet this challenge, President Joe Biden has put together the most diverse Cabinet the country has ever seen, and many of his appointments are history making such as Lloyd Austin, III, first African American to head the Defense Department as well as others.

Executive Orders

On his first day in office Joe Biden signed 17 of his 52 executive orders, and since then, he has taken other significant executive actions. Many of these actions have reversed “45’s” policies that discriminated against blacks and other minorities, such as lifting the ban on immigration from African and Muslim countries; and repealing the ban restricting federal entities and contractors from holding diversity and inclusion training. He issued a directive to the Department of Housing and Urban Development to shore up the implementation of the Fair Housing Act. And he instructed federal agencies to report later this year on improving equity in their offices, their policies and their programming.

The Biden Administration has launched an all-of-government effort to expand federal contracts with small and disadvantaged businesses (SDB). Today, just 10 percent of federal contracts are with SDBs, and President Biden has set a goal to increase that by 50 percent by 2026, translating to an additional \$10

billion investment over the next five-year period.

To further fulfill his promise to “Build Back Better,” President Biden has launched some unprecedented legislative initiatives: three of which are the American Rescue Plan (ARP), the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan. The American Rescue Plan has been signed into law and the benefits of its centerpiece, the Child Tax Credit, began reaching the American people on July 15.

Child Tax Credit (CTC)

Experts say that expansion of the CTC will decrease the children living in poverty by half, with an even greater decrease among black children.

Black Farmers

The ARP contains \$5 billion to right the wrongs visited upon black farmers by the Department of Agriculture for nearly a century, wrongs that resulted in huge losses of land and wealth

The Judiciary

While the opportunity to appoint a black woman to the Supreme Court

has yet to present itself, we can look at Biden’s appointments to lower courts to know that he is keeping his word to “have our backs.” Biden has gotten eight judges confirmed, the most at this point in a presidency since Nixon.

HBCUs

The ARP invests in historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other minority serving institutions (MSIs). This legislation includes a record \$3 billion in funding for these institutions, which can be used to support vulnerable students, monitor and suppress the coronavirus and reengage students whose education was disrupted by the pandemic.

I can assure you that work on the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, the For the People Act, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and H.R.40 (Reparations Study) are just a few priorities of mine and the Congressional Black Caucus. And, for the remainder of this Congress, I will use this publication to keep you informed of our progress.

Nissan Foundation donates \$30,000 for field trips to Two Mississippi Museums



Pictured are MDAH board member Helen Moss Smith, Nissan Philanthropy senior manager Parul Bajaj, MDAH board member Nancy Carpenter, MDAH director Katie Blount, MDAH board members Hilda Cope Povall, Betsy Hamilton, and Web Heidelberg, and outgoing MDAH board president Judge Reuben V. Anderson.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Nissan Foundation has donated \$30,000 to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) to underwrite field trips to the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum for the upcoming school year.

“We are grateful to the Nissan Foundation for their support of our field trip program,” said Katie Blount, director of MDAH. “School children are the most important people we serve. The foundation’s generosity will help us reach our goal for every student in the state to visit the Two Mississippi Museums at least once.”

“For nearly 30 years, the Nissan Foundation has been commit-

ted to amplifying the efforts of nonprofit organizations doing the important work of sharing diverse cultural perspectives and experiences with communities across the country,” said Parul Bajaj, senior manager, Nissan Philanthropy. “At perhaps no other time in recent history has the work of Two Mississippi Museums been so critical. We are proud to support their efforts to inspire people to embrace the value of our differences.”

The funds will be used to defray costs such as admission, travel and on-site lunches for students.

To reserve or learn more about field trips at the Two Mississippi Museums, contact Stephanie King, field trips coordinator, at sking@mdah.ms.gov.

Two Mississippi Museums hours are Tuesday-Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m. The museums are open free of charge on Sundays from 11 a.m.–5 p.m. and are located at 222 North Street in Jackson. For more information email info@mdah.ms.gov.

Nissan in Mississippi

Since opening its doors in 2003, Nissan’s assembly plant in Canton, Mississippi, has donated more than \$18 million and worked more than 12,000 volunteer hours to support more than 200 nonprofit organizations in the Greater Jackson area. The facility employs more than 5,500 people who build the Nissan Altima, Frontier, TITAN and TITAN XD, NV Cargo and NV Passenger vehicles.



