

## Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock (D-GA) receives 2021 NNPA National Leadership Award



Warnock

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

One day before the unprecedented insurrection at the U.S. Capitol inspired by former President Donald Trump, the United States Senate underwent a sea change.

Thanks to heavy voter turnout – largely as a result of the efforts of black women and other community organizers – Georgia residents elected Jon Ossoff and the Rev. Raphael Warnock to the Senate.

When combined with the tie-breaking vote represented by the then newly elected Vice President, Kamala Harris, Georgia’s special election gave Democrats the Senate majority.

For Rev. Warnock, the election provided an unusual opportunity to expand the ethics, commitment and desire to serve he demonstrated regularly from the pulpit as pastor of the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church. Just in time to provide comfort for a nation in need of leadership and healing.

er ship and healing.

Born in Savannah, Georgia, July 23, 1969, Warnock graduated from Morehouse College with a degree in psychology. He later graduated from Union Theological Seminary in New York.

When selected for the position of pastor, Warnock was the youngest ever to serve in that leadership role at the historic church. As the now Senator Reverend Warnock, in addition to a seat on the church dais, he fills a critical seat in the U.S. Capitol Building and Senate.

In his less than one year as a senator, it has become difficult to overstate the impact of his contributions.

He serves as a member of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee. He chairs the subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management, Trade, and the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs. He is also a member of the Senate Commerce, Sci-

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## Robert Schuler Smith Former Hinds County DA Reflections of his life and legacy

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

The news of the death of Jackson native and former Hinds County District Attorney Robert Schuler Smith sparked a flood of emotional social media reactions, condolences and reflections from family, friends and associates locally and nationally.

According to media reports, Smith succumbed Sept. 10 after being critically injured in a car crash on the rainy night of Sept. 1 on Lynch Street in Jackson, Miss. Witnesses said a speeding driver slammed into Smith’s car after he had just left his nearby law office.

Veteran broadcast journalist and Florida native Kathy Times is among many longtime friends who took to social media with their heart-felt tributes, prayers for his family and fond memories of the law professional. Times posted a brilliant photo of Smith and her on her Facebook page. She stated in one part of her post: “It is surreal to know that @RobertShulerSmith’s work and countless good deeds on this side are complete. He was one of the first people to befriend me when I arrived in Jackson in December 1999. When I heard of his car accident last week, my mind flashed back to happy times with Robert and friends.”

The former anchor at WJTV and Fox 40, Times, who is now president of Yellowbrick Media Concept, served in the Jackson media market for many years.

In a telephone interview from Florida with *The Mississippi Link* Tuesday, Sept. 14, Times said, “Robert was one of the kindest people I’ve ever met. I know his work will live on.” She also pointed out that Smith “could have been successful anywhere in the world, but he was truly a native who stayed



Smith PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

and was passionate about his work.”

Reacting to Times’ post was another friend, Michelle Funches, who commented: “I’m so hurt. We had some good times together. So hard to grasp.”

Noted national news correspondent and Jackson native Randall Pinkston also commented: “Oh no. I had not heard the sad news. I met him on assignment and, of course, growing up in Jackson, I knew of his parents’ brave work during the dangerous days of the civil rights movement. My sympathies to Robert Shuler Smith’s family and friends.”

Smith was born into a Chris-

tian family who stressed the importance of education. According to his family, Smith grabbed hold of those values with “fervor.” Such Christian upbringing and passion for education led him to develop a drive for “equity and justice.” That drive successfully drove him through completing his high school education at Forest Hill, college education at Tougaloo College, and his Juris Doctor degree at the St. Louis University School of Law in St. Louis, Mo. in 1996. He was admitted to the Mississippi State Bar Association in September of that same year.

And speaking of Smith’s

Christian values, his friend Rev. Dr. Audrey Lynne Hall, senior pastor of Holy Temple Missionary Baptist Church in West Jackson, described him as “a very caring and compassionate person.”

Hall further told *The Mississippi Link*: “I have known him for over 30 years. He had a passion for mentoring young people and encouraging them to achieve academically, attend college or a trade school. He inspired the youth of Holy Temple when he served as our Baccalaureate speaker a few years ago. The youth talked for weeks

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Natasha Blunt sits in her apartment with her grandson Kamille Blunt, 5, in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida in Chalmette, La., Monday, Sept. 6, 2021. Before the hurricane hit, the New Orleans native had hardly recovered from facing eviction and loss of her catering job during the pandemic. The storm, which left her in the dark and without power for several days, has taken Blunt to the brink. Unable to work as her health deteriorates from a pair of strokes, Blunt is still facing eviction while she cares for Kamille. AP PHOTO/GERALD HERBERT

## From COVID to Ida: Louisiana’s marginalized ‘see no way out’

By Aaron Morrison  
Associated Pressca

Darkness set in for Natasha Blunt well before Hurricane Ida knocked out power across Louisiana.

Months into the pandemic, she faced eviction in New Orleans. She lost her banquet-hall job. She suffered two strokes. And she struggled to help her 5-year-old grandson keep up with schoolwork at home.

Like nearly a fifth of Louisiana’s population – disproportionately represented by black residents and women – Blunt, 51, lives below the poverty line, and the pandemic’s economic fallout sent her to the brink.

With the help of an aid group and

grassroots donors, she moved to Chalmette, a few miles outside New Orleans, and started settling into a two-bedroom apartment. Using a cane and taking a slew of medications since her strokes, she couldn’t return to work. But federal benefits kept food in the fridge for the most part.

Then came Hurricane Ida.

Ida was the fifth-strongest hurricane to ever hit the U.S. mainland, wiping out Louisiana’s power grid before marching up the coast and sparking devastating Northeast flooding. Among survivors of the deadly storm, the toll has been deepest in many ways for people like Blunt – those who already lost

livelihoods to the pandemic in a region of longstanding racial and social inequality. Advocates say the small wins they’d made for marginalized communities and people of color since the pandemic began have been quickly wiped out.

“The government is really disconnected from what it’s like for people who have little to no safety net,” said Maggie Harris, a grassroots organizer who created a fundraiser for Blunt. “You marginalize people, you don’t pay them enough, they have health problems and aren’t insured, you offer little cash assistance or rent assistance, and

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Three Girls from Bronzeville

A Uniquely American Memoir of Race, Fate, and Sisterhood

Dawn Turner

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# A debt paid and a promise kept

Special to The Mississippi Link

Seven years ago, on August 15, 2013, the doors of Community Empowerment Center Church, pastored by Dwayne Brinkley were opened, and the first church service was held. The sanctuary was a small hotel conference room that could seat no more than 25 people.

