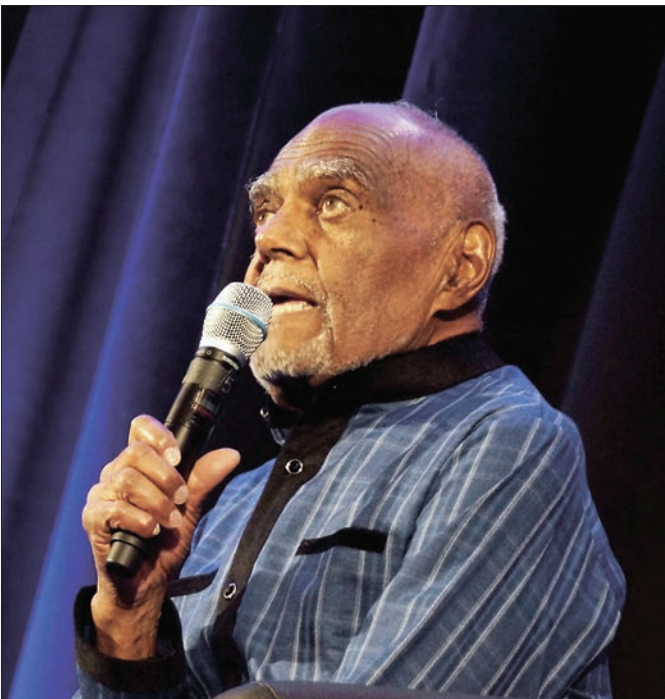


# Robert ‘Bob’ Moses, 1960s civil rights activist, dies at 86



Moses PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

By Rebecca Santana  
Associated Press

Robert Parris Moses, a civil rights activist who was shot at and endured beatings and jail while leading Black voter registration drives in the American South during the 1960s and later helped improve minority education in math, died July 25, 2021. He was 86.

Moses, who was widely referred to as Bob, worked to dismantle segregation as the Mississippi field director of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee during the civil rights movement and was central to the 1964 “Freedom Summer” in which hundreds of students went to the South to register voters.

Moses started his “second chapter in civil rights work” by founding in 1982 the Algebra Project thanks to a MacArthur Fellowship. The project included a curriculum Moses developed to help struggling students succeed in math.

Ben Moynihan, the director of operations for the Algebra Project, said Moses’ wife, Dr. Janet Moses, told him her husband passed away Sunday morning in Hollywood, Florida. Information was not given as to the cause of death.

“Bob Moses was a hero of mine. His quiet confidence helped shape the civil rights movement, and he inspired generations of young people looking to make a difference,” said former President Barack Obama on Twitter.

Moses was born in Harlem, New York, on January 23, 1935, two months after a race riot left three dead and injured 60 in the neighborhood. His grandfather, William Henry Moses, has been a prominent Southern Baptist preacher and a supporter of Marcus Garvey, a Black nationalist leader at the turn of the century.

Like many Black families, the Moses family moved north from the South during the Great Migration. Once in Harlem, his family sold milk from

a Black-owned cooperative to help supplement the household income, according to “Robert Parris Moses: A Life in Civil Rights and Leadership at the Grassroots,” by Laura Visser-Maessen.

Moses didn’t spend much time in the Deep South until he went on a recruiting trip in 1960 to “see the movement for myself.” He sought out the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Atlanta but found little activity in the office and soon turned his attention to SNCC.

“I was taught about the denial of the right to vote behind the Iron Curtain in Europe,” Moses later said. “I never knew that there was (the) denial of the right to vote behind a Cotton Curtain here in the United States.”

The young civil rights advocate tried to register Black people to vote in Mississippi’s rural Amite County where he was beaten and arrested. When he tried to file charges against a white assailant, an all-white jury acquitted the man and a judge provided protection to Moses to the county line so he could leave.

In 1963, he and two other activists — James Travis and Randolph Blackwell — were driving in Greenwood, Mississippi, when someone opened fire on them and the 20-year-old Travis was hit. In a press release from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Moses described how bullets whizzed around them and how Moses took the wheel when Travis was struck and stopped the car.

“We all were within inches of being killed,” Moses said in the 1963 press release.

A reoccurring theme in Moses’ life and work was the need to listen and work with the local populations where activists were trying to effect change, whether that was registering

Moses  
Continued on page 3

# Police officer at Capitol Riot Hearing says, ‘A hitman’ sent the rioters

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

The words rolled off U.S. Capitol Police Officer Harry Dunn’s tongue so easily, yet it still proved as stunning an indictment as any ever leveled at former President Donald Trump.

“There was an attack on Jan. 6, and a hitman sent them. I want you to get to the bottom of that,” Dunn said as the gallery gasped and he and other officers wiped away tears.

The emotional testimony came during the U.S. House of Representatives’ Jan. 6 commission’s inquiry into the capitol riots. The committee, formed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) to investigate the attack on the U.S. Capitol, began hearings on Tuesday, July 27.

Dunn and three other officers highlighted the hearings by describing how they struggled to defend the Capitol and members of Congress. With new video footage of the riot played during the hearing, the officers detailed how they were beaten and tased as Trump supporters stormed



U.S. Cong. Thompson (r) giving opening remarks live on MSNBC at hearing with officers (l-r) Aquilino Gonell, Michael Fanone, Daniel Hodges, Harry Dunn PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON

the building.

“At no point that day did I ever think about the politics of that crowd; even the things that were being said did not resonate in the midst of that chaos,” D.C. Metropolitan Police Officer Michael Fanone told the congress-

sional panel.

“But what did resonate was the fact that thousands of Americans were attacking police officers who were simply doing their job,” Fanone asserted. He added his firm belief that government officials incited the

riot. “In retrospect now, thinking about those events, the things that were said, it’s disgraceful members of our government, I believe were responsible for inciting that behavior

Riot  
Continued on pages 2 & 3

# Organizers planning a march to save HBCUs

By Edelia “Dr. Jay” Carthan  
Contributing Writer

Since the Ayers v. Fordice Settlement on February 15, 2002, the State of Mississippi has reneged on its obligation and promise to endow and fund Historically Black Colleges and Universities, HBCUs, in the ‘Magnolia State’. On Saturday, August 14th, a united, diverse, and determined movement will peacefully demonstrate outside of the Mississippi State Capitol in a fight for equality and equity to save HBCUs in Mississippi and throughout America.

A Zoom meeting was held Sunday at 2:30PM to plan for the march. The March to Save



Albert Chambliss

HBCUs will begin at the Masonic Temple located at 1072

J.R. Lynch Street in Jackson down the street from the cam-



Cathy Sykes

Ayers  
Continued on page 3

# Keith Kinkade and Jeff Good says Let’s Stay Open Mississippi

Special to The Mississippi Link

Keith Kinkade of Kinkade Fine Clothing has teamed up with Jeff Good of Bravo!, Broad Street and Sal & Mookie’s to offer incentives for Central Mississippians to get vaccinated.

With the exponential growth of the Delta Variant of Covid-19 monopolizing the news, Keith Kinkade wanted to do something to help keep Mississippi moving forward and keep businesses open so he approached Jeff Good

and suggested a partnership promotion where central Mississippians getting their first vaccine shot could get a treat from Jeff’s restaurants, and a great suit from Kinkade’s.

“We’ve all been through a lot this past year. And we have come so far as a state... but we need to do better,” states Keith Kinkade, the owner of Kinkade’s Fine Clothing. “We are pro-business,

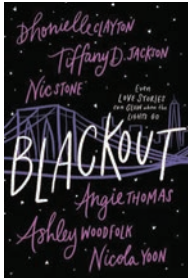
Stay Open  
Continued on page 3



Kinkade



Good



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# The National Wildlife Federation donates \$5,000 to WMPR

By Edelia Dr. Jay Carthan  
Contributing Writer

The National Wildlife Federation donated \$5,000 to WMPR 90.1FM radio station Friday morning during a press conference at WMPR.

Representatives from the National Wildlife Federation, Amnesty International and the Flint Water Center were in Jackson to help combat gun violence and the water crisis.

Mississippi State Representative from House District 66, DeKeither Stamps, led the press conference and pulled the group together to help impact issues affecting the community. Several community leaders gathered in front of WMPR along with representatives from the National Wildlife Federation, Amnesty International and Flint Development Center that worked with the Flint, Michigan water crisis.

“Today, we are here to solidify a relationship between the National Wildlife Federation and WMPR radio station. WMPR has a long standing history in Mississippi for being the voice of the community. We appreciate our partners from the National Wildlife Federation, Amnesty International and Flint Development Center for coming down to talk specifically about water flooding issues and gun violence,” Rep. DeKeither Stamps said as he opened up the press conference Friday morning at WMPR.



(L-R) Simone Lightfoot, Sherri Jones, WMPR, Rep. DeKeither Stamps, Michael Harris from Flint, MI

Rep. Stamps introduced Simone Lightfoot who gave remarks about what the National Wildlife Federation does and why this relationship is paramount.

“We focus on protecting wildlife by way of protecting people and their health. It is important that we pull this relationship together,” Simone Lightfoot, Associate Vice President of Environmental Justice and Climate Justice at the National Wildlife Federation said. “We are excited to have this effort underway with State Rep. Stamps and WMPR radio station and the largest conservation organization, the National Wildlife Federation, as we work to address water as it relates to affordability, as it relates to water quality, water access, wa-

ter shut off and shut on, and altogether water improvement,” Ms. Lightfoot stated.

George Flaggs, the City of Vicksburg mayor was present and gave a few remarks during the press conference.

“We have to begin to focus on crime, gun violence, and the wildlife federation, those types of things that in the past we haven’t paid that much attention to and that is probably the reason why we are in the predicament that we are in now. But today is a great day and a new beginning where we can all come together to share, collaborate and network going forward to talk about how we’re going to take back our community, take back those issues that face us like water and

gun violence because they impact our communities more than others,” Mayor George Flaggs said.

House District 68 Rep. Zakiya Summers was also present during the press conference and talked about gun violence along with newly elected City of Jackson Ward 5 Councilman Vernon Hartley who discussed the city’s water issues.

“Here in the city of Jackson, we’re dealing with not only the COVID pandemic, but we’re dealing with the gun violence pandemic. Guns have infiltrated our communities in a huge way.

And the way we combat this gun issue is by what we are doing here today. By bringing people to the table from a national

level, county level, and city level, coming into the community and discussing issues and solutions,” Rep. Summers articulated.

Michael Harris, who is a partner with the Flint Development Center and the Flint Water Lab, spoke about solutions that are being done in Flint, Michigan to address the water crisis there.

“I bring you greetings from the great city of Flint, Michigan where our mayor is Mayor Sheldon A. Neeley. Mayor Neeley would love to partner with the City of Jackson. We have some of the same problems, as you know, in Flint as you have here in Jackson. We can offer solutions to those problems,” Michael Harris, partner with the Flint Development Center and the Flint Water Lab.

“What we are doing in Flint is offering those solutions. Flint Community Lab is a place where young people have lab techs. They have become chemists. They test the water for lead in the community. We have a state of the art lab in the city of Flint. We pay young people a living wage to test water in that lab. You can be a part of that. You don’t have to reinvent the wheel. We would love to have a lab here in Jackson to test water,” Harris continued.

Earnest Coverson, a Field Manager and the End Gun Violence Campaign manager spoke about putting federal dollars in the city to help address gun vio-

lence. He talked about the importance of supporting community based organizations that are already doing the work.

“I am the end gun violence campaign manager, and we are here to assist and talk about gun violence. Solutions are right here. We have community based organizations on the ground that’s doing the work. We are working to get funding from the federal government and we want to partner with organizations here that’s on the ground doing the work. We are here to support this effort and look forward to doing great things in Jackson,” Ernest Amnesty International

City of Jackson Ward 6 Councilman Aaron Banks closed out the press conference by discussing awareness and thanking residents for coming out to support and then prayer by Bishop Thrasher. The check presentation followed the press conference.