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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

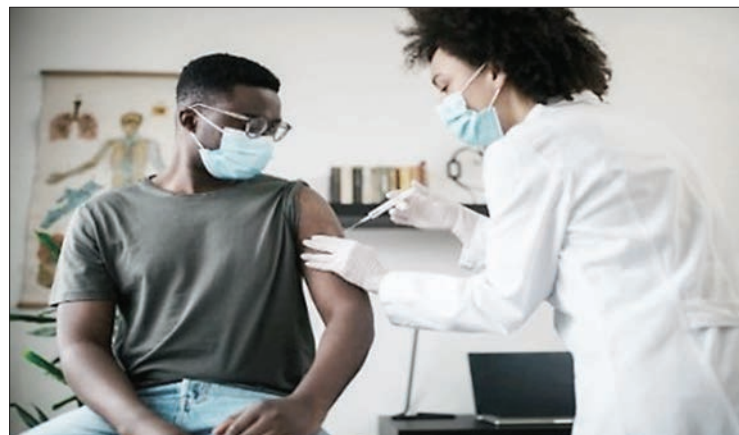
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To find out more information on getting your child vaccinated, parents are encouraged to call JHCHC at 601-362-5321 ext:1224.

Highlights from vaccinations given on July 17, 2021.





BOOK REVIEW:

MEMOIRS BY WOMEN WRITERS

C.2021, VARIOUS PUBLISHERS

\$26.00 - \$28.00

VARIOUS PAGE COUNTS

Mississippi Link Newswire

See one, do one, teach one. They say that that’s a good way to gain a new skill: observe, try the action yourself, and then share what you did with someone else. You can learn a lot from another’s experiences, as you’ll see in these great memoirs by women writers.

We all like to think we had a normal growing-up, but what is “normal?”

In “Nowhere Girl” by Cheryl Diamond (Algonquin, \$27.95), the author recounts a childhood

of seeming adventure, spent in a number of countries and continents. By the time she was a teen, she’d done things that most of us only dream of doing, until the nightmare of her life became clear: Diamond was born into a family of criminals and con artists and things were about to get bad.

Similarly, look for “Upper Bohemia” by Hayden Herrera (Simon & Schuster, \$26), whose free-spirited parents moved Herrera and her sister around from place to place and lifestyle to lifestyle when they

were children. The danger inside this story is different than in the Diamond book, but no less heart-wrenching. Both of them are page-turners.

Another memoir of an unconventional upbringing is “The Ugly Cry” by Danielle Henderson (Viking, \$27). When she was ten years old, Henderson was left for her grandparents to raise, though they were rather unprepared for a child at their ages. As a black girl being reared in a mostly-white neighborhood, Henderson missed her mother but the

woman’s absence turned out to be a gift: Henderson’s feisty, foul-mouthed grandma never let her forget her capabilities or her strength. Beware the profanity in this tale, and love it anyhow.


When Shawna Kay Rodenberg was just four years old, her father tore his family from their roots in Kentucky and moved them to Minnesota to live in an isolated religious community. In “Kin: A Memoir” (Bloomsbury, \$28), Rodenberg writes about being a child in a restricted commu-

nity, and the abuse she endured while living there. But that’s not the end of the tale: after the sexual abuse was revealed, Rodenberg’s family moved back to Kentucky, to kin, and a new-old home in coal country. This tale’s about enduring, and about understanding yourself, your past, your family and your future.

And finally, there’s “Sacrifice: A Gold Star Widow’s Fight for the Truth” by Michelle Black (Putnam, \$28), who recounts in her memoir about searching for the truth of

how her husband died. He was in Niger in 2017 and was killed in an ambush but Black wasn’t given many details, past that. The tragedy left her with two young boys to raise on her own. She was also left to search for clues and facts of her husband’s death, without the Army’s help.

If these memoirs don’t quite fit what you’re in the mood for, then be sure to ask your favorite bookseller or librarian for more ideas. They’re pros at this and with their help, you’ll be able to see yourself reading one or all of these books.