Because the hotel utilized the space for business and meetings and corporate training, they had to set up and tear down the equipment and furnishing every Sunday. For them, it was the birthing of a ministry, and the difficulties of having to set up and tear down the sound equipment and furnishings every Sunday was a small price to pay.

Because of several challenges at the Greymont facility, in early June 2014, a meeting was held to discuss the particulars of finding a new church location. At 3580 Old Brandon Road, Pearl, MS, a building was located, visited and claimed as the new Community Empowerment Center Church location.

Much work went forth, and on July 18, 2014, the Lord blessed the small congregation to purchase this building as their first edifice. The purchase of the property, which stands on two acres of land, was finalized on July 22, 2014, at 10:28 a.m. The deed was filed with the Rankin County Chancery Clerk, and 3580 Old Brandon



Pastor Brinkley celebrates Mortgage Burning during morning worship service.

Road, Pearl, MS, became the new location for Community Empowerment Center Church.

Pastor Brinkley believed that God had rewarded his spiritual faithfulness by granting him the privilege to preach his holy word. The first service was held on Sunday, September 18, 2014, in the new location. The message was “Not by Might, Not by Power, But By My, Spirit Says the Lord,” Zechariah 4:6-7.

On April 1, 2021, the final payment was made on the mortgage, giving Community Empowerment Center a clear title to the building. Not in the 15 years, the original mortgage or in 10 years, as hoped for by the pastor, but six years and eight months as purposed by God.

On August 22, 2021, the church held the Mortgage Burning Celebration during its morning worship service. The message was, Philippians 1:6, “Positioning for Greater Purpose.”

As purposed by God, the mission of Community Empowerment Center is to reflect the love of God through service while demonstrating how a personal encounter with Christ can change an individual’s life, impact the family and influence the community.

Community Empowerment Center, through its Helping Hands Ministry, continues to demonstrate a commitment to meeting the community’s needs by feeding the homeless in their local community, providing resources to battered wom-



Members sharing in mortgage burning ceremony.

en shelters, adopting military families for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and lending a helping hand to local Habitat building projects. Additionally, the Helping Hands Ministry sponsors a Winter Coat Drive to

help the homeless community during the winter months.

Community Empowerment Center prides itself in the practice of being responsible, transparent, and fully accountable as stewards of all God has entrusted

to the ministry. Community Empowerment Center recognizes that none of this would be possible were it not for the dedicated, unselfish giving of the members, friends and partners who support their ministry.



Because taking care  
*today,* leads to an even  
healthier tomorrow.

MISSISSIPPI  
It's good to be Blue.



## Warnock

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ence, and Transportation Committee, the Senate Aging Committee and the bicameral Joint Economic Committee.

For his tireless work for the citizens of Georgia and all Americans, Senator Warnock was selected as a recipient of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) 2021 National Leadership Award, saluting excellence and innovative leadership in Black America.

“Thank you to the Black Press of America and the National Newspaper Publishers Association for this gracious award,” said Sen. Rev. Warnock.

“To my brother, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., Chair Karen Carter Richards, National Correspondent Stacy Brown, and the countless others who do the important work to keep our communities informed, engaged and motivated through these unprecedented times.

“This award is not about me, but the millions of black Americans in Georgia and across the country who continuously display their courage, perseverance and fortitude as we navigate increasingly challenging times in our communities and throughout our world. Know that I will continue to do my part in the

## Louisiana

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you allow them to be evicted.

“The message that people get is their lives are expendable.”

As Ida approached, Blunt evacuated to a hotel. She could afford only a short stay and had to return to Chalmette, despite warnings not to go back to humid cities without power.

Her apartment was pitch black. Ida had blown out the windows of her upstairs bedroom. Beds, clothing and furniture were waterlogged. She’d spent her last dollars getting to the hotel.

“It’s like I’ve got to start all over again,” Blunt said, sobbing as she surveyed her first floor, where she sleeps since the bedroom is uninhabitable. “Every time I get a step ahead, I get pushed back down. And I’m tired. I don’t see no way out.”

Blunt faces eviction for the second time in a year. Her only hope, she said, is Social Security and other disability benefits. She applied before Ida, she said, but hasn’t heard back – safety-net programs are often disrupted in disasters’ wakes.

Blunt wants to move, perhaps away from the storm-battered Gulf Coast – somewhere grandson Kamille can resume schooling without worrying about power outages. But she’s far from optimistic.

“This is the end of the road; I can’t go on much longer,” she said. Kamille put down a worksheet to rub his grandma’s leg.

“Don’t cry,” he told her. She managed a tender reply: “Do your ABCs, baby.”

Anti-poverty advocates in Louisiana bemoan links between being black or brown, living in impoverished areas, and being underserved by governmental disaster response. Available aid from anti-poverty programs often fails to meet storm victims’ heightened needs.

That’s what happened during Ida, advocates say. In Louisiana, where 17 storms that caused at least \$1 billion in damage have hit since 2000, nonprofits see some of the most dire need and starkest divide along socioeconomic lines.

“One of the things that we get really frustrated about,” said Ashley Shelton of the non-profit Power Coalition for Equality and Justice, “is people saying, ‘Ugh, Louisiana is so resilient.’

“We don’t want to be resilient forever,” she said. “When you force people to live in a constant state of resilience, it’s just oppression. Fix the systems.”

United States Senate to uplift Georgia voices in the continual march toward what Dr. King called the beloved community.”

This year, the NNPA celebrates 81 years as the trusted voice of Black America and 194 years of the Black Press of America. Each year, the NNPA recognizes courageous Americans that have impacted our nation and our world in positive ways.

Sen. Cory Booker, Congresswoman Cori Bush, Dr. James E.K. Hildreth, Dr. Ebony Hilton and record-setting Olympic Champion Allyson Felix were also selected to receive awards during this year’s virtual reception ceremony scheduled September 16, 2021 at 7 p.m. EST at a free virtual ceremony at [www.virtualnnpa.2021.com](http://www.virtualnnpa.2021.com).

“While the recipients’ career paths may vary, one cannot underestimate the impact of their shared commitment to creating meaningful and beneficial change in the lives of African Americans,” the members of NNPA’s Board of Directors in a joint statement.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., the president and CEO of the NNPA, said the Black Press “is saluting excellence and innovative leadership in Black America.”