This was a well organized and much needed press conference and collaboration. This is one of the first steps to addressing Jackson’s complex issues and problems. JSU football coach Deion Sanders said in a press conference earlier this week that relationships are currency. Rep. Stamps echoed that by saying this collaboration happened over a period of time and trust was built. We need more collaborations like this to help the citizens of Jackson.



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



MISSISSIPPI  
It’s good to be Blue.



# Riot

Continued from page 1



Crowd of Trump supporters marching on the US Capitol on 6 January 2021, ultimately leading the building being breached and several deaths. WIKI COMMONS

and then continue to propagate those statements, things like this was the 1776, or that police officers who fought, risked their lives in some who gave theirs wore red coats,” Fanone stated.

“To me, those individuals are representative of the worst that America has to offer,” Daniel Hodges, another D.C. police officer, used the law to explain why he refers to the rioters as terrorists.

“U.S. Code title 18 part 1 chapter 1.1.3, B as in brown, section 2.3.3.1,” Hodges explained.

“The term domestic terrorism means activities that involve acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any state and B, appeared to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, or to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion or to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination or kidnapping and occur primarily within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States.”

Dunn, who is Black, told the panel that the rioters used racial slurs when they approached him.

Dunn added that he’d encountered belligerent individuals before, but none like the Trump supporters who stormed the Capitol. “The only difference that I see ... they had marching orders,” Dunn remarked.

He noted that one of the scariest episodes during the riot – and today – are the suspects who believe they had a right to carry out the attack. “When people feel emboldened by people in power, they assume they are right,” Dunn continued. “And that makes for a scary recipe for the future of this county. I think that’s why it is important that you all take this committee seriously and get to the bottom of why this happened and let’s make it never happen again.”

While no additional hearings are scheduled, U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.), the committee’s chair, reported that others could occur next month. “We now have a body of testimony that we will review. We are in the process of putting that together,” Rep. Thompson said. “I put some members on notice that they won’t enjoy the entire August recess, but we will give them time to work in their districts. Then, conceivably, we could come back before the end of August.”

# Ayers

Continued from page 1

pus of JSU. The march, a 1.6 mile hike, will end at the Mississippi State Capitol. The State of Mississippi has refused to level the playing field by refusing to fund the endowment. The state has plans to take the Jackson State University (JSU) stadium and have taken nearly all of Mississippi Valley State University’s programs and given them to Delta State University. The State of Mississippi has refused to allow proper governance, missions and programs. Enrollment at every HBCU in America has gone down in recent years. Accreditation issues have caused a decline in enrollment at HBCUs. Covid has adversely affected HBCUs. This march is dedicated to the remembrance of the late Dr. Fred Humphries, former President of Tennessee State University and Florida A&M University, and Dr. Samuel L. Myers, former President of the National Association For Equal Educational Opportunities.

In 1975, Jake Ayers Sr., a civil rights veteran and parent of a student at Jackson State University, filed suit in federal district court claiming that the State of Mississippi had not provided adequate resources to its historically black institutions of higher education. The Ayers suit, based on the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, eventually became a class-action lawsuit with the United States and Bennie Thompson, later a member of the US Congress, intervening as plaintiffs. The case originally was known as Ayers v. Waller since Bill Waller was Mississippi governor when it was filed. It was renamed Ayers v. Fordice in 1991 and later Ayers v. Musgrove. Attorney Ike Madison first represented the plaintiffs but later turned the case over to Alvin Chambliss.

In 2002, nearly three decades after the lawsuit’s inception, the state and a majority of plaintiffs reached an agreement to award the three historically black institutions \$503 million over seventeen years. The settlement included funds for new programs, new facilities, and large endowments if each of the schools achieved a 10 percent nonblack student enrollment for three consecutive years.

Attorney Alvin Chambliss got emotional on the Zoom call as he prayed and asked God for guidance and strength to advocate on behalf of HBCUs.

“I’ve been in this fight a long time. I worked on Adams v. Richardson case, Attorney Chambliss said. “They refuse to enforce Brown v. the Board of Education decision. They refuse to enforce Ayers v. Fordice decision. Eighteen states passed voter suppression laws. Educated people vote. So they want to educate you, but they don’t want you to vote,” Chambliss added.

“In the Brown ruling, it basically said you cannot use race as a criteria for education.

There are still policies that are harmful to black students. They are in violation of the Constitution. They think Black folks are not going to fight them. God is on our side! We’re going to win. I may not get there with you. I am 77 years old, But when God tells you to do something, you have to do it and that’s what I am doing,” Chambliss stated.

Kathy Sykes, former State Representative District 70, is one of the organizers who is passionate about helping HBCUs and hosted the Zoom call on Sunday.

“This March to Save HBCUs is very important because these institutions are needed now more than ever. Higher education opens the door to a better way of life for Black people. These institutions take those who are deficient in many areas and bring them up to a standard that can compete with any of our majority institutions and they do it with Love,” Sykes said.

“As a mentee of Dr. Bob Moses, he often would tell us that Education is a Civil Rights Issue. HBCUs also are one of the major employers in our community. The entire economy of an area may revolve around the local HBCU,” Sykes added.

“On August 14, 2021 at 10am let’s show our Support for HBCUs! If you want more info., contact me Kathy Sykes at 601.906.1717,” Sykes concluded.

# Stay Open

Continued from page 1

and we are pro-Mississippi. And Mississippi is made up of the best people in the world. So, we wanted to come up with a way to do our part to help increase the vaccination rate in our community.”

With Mississippi vaccination rates well below the national average, Keith and Jeff came up with the idea to incentivize those choosing to get their first vaccine shot with a \$10 gift card to BRAVO!, Broad Street and Sal & Mookie’s as well as a chance to win a tailored suit from Kinkade’s!

“If you got your first vaccination shot on July 23rd or thereafter, just bring your card to one of our businesses: Kinkade’s, Sal & Mookie’s in the District, BRAVO!, Broad Street or Sal & Mookie’s in Madison and we will give you a free \$10 gift card!,” Jeff Good explains. “That’s not all! One lucky person out of every 100 will receive a free tailored suit from Kinkade’s! So, the more people who get vaccinated, the more suits will be given away! More gift cards, more suits, and better vaccination rates... it’s a win/

win!”

The promotion started July 23rd and will run indefinitely.

“We hope our efforts entice some folks who have not gotten around to getting their vaccine to doing so,” adds Keith Kinkade. “We just want to do our part to keep Mississippi open!”

Participants will need to bring their official vaccination card, dated no earlier than July 23, 2021, for the first shot, to one of the host businesses: Kinkade’s, Sal & Mookie’s in the District, BRAVO!, Broad Street or Sal & Mookie’s in Madison to receive their free \$10 gift card. At that time, they will be able to register for the free suit drawings. A new drawing will take place with every 100 entries.

Participants can only enter once and may only receive one free gift card. If you would like more information about this program or to schedule an interview, please contact Brandi Stodard at 601.982.4443, ext. 17 or email at BrandiS@bravo

# Moses

Continued from page 1

Black voters in some of the most staunchly anti-integration parts of Mississippi or years later working with students and teachers to come up with ways to improve math knowledge.

In an interview with the National Visionary Leadership Project, he talked about the need for civil rights workers to earn the trust of the local population in Mississippi.

“You had to earn the right for the Black population in Mississippi to decide that they were going to work with you because why should they risk everything to work with you if you were somebody or a collection of people who were just not serious?” he said.

He later helped organize the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, which sought to challenge the all-white Democratic delegation from Mississippi in 1964. But President Lyndon Johnson prevented the group of rebel Democrats from voting in the convention and instead let Jim Crow southerners remain, drawing national attention.

Disillusioned with white liberal reaction to the civil rights movement, Moses soon began taking part in demonstrations against the Vietnam War then cut off all relationships with whites, even former SNCC members.

Moses worked as a teacher in Tanzania, Africa, returned to Harvard to earn a doctorate in philosophy and taught high school math in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

He later taught math in Jackson, Mississippi, while commuting back and forth to Massachusetts on the weekends.

The press-shy Moses started his “second chapter in civil rights work” by founding in 1982 the Algebra Project using money he received through the MacArthur Foundation Fellows program — often referred to as “genius” grants — to improve math literacy among underserved populations. Ben Moynihan from the Algebra Project said Moses saw the work of improving mathematics literacy as an extension of the civil rights work he had started in the 1960s.

“Bob really saw the issue of giving hope to young people through access to mathematics literacy.... as a citizenship issue, as critical as the right to vote has been,” Moynihan said.

Ernesto Cortés Jr., director emeritus and senior advisor to the Industrial Areas Foundation which helps develop community organizers, worked with Moses over four decades during which Moses would come to seminars and trainings. Cortés said Moses did not talk fast and was very attentive and deliberate. One of the key lessons Moses imparted was his “steadfastness” — sticking to a goal despite being repeatedly knocked down — and his generosity.

“Bob always looked to develop other people, and give them recognition and give them their due,” Cortés said.



Bob Moses attended the African-American Museums Conference - Jackson, MS 8/6/19 - 8/10/2019 - Westin Hotel PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON





# KLLM hosts event unveiling JSU 18 wheeler theme truck

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

On Thursday, July 22, KLLM Transport Services hosted an unveiling event of Jackson State University's new 18-wheeler themed truck that will be crisscrossing the country carrying their equipment and gear during the upcoming football season. The event was held at Trustmark Park in Pearl, MS.

The truck features all-time greats, W. C. Gordon, who coached at JSU from 195-199, Jackie Slater, Robert Brazile, Lem Barney and Walter Peyton, each having played in the National Foot-

ball League (NFL) as well as current head football coach Deion Sanders, who played in the NFL for 14 seasons as a member of the Atlanta Falcons.

Carl Cunningham, a JSU alum said on FACEBOOK, "I don't think there's another school in the SWAC that has their own 18 wheeler to transport their football equipment to different football games."

The truck will also be on display at home games allowing for local fans to view. KLLM Transport, who is funding this initiative will provide two drivers for the season.



PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



## Access to high-speed internet is not a luxury; it's a necessity.

Too many Mississippians do not have access to the affordable, high-speed internet they need to work, attend school, see the doctor, and avoid isolation.

That's why AARP fought for the Emergency Broadband Benefit, a federal program to help lower the cost of high-speed internet for eligible households during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mississippians who may have experienced financial setbacks during the pandemic or are struggling to get by may be eligible for a discount of up to \$50 per month—or up to \$75 per month for households on Tribal lands—for high-speed internet services through this short-term program.

Visit [aarp.org/EBB](https://aarp.org/EBB), text **INTERNET** to **22777** or call **833-511-0311** for more information.



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Are you an early childhood educator who wants to help children get the best possible start in school and life? Hinds County Human Resource Agency has exciting career opportunities for teachers to provide a quality education to children in a safe, nurturing, fun and engaging environment. You must have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field and pass all background checks.

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# Analysis: Wicker says Yazoo pumps would alleviate injustice

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
*Associated Press*

Installing massive pumps to drain water from the south Mississippi Delta would be a way to fight environmental injustice because the pumps would help low-income and minority residents whose lives are disrupted by flooding, Republican U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi said on Capitol Hill.

It's a relatively new argument that Wicker and others are making in support of a federal project that has been lingering, unbuilt, since the 1940s. The proposed pumps would remove water trapped between Mississippi River and Yazoo River levees in an expanse of rural flatlands north of Vicksburg.

The Environmental Protection Agency vetoed the project in 2008 under one Republican president, and then rescinded the veto in 2020 under another one. Some environmental groups are suing to try to block it.

During a hearing of a Senate Environment and Public Works subcommittee on Thursday, Wicker said that because of flooding in the south Delta, people "lack the certainty they need to build homes and establish businesses." He said that reinforces a cycle of poverty.