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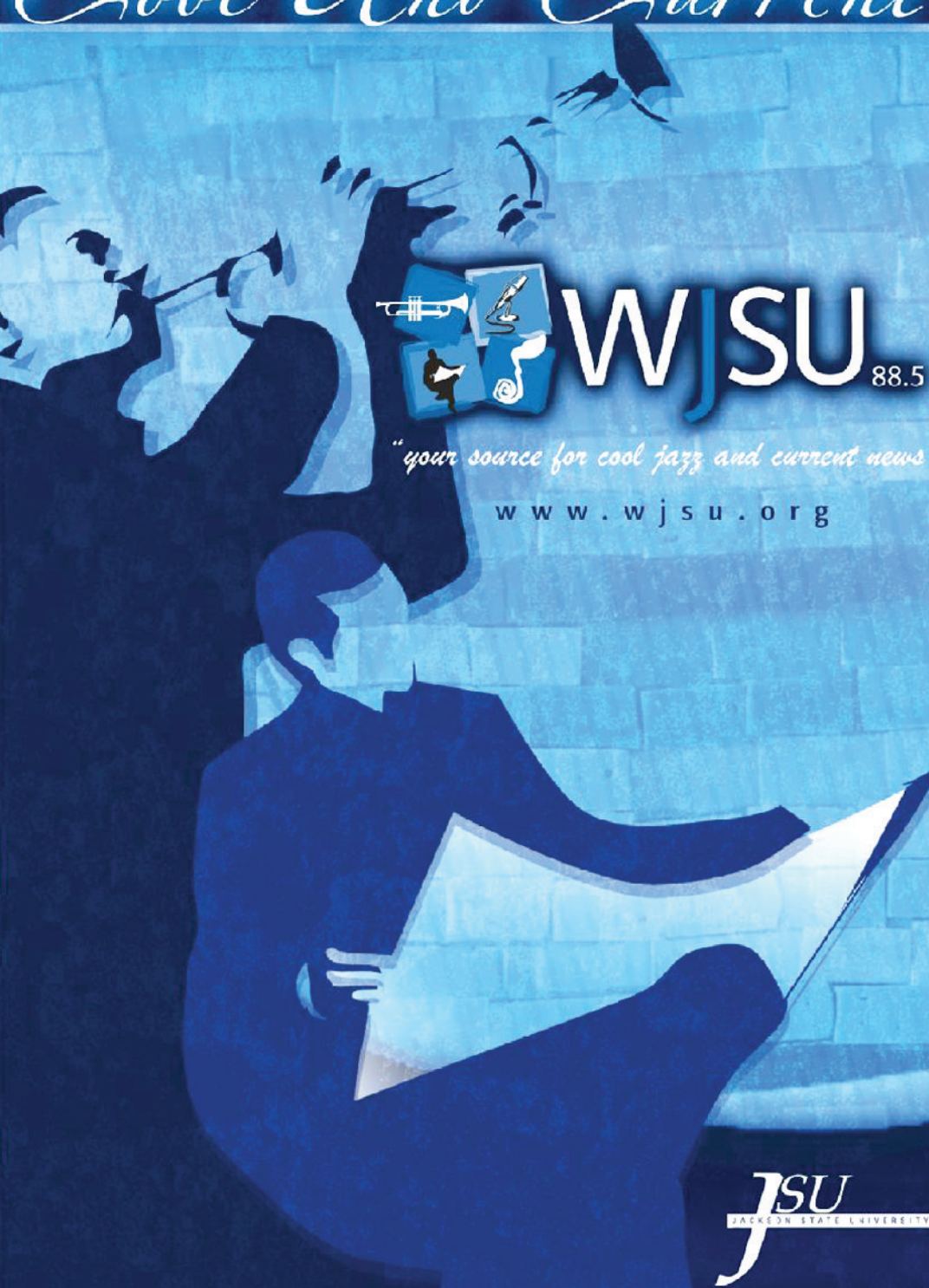
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Celebrating the life of Belinda Collins

December 18, 1960 - June 29, 2021



Collins

Belinda Collins was born in Shaw, MS on December 18, 1960 to Essie Lee Pennington and the late John Henry Collins.

Belinda began her education at Oakland Wall Elementary School in Chicago, IL. A few years later, her family moved down to Jackson, Mississippi where she continued her grade school education at Westside Elementary/Junior High School through 9th grade, graduating in 1976. Belinda graduated from Forest Hill High School in 1979. She went on to attend Hinds Community College where she met some of her closest friends to this day.

Belinda's first job was at Community Nursing Home where she did an on-the-job training program to be a nurse/nurse's aid. She also worked at the MS State Veteran Nursing Home and the VA Medical Center. Belinda spent the majority of her working career as a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) at Pleasant Hill Community Living Center and Forest Hill Nursing Center. Her last job was working as a private caregiver to the matriarch of one of her neighbors.