It doesn’t help that Louisiana’s poverty rate is higher than the national average, according to the Census Bureau ‘s American Community Survey. Poverty makes the prospect of relocation precarious for people who were already struggling before disaster struck, said Andreanecia Morris of HousingNOLA, a program of the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance.

“Housing is a foundational issue for all of these catastrophes,” Morris said. “Our failure to address racial bias, gender bias and poverty bias in housing impedes all of those things.”

After Ida hit, Morris canvassed areas of New Orleans. In the Lower Ninth Ward, a neighborhood that suffered immensely after Hurricane Katrina, 57-year-old Lationa Kemp found herself cut off from most aid. She’d been relying on neighbors with cars for ice, meals and water. She was without power, with roof leaks and fence damage.

Kemp had disputes with her landlord over the home’s condition. The threat of eviction loomed. Morris wants to get Kemp moved elsewhere permanently. In the meantime, Morris suggested a cooling center.

“Thank you, baby, but I’m fine,” Kemp told her, explaining that she’d rather stay in a dilapidated home \_ past experiences make her fear the shelter system. “I’m praying that when I leave out of here, I’m going to a better house.”

Blunt has survived her share of storms \_ starting with her birth, during the fallout of Hurricane Camille in 1969. As she tells it, her pregnant mother had been moved to a naval medical ship. Today, Blunt chuckles over the coincidence of her grandson’s name, Kamille.

Remembering Katrina is scarier. Blunt evacuated, then returned to a damaged home. But Ida’s been worse.

“This here was my worst-ever life experience, coming back to this, coming back to darkness,” she said.

Blunt has considered leaving, as many Louisianans do in the wake of storms. No matter where she ends up, though, she knows she’ll survive. Even in the darkness, she finds some light by helping her community \_ seeking a power source for a neighbor’s breathing machine, sharing her car for charging cellphones. She tells herself: “I’m still standing.”

She wants more not just for her, but for her grandson. “I want us to go somewhere better,” Blunt said, helping Kamille with the TV remote, the power finally restored at home.

“Somewhere I can be stable. I just want to

## Smith

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about his speech and how approachable he was after the service, where he greeted each youth personally. I am very thankful that we crossed paths at a mutual friend’s home and became friends.”

According to his biography, Attorney Smith was licensed to practice law in all courts in the State of Mississippi, including the Supreme Court of Mississippi as well as the Fifth Circuit of Appeals of New Orleans. He worked as a prosecutor with the City of Jackson and a public defender with Hinds County. He was sworn in as the Hinds County district attorney in 2008, ironically the same year the nation elected its first African-American president.

Smith served as Hinds County district attorney for 12 years.

“Some said he wouldn’t win,” recalled Times. “But I told them the Robert Schuler Smith I know will win that election, and he did.”

Friend Attorney Winston J. Thompson

III, who worked with Smith as a law partner at one time and at the DA Office, said Smith was simply a hard-working achiever. “In fact, he had so many achievements that I cannot recall them all,” the Callaway High School alumni said. “Honestly, Robert just worked like hell; he built a practice, and he was a great trial lawyer,” Thompson said. “I learned how to be a better trial lawyer through Robert. He was a great thinker. You could not out-think him, and you could not outwork him.”

A public visitation was held Tuesday, Sept. 14, from 12 p.m.-6 p.m., at Lake- over Memorial Funeral Home on Beasley Road. A private graveside service was held Wednesday at Garden Memorial Park Cemetery on Highway 49 North. Stephanie Hatcher served as program guide. His father, Dr. Royce M. Smith, delivered the eulogy.

# Robert Shuler Smith

## January 11, 1971 - September 10, 2021



Smith

Robert Shuler Smith was born to Royce Mervin Smith and Lou Alice Smith on January 11, 1971, in Jackson, Mississippi. Born into a loving Christian family, he was the son and grandson of ministers of the gospel. Robert Shuler was baptized at an early age at Rosemont Baptist Church by his grandfather, Reverend David D. Smith. He was raised in a family that taught their sons the value of education. His fervor for education and Christian beliefs were the driving forces that led him to fight for equity and justice. Robert Shuler graduated from Forrest Hill High School and Tougaloo College. He attended St. Louis University School of Law in St Louis, Missouri, graduating in 1996 with a Juris Doctor degree and was admitted to the Mississippi State Bar in September 1996. Attorney Robert Smith was licensed to practice law in all courts in the State of Mississippi, including the Supreme Court of Mississippi as well as the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, located in New Orleans, Louisiana. He began his practice as an attorney in the location of the former Smith’s Supermarket owned by his grandfather, Reverend R.L.T. Smith. Robert worked as a Prosecutor with the City of Jackson and a Public Defender with Hinds County. He was sworn in as the Hinds County District Attorney in 2008 and served 12 years. For the past year and a half, Attorney Smith has been running the Cochran law firm in Jackson.

Attorney Smith was a member of numerous professional and community organizations, including the Mississippi Bar Association, Magnolia Bar Association, the National Associa-

tion for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Central Mississippi Health Services, Inc. He consistently gave back to his community as a member of the West Jackson Community Development Corporation and as a volunteer mentor for Jackson Public Schools.

In 2017, District Attorney Smith was invited to attend the Urban Elected Prosecutors Summit, which was held in Atlanta, Georgia, April 19-21, 2017. He was personally invited by District Attorneys Paul Howard and Kimberly Worthy, Atlanta, and Detroit district attorneys, respectively. The meeting featured approximately 24 of the most influential African American elected prosecutors in the United States. The summit featured Pulitzer Prize journalists from the Washington Post, law enforcement officials, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, and other prominent leaders.

Robert Shuler Smith was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Reverend R.L.T. Smith and Mrs. Annie Louise Smith, and maternal grandfather, Reverend David D. Smith.

Robert leaves to lovingly remember him: his parents, Dr. Lou Alice Smith and Dr. Royce Mervin Smith, Jackson, Mississippi; his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Pinkie Smith Amos, Jackson, Mississippi; son, Raphael Shuler Smith, Hawthorne, New Jersey; daughter, Jada Smith, Washington, D.C.; brother, Royce Mervin (Lynda) Smith, Jr., Pearl, Mississippi; nephew, Royce L.T. Smith; niece, Chanita Hicks; many aunts, uncles, cousins, and other relatives and friends; and his faithful dog, Odie.