"The residents of the south Delta face one of the most glaring instances of environmental injustice anywhere in the nation," Wicker said.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said in 2020 that the Yazoo Backwater area experienced significant flooding during nine of the 10 previous years. A 2019 flood covered more than 500,000 acres

(202,343 hectares) and lasted several months.

Five environmental groups — Audubon Delta, Mississippi Sierra Club, American Rivers, Health Gulf and Earthjustice — issued a news release Thursday that repeated their longstanding criticism of the pump project and took exception with Wicker's statements.

"The Yazoo Pumps are not an environmental justice project because it will not protect underserved communities from flooding," Louie Miller, the Sierra Club state director, said in the release. "By the Corps' own admission, 80% of the project benefits go to agribusiness by draining wetlands to intensify farming."

The proposed pumps have bipartisan support from Mississippi's congressional delegation and from groups including Farm Bureau, the Delta Council and the Nature Conservancy of Mississippi.

A south Delta resident who supports the pump project spoke during the hearing Thursday.

Tracy Harden and her husband bought a Chuck's Dairy Bar restaurant in Rolling Fork in 2007. In response to questions from Wicker, she told the Senate subcommittee that floods would not be as high if the pumps were in place.

"Our farmers would be able to be in the fields working, which means they're able to employ some of the lower-income people," Harden said. "If the farmers can't plant, then they can't hire."

Harden grew up in the south Delta and said people sometimes say that residents there should just move away from areas that flood.

"This is our home. This

has been our home for many years. We can't just up and move," Harden said. "And then, a lot of the lower income (people), how are they going to move? They're stuck."

The Thursday news release from the environmental groups said that in 2020, more than 230 conservation groups, social justice organizations and scientific professionals, and more than 90,000 members of the public, urged the Corps of Engineers to abandon the pump project and instead to elevate homes and roads and pay farmers to convert croplands into wetlands.

Olivia Dorothy is Upper Mississippi River Basin director for American Rivers. She said in the news release that the pumps could push billions of gallons of water a day into the Yazoo River when it's at flood stage, and that could hurt Black communities near Vicksburg.

"This massive amount of extra water could also breach the Yazoo Backwater Levee, flooding the very same communities that the pumps are supposed to protect," Dorothy said.

Days before then-President Donald Trump left office in January, the Corps of Engineers published a final environmental impact statement saying the Yazoo pump project is "technically feasible, environmentally justified ... and in the public interest."

Six months later, the project remains unfunded and enmeshed in court fights.

Emily Wagster Pettus has covered Mississippi government and politics since 1994. Follow her on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/EWagsterPettus>.

# Mississippi to file arguments in landmark abortion case



In this May 19, 2021, file photo, the Jackson Women's Health Organization clinic, more commonly known as "The Pink House," is shrouded with a black tarp so that its clients may enter in privacy in Jackson, Miss. The Mississippi attorney general's office is expected to file briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday to outline the state's arguments in a case that could upend nearly 50 years of court rulings on abortion rights nationwide. AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS, FILE

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
*Associated Press*

The Mississippi attorney general's office is expected to file briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday to outline the state's arguments in a case that could upend nearly 50 years of court rulings on abortion rights nationwide.

A 6-3 conservative majority, with three justices appointed by former President Donald Trump, said in May that the court would consider arguments over a Mississippi law that would ban abortion at 15 weeks. Justices are likely to hear the case this fall and could rule on it in the spring.

The case challenges rulings that have prohibited states from restricting abortion before a fetus can survive outside the womb.

Abortion rights supporters have said that if justices uphold the Mississippi law, that could clear the way for states to enact

more restrictions on the procedure, including bans on abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected, as early as six weeks.

The Mississippi 15-week law was enacted in 2018, but was blocked after a federal court challenge. The state's only abortion clinic, Jackson Women's Health Organization, remains open and offers abortions up to 16 weeks of pregnancy. Clinic director Shannon Brewer has said about 10% of its abortions there are done after the 15th week.

More than 90% of abortions in the U.S. take place in the first 13 weeks of pregnancy, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Mississippi clinic has presented evidence that viability is impossible at 15 weeks, and an appeals court said that the state "conceded that it had identified no medical evidence that a fetus would be viable at 15 weeks." Viability occurs

roughly at 24 weeks, the point at which babies are more likely to survive.

But the state has argued that viability is an arbitrary standard that doesn't take sufficient account of the state's interest in regulating abortion.

The Mississippi law would allow exceptions to the 15-week ban in cases of medical emergency or severe fetal abnormality. Doctors found in violation of the ban would face mandatory suspension or revocation of their medical license.

Republican lawmakers in several states have been pushing laws designed to challenge Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion nationwide. A federal district judge on Tuesday blocked an Arkansas law that would ban most abortions, ruling that the law is "categorically unconstitutional" because it would ban the procedure before the fetus is considered viable.



# TENT SALE

**Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area**  
**615 Stonewall**  
A mile from State Street, half a block from Bailey Avenue

**Friday, July 30th, 12:00-5:00**  
**Saturday, July 31st, 8:00-2:00**  
**RAIN OR SHINE**

Cash, credit cards, debit cards, Venmo – no checks

**LOW PRICES ON EVERYTHING**

**ITEMS FOR SALE**  
Beautiful wooden office furniture, metal desks, rolling chairs, side chairs, cabinets, four drawer file cabinets, lateral file cabinets and tall lateral file cabinets. Miscellaneous office furniture – side tables, lamps. Office kitchen items, racks, household items, contractor materials, paint and more.

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# JPS To Continue Offering No Cost Breakfast & Lunch Meals

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools Child Nutrition will continue serving breakfast and lunch meals at no cost to our scholars and their families. The program is made possible by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) extension of waivers during COVID 19.

Each school day, schools will offer scholars meals that are healthy and satisfying. Students may choose four components for breakfast: the USDA recommends two bread choices or one bread and a meat alternate, fruit, and a dairy choice. Students have up to five selections per meal for lunch, including a lean protein, two fruit or vegetable items, one bread, and a dairy choice.

School nutrition is an essential part of the school day, say experts. To learn well, children must eat well. Quality foods provide them with the energy they need to grow, focus and learn. Not to mention, this is a learning experience in itself by teaching scholars how to make healthy selections when putting together a meal.

“We are looking forward to seeing our scholars in school buildings again,” said Marc



Rowe, JPS Child Nutrition Executive Director. “We are working to provide safe service plans that work within each school environment. Our Child Nutrition teams are already involved in meal planning and preparing for our scholars’ return. We understand our critical role in providing students and staff with healthy, satisfying meals

daily.”

The school year begins for JPS students on Monday, August 9. The District plans to return to full in-person instruction for all scholars, with exceptions for scholars with verifiable health concerns. Accordingly, we will scale back considerably meal services to accommodate those families who need them.

# Mississippi State adds music and culture minor for students

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi State University’s College of Education is establishing a new minor for students interested in music.

The Department of Music’s minor in music and culture begins this fall at the Starkville campus. The program will focus on non-Western music, especially the music of Africa and the African Diaspora.

“This new minor enables students to engage critically with music and diverse cultures of the world and prepares them for graduate study, work abroad or careers in the global market,” music professor Robert Damm said in a university news release. “This curriculum is wonderful for all students who enjoy music or want to learn more

about it.”

Damm developed the curriculum and four new courses: Music of Africa, Music of Latin America, African American Music and Native American Music. Students also may choose up to two Western music and culture electives, along with other requirements to complete the required 18 or 19 hours

# Mary Church Terrell Literary Club donated School Uniforms to JPS



The Mississippi Link Newswire

In the spirit of giving and in celebration of back to school, Mary Church Terrell Literary Club donated to the Jackson Public Schools Uniform Closet, uniforms for elementary, middle, and alternative school

students.

The donation was made on Friday, July 16, 2021, to support the School District in purchasing new uniforms for students whose parents are unable to purchase uniforms. Members attending the pre-

sentation included, from Left to right, Ms. Lilla White, Dr. Linda Anderson, Mrs. Thea Faulkner, Jackson Public Schools Program Director, Mrs. Alberta Smith, and Dr. Ramona Cork.

# Murrah JROTC Travels to Washington, D.C. to Compete in National Academic Bowl Championship

The Mississippi Link Newswire

COVID-19 has presented many challenges in schools over the past year. From in-person to remote to hybrid learning, high school students across the country have faced hardships and struggles. Through all COVID-19 and distance learning challenges, Army JROTC cadets have risen to the challenge through their participation in the 2020-2021 JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl. And the cadets from Murrah High School have proven their ability to overcome and succeed despite those obstacles.

The Murrah High School JROTC Academic Team—cadets Elizabeth Hawkins, Crystal Lopez, Fatima Wansley, and Bethany Wilson—heads to Washington, D.C. to compete in the Championship event on Friday, July 23. The 2021 U.S. Army JROTC Academic Bowl Championship will be held on the Catholic University of America campus July 23-27. This event is sponsored by the U.S. Army Cadet Command and is conducted by the College Options Foundation.

Murrah High School’s JROTC earned top scores among the 1,717 Army JROTC academic teams that competed from



Murrah JROTC cadets (from left) Fatimah Wansley, Crystal Lopez, Bethany Wilson, and Elizabeth Hawkins will compete in the 2021 U.S. Army Academic Bowl Championship in Washington, D.C. July 23-27.

around the world in the first two competition rounds. The team is one of only 32 Army JROTC Academic Bowl teams in the nation that won an all-expenses-paid trip to compete in the Championship event. The cadets are tested on their knowledge of core curricula such as math, science, and language arts as well as current events, citizenship, and leadership skills.

The JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl (JLAB) is a nationally recognized competition created exclusively for JROTC students. By participating, cadets learn the values of citizenship, academic competition, and

college opportunity. The competition creates tremendous opportunities for JROTC cadets by allowing them to demonstrate leadership and academic abilities.

College Options Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the academic development of high school students and assisting them in their preparation for higher education. Using academic competitions, college exam study guides, college admissions tutorials, and personalized counseling, College Options Foundation has assisted the nation’s JROTC cadets worldwide for nearly two decades.

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## The Mississippi Link™

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# Mississippi sees big jump in COVID-19 positive test results

**By Emily Wagster Pettus**  
*Associated Press*

Mississippi health officials reported Monday that the state is seeing its highest number of new COVID-19 cases in months as the highly contagious delta variant of the coronavirus continues to spread.

The state is also experiencing a sharp increase in the percentage of positive tests.

“COVID-19 testing has jumped statewide, and positive results are a LOT higher. Our positivity rate is now the same as it was during the worst of COVID-19 in January. Delta is hitting hard,” the Mississippi State Department of Health posted on Twitter.

The department said on its website Monday that 3,608 new cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Mississippi from Friday through Sunday. That compares to 2,326 reported from Friday through Sunday a week earlier — numbers that were highest in the state since February.

The increase in cases is happening as some schools are starting classes. The Mississippi Association of Educators issued a letter Monday asking Republican Gov. Tate Reeves to set a mask mandate for schools. His mandate expired when the previous school year ended.

“Educators are thrilled to be heading back into school buildings after an incredibly challenging year — any educator will tell you there is no place we’d rather be,” the teachers’ union said. “But educators and students deserve to teach and learn in a safe setting without fearing for their health or the health of their families.”

Thousands of people are gathering for the Neshoba County Fair — a 10-day event where families and friends live in colorful cabins, visit on front porches and watch musical performances, horse races and political speeches.

The fair was canceled last year because of the coronavirus pandemic. Reeves is scheduled to speak there Thursday.

Dr. Dan Edney, the state Health Department’s chief medical officer, said during a news conference last week that people over 65, even if they are fully vaccinated “need to double think” whether to attend the Neshoba County Fair or other big events.