Belinda's most cherished and lifelong job was being a mother to Essie Latrice Collins, born in 1986.

Belinda was a natural caregiver. She took care of her late grandmother, mother, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins and countless children.

Belinda loved to talk to her family

and friends, find new recipes to cook, and play games at her leisure. Her favorite place was anywhere on the dance floor doing all of the old and new dance moves. She loved to celebrate every occasion, buying presents for all the birthdays, anniversaries, holidays and accomplishments. Belinda was thoughtful and would always send an encouraging text to lift your day.

Belinda knew who was in charge of her life and how far God had brought her over the years, especially after she experienced her first spell of illness.

She was baptized at an early age at Greater Northside Missionary Baptist Church where she attended during her youth. When she was older, she would frequently visit Jackson Revival Center, Word of Life and other neighborhood and community churches.

Belinda departed this life on June 29, 2021, after becoming suddenly ill.

She was preceded in death by her father John Henry Collins, grandparents Mammie S. Curry and John Tarance, and brother Kenneth Lamar Collins. Belinda leaves to cherish her memories a loving mother, Essie L. Pennington; her loving daughter, Dr. Essie Latrice Collins of Houston, Texas; two sisters, Betty Ann Collins Bracey of Jackson, Mississippi and Audrey Miller King (Games) of Silver Spring, Maryland; two brothers, Gerard L. Collins of Jackson, Mississippi and Eric N. Collins of Houston, Texas. She will be missed dearly by her niece, Jenay King of Silver Spring, MD; nephews, Everette Monte' Bracey (Latasha) of Byram, MS and Santore D. Bracey (Kimberly) of Memphis, TN; great-nieces, Aniya Bracey, Jamira Bracey, Kyla Harper, Bricelynn Bracey, Jhaiyde Jones; great-nephews, Montarius Bracey, Isaiah Wolfe, Derrick Mosley, TaShawn Johnson, Maxwell Jones; and one great, great niece Journee Bracey.

In Loving Memory Katina Denise Lake

April 27, 1973 - June 28, 2021



Lake

Katina Denise Lake was born on April 27, 1973, in Vicksburg MS to Samuel and Lockye Lake.

Katina was raised in a Christian home and accepted Christ at an early age, at St. Matthew M.B. Church located in Fittler, Mississippi under the leadership of Rev. Joseph Williams. After moving to New Jersey, she attended Shiloh Baptist Church alone with her parents, siblings and her beloved children Siara and Jaquan.

Katina attended elementary and junior high school in Rolling Fork, MS. Upon moving to Roselle, New Jersey she completed high school at Abraham Clark High school in New Jersey. Tina had additional training as a medical assistant. Katina was a hard-working woman who worked

diligently to take care of her family. Katina was employed at DHL.

Katina was affectionately known as "Tina" and she was dedicated to her family and friends whom she absolutely loved. Tina was known for her endless catch phrases and contagious loving spirit.

Katina transitioned from her earthly home to an eternal life with our Heavenly Father on Monday June 28, 2021 at Wellstar Medical Center South in Atlanta, Georgia.

She leaves to cherish her precious memories, her parents: Samuel and Lockye Lake, Jackson, MS; children: Jaquan Williams and Siara Williams, Jonesboro, GA; sister, Dana Lake Linden, NJ; brother: Samuel Lake, II, Linden, NJ; half sister: Tronica Stewart, St. Louis, MO; grandson: Jaciah Williams, Atlanta, GA; granddaughter: Deja Williams, Atlanta, GA; nephews: Teidrick Banks, St. Louis, MO, Dyshon Gill and Lord Samuel Lake, both of Linden, NJ; niece: Mackenzie Watson, St. Louis, MO; special sister/friends: Tiara Payne, Estoria Williams and Carmel Crute, all from GA; Marcella Payne, Melody Payne, Watrina Armstrong, Simone Shell, all from Roselle, NJ, and Mary Williams, Huntsville, AL; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Remembering Willenham Castilla

December 17, 1925 - July 3, 2021



Castilla

Willenham Castilla, a native of Madison County, MS, was the eldest of four siblings born to Abraham and Magolia Castilla on December 17, 1925. His three siblings preceded him in death: Julia Hicks, Jessie Williams and Nelson Castilla.