# Family and friends surprise Mae Frances Noel with drive-by birthday party

*Special to The Mississippi Link*

Family and friends lined up in their decorated cars at the Family Dollar Store on Terry Road to surprise Mae Frances Noel with a drive-by parade on Saturday at her South Jackson home in celebration of her 85th birthday.

The birthday parade was given by Karen-Livingston Wilson and the Noel family. Invited guest included friends, neighbors, missionary sisters and church members. They came driving by with posters and balloons on their cars bearing gifts and

cards for the surprised birthday honoree.

Noel, a member of Pearl Street AME church in Jackson was born in Jacksonville, FL. Prior to moving to Jackson she lived in Passaic, New Jersey. She joined Pearl Street AME church in 1978. Her previous work included working in accounts receivable at Gayfers Department Store and in-home care for children and persons in need.

Noel was married to the late John Noel. Her sister-in-law is civil rights pioneer, the late Gladys Noel Bates.



Carol Cunningham (l) and Marion Pickett-El (center) stands on porch with Noel (rt.)



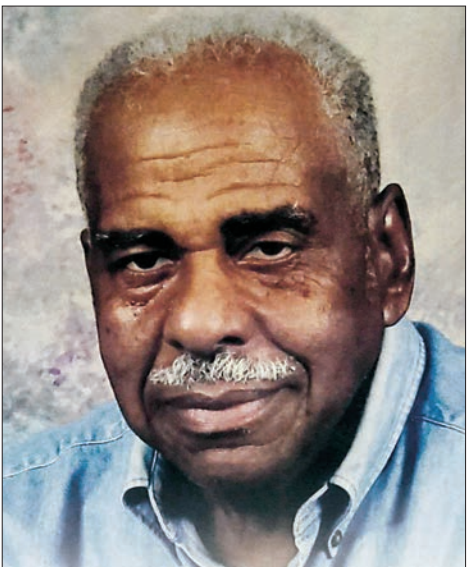
Noel admires her birthday cake

PHOTOS BY PEGGY KING



# Hardy Cornelius Crudup Jr.

March 1, 1932 - September 4, 2021



Crudup

Hardy Cornelius Crudup Jr., also known as “AC,” was born March 1, 1932, in Clinton, Mississippi, to Hardy C. Crudup and Daisy Nee Putman Crudup. He was the youngest of eleven children. AC grew up in a strong supportive Christian family where he was nurtured and encouraged not to allow the barriers and racism of his day to hamper his growth and success. His family had values that provoked success, and he embraced these early in his life. Values such as property ownership, self-employment, higher education, church leadership and community involvement were what he heard his parents proclaim and what he saw his older siblings model. This left an indelible mark on AC and many of his nieces and nephews – who were of his same age.

However, AC’s greatest asset may have been his mother, known to her children and grandchildren as Momma Daisy. Hardy C. Crudup Sr., died in 1939 when AC was in elementary school, but Momma Daisy took control and pushed forward. She was a landowner, a farmer, a leader in Pleasant Green Baptist Church, a community advocate and a businesswoman who created and sold her lines of candies and sweets to black and white people alike. She was a no-nonsense person and demanded that AC understand what he had to do to succeed. AC cherished her encouragement and went about doing those things that would make him successful.

He began high school at Sumner Hill in Clinton and finished at Campbell College in Jackson. It was at Campbell College that he met Robbie Mae Searcie. They married on June 8, 1952 and God gave them four children, Ronnie, Bobby, Michelle and Belinda.

On December 8, 1952, AC joined the United States Army, was deployed, and served in the Korean War. On December 7, 1954 he was honorably discharged. Taking advantage of the GI Bill, AC bought his first home in a newly planned subdivision for black people in Jackson, MS. He and his wife Robbie Mae purchased one of the first homes built in 1954 on Oak Park Drive.

Hardy C. Crudup Jr., after his discharge from the Army, went back to school for skill training in construction, which started a long distinguished and very successful career as a carpenter and eventually owner of his own construction company. He also owned for a period a cafe and a motel.

In the early 70’s AC, at the Lord’s beckoning, left his wife’s church in Jackson, Solomon Temple Missionary Baptist Church, and moved his family to his home church, Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church in Clinton, MS. This move resulted in tremendous blessings for the Crudup family and the personal renewal of Hardy Cornelius Crudup’s faith in Jesus Christ. He eventually became a committed member, leader, deacon and chairman of the deacons at Pleasant Green.

On June 8, 1992, Hardy and his wife Robbie Mae celebrated 40 years of marriage with a big anniversary celebration thrown for them by their children and relatives. Robbie Mae Searcie Crudup died later that year on November 15, 1992, at the age of 57. Hardy and Robbie were a great team, accomplishing much together.

In 1997, Hardy found love again and married a wonderful lady named Eddie Mae Hulitt on July 17, 1997. (He liked Mae’s!) Their union produced two bonus children, Eric and Joshua; a grandchild who Eddie Mae adopted. Sadly, after seven beautiful years of marriage, Eddie Mae Hulitt Crudup suddenly passed away on November 18, 2004, at 59 years old.

At the age of 72, Hardy Cornelius Crudup found himself not alone but a single parent of a teenage boy aged 14. Hardy and Joshua were not alone but together, which ushered in

a new and interesting chapter of life for both.

Hardy had always been a man of few words, stern looks who seldom smiled, but time and Joshua started to bring out another side of him, a softer side of him. The changes that life brings have allowed Hardy and “you Crudups,” as he affectionately called the whole group of children and grandchildren, to enjoy each other as never before. It even changed the children’s view of their father, who seemed at one time to enjoy the mean and heavy role.

Michelle said of her father: “In my elementary years, the neighborhood kids thought my father was mean, and I was afraid of him. But as time passed and I grew up, my fears subsided. I came to find out that he had a sense of humor and even occasionally smiled. I recalled one story in particular, my best friend Cheryl and I watched a movie, and my dad started to laugh. Cheryl poked me in my side and asked, “what’s wrong with him? – he’s laughing.” I told her, he does that sometimes. “This blew her away... precious childhood memories I will always cherish. As I grew older, I found my dad to be a sweet, strong, sometimes stubborn man who loved his family. I will miss him dearly.”