“If you’re going to be in any crowd setting, not just the Neshoba County Fair but any crowd setting, you need to try not to be in the middle of things and be as distant as you can, (be in the) open air as much as you can, wear a mask and be vac-

inated,” Edney said.

As of Monday, the Health Department said Mississippi has had 336,788 confirmed cases of the virus, with 7,508 deaths from it, since the start of the pandemic in the spring of 2020.

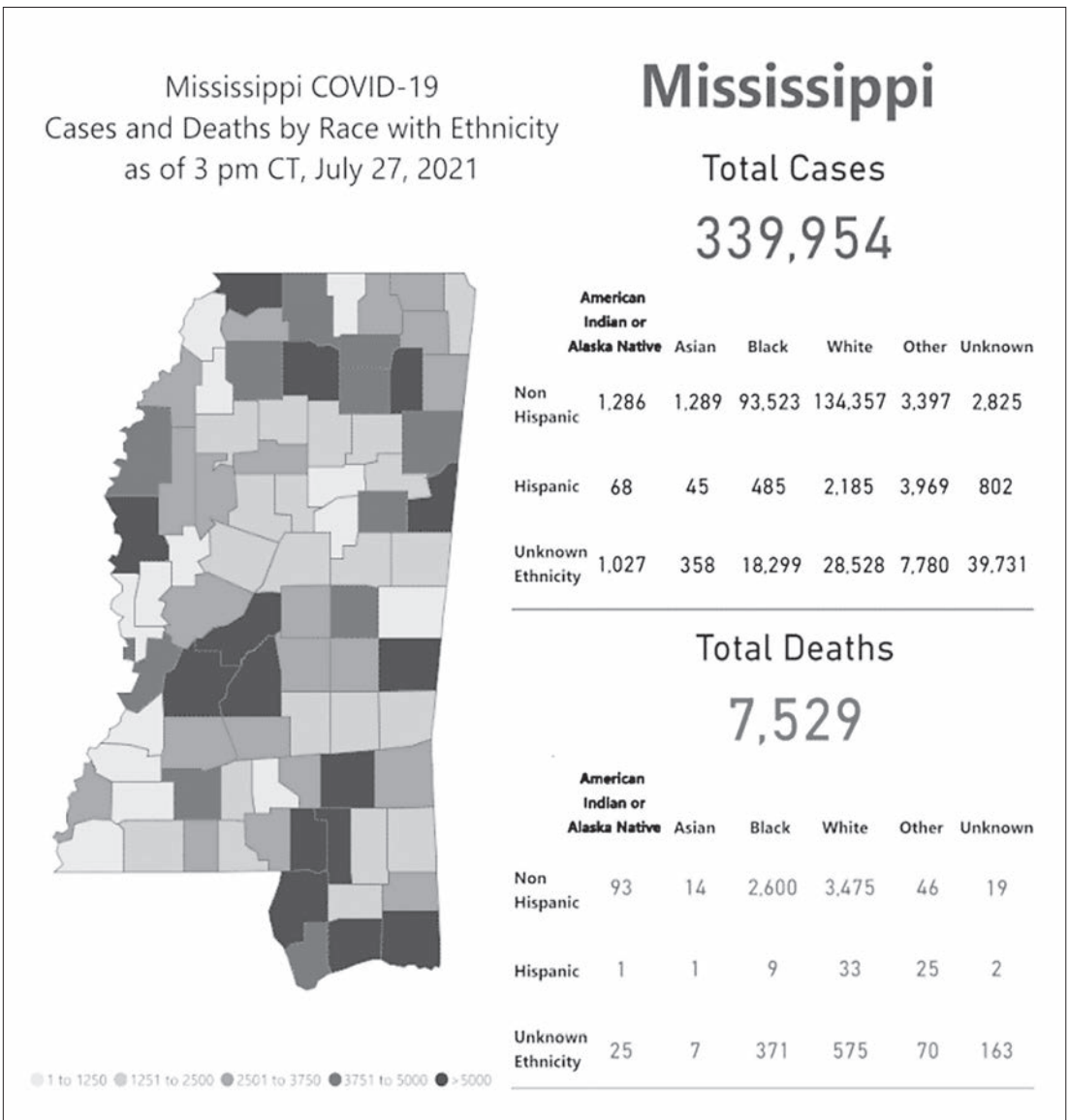
Mississippi has one of the lowest vaccination rates in the nation.

The department said 40,245 doses of COVID-19 vaccines were administered in Mississippi during the week that ended Saturday — the highest number in the state since early May. The increase came as state health officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs and other health officials were imploring people to get vaccinated because of the rapid spread of the delta variant of the virus.

Last week’s vaccination numbers were more than double the 19,956 doses administered in Mississippi during the week that ended July 1. That was the week the state had its lowest vaccination numbers since January.

The Health Department on Monday also said that the delta variant of the virus is causing an increase in hospitalizations of younger patients.

“We are in a strikingly different situation from a year ago, when severe COVID-19





P R E S E R V E D

# Your Blessings are closer than they appear

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



“Objects in the mirror are closer than they appear” were the words etched into the passenger side mirror of a friend’s car that I noticed last week while riding to dinner. I knew I’d read those words before but just hadn’t really paid much attention to them. However, this time when I read them, I chuckled and said to myself “That’s just like our blessings from God.” Our spiritual vision is distorted, and we don’t realize how close we are to our blessings.

I wondered why we sometimes miscalculate how close we are to our blessings. It reminds me of the cartoon that

shows a man digging in a cave who gives up (perhaps from being tired of trying) when just one more swing would have given him the breakthrough he’d been working so hard for. Similarly, after years of praying for something without seeming to get what we want, we stop praying.

For example, last year I was blessed to complete my doctorate (PhD in English) after working on it for 8 long years. Because I was working full time while also going to school, I often felt like the goal of finishing would never come. I got discouraged when a few times I had to revise my research project and I missed my deadline. Also, I remember in my last year I would often ask myself why I was trying to get a doctorate when I already had my dream job as a professor.

However, at the end of those conversations, I would always hear the words of supportive family and friends encouraging me to finish. “You are so close...even though you don’t see it” is what one friend told me one day when I shared that I sometimes felt like my goal was so far away and out of my reach.

But a funny thing happened the last few months of my program. Time seemed to speed up and before I knew it, I graduated. I remember thinking as I filled out online graduation forms that the most recent points where I felt so far away from my goal were the points that I was closest to achieving it. Ephesians 1:18 points to the importance of our eyes leading to a greater understanding of God’s purpose for our lives. “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be

enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,”

What had distorted my vision, just like that mirror on the side of the car, was the angle of vision. Just like taking my focus off the mirror helped me see those objects more clearly, so did taking my focus off rejection, discouragement, disappointment, impatience, apathy, and fear that had changed my view of my coming 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](mailto:preservedbypurpose@gmail.com) or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

## Missouri church leaders implore congregants: Get vaccinated

By Jim Salterll  
Associated Press

As lead pastor of one of Missouri’s largest churches, Jeremy Johnson has heard all the reasons congregants don’t want to get the COVID-19 vaccination. He wants them to know it’s not only OK to do so but also is what the Bible urges.

Across Missouri, hundreds of pastors, priests and other church leaders are reaching out to urge vaccinations in a state under siege from the delta variant. Health experts say the spread is due largely to low vaccination rates — Missouri lags about 10 percentage points behind the national average for people who have initiated shots.

Now, many churches in southwestern Missouri, like Johnson’s North Point Church, are hosting vaccination clinics. Meanwhile, more than 200 church leaders have signed onto a statement urging Christians to get vaccinated, and on Wednesday announced a follow-up public service campaign that will include paid advertisements.

“Vaccine hesitancy in our pews puts our congregations and communities at greater risk. Given their safety and availability, receiving a vaccine is an easy way of living out Jesus’s command to ‘love your neighbor as yourself,’” the statement reads, citing a verse in Mark, chapter 12.

of fear,” Johnson said. “A fear of trusting something apart from scripture. A fear of trusting something apart from a political party they’re more comfortable following. A fear of trusting in science. We hear that: ‘I trust in God, not science.’ But the truth is science and God are not something you have to choose between.”

Springfield, Missouri’s third-largest city with 167,000 residents, is home to the U.S. Assemblies of God national office and is in the heart of a deeply religious region. Mayor Ken McClure noted that when the pastor at a large Assembly of God church recently preached about the need for vaccinations, large crowds turned out the next day to get shots.

“We found that the faith community is very influential, very trusted, and to me that is one of the answers as to how you get your vaccination rates up,” McClure said. “So we’ve reached out to the pastors and they’ve been very receptive.”

They face a tall task. Over the past two weeks, 14 counties in southwestern and central Missouri have been designated as “hot spots” for the virus by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

New cases continue to rise sharply statewide. The state health department reported 2,229 newly confirmed cases on Wednesday, the largest one-day spike since January.

Darron LaMonte Edwards Sr., lead pastor at United Believers Community Church in Kansas City, noted the disparity in vaccination rates in the Black community, due in part to longstanding mistrust of the government. He understands, but said it’s important to get a shot.

“Would you please go get your shot out of Christian duty and compassion?” Edwards asked.

Congratulation to all graduates!



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# Whitewashing History and Suppressing Voters Go Hand in Hand

By Ben Jealous  
*People For the American Way*



There’s been a lot of news about the Democratic legislators in Texas who fled the state to prevent Republicans from pushing through sweeping new voter suppression laws. Gov. Greg Abbott has threatened to have them arrested to force them to attend a special session of the state legislature. Now it turns out that voter suppression is not the only “special” project Abbott has in mind. He and his fellow Republicans are pushing a far-reaching “memory law” that would limit teaching about racism and civil rights. Abbott already signed a bill last month restricting how racism can be taught in Texas schools. But he and other Republicans in the state don’t think it went far enough. The Republican-dominated state-Senate has voted to strip a requirement that white supremacy be taught as morally wrong. Also on the chopping block: requirements that students learn about civil rights activists Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony, Martin Lu-

ther King Jr., Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta.

It’s not just Texas. Just as Republicans are pushing a wave of voter registration laws around the country, they are also pushing laws to restrict teaching about racism in our history, culture, and institutions. CNN’s Julian Zelizer recently noted that such laws downplay injustices in our history and lead to teaching “propaganda rather than history.”

Here’s a good example: Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said the new legislation is meant to keep students from being “indoctrinated” by the “ridiculous leftist narrative that America and our Constitution are rooted in racism.” If Patrick really believes it is a “ridiculous” idea that racism was embedded in our Constitution from the start, he has already put on his own ideological blinders. And he wants to force them onto teachers and students.

Some of these state memory laws specifically ban teaching that causes “discomfort, guilt, anguish or any other form of psychological distress on account of the individual’s race or sex.” As educators have noted, that’s a recipe for erasing and

whitewashing history.

“Teachers in high schools cannot exclude the possibility that the history of slavery, lynchings and voter suppression will make some non-Black students uncomfortable,” history professor Timothy Snyder wrote in the New York Times Magazine. Those laws give power to white students and parents to censor honest teaching of history. “It is not exactly unusual for white people in America to express the view that they are being treated unfairly; now such an opinion could bring history classes to a halt.”

Snyder also explained how new state “memory laws” are connected to voter suppression. “In most cases, the new American memory laws have been passed by state legislatures that, in the same session, have passed laws designed to make voting more difficult,” he wrote. “The memory management enables the voter suppression.”

“The history of denying Black people the vote is shameful,” he explained. “This means that it is less likely to be taught where teachers are mandated to protect young people from feeling shame. The history

of denying Black people the vote involves law and society. This means that it is less likely to be taught where teachers are mandated to tell students that racism is only personal prejudice.”

As I wrote in The Nation, far-right attempts to suppress honest teaching about racism is meant to “convince a segment of white voters that they should fear and fight our emerging multiracial and multiethnic democratic society” and to “help far-right politicians take and hold power, no matter the cost to our democracy.”