Dr. Castilla was baptized at an early age and became a member of New Lake Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A. He first learned the work of the church at New Lake by serving in numerous capacities that reflected the multifaceted nature of his gifts and passion for Kingdom work. These gifts included teaching, singing, leadership, administration and encouraging others.

Castilla was a product of parents who were committed to God, family and education. Consequently, his life exhibited the works of one whose foundation was built on family, heritage, faith, social justice and education.

Castilla was promoted through the Wells Public Schools in Madison County, MS and was a high school graduate of Christ Missionary and Industrial College in Jackson, MS. He was summoned to serve in the armed service, enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in World War II.

Remembering the value of education, upon his return from the war, he continued his studies and graduated in Radio Fundamentals and Business Management from Campbell College in Jackson, MS. Later, he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from Jackson State University in Business Administration and Accounting, and at age

75, he earned his Master of Theology degree.

It was at Campbell College that Willenham met a lovely young lady from Rankin County, Theresa Pearl Wright. On April 17, 1949 he married this beautiful young lady whom he called his "Sunshine." To this union was born nine children: Cortez, Philander, Patricia, Mary, Alveno, Magolia, Hilliard, Reginald and Quemardo.

It brought him great joy to serve the Lord and his people. He served at New Lake as the Sunday School Superintendent, H.Y.P.U. president, president and secretary of the Trustee Board, chairman of the Deacon Board and choir member.

In 1966, Castilla heard the clarion call of his generation, putting his life on the front line to serve as a registrar under the Voting Rights Act for the U.S. Civil Service Commission. He worked in Birmingham and other locations in Alabama.

Later, he was reassigned to Mississippi where he conducted voter registration in Jackson, Canton, the Mississippi Delta and Vicksburg. He also worked for many years as a co-manager of the voting precinct in Madison, MS.

In 1946, he took the civil service exam for postal carriers and secured a job with the U.S. Postal Service. In 1967 he became the first black Post Office employee to work as a supervisor in the Jackson, MS Post Office taking a position in the accounting department. In 1972, he became assistant manager of the Westland Plaza Post Office and around 1975 he was promoted to branch manager in Pearl, MS. This too was a first. Then, in 1979, he continued to advance and became Postmaster of Canton, MS. He was the first black in Mississippi to head up operations at a post office of that size. He retired from postal service in October 1981 after 32½ years of government service.

His life reflects God's faithfulness, and this was acknowledged by the many awards and recognitions he received. A few of his honors include Man of the Year by the COCHUSA in August 1975, an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree conveyed by the Board of Education Department of

Religious Education of the COCHUSA in 1995, and chairperson of the COCHUSA Centennial Committee for the 100-year celebration in 1996. Castilla served as executive secretary of the National Education Trustee Board for 40 plus years.

He loved reading and writing. Daily he read the scripture and even at 95 years read best sellers. Castilla was an avid writer. To his credit the following were written by him: Moving Forward on God's Highway: A Textbook History of the Church of Christ (Holiness) USA, New Lake Church Historical Sketch, The Work and Ministry of the Deacon Training Manual, The Work and Ministry of the Church Trustee Training Manual and several plays. He also wrote a manuscript of his family history, "Our Family Tree and Me" that awaits publication.

In 2002, Theresa Pearl, the love of his life, partner of 53 years, and "Sunshine" passed away. Also, his heart was heavy as two sons preceded him in death, Willenham Cortez and Philander Edgar Lee.

Castilla leaves to cherish his wisdom, his work, and his witness, his children: Patricia Pearl Ellis, Mary Delesslyn Kennebrew (Bishop Vernon), Alveno Nelson Castilla, Esq., Dr. Magolia Abranese Castilla, Hilliard Vonzell Castilla, Esq. (Tiffany), Reginald Janerio Castilla (Christine) and Quemardo Manuelito Castilla (Danyel); his 25 grandchildren: Cueshaun, Isaiah, Kathlyn, Matthew, (Tahari), Schlese, Edgar, Samuel (Sheniece), Octave (Mishell), La'Trese, Delesslyn, Daniel (Mishun), Dorcas, David (Earneisha), Darius, Rashad, Kivatah, Amira, Kendall, Lydia, Matthias, Alisa, Kristin, Aviya, Spencer, and Seth; his six great grandchildren, Omari, Samantha, Joshua, Ozias, Ezra, Giovanna and Aryannah. He leaves a loving New Lake Church family and a host of loving nieces, nephews, other relatives, co-workers and friends.