Belinda said of her father: “All of my life, I have always had the greatest amount of respect for my dad. As a child, I didn’t always understand him because I thought he was hard, but I learned later that he and my mom had very specific roles. My mom was the pacifier and the emotional support. She handled the lighter weight. My dad was the “heavyweight,” and he handled it when the hard stuff had to be done. I know he was firm, but I knew he had a soft spot, and I leaned on him when I needed that fatherly support. All I had to say was daddy, you are the greatest, and he’d say, ‘Belinda, what do you want?’ I could always count on him to tell me what I needed to hear whether I liked it or not (love ain’t always easy, and the truth can sometimes hurt). I knew he had my best interest at heart. I feel a great loss knowing he’s not here, but I have comfort in knowing I’ll see him again. Thank you, daddy, for being the love and support I always needed. I’ll always cherish you.”

Ronnie said of his father: “I always thought of my father as this or that, and I found out that I was wrong. I finally found out that my father was a product of his time and environment who fought a good fight to be better. I found out he was extremely proud of me and was more generous than I ever imagined. My father changed a lot over the years and got better, or maybe I changed a lot and saw him better? Either way, I am so glad.”

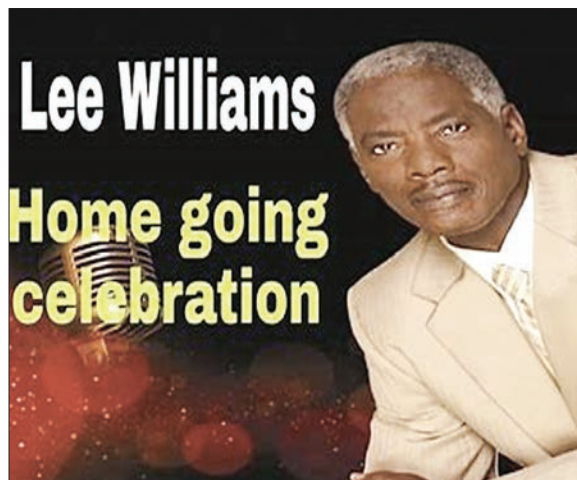
Hardy Cornelius Crudup Jr. was preceded in death by his parents, Hardy C. Crudup Sr., and Daisy Nee Putman Crudup, his wife Robbie Mae Searcie Crudup, his wife Eddie Mae Hulitt Crudup, his son Bobby Frank Crudup, Sr., and his grandson Brandon Fitzgerald Crudup. He was also preceded in death by his ten siblings: John Crudup, Ellen Crudup Mills, Aaron Jefferson, Healon Jefferson Knight, Annie Crudup Bell, Charlotte Crudup Legrande, Rosa Crudup Alexander, Ceaser Bailey Crudup, Martha Crudup Mitchell and Zelda Crudup Daniels, and a host of nieces and nephews who also preceded him.

Hardy C. Crudup Jr. leaves to mourn his passing: two cousins he helped raise as daughters, Marlene Winters (Floyd) and Sharon Winfield; son Ronnie C. Crudup Sr. (Jacqueline); daughters Michelle Crudup Hardy (Wilbur) of Houston, Texas and Belinda Crudup Hall (Joe); daughter-in-law, Dr. Maggie Robinson Crudup; bonus children, Eric Hulitt and Joshua Hulitt; twelve grandchildren: Ronnie Crudup Jr. (Andrea), Nadia Gaynor (Kehinde), Bobby Crudup Jr. (Keisha), Terence Crudup, Justin Hall (Laurie), Danielle Harris (Luke), Ashton Walker (Jordan), Dr. Bianca Crudup, Courtney Hardy, Paige Crudup, Lamelle Hall and Dr. Breland Crudup; fourteen great-grandchildren: Amari Gaynor, Ayinde Gaynor, Nya Crudup, Tristain Owens, Bobby Crudup III, Isaac Crudup, Robin Crudup, Ronit Crudup, Baleigh Crudup, David Crudup, Alora Gaynor, Gabrielle Harris, Kyrie Walker and Grace Harris. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins, adopted relationships with the McElroy family, and a special friend Cleola Arnold are also left to mourn his passing.

Homegoing celebration for Hardy C. Crudup Jr. was held at New Horizon Church International with Rev. Darrell McQuirter officiating. Committal was at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Clinton, MS.

# Lee Andrew Williams

July 28, 1946 – August 30, 2021



Williams

Lee Andrew Williams, 75, passed away Monday, August 30, 2021, at his home in Tupelo, MS surrounded by his family. He was born on July 28, 1946, in Tupelo, Mississippi to the late Cornelia Cummings and the late Arzo Barnes. As a young boy, he enjoyed playing basketball and baseball in school and outside of school. He also loved wrestling, playing marbles and was known as the family prankster, very mischievous. He often enjoyed a great laugh and making others laugh; usually being the source of the laughter. Because of his ability to make others laugh and his laid-back personality, he had lots of friends growing up.

Lee accepted Christ at an early age and joined New Lebanon Baptist Church, where he sang in the choir and played the piano.

Lee was an honor graduate and class salutatorian of the Class of 1964 at Belden High School. Because of his academic excellence, he graduated one year early with his brother, Robert. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he was stationed in Austria. He also had the opportunity to travel to Greece while serving our country.

Lee married Annie Ruth Vaughn in 1971 and from this union came five children: Pamela, Orlanda, Carilus, Ceasus and Fanesha. He was a loving husband and a caring father. He worked for McGraw-Edison Manufacturing, then for Malone & Hyde and Morris Sales as a truck driver for many years before his lifelong career in gospel music began.

Lee began singing gospel music at the age of six, when his uncle, Mitchell Thornton, a member of the Gospel Stars, formed the group: the Gospel Stars Juniors, featuring Lee and his three brothers: Willie, Robert and Frank. Singing around the house and in the community finally paid off for these young boys. Later, their uncle, Mitchell Thornton, formed The Spiritual QCs (Qualified Christian Singers) comprised of a variety of gospel singers. After some of them relocated, Lee’s oldest brother, Willie Thornton, restarted the group after they broke up in 1968 and took the name for their own group in which Lee played the bass guitar. He continued to sing and travel the world spreading the word through gospel music.

After three decades of recording and traveling, in 1996, The Spiritual QCs recorded their first album, “Jesus is Alive and Well.” It wasn’t until the release of the second album in 1998, “Love Will Go All the Way” that the group was renamed Lee Williams and The Spiritual QCs. This album threw Lee Williams

and the Spiritual QCs into the gospel music spotlight and earned them their first national hit, “I’ve Learned to Lean,” an upbeat hand-clapper of a tune that showcased Lee’s powerful vocals and spearheaded a string of successful albums throughout the 1990s and 2000s. Other accolades include Lee being featured on the hit song, “Cooling Water” with the legendary Williams Brothers, Melvin and Doug, in 1997.