That’s also what voter suppression bills are designed to do. We cannot tolerate either of these assaults on democracy.

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 real hoax; Claims of widespread voter fraud

By Senator Royce West  
*Texas 23rd Senatorial District*



A former U.S. Commander-in-Chief has made it his habit to immediately label any claims, no matter how factual, not aligned with his branding of information as “a witch hunt” or “a hoax.” But a bill that will if passed - create confusion for voters and reject ballots for reasons now legal under law under the guise of ensuring voting integrity, that’s the real hoax. The Texas Attorney General’s website says that since 2005, the office has successfully prosecuted 534 offenses related to election fraud involving 155 persons. A tally of the number of votes cast in statewide elections over the same period totaled 83,933,740. Finding widespread voter fraud in Texas can possibly, if not rightfully, be called a witch hunt.

I’d bet more than 534 people claim to have seen Bigfoot! Long-standing claims of voting improprieties were breathed new life by a Presidential candidate who lost the popular vote in the last two elections. They can be seen as the impetus for nearly 400 bills filed in state legislatures in 2021, including SB7, which was thwarted by my colleagues in the Texas House during the final hours of the 87th Regular Legislative Session. By the end of May, 14 states had passed new laws that place more restrictions on voters. During the pandemic, some Texas jurisdictions passed rules that helped voters feel safe, such as creating mobile or temporary voting locations and expanding provisions that allow curbside voting.

SB7 and its Special Session successor will eliminate “drive through voting” by banning the use of “moveable” structures or tents or parking lots or garages as voting locations. No known reports indicate fraud. Voters who are mobility challenged are able under current state law, to vote from their cars or the vehicle they are riding in. The proposed legislation would allow only the voter or an accompanying child to remain inside the vehicle while their ballot is being cast. Even the driver, must get out. Over the years, civic-minded Texans have helped their neighbors, including seniors and others who do not drive, by giving them a ride to polling places.

Churches and other organizations across the country have

helped get voters to the polls. SB7’s heir will discourage citizenship and kindness by forcing good neighbors to complete a form that must be submitted to election officials if they carry three or more people to a voting site. I’m glad that a provision in an early version of the elections bill that could have created chaos at voting sites by allowing poll watchers to record voters was removed. But the bill still gives poll watchers near unfettered ability to have too much of a presence at polling places, with only their pledge that they will not disrupt voting activities.

The bill creates a Class B Misdemeanor for election workers who deny poll watchers free movement at a voting site. This week, reports emerged that two more bad policy choices will not be part of the new voting bill. One provision would have allowed a judge to overturn the results of an election based on assertions that the votes were illegally cast, without actually counting the votes.

And bill supporters and the Lt. Governor say language that would have not opened polls on the last Sunday of early voting until 1:00 p.m. will not be included this time. Shouts raised the roof at the thought of limiting “Souls to the Polls” efforts historically supported by Black churches. But another part of the bill may likely remain. It calls for the Secretary of State to monitor county voter rolls to determine if the number of voters registered in a county exceeds the number of voters who are eligible to vote in that county. The problem is that from year-to-year, there is not an official instrument that tabulates how many persons are eligible to vote in a particular county. Officially, how many people moved to Dallas, Bexar, Harris or Travis or Tarrant counties last year?

When the departing Secretary of State’s office said the 2020 Election was “smooth and secure” and turnout in Texas was higher than it had been since the 1992 Election, any talk of widespread voter fraud sounds suspicious, at least to me. You might call it fake news. The real hoax; Claims of widespread voter fraud sounds suspicious, at least to me. You might call it fake news.

Royce West was first elected to the Texas Senate in November 1992.

He represents the 23rd Senatorial District on behalf of the citizens of Dallas County

# The Vaccines are available, but we are not taking them

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



Here are some facts that I want to share in the public square. I am fully vaccinated, wear my mask, wash my hands and practice social distancing. My immediate family members have done the same.

Covid-19 is serious, and you can die from it. That’s not a political statement, that is a health statement.

Recently, I heard someone being interviewed on television say she was not vacci-

nated. She said it with a mix of arrogance and ego. The interview ended with her saying that she did not trust the government.

My initial thought was, what does trust in the government have to do with listening to healthcare experts and providers?

Unfortunately, this wayward thinking is creating more deaths in America. Peddlers of lies and half-truths are winding up in the hospital on ventilators.

It is my opinion that too many folks have alternative thinking based upon what some political and community leaders say. I would not

be surprised if they had their shots, albeit in secret.

One leader received the vaccine along with his family and then said the vaccine was a hoax and did not work. Too bad, many people believed him.

President Joe Biden said on Wednesday on CNN, “We have a pandemic for those who haven’t gotten the vaccination.” Let’s hope his plea falls on open ears and the unvaccinated get vaccinated.

One person who stayed unvaccinated for months was Congressman Steve Scalise, a Republican from Louisiana. He is recently vaccinated. He said, “Especially with the

delta variant becoming a lot more aggressive and seeing another spike, it was a good time to do it.”

He received his first Pfizer dose last week. Representative Scalise added, “When you talk to people who run hospitals in New Orleans or other states, 90% of people in hospitals with delta variant have not been vaccinated. That’s another signal the vaccine works.”

Mr. Scalise, I will humbly say the vaccine worked months ago for many people who took it. And yes, there were exceptions to this assertion.

# Our Voices

By Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.  
*Founder and President of  
Rainbow PUSH Coalition*



The right-wing majority on the Supreme Court just undercut the Voting Rights Act again. Having gutted the section that required pre-approval of state voting laws to protect the rights of minorities to vote in Shelby v. Holder, Republican-appointed justices now have castrated the backup clause — Section 2 — which bans racial discrimination in election practices in Brnovich v. DNC. The result will open the floodgates even further to the wave of partisan laws that Republicans

are pushing in states across the country to suppress the votes of African Americans and other people of color. The right-wing justices continue their assault on the meaning and power of the Voting Rights Act, a triumph of the civil rights movement that Justice Elena Kagan, writing in dissent, noted represents the “best in America.” The reaction against the civil rights movement continues.

Every movement for equal justice under the law in this country has been met with a brutal reaction. When reformers tried to limit the spread of slavery into new states coming into the republic, the slave states seceded, launching the Civil War, the deadliest war in American

history. After losing the war, when the federal government began reconstruction to free the slaves and guarantee equal political and economic rights to all, the reaction was brutal, with lynching and terrorism — led by the Ku Klux Klan and others — spreading to suppress the newly freed slaves. In the end, segregation — America’s version of apartheid — spread through the South and the hope of the civil rights amendments was crushed. Now, after the civil rights movement, the Voting Rights Act and the election of Barack Obama, the reaction has been fierce.

Across the country, Republican legislators have sought to make it harder for African

Americans and other people of color to vote. The long lines that mark inner-city voting sites are a graphic demonstration of the success of those efforts, for many people can’t take the hours off from work to cast a ballot. In each era, the lawless reaction — and blatant violations of the Constitution — have been ratified by disgraceful decisions in the Supreme Court. The court ratified segregation in Plessy v. Ferguson, inventing the doctrine of separate but equal — a concept that existed only in the judge’s imaginations, not in the realities of any of the former slave states. Voter suppression following the civil rights movement was ratified in Shelby v. Holder and now in

Brnovich vs. the DNC, that have essentially gutted the Voting Rights Act, the crown jewel of the civil rights movement.

The so-called “conservative” justices on the Supreme Court are rewriting the laws passed by Congress to serve their own partisan purposes. Now the excuse is to limit voter fraud, even though there is no evidence of such fraud other than in the ravings of partisan politicians. This struggle will continue. Clearly, Republicans across the country have decided that rather than seeking to win the votes of African Americans and other peoples of color, they would rather pass measures to suppress their vote — from discriminatory changes in voting practices, to

gerrymandering of districts, to (most dangerously) empowering Republican legislatures to overturn the results of an election. Once more people of conscience must stand up and organize to protect the right to vote and to counter those who would suppress it.

Once more, right-wing justices have written another shameful chapter of judicial ignominy that must simply be overturned. Once more Congress must act to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act to counter the brazen efforts of the court’s right wing to neuter it. Once more, those standing in the way of equality under the law will find that the movement for justice will not be deterred.



## LEGAL

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSAL FOR CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM BY THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY PROJECT NO. 008-21

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") is seeking electronic proposals ("Proposal") for a Certified Public Accounting Firm to conduct audits of the JMAA financial statements.

Sealed Proposals to perform the services will be accepted at 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Thursday, September 2, 2021 (the "Proposal Deadline"). Proposals will be accepted by email, mail, or hand delivery as follows:

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

The following identification information must be provided with the submission: (i) Attention: Dr. Nycole Campbell-Lewis, Chief Administrative Officer; (ii) the wording: "Certified Public Accounting Firm, Project No. 008-21." If the submission is submitted via email, the identification information must be provided in the email subject line. If the submission is submitted by hand delivery or mail, the identification information must be marked on the outside or exterior of the bid envelope or container.

JMAA will not consider any Proposals received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Proposals ("RFP") is on file and open for public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFP, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents and Criteria for Selection. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Dr. Nycole Campbell-Lewis as follows:  
Jackson Municipal Airport Authority  
100 International Drive, Suite 300  
Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109  
Attention: Dr. Nycole Campbell-Lewis  
Telephone: (601) 360-8621  
Facsimile: (601) 939-3713  
Email: nlewis@jmaa.com

or from JMAA's website at <https://jmaa.com/partner-with-us/procurement/>.

Based on the Proposals received and the opening of sealed proposals, JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent ranked first. If such negotiations fail to produce an agreement in form and content, JMAA will, within a reasonable period of time, then JMAA may reject the first-ranked Respondent and follow the same process with the other Respondents, in the order of their ranking, until a Respondent agrees to and enters into an agreement with JMAA.

JMAA will not hold a Pre-Submission Conference for this project.

JMAA reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals, for any reason, any time before execution of a contract with a Respondent selected by JMAA to perform the services.

JMAA has been notified to not establish a DBE participation goal for this RFP. However, twenty (20) points are potentially available to Respondents submitting an acceptable minority participation proposal for the services.

JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Date: 7/28/2021  
Paul A. Brown, Chief Executive Officer

7/29/2021

## LEGAL

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS RIVERSIDE DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. CST, August 31, 2021, at the City Clerk's Office located at 219 S. President St., for supplying all labor, materials and equipment as required under the plans and specifications for the construction of **RIVERSIDE DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**. Please address envelope to City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205.

The entire project must be completed within 390 calendar days. The contract will be subject to liquidated damages in the amount of twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200.00) per calendar day for each consecutive calendar day in which the contract time is exceeded.

*The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a precondition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) plan. Failure to comply with the City's ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact Michael Davis with the Office of Economic Development at (601) 960-1856. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the Program are available at 200 South President Street, Warren Hood Building, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.*

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

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

A Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2021 at 2:00 p.m., local time in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Department of Public Works at 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. ATTENDANCE BY ALL POTENTIAL CONTRACTORS, SUBCONTRACTORS, AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.

Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, and Proposals forms are on file and open to public inspection at Waggoner Engineering, Inc., located at 143-A LeFleurs Square, Jackson, Mississippi 39211. One (1) copy of the Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents may be procured at Waggoner Engineering, Inc., upon payment of \$250.00 dollars for each set, which will not be refunded. All request and questions regarding plans and specifications can be directed to Thomas Grass, PE, (601) 355-9526. The Standard Specifications adopted by the City Council may be

procured from the Department of Public Works, if desired upon payment of \$5.00 dollars for each specification.

**"Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic bids can be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814."**

Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi law and possess a certificate of responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Contractors establishing its classification as to the value and type of construction on which it is authorized to bid. Each bidder must deposit with its proposal, a bid bond or certified check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid for the work, payable to the City of Jackson, as the bid security.