Funeral services were held at Christ Temple Church of Christ Holiness USA, 845 N. Lamar Street in Jackson, Saturday, July 10 at 11 a.m. with interment at Autumn Woods Cemetery, 4000 W. Northside Drive, Jackson.

Remembering Naomi Ruth Christian

December 21, 1941 - June 8, 2021



Christian

Naomi Ruth Christian was born December 21, 1941 to the late Boyd James Norman, Sr. and Annie Lee Hammond Norman in Jackson, Mississippi. She was the fourth child of seven children. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Boyd James Norman Jr. and Robert Hurling Norman; one sister, Annie Rozenna Norman Calhoun. She was also preceded in death by one grandson, Michael A. Christian, aka "Mikey" and one great-grandson, Malachi Alijah Christian.

While in Jackson, she joined Pratt Memorial United Methodist Church at an early age where she gave her life to Christ. She graduated from Jim Hill High School and then attended Tougaloo College.

As a young adult, Naomi moved from Jackson to New York settling in Astoria, Queens. She joined St. George's Episcopal Church in Astoria where she was both a member and choir member for 25 years.

She transferred her studies from Tougaloo in Jackson to City University of NY at Queens College where she earned her Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Sociology. She subsequently earned her Master's Degree in Human Resource Management from New York Institute of Technology in Old Westbury, NY all while working full time and raising her son.

Naomi's early employment was with the McGraw Hill Publisher in Manhattan, NY as a statistician. She worked in the person-

nel office while attending Queens College and was later employed full-time in personnel after earning her BA. She later became employed as the director of Human Resources with the Presbyterian Church, USA located in New York. Naomi then relocated to Louisville in 1988 with her employer, Presbyterian Church, USA, who had established its national headquarters there.

She later joined Calvin Presbyterian Church where she chaired the personnel committee and was a member of the budget and finance committee and session. In 2007 she moved her membership to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church where she sang in the choir for 14 years.

After many years of employment with the Presbyterian Church - USA, she accepted the position as the director of human resources with ProQuest in Louisville, where she worked for 15 years until her retirement in August 2003.

She was an active member of the Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and served as past president of the Chapter and past president of the Hortense B. Perry Foundation. She was appointed to the KY Commission of Human Rights and later became the vice chair of the commission. She was a member of the Episcopal Women's Board where she served as past president. She also served as the treasurer of the Transcend Union Board of Directors.

Naomi met Norris Christian in 1992 through a mutual friend and they were later united in Holy Matrimony on August 26, 1995. Together, they have three adult children, Ralph, Christina and Anthony.

Prior to retiring from their respective employments, Naomi and Norris agreed to spend their leisure time traveling and cruises became their favorite arrangement of traveling. They have traveled extensively and have taken over 25 cruises; at least two of the cruises were enjoyed with their entire family.

Naomi was affectionately called "Na Na" by most of her grandchildren and

great-grandchildren. She has created everlasting memories for her grandkids by preparing family dinners each Sunday after church services. During this time, the grandkids were taught good table manners and how to share their experiences during the past weeks. Even today, the grandchildren talk about those special memories. They loved her cooking and ate all of the food prepared, except the black eyed peas that she always cooked on New Year's Day. Likewise, the great-grandchildren enjoyed sharing their ice cream with "Na Na."

She leaves to cherish her memories: husband, Norris Christian; two sons, Ralph Anthony Diaz, III, (DeGloria), Newburgh, NY and Anthony Christian (Regina) Louisville, KY; one daughter, Christina C. Stoner, Charlotte, NC; two brothers, Isaiah Richard Norman, Seattle, WA and Harry Bryant Norman, Jackson, MS; one sister, Polly Ann Norman, Los Angeles, CA; and two aunts, Vera Hammond Thomas (Walter), Gulfport, MS and Rozenna Hammond Anderson, Los Angeles, CA.