Lee Williams and The Spiritual QCs would record and tour the nation nearly 50 weeks a year, touching fans with his caring personality. Lee was known for his distinct voice and unique stage presence and never failed to deliver a soul stirring performance, while leaving his all on the stage every time. His deep baritone voice and cool stoic style moved the crowd as he stood in one spot singing until the power of the Lord came down. He was a gentle soul who would sign autographs and take photos with fans for hours before and after each performance.

Lee Williams and The Spiritual QCs recorded six more records; having several hits peak on the Top Ten and Top Five of Billboard gospel music charts, won 10 Stellar Awards (and was presented with the Stellar Awards’ prestigious James Cleveland Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010), earned a Soul Train Award for Best Gospel Album of the Year, and was named the Gospel Music Excellence Awards’ Traditional Quartet of the Year in 2011. Lee was also given the Mississippi Trailblazer Award.

Dr. Lee Williams, the beloved quartet frontman of the Spiritual QCs, received the Honorary Doctorate of Sacred Music from Bible Believers Christian College in California June 2016.

After sixty-seven years of being the primary lead singer and songwriter, Lee retired from public performances in 2018 in his hometown of Tupelo, MS, where it all began. In July of that year, the city of Tupelo celebrated both his career and retirement with a public celebration, during which he was presented with the key to the city. Lee Williams and The Spiritual QCs became one of the most in-demand quartet gospel groups of all time.

He leaves to celebrate his life and continue his legacy, his faithful and loving wife Annie Ruth Williams and their five children: Pamela (Darrell) Williams, Orlanda “Sac” Williams, Carilus “C.C.” Williams, Ceasus “Javon” (Shanetta) Williams and Fanesha “Shanay” (Adarius) Traylor; his children: Rodrick Bailey, Sonya Madden, Melissia (Patrick) McCoy, Kimberlee Ford and Roosevelt (Shanna) Ford; his grandchildren; his great-grandchildren; his brothers: Willie (Dorothy) Thornton, Robert (Verna) Thornton, T.C. (Pamela) Cummings and Willie C. Barnes; his sisters: Mary Williams, Vera Nabors, Wanda (Leo) Wells, Perceta (Chris) Berry and Syrenthia (Arthur) Arnold; his uncles: Joseph Thornton, Samuel (Bessie) Thornton and Mitchell (Marie) Thornton and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and fans.

He was preceded in death by his mother Cornelia Cummings, his father Arzo Barnes, his grandson LaQuinray Williams; his stepfather Tom Cummings Sr., his brother Frank Williams and his sister Danita Spearman.

A singing memorial service, sponsored by the City of Tupelo, was held in Gumtree Park in Tupelo, Saturday, September 11. Funeral services were held Sunday, September 12, 2021, at BancorpSouth Arena, 375 East Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804.

# Bryan Anderson Pippin

April 5, 1969 – September 9, 2021



Pippin

Bryan Anderson Pippin was born April 5, 1969, in Frankfort, Kentucky to William Reggie (Vicki) Pippin and Toni L. Brooks. He departed this life September 9, 2021, at St. Dominic Hospital, Jackson,

Mississippi.

Bryan received his education at Frankfort High School in Frankfort, Kentucky and Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentuck. He earned a degree in criminal justice. While at Morehead State University Bryan joined the fraternity of Alpha Phi Alpha.

He was united in holy matrimony to Nichole Penn June 17, 2000. To this union one child was born. Upon moving to Jackson,

Bryan united with The New Jerusalem Church under the pastoral of Rev. Dewayne Pickett. He loved the Lord and served Him in a quiet and godly manner.

In 1992, Bryan became a police officer with the Jackson Police Department. He dearly loved his job and served the citizens of Jackson well. He was promoted to sergeant where he was a supervisor over the traffic division and later served at Precinct One where he served until his death.

He is survived by his wife, Nichole Penn Pippin; three daughters: Bryonna Elaine Pippin Mercer (Hopkinsville, KY); Eboni Moore (Jackson, MS), and Asjah Pippin (Jackson, MS); his parents; William Reggie (Vicki) Pippin (Louisville, KY) and Toni L. Brooks (Canton, MS); three grandchildren: Bryon Mercer, Bryleigh Pippin and True Moore (Stank); one sister: Trina Pippin (Atlanta, GA); mother-in-law, Delberta Taylor (Mobile, AL); grandmother, Harriet Pippin (Memphis, TN); several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.



# Analysis: Mississippi examines help for departing inmates

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
*Associated Press*

A Mississippi law that took effect July 1 expands parole eligibility, and lawmakers are looking at programs that could help people make the transition from prison back into the free world.

House and Senate committees met Wednesday at the state Capitol to gather ideas from several people, including prison and parole officials in Alabama, a leader of a nonprofit group that helps former inmates and an executive of a software company that coordinates services for people leaving prison.

One common theme in the presentations was that people who have been incarcerated fare better in the next phase of their lives if they receive guidance in practical matters such as getting a driver's license, finding a place to live and finding a job.

"We need to make sure that we try to equip individuals with as much as we possibly can when they come back into society so they don't go back into the place they came from," Senate Corrections Committee Chairman Juan Barnett, a Democrat from Heidelberg, told The Associated Press on Friday. "It's one of those things that we really, really need to tackle."

House Corrections Committee Chairman Kevin Horan, a Republican from Grenada, said Friday that Mississippi needs to improve transitional housing for people leaving prison. He also said legislators also could consider creating reentry courts to provide supervision and guid-

ance for departing inmates.

Jefferson Dunn, commissioner of the Alabama Department of Corrections, told Mississippi lawmakers that his state develops a "programming plan" for each inmate who enters the prison system, with a goal of preparing them to leave when they are paroled or when they reach the end of their sentences.

"Reentry begins with entry," Dunn said. "We have reworked our entry process to begin that process of reentry, whether it is three years or 30 years or longer, in the department. ... We want to begin from Day 1 to have inmates look towards reentry and view their time of incarceration as an opportunity and everything that they do to move them closer to reentry."

Louise Wasilewski is CEO of Acivilate Inc., an Atlanta-based company whose software coordinates communication for what she calls "returning citizens" — people leaving prison. She said the company has contracts in other states, but not in Mississippi.