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

**Bids and EBO plans shall be submitted in triplicate, sealed and deposited with the City of Jackson's City Clerk prior to the hour and date designated above. Bid shall be made out on the bid proposal forms provided. Each bidder shall write "Bid for RIVERSIDE DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT" and its certificate of responsibility number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing its proposal.**

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

*Charles Williams, Jr., PE, Ph.D.*  
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

7/29/2021, 8/5/2021

## LEGAL

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Jackson, Mississippi is accepting final comment of Amendment Number 3 to its 2015-2019 Five Year (5 YR) Consolidated Plan and Amendment Number 3 to the 2019 One-Year Action Plan of the Consolidated Plan by

1. Including additional funding to include CARES Act funding awarded to the City of Jackson in the following amounts:  
A. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - \$1,467,183

2. Include projects to expend the CARES Act funding in preparing, preventing and responding to the Coronavirus

In addition, the City of Jackson is accepting final comment for its 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and its 2020 One-Year Action Plan. The initial Public Hearings were conducted on March 3 and March 10, 2020. The draft 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020 One-Year Action Plan contains applications for funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The City of Jackson will receive \$1,871,982 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds; \$941,110 of HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds; \$166,816 of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds; and \$1,434,010 in Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds for a total of \$4,413,918.

Lastly the City is accepting final comments for its 2021 One-Year Action Plan of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The City of Jackson will receive \$1,811,981 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds; \$881,748 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds; \$159,648 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds; and \$1,428,764 in Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds for a total of \$4,282,141. The Consolidated Planning process requires broad public participation by citizens and entities who are interested in, or are providing assistance in, the areas of housing, services for the homeless, public services and other community development activities.

Drafts of all three (3) documents listed above are posted on the City's website at [www.jacksonms.gov](http://www.jacksonms.gov). Comments regarding the 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and its 2020 One-Year Action Plan; the 2021 One-Year Action Plan of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and the proposed amendment to the 2015-2019 Five Year (5 YR) Consolidated Plan and 2019 One-Year Action Plan may be emailed to [AHCD@jacksonms.gov](mailto:AHCD@jacksonms.gov). Comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., Thursday, August 5, 2021.

At the conclusion of the public comment period, unless there are objections from the general public, this Amendment will be considered adopted, however, if there are any objections from the public, these objections will be presented to the City Council for consideration prior to the adoption of the Amendment.

7/29/2021

## LEGAL

### Habitat for Humanity Tent Sale

Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area is having a tent sale (rain or shine) on Friday, July 30, from Noon until 5 p.m. and on Saturday, July 31, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. The items on sale — primarily office furniture — were donated from a wide variety of businesses that were downsizing or relocating during the pandemic. Everything being sold was donated to support the work of the non-profit.

The sale will be held at Habitat's office at 615 Stonewall Street - a mile from State Street and a half a block from Bailey Avenue.

Cash, credit cards, debit cards, and Venmo will be accepted but no checks.

Low prices on everything for sale including beautiful wooden office furniture, metal desks, rolling chairs, side chairs, cabinets, four drawer file cabinets, lateral file cabinets including tall sizes, miscellaneous office furniture including side tables and lamps, office kitchen items such as racks and household items, contractor materials paint and more. All items for sale are in excellent condition.

Funds received will help offset the higher costs of building materials for all projects. Items must be removed the day they are purchased. No items will be held for later pick up. Everything being sold was donated to support the work of the non-profit.

7/29/2021

## LEGAL

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2021 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

#### I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

A. OLD BUSINESS  
1. Case No. HPNC-21-24, requested by Jeff Seabold to replace the front door with a new door and add a future storm glass door at 1320 St. Ann St. located in the Belhaven Neighborhood District.

2. Case No. HPNC-21-25 (Historic Preservation Violation), requested by Jeff Seabold to remove three windows and fill the locations with hardi plank for the house at 1039 Manslip St. located in the Belhaven Neighborhood District.

3. Case No. HPNC-21-26, requested by: Aikisha Holly Colon to construct a new mixed used building at 115 E. Griffith St. located in the Farish Historical District.

#### B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Case No. HPNC-21-29, requested by Jennifer Welch to demolish existing wood deck to the rear of property and build new extended deck with three covered carport parking spaces below; extend existing driveway for car access; remove two windows at rear of property to lower level crawl space under main floor of house; install two doors to provide access at 935 Bellevue Pl. located in the Belhaven Neighborhood District.

2. Case No. HPNC-21-31, requested by Blanton and Group LLC to install a guard rail on lower level front porch required by the insurance to the house at 1003 Whitworth located in the Belhaven Neighborhood District.

3. Case No. HPNC-21-32, requested by D and J LLC to replace doors and windows of the house at 815-19 Oakwood St. located in the Belhaven Historical District.

4. Case No. HPNC-21-33, requested by Lauren Rhoades to remove existing garage structure behind EWHG Visitor Center in its entirety, including foundation and associated utilities; remove concrete drive and prep for new drive; remove/relocate existing vegetation; and build a new Welty Education Center with a red concrete patio, and new concrete driveway at 1109 Pinehurst St. located in the Belhaven Neighborhood District.

#### II. OTHER ITEMS

1. Administered by Approved COAs

#### III. ADDENDUM

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE, COMMISSIONERS AND APPLICANTS WILL ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING [CDOTSON@JACKSONMS.GOV](mailto:CDOTSON@JACKSONMS.GOV) TO REGISTER PRIOR TO AUGUST 4, 2021.

7/22/2021, 7/29/2021

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# Delta Variant Now Makes up 83 Percent of all U.S. COVID Cases



PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO / NNPA

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 on 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 GoodStock 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 nine 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.”

# Los Angeles County Returns \$75 Million Land to Black Family

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Nearly a century after the government allegedly used trickery and eminent domain to seize their valuable property, the family of Charles and Willa Bruce are finally receiving justice. Officials in Los Angeles County reportedly have decided to return the family’s Manhattan Beach property that estimates show might be worth as much as \$75 million.

The beach resort once flourished while welcoming African American visitors in the 1920s – a time when Black people and other minorities weren’t allowed on white beaches. The property famously took on the name “Bruce’s Beach.” Meanwhile, descendants of Charles and Willa Bruce had fought for years to have the land returned to the family.

“It was a very important place because there was no other place along the coast of California where African Americans could actually go and enjoy the water,” Chief Duane Yellow Feather Shepard, the Bruce family historian, and spokesperson said in a local interview.

Regularly facing threats and intimidation tactics from the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacists, the Bruce family maintained their property and kept the resort open. But in 1924, the city council cited eminent domain as a reason to take the land, reportedly under the guise of building a park.“However, the land re-



COURTESY OF BRUCE FAMILY



COURTESY OF BRUCE FAMILY

mained untouched for years,” the Insider reported.

According to media reports, Willa and Charles Bruce fought back legally but received only \$14,000 in com-

pensation. Now, city officials have placed the value of the property at \$75 million.

“When I first realized that the county-owned the property that was once Willa

and Charles Bruce’s Beach Lodge, I knew that returning it to the Bruce family was the right thing to do,” Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn told CBS Los Angeles in a statement. “But this is the first time a government has done anything like this, and there were a lot of questions about how it would work.”

For the family and Shepard, there remains more work. “Our next step will be, once we get that land restored to us, is to go after them for the restitution, for the loss of revenue for 96 years of our family from the business, the loss of generational wealth, and the punitive damages for their collusion with the Ku Klux Klan in disenfranchising our family,” Shepard remarked.

# Indiana State Police Investigating Death of Black Woman in Custody

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Indiana State Police are investigating the death of 23-year-old Ta’neasha Chappell, a Black woman who died after being transported from a Jackson County jail to a local hospital on Friday, July 16.

“It is with extreme sadness that we announce the passing of Ta’Neasha Chappell. She unexpectedly passed away at The Jackson County Jail in Brownstown, Indiana,” wrote Jeffontae Elijah McClain, who has organized a GoFundMe for Chappell’s funeral expenses.

“She was a loving mother, sister, daughter, and friend who touched the lives of many around her. She leaves behind her 10-year-old daughter Nevaeh who will miss her terribly,” McClain continued on the GoFundMe site that so far has raised about \$6,412 of a \$13,000 goal.

According to law enforcement officials, Indiana State Police arrested Chappell in May alleging she participated



Ta’Neasha Chappell and daughter

in a shoplifting ring that operated from Louisville, Kentucky to Edinburgh, Indiana.

Unable to raise the \$4,000 bond, Chappell remained in custody as she awaited a court hearing.

Authorities at the prison said Chappell complained of feeling sick and was rushed to Seymour Hospital where doctors pronounced her dead on Friday, July 16.

“It is unsettling, we want justice, we want answers – we

have a lot of questions and no answers,” Ronesha Murrell, Chappell’s sister, told WDRB.

Indiana’s Channel 3 news reported that Chappell’s family said they talked to her days prior to her death and she seemed healthy and in good spirits.

“I asked her how was it going, she was like she’s doing okay,” Chappell’s sister, Ronesha Murrell, explained to the news outlet. “We just talked, we just laughed for a little

minute, she talked to my son, and we ended the conversation with I love you, she was going to call me back.

Chappell’s mother told WAVE 3 News her daughter feared for her life in the jail.

“She called every day telling us to get her out of there,” Chappell’s mother, Lavita McClain, said. “‘Mama they’re going to kill me in here, they’re going to kill me in here,’ and she would always say ‘get me out of here if anything happens to me just know that they did it.’”

The family has demanded answers.

“We are all devastated by her loss but are working tirelessly to figure out the events that transpired moments before her passing,” Jeffontae Elijah McClain stated. “In the meantime, we need any help possible to give her the proper burial she deserves. Any and all help will go to her funeral arrangements and autopsy. On behalf of our family, we truly appreciate your support and encouragement during this time.”



# AARP Awards 3 Mississippi Organizations with Community Grants as Part of its Successful Nationwide Program

The Mississippi Link Newswire

On Wednesday, AARP Mississippi announced three Mississippi organizations will receive 2021 Community Challenge grants – part of the largest group of grantees to date with \$3.2 million awarded among 244 organizations nationwide. Grantees will implement quick-action projects to promote livable communities by improving housing, transportation, public spaces, civic engagement, and connection with family, friends, and neighbors with an emphasis on the needs of the 50-plus. Many of this year’s awards support revitalizing communities adversely impacted by the pandemic and include a focus on diversity, inclusion, and disparities. “We are incredibly proud to collaborate with these organizations as they work to make immediate improvements in their communities, encourage promising ideas and jumpstart long-term change, especially for those age 50 and over,” shared AARP Mississippi State Direc-

tor Kimberly L. Campbell, Esq. “Our goal at AARP Mississippi is to support the efforts of our communities to be great places for people of all backgrounds, ages and abilities.” All projects are expected to be completed by November 10, 2021. Here in Mississippi, projects funded include: Hattiesburg Landmark Preservation, Inc. This project aims to make culturally enriching improvements to Duncan Lake Park in Downtown Hattiesburg. It will include painting a mural on the recreation building, restoring seating and providing free arts programming to people of all ages. Jackson Heart Foundation This project includes designing, developing and implementing an accessible way-finding system for Jackson’s new multi-use trail corridor. It will provide residents with guidance and information to encourage safe walking and bike trips throughout the community.

OSPREYS- Ocean Springs Pedestrians and Residents for Exercise and Youth Safety This project will transform one of Ocean Springs’ busiest avenues with on-street murals intended to slow traffic and empower safe pedestrian access and will also complete a pocket park that activates an underused parking lot for COVID-safe community activity. The Community Challenge grant program is part of AARP’s nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live for people of all ages. Since 2017, AARP Mississippi has awarded 8 grants and \$104,800 through the program to nonprofit organizations and government entities across the state. View the full list of grantees and their project descriptions at [www.aarp.org/communitychallenge](http://www.aarp.org/communitychallenge) and learn more about AARP’s livable communities work at [www.aarp.org/livable](http://www.aarp.org/livable).