She also leaves to cherish her memories: five grandchildren: Ralph Diaz, IV, Newburgh, NY, Marcus Stoner, Atlanta, GA, Darius Stoner, Burlington, NC, Chelsey Christian and Brandon Christian both of Louisville, KY; five great-grandchildren, Christopher, Cayleigh Rae, Micah Anthony, Mario Armani, and Brayden all of Louisville, KY; four nieces, Kimberly Thomas (Henry), Tina Weaver (Jerry), Tonya Norman Byrd (Lewis), and Sonya Norman (Richard) all of Atlanta, GA; three nephews, Lawrence Norman, Seattle, WA, John Anson Calhoun (Kim), Alexandria, VA, and Johann Calhoun, Philadelphia, PA; ex-husband, Ralph Diaz, Jr. (Barbara), Ocala, FL; and a host of relatives and friends.

A memorial was previously held in her memory on June 16, 2021 at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

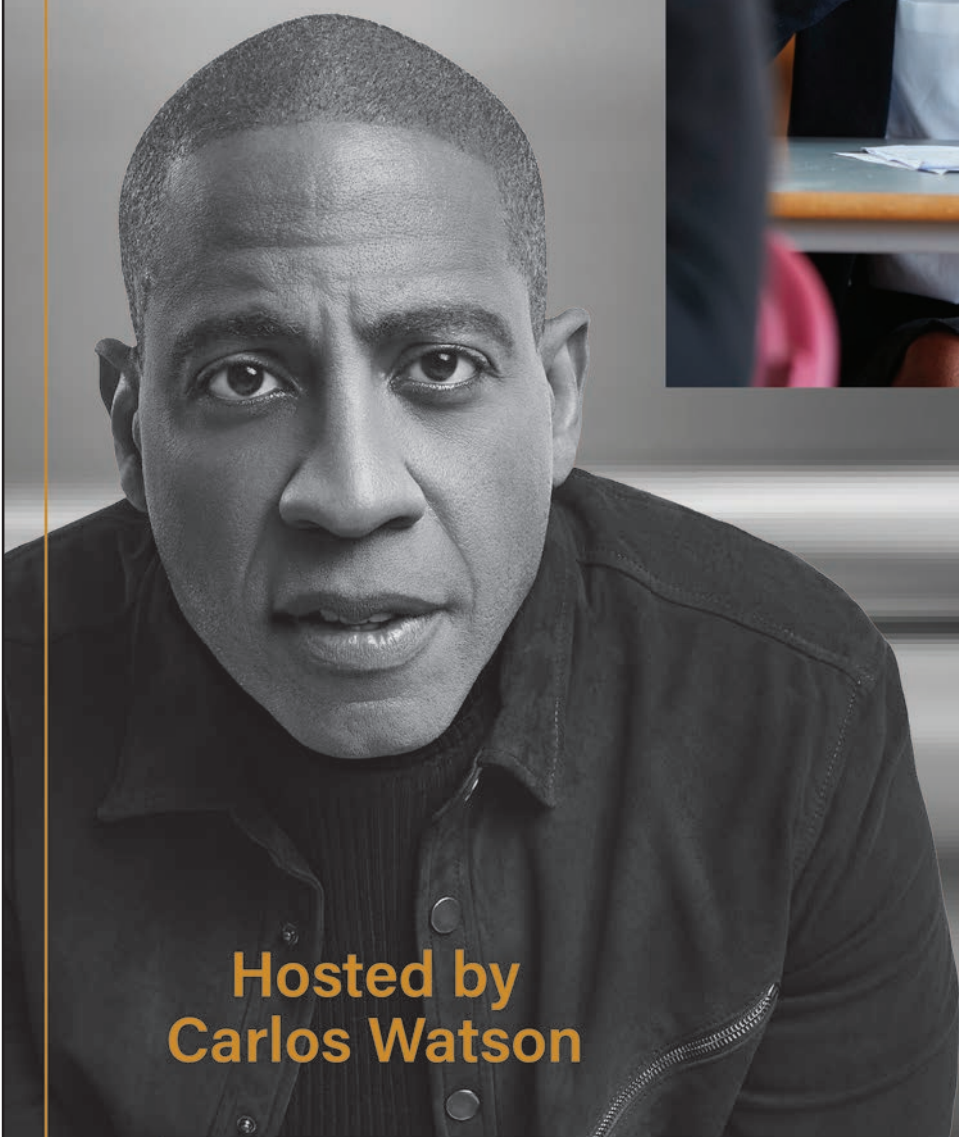
A graveside service, entrusted to Peoples Home, was held in Jackson, MS on July 22 at Garden Memorial Park Cemetery at 11 a.m.

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