"We do really simple things like helping people sort out all the activities they have to do and sending them text reminders — just the same way that your dentist sends you a text reminder to make you show up," Wasilewski said. She said such reminders could be used before probation hearings, for example, with the goal of keeping a person from returning to prison.

Mississippi lawmakers also heard from Kerri Pruitt, executive director of the Dannon Project. The nonprofit group was

founded in 1999 in Birmingham, Alabama, and it is named for Pruitt's brother-in-law, who was killed by a man who had been released from prison.

Pruitt said the Dannon Project is active in Alabama and South Carolina, working on "holistic reentry services," including help with health care, behavioral health services, transportation, housing and court appearances.

"We don't believe in allowing any of our participants to attend court alone, even when they have a court-appointed attorney," Pruitt said.

Cam Ward, director of the Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles, said state governments need to ensure they use reentry programs that are data-driven with a record of being effective. He said groups outside government can provide valuable help.

"The notion that somehow, some way as a state government you're going to have enough resources to provide all the proper reentry and diversion programs is just not true," said Ward, a former Alabama state senator. "You're going to have to have partners."

The next Mississippi legislative session is set to begin in early January. Barnett said some lawmakers could gather in November or December to discuss whether to file bills that would propose specific types of reentry programs.

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

# Quality of Mississippi prison water at center of dispute

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
*Associated Press*

Longstanding problems with water and sewer systems are endangering inmates' health at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman, two groups said Friday.

Southern Poverty Law Center and the Natural Resources Defense Council said state agencies must take swift action to correct the problems. But, the head of the state Department of Corrections said steps are already being taken to improve water and wastewater systems at Parchman.

Vidhi Bamzai, staff attorney for the Southern Poverty Law Center, said in a news release that the Mississippi Department of Corrections and other agencies have known about problems for years, and inmates "are forced to use water that no state official would ever sip. The state must act now to remedy this."

The two groups issued the news release a week after they sent a letter to the Department of Corrections, the Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Quality.

"Parchman's drinking water is discolored, has a strong odor, and tastes of sewage or disinfect-

ant," the letter said. "Sewage pipes frequently back up into living spaces and the facilities, including plumbing and sanitation systems, are in severe disrepair."

Mississippi Corrections Commissioner Burl Cain said in a statement Friday that he has received public health laboratory reports on drinking water at Parchman. He said the most recent reports — for May, June and July — showed Parchman's water is "absent" of bacteria.

Cain also said the Department of Corrections has finished the first of two phases of a project to improve water and wastewater systems by replacing and repairing lift stations and pumps. He said heavy rainfall has slowed private contractors from finishing the project, but it is about 55% complete. State lawmakers approved nearly \$3.7 million for the project.

"The bottom line is current tests meet safe drinking water standards and there are ongoing improvements to the wastewater treatment system," Cain said.

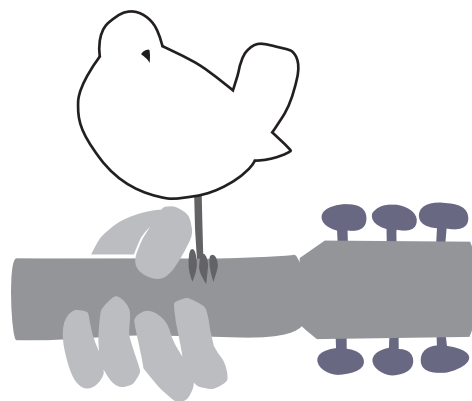
Bamzai said Southern Poverty Law Center and the Natural Resources Defense Council have been looking into conditions at Parchman since about

2017, and there was no specific event that prompted the timing of the recent letter or the news release.

The water problems have been documented for years. After deadly riots broke out at Parchman in late 2019 and early 2020, the fiancé of an inmate shared photos and videos with The Associated Press that showed water running down some hallways and inmates saying they had no running water in sinks and showers. They also said toilets were not flushing and mildew could be seen in living areas.

Lawsuits filed against the state Department of Corrections in early 2020 cited shoddy living conditions at Parchman, including water problems. The lawsuits were funded by entertainment mogul Jay-Z, rapper Yo Gotti and Team Roc, the philanthropic arm of Jay-Z's Roc Nation.

Cain became Mississippi corrections commissioner in early 2020, after the riots. Cain is a former warden at Louisiana's Angola prison, and he told Mississippi lawmakers during his confirmation hearing in June 2020: "We're going to fix Parchman."



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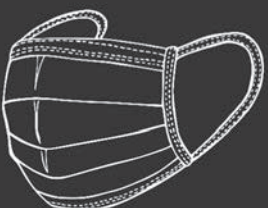
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# Howard University closed after ransomware attack

By Breonna Randall  
*Howard University News Service*

Howard University, one of the nation’s largest and most prestigious historically black universities and the alma mater of Vice President Kamala Harris, was shut down Tuesday due to a ransomware attack.

The FBI and District of Columbia city government have been working with the university about the attack, the university said. The university did not mention who conducted the attack or what they are asking for to release the university’s networks.

University officials said Howard’s Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) became aware Friday of a potential cyberattack. In response, ETS shutdown all the university’s networks to further investigate.

On Monday, the university said, the computer and technology interruption was a ransomware attack. Consequently, all in-person and online classes were cancelled Tuesday, Howard’s Office of University Communications said in an email Monday.



“ETS and its partners have been working diligently to fully address this incident and restore operations as quickly as possible,” the Office of University Communications said in an email Monday.

The university will reopen Wednesday, but only in-person. Howard University’s wi-fi, however, will still be unavailable.

Ingrid Sturgis, chair of the Department of Media, Journalism and Film in Howard’s

Cathy Hughes School of Communications, said the ransomware attack “has been very disruptive.”

“Over the weekend, I had some faculty members email-

ing me about what they should do, because their students could not turn in their work, because they did not have access to blackboard and other tools they usually use for class,” Sturgis said.

She said she’s been through several malfunctions at the university, but this one is different.

“It’s kind of scary to me knowing how many student and faculty records there are, and these kinds of attacks are happening more and more frequently,” she said. “In a way, we are fortunate the university has beefed up its ability to detect these kinds of things.

Jennifer C. Thomas, an associate professor and journalism sequence coordinator in the Department of Media, Journalism and Film, said working through the shutdown is an example for one of the lessons she teaches her students on overcoming the problems faced as they pursue a story.