# To Shot or Not to Shot, Should it be a Question?

By H Ralph Samuels, Jr.

Millions have been affected  
and hundreds of thousands have died;  
Information and rumors abound  
Some folks have just flat out lied.

It seems that during this pandemic  
we still haven’t learned the lessons;  
We still treat people with disdain,  
yet God keeps sending us blessings.

One death is one too many  
when it really could have been stopped;  
But sadly too many are questioning,  
To Shot or Not to Shot?

Statistics are still being gathered  
and the data is still being debated;  
But statistics and data is useless  
if you haven’t been vaccinated.

Some believe that we should be,  
saying the evidence speaks for itself;  
It may not be 100 percent  
but it increases your chances for health.

Others argue, well, it’s not proven  
there are too many risks involved;  
but risks have always been evident  
so the problem is still not solved.

We’ve seen the toll it has taken  
this virus, on the young and the old;  
And now with a new Delta variant  
Things are sure to get worse, I’m told.

As our children prepare for a new year  
and they’re gearing back up for school;  
Let’s do what we must to protect them  
Have we forgotten the “Golden Rule”?

And what about the plight of the elderly  
our Seniors face challenges each day;  
This virus is just one of many diseases  
that’s taking our loved ones away.

It seems that no one should argue  
whether losing a life is a lot;  
so should there be any question at all  
To Shot or Not to Shot?

Politics, race, and money  
power, status, and greed;  
seems to be fueling the motives  
instead of caring for those who are in need.

Consider with me this statement  
it should be a universal oath;  
Look closely or you will miss it  
“Humankind, Be both”.

What happened to “love thy neighbor”  
and “treat others like you wish to be treated;  
what happened to “caring and sharing”  
and “together we can’t be defeated.”

Remember the Three Musketeers  
“All for one and one for all”  
And was it that storyteller name Aesop who said,  
United we stand, divided we fall?

Others have made similar statements  
And its truth is one we should heed  
But we should already know this  
For in Matthew 12:25 we read

“Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation;  
and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.”  
These are the words of our Lord Jesus  
and He speaks to the situation at hand.

We will never be a great nation  
nor a path of unity will we trod..  
If we don’t do justice and love mercy  
and walk humbly before our God.

This pandemic is far from over  
and so I simply ask;  
Let’s continue to social distance  
and by all means wear our mask.

It’s not a matter of fear  
or whether or not you have faith;  
It’s just plain common sense  
coupled with God’s mercy and grace.

Yes, sadly others will die  
and many more will become ill;  
But we must stay the course  
and submit to God’s divine will.

Our Father knows what’s best  
and our lives are in His hand;  
we may not see the reasons now  
but one day we’ll understand.

C’m on people let’s get together  
Doing the right thing is not asking a lot;  
Pray fervently and seek God for the answer  
To shot or not to shot?

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“The Name Inspires The Pen”



## Hinds County Human Resource Agency Project Head Start is currently accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year.



**To Qualify:**

- Child must be 3 or 4 years old on or before September 1st
- Family must reside in Hinds County
- Must meet income guidelines

**Families of children with disabilities are encouraged to apply regardless of income.**

**Priority is given to children with diagnosed disabilities (certified IEP or IFSP).**

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- Dental
- Nutrition
- Mental Health
- Disability
- Literacy
- Leadership Development
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**To Apply, You Must Present the Following:**

- 1) **Proof of child's age** - birth certificate, hospital birth record, or passport
- 2) **Proof of family's income** - tax return, W-2, pay stub, SSI, Social Security, child support, TANF, grants/scholarship, unemployment, and any other source of household income
- 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)**
- 7) **Legal guardianship (if applicable)**
- 8) **Documentation of foster care (if applicable)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY**  
**Call (601) 923-3950, Select Option 1 or 5**



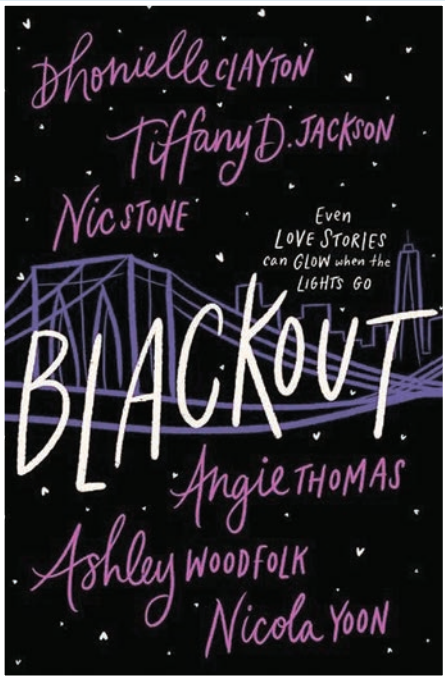
## I GOT MY COVID-19 VACCINE

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This ad is a public service of The Mississippi Link in partnership with the Metro Jackson Section of NCNW.





BOOK REVIEW:

BLACKOUT

BY DHONIELLE CLAYTON, TIFFANY D. JACKSON, NIC STONE, ANGIE THOMAS, ASHLEY WOODFOLK, AND NICOLA YOON

C.2021, QUILL TREE BOOKS / HARPER COLLINS

\$19.99 / \$24.99 CANADA • 256 PAGES

Mississippi Link Newswire

Lights out.

For most people, that means it’s time to sleep, but not you. Lights out means time to turn ‘em back on, pump up the music, and get the party started. And for those in the new novel “Blackout” by Dhonielle Clayton, Tiffany D. Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, and Nicola Yoon, it’s time to fall in love.

Obviously, there was a mix-up.

There was just one job opening at the Apollo corporate

headquarters, but two candidates were offered the position and both were there for orientation. Oops.

Bad on the company. Worse for Tammi Wright, whose heart was shattered upon seeing Kareem Murphy walk into the lobby. He’d broken up with her a few weeks before, and she thought she was over him. Apparently not, but she wanted that job so she’d wait, even if she had to do it somewhere near his fine self.

And then the lights went out. It had been stiflingly hot that

day and Manhattan’s power grid couldn’t handle it. Without A/C, buildings were vacated, people milled around, and Kareem suggested they start walking home to Brooklyn. Tammi thought he was out of his mind but he had a DJing gig that evening, do-or-die, and there was nothing else to do.

JJ Harding, Jr. was on the subway when the blackout hit, but he didn’t worry until he noticed Tremaine Wright a few seats away. Tremaine was claustrophobic, as JJ knew, and he could see that Tremaine was almost

freaking out. He didn’t want to intrude if the claustrophobia was a sensitive secret. JJ knew all about secrets.

The residents at the Althea House were playing cards when the blackout started and the most beautiful woman Nella had ever seen walked into the building. Lana was trying to figure out how to tell her best friend, Tristan, that she liked him a whole lot more than just like. Kayla Simmons was sitting on a tour bus, contemplating a love rectangle.

Grace was in Seymour’s

Ryde, heading for Brooklyn, and the party was about to start...


Okay, yes, it’s a story that’s contrived and convenient. Yes, it’s a lot of meet-cute. It’s predictable, too, but reach a little deeper and “Blackout” is a pretty intriguing concept.

It is, in fact, the ultimate in collaboration: six authors, cooperating on one single story that arcs through six different couples on one dark night makes for an interesting tale, in part because each of the authors brings her own style to the table here. The characters

aren’t interchangeable, nor are the situations, which gives readers a strong sense that the people in these tales are more dimensional. You can feel the same heat they’re feeling. You’ll believe that they’re heading for the same place and that things are gonna get even more interesting.

Want to go, too?

Then check for “Blackout” in your local YA section. Despite its strong language (but no action past kissing), it’s great for gentle romantics ages 15-to-adult, so find it... and turn the lights up.



**ZACK WALLACE**  
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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

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

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

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

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

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- Marriage License
- Medical License
- Voter Registration/Absentee Voting

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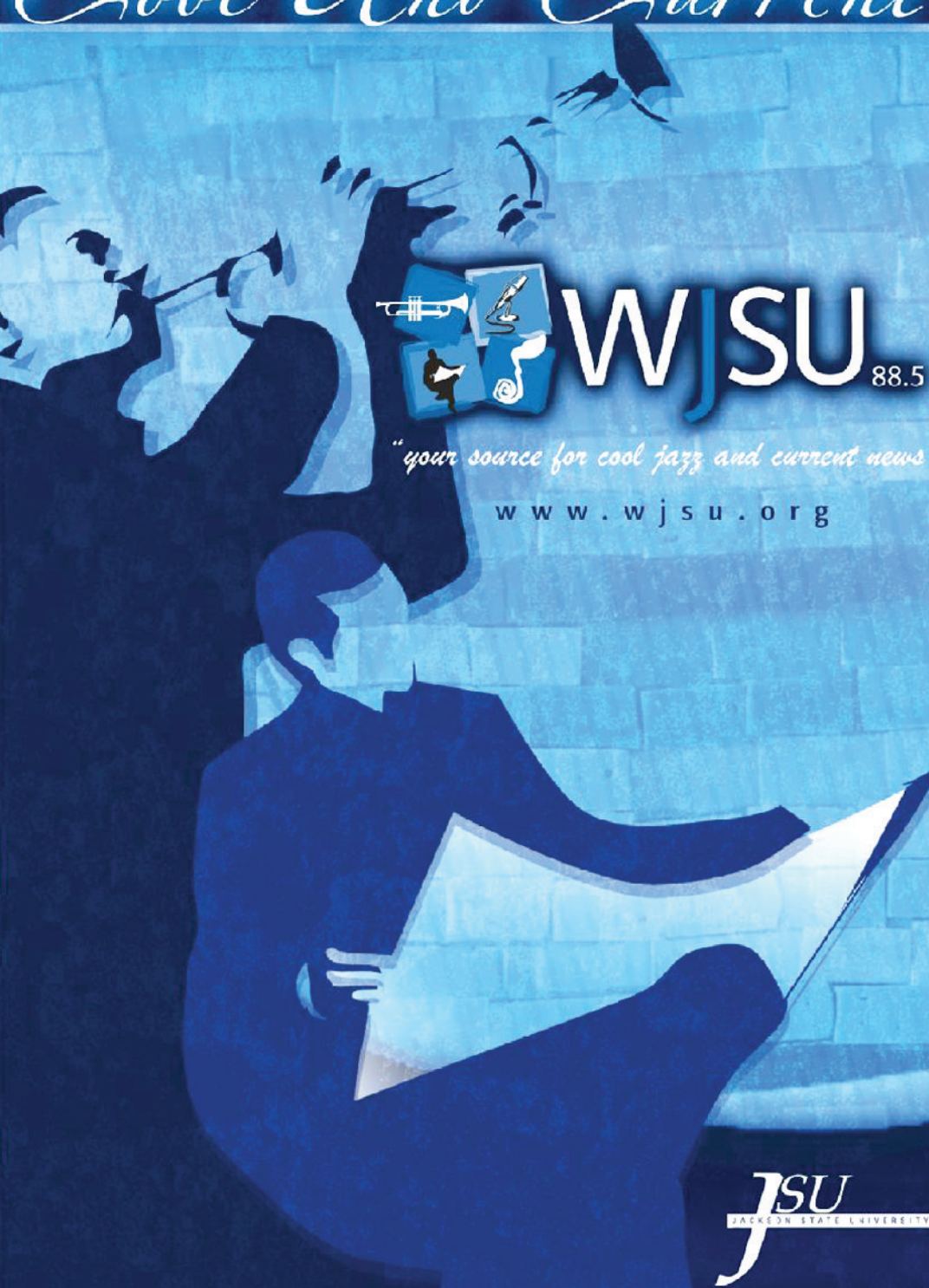
- You must be registered 30 days before the Election.
- Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election


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# Biles withdraws from gymnastics final to protect team, self

By Will Graves  
AP Sports Writer

Simone Biles arrived in Tokyo as the star of the U.S. Olympic movement and perhaps the Games themselves. She convinced herself she was prepared for the pressure. That she was ready to carry the burden of outsized expectations.

Only, as the women's gymnastics team final approached on Tuesday night, something felt off. And the athlete widely considered the Greatest of All Time in her sport knew it.

So rather than push through the doubts that crept into her head as she's done so many times in the past, Biles decided enough was enough. She was done. For now.

The American star withdrew from the competition following one rotation, opening the door for the team of Russian athletes to win gold for the first time in nearly three decades.

Jordan Chiles, Sunisa Lee and Grace McCallum guided the U.S. to silver while Biles cheered from the sideline in a white sweatsuit, at peace with a decision that revealed a shift not only in Biles but perhaps the sport she's redefined.

"We also have to focus on ourselves, because at the end of the day we're human, too," Biles said. "So, we have to protect our mind and our body, rather than just go out there and do what the world wants us to do."

The Americans — fueled by an uneven bars routine by Lee that not even Biles could match — drew within eight-tenths of a point through three rotations. ROC, however, never wavered on floor. And they erupted when 21-year-old Angelina Melnikova's score assured them of the top spot on the podium for the first time since the Unified Team won in Barcelona in 1992.

The victory came a day after ROC men's team edged Japan for the top spot in the men's final. Great Britain edged Italy for bronze.

"The impossible is possible now," Melnikova said.

Perhaps in more ways than one.

In the five years since Biles and the U.S. put on a dazzling display on their way to gold in Rio de Janeiro, gymnastics has undergone a reckoning. The tectonic plates in a sport where obedience, discipline and silence were long considered as important as talent and artistry are moving.

Biles has become an outspoken advocate for athlete's rights and the importance of proper mental health. There was a time, there were many times actually, where she felt she wasn't right and just powered through because that's what people expected of her.

Not anymore. And the stand she took could resonate far beyond the color of any medal she may win in Tokyo.

Biles is the latest in a series of high-profile athletes, including tennis star Naomi Osaka, who have used their platforms to discuss their mental health struggles. A subject that was once taboo has become far more accepted and embraced.

U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee CEO Sarah Hirshland applauded Biles for prioritizing her "mental wellness over all else" and offered the organization's full support. USA Gymnastics women's



Simone Biles, of the United States, watches gymnasts perform at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Tuesday, July 27, 2021, in Tokyo. Biles says she wasn't in right 'headspace' to compete and withdrew from gymnastics team final to protect herself. AP PHOTO/ASHLEY LANDIS

program vice-president called Biles' act "incredibly selfless."

Biles posted on social media Monday that she felt the weight of the world on her shoulders after an uncharacteristically sloppy showing during qualifying left the Americans looking up at the ROC on the score-

board.

The tension affected her practice. It affected her confidence. And when she stepped onto the vault runway, it finally found its way to her performance, too.

She was scheduled to do an "Amanar" vault that requires a roundoff back handspring

onto the table followed by 2 1/2 twists. Biles instead did just 1 1/2 twists with a big leap forward after landing. She sat down and talked to U.S. team doctor Marcia Faustin, then headed to the back while the rest of the Americans moved on to uneven bars without her.

When Biles returned several minutes later, she hugged her teammates and took off her bar grips. And just like that, her night was over.

"To see her kind of go out like that is very sad because this Olympic Games, I feel like, is kind of hers," Lee said.

Biles is scheduled to defend her Olympic title in the all-around final on Thursday. She also qualified for all four event finals later in the Games. She said she will regroup on Wednesday before deciding whether to continue.

Biles' abrupt absence forced the Americans to scramble a bit. The finals are a three-up/three-count format, meaning each country enters three of their four athletes on an apparatus, with all three scores counting.

Chiles stepped in to take Biles' place on uneven bars and balance beam. The 20-year-old who made the team with her steady consistency pulled off a solid bars routine and drilled her balance beam set two days after falling twice on the event.

Thanks in part to a little help from ROC — which counted a pair of falls on beam — the U.S. drew within striking distance

heading to floor, the final rotation.


Without Biles and her otherworldly tumbling, the U.S. needed to be near perfect to close the gap. It didn't happen. Chiles stumbled to the mat at the end of her second pass, and any chance the U.S. had of chasing down ROC went right along with it.




Not that Chiles or the rest of the Americans particularly cared. The gold might be gone, but something more significant may have happened instead. It's a tradeoff they can live with.

"This medal is definitely for (Biles)," said Chiles. "If it wasn't if it wasn't for her, we wouldn't be here where we are right now. We wouldn't be a silver medalist because of who she is as a person."

Chiles then turned to her good friend. Biles helped convince her to move to Houston to train alongside her two years ago, a decision that turned Chiles into an Olympian. In an empty arena in the middle of Japan with the world watching, Chiles did for Biles what Biles has done for so many for so long. She had her back.

"Kudos to you girl," Chiles said. "This is all for you."





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# “Chain Breakers” mural unveiled at COFO Celebration

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

On Saturday, July 24, the Office of Community Engagement formally unveiled a historic mural, which had been seen on the side of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) building by members of the community for several weeks now.

The mural, painted by local artist, Sabrina Howard, honors MS State Representative Alyce Clark (D-MS), Jackson civil rights leader, Fannie Lou Hamer, educator and civil rights activist, Bob Moses, trailblazer educator Rose Howard Robinson, the first African American bookstore owner in the Washington addition, Louise Marshall and the first African American florist in the Washington Addition community, Albert Powell. It is entitled “Chain Breakers,” a name which depicts those represented in the mural.

Jason Robinson, grandson of Rose Robinson, gave a moving testimony of his grandmother’s professional career. He said “Her professional career actually started four years before she became a professional.”

When Rose Robinson became a student at Jackson State in 1940 the school was being shifted from an institution where one could receive a 4-year teaching degree to an institution where one could only receive a 2-year teacher’s certificate. The freshman class was upset with this change. Another change was that the school would be run by the state and named the Mississippi Negro Training School. The students, faculty and administration galvanized to change this and eventually the students were able to get their 4-year degree in elementary education. Robinson said, “My grandmother called this her cherished degree.”

Rose Robinson subsequently gained her Master’s Degree from Indiana University and went on to work at several colleges and universities. She retired from Alabama State University as V.P. of Student Affairs. As a trailblazer, she was the first African American female to serve in this capacity.

Mississippi State Representative Clark said she was blown away when she heard she would be represented with others who had done so much for the state. Clark has been serving the 69th District since 1984.



Chain Breakers (l-r) Alyce Clark, Fannie Lou Hamer, Bob Moses, Rose Robinson, Louise Marshall and Albert Powell Powell.



Jason Robinson said his grandmother was a trailblazer



Attendees of the unveiling

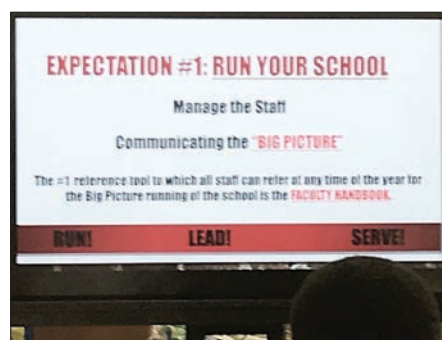
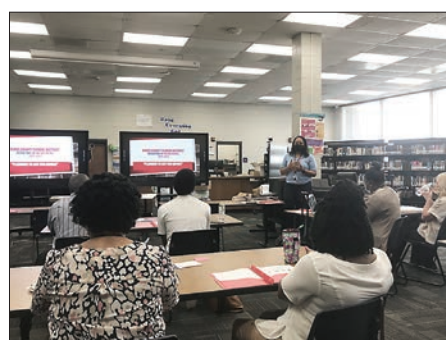
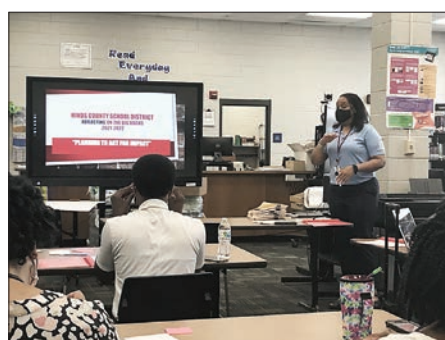


Attendees join Rep. Clark (4th from right) for photo in front of mural

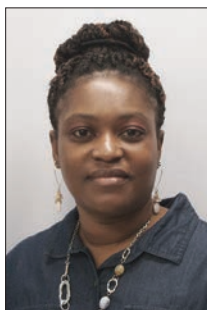
## Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

### HCSD Administrator Summer Work Session Highlights



## Hinds County School District Welcomes Its Newly Appointed Administrators



Linda Little, Director of Child Nutrition

After years of serving to her community, Ms. Little developed a passion to aide our elderly and youth. That passion led her to join the Child Nutrition Program of Lauderdale County School District. There, she served over seven years with a remarkable team of colleagues that shared the same passion. Ms. Little was appointed Child Nutrition Director of Hinds County School District on July 1, 2021. She is also a 2017 graduate of the University of Phoenix. Ms. Little stated that, “I am ex-cited and looking forward to this new opportunity to serve our students while implementing new and innovative ideas”.



Daffonie Moore, Head Principal at CMS/LSA/ MSRC

Ms. Daffonie Moore is a native of Jackson, MS and has been as educator for 21 years. She holds a bachelor’s

degree from Tougaloo College and a Master’s and Specialist’s degree from Mississippi College. Her teaching career began with the Jackson Public School District where she was an English teacher for 12 years. She then transitioned to the Hinds County School District as assistant principal for Raymond High School for 7 years. Ms. Moore now serves as the new principal of Carver Middle School, Life Skills Academy and Main Street Restart Center. Prior to becoming the principal for CMS/LSA/MSRC, she served as the assistant principal for 2 years.



Jimmy Tullos, Assistant Principal / Athletic Director at THS

Mr. Tullos is excited to be returning to Terry High School as an Assistant Principal and Athletic Director for the 2021-22 school year! During my educational career I taught math at Terry High from 1997-2001. He is a native of Greenwood, MS and earlier in his career, he taught at

various schools across the MS Delta including Drew High School and Greenwood High School. Most recently, he spent the last eight years of his educational career at Richland High School in the Rankin County School District teaching math and serving as part of the administrative team as the Transportation Supervisor. In addition to his years in the classroom, he has been a member of the Mississippi Army National Guard for over thirty years. His current position in the MSARNG is the Operations Sergeant Major for the Medical Training Battalion at Camp Shelby.

Mr. Tullos earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Mathematics Education from Delta State University in 1994, a Master’s Degree in Secondary Education from William Carey University in 2007, and an Educational Specialist’s Degree in Educational Leadership from Mississippi College in 2015. Mr. Tullos stated that “I am truly looking forward to immersing myself in the fantastic culture here at Terry High School and cannot wait to cheer on our students in all of their endeavors”.

HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## CLEAR BAG POLICY

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	<p>BAGS THAT DO NOT MEET THE HCSD CLEAR BAG POLICY</p> <p>WEAPONS</p> <p>THROWABLE OBJECTS, INCLUDING BALLS</p> <p>NON-SERVICE ANIMALS</p>
<p>Clear Backpack</p> <p>Clutch Purse (No larger than 4.5" x 6.5")</p> <p>1 Gallon Plastic Freezer Bag</p>	<p>OUTSIDE FOOD, BEVERAGES, COOLERS, OR CONTAINERS</p> <p>MASKS</p> <p>ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, OR ILLICIT DRUGS</p> <p>NON-COMPLIANT ARTIFICIAL NOISEMAKERS, INCLUDING WHISTLES, AIR HORNS, AND AMPLIFIERS</p>