“The thing I have said in the past when we have had issues on campus with the system being down is we are in the journalism sequence,” Thomas said. “As journalists, we know that a deadline doesn’t care if the internet is down. We have to be resourceful, so we can complete the current task at hand under that certain deadline.”

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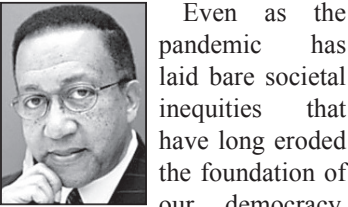
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# American business leaders step up to fight inequities in the South

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



Even as the pandemic has laid bare societal inequities that have long eroded the foundation of our democracy, political leaders in Washington and in state capitols are mired in a level of rancor and partisanship not seen since the ideological struggles over the Vietnam War. This toxic atmosphere has left them incapable of addressing pressing, yet ingrained issues like the racial wealth gap, the digital divide, and vast inequalities in everything from health care to home ownership.

With COVID-19 still an omnipresent concern and the country's recovery still very much in jeopardy, individuals, families, and communities — particularly communities of color throughout the South — are struggling to deal with issues that have only been exacerbated by the pandemic.

From impediments to wealth creation opportunities and a dearth of education and workforce development to a lack of access to reliable broadband, substandard housing, and inadequate political representation, communities of color have suffered an outsized toll during the



ongoing public health crisis.

Yet political leaders can't even agree on basic facts that would allow the nation to implement a coherent national strategy for combatting a pandemic that appears to be entering a new wave amid the rise of the highly contagious Delta variant that is currently ravaging parts of the South.

Against that disillusioning backdrop, there is at least some reason for hope. Moving to fill the vacuum created by the inaction of our political class, a group of business leaders in the technology and investment sectors have embarked on a far-reaching — and perhaps unprecedented — campaign to address the social

inequities and systemic racism that has historically plagued our country's southern communities.

Known as the Southern Communities Initiative (SCI), the campaign was founded by financial technology company PayPal, the investment firm Vista Equity Partners (Vista), and the Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

SCI was formed to work with local elected officials and advocacy groups to tackle the ubiquitous problems of structural racism and inequalities facing communities of color in six communities throughout the South. SCI notes that these areas — Atlanta, Birmingham, Charlotte, Houston, Memphis and New

Orleans — were chosen in part because they are home to around 50 percent of the country's black population and are where some of the greatest disparities exist.

SCI is aiming to drive long-term change, as outlined by PayPal CEO Dan Schulman, Vista CEO Robert F. Smith and BCG CEO Rich Lesser.

In Atlanta, for example, SCI is working to bridge the wealth gap that exists among the region's African-American residents. While there is a strong black business community in the city, and high levels of black educational achievement thanks to the regional presence of several Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and the voice of the Black Press, there is still an extremely low level of black entrepreneurship and business ownership with only six percent of employer firms being black-owned.

To remedy this disparity, SCI is working with the Southern Economic Advancement Project to create entrepreneurship hubs and accelerator programs to increase the number of minority-owned businesses. The corporations behind SCI are also using their networks to help other companies work with minority-owned supply companies.

In Alabama, SCI is seeking to bridge the massive digital divide

in an urban area where 450,000 households are without connection to the internet. In order to tackle the crisis, SCI is leveraging relationships with local schools and libraries to distribute laptops and service vouchers. Another tact SCI is taking is to partner with the owners of multi-unit buildings in low-income neighborhoods to install free public Wi-Fi for residents.

The lack of access to capital is another reason black communities throughout the South have been traditionally underbanked. In Memphis, where 47 percent of black households are underbanked, SCI is partnering with Grameen America to cover the \$2 million per year per branch start-up cost to build brick-and-mortar banks in minority communities.

This alone will provide 20,000 women access to more than \$250 million per year in financing.

Beyond these initiatives, SCI is partnering with groups like the Greater Houston Partnership and the Urban League of Louisiana to provide in-kind support to improve job outcomes for minority college students, expand access to home financing through partnerships with community development financial institutions, and harness the power of technology to expand health care access in underserved urban and

rural neighborhoods.

The issues facing these communities throughout the South are not new nor will they be fixed overnight.

Fortunately, SCI is taking a long-term approach that is focused on getting to the root of structural racism in the United States and creating a more just and equitable country for every American.

A once-in-a-century pandemic and a social justice movement not seen since the 1960s were not enough to break the malaise and rancorous partisanship in Washington. Fortunately, corporate leaders are stepping up and partnering with local advocates and non-profit groups to fix the problem of systemic injustice in the U.S.

We, therefore, salute and welcome the transformative commitments of the Southern Communities Initiative (SCI). There is no time to delay, because as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. so accurately said, "The time is always right to do what is right."

*Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Executive Producer and host of The Chavis Chronicles on PBS TV stations throughout the United States. He can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org.*

## Waters Statement on 20th Anniversary of September 11 attacks

By Maxine Waters  
Congresswoman



Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA), chairwoman of the House Committee on Financial Services, issued the following statement on the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks:

"Twenty years ago today, our nation suffered devastating terrorist attacks on our soil and against our people that wholly and completely changed the world as we knew it. On September 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 people lost their lives, thousands more were injured, and our entire nation continues to grieve the losses

we've endured. There is no question that the events of September 11 had a profound impact on so many that still reverberates around the world. Among those we honor and grieve today are our selfless servicemembers who lost their lives fighting for freedom and peace following the September 11 terror attacks.

"With every passing year, it is important to come together and reflect. On September 11, 2001, we experienced pain and loss, but we also witnessed the very best of our country. We saw brave first responders who, without a second thought, put themselves in harm's way, some making the ultimate sacrifice, to save as many people as possible. We learned of the bravery of those on

United Flight 93, who went face-to-face with their attackers in order to regain control of the plane and prevent it from being used as a weapon against their fellow citizens. We saw everyday people help bring each other to safety and we learn of more heroes with every passing day. In true American spirit, our people came together and exemplified the very best of who we are through collaboration, inclusivity, and unity.

"It is my greatest hope that every American will continue to honor our collective responsibility to our communities and our country. On this September 11, my eternal condolences remain with the families and loved ones of every victim."

## Governor Newsom defeats more than the recall

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



With more than 68% of the votes counted within an hour of the California Recall Election, Governor Gavin Newsom was declared the winner by the Associated Press.

It was not a guess, but a progressive analysis of voter response to the recall on a county by county basis. Throughout the media coverage of voter turnout, there was a clear comparison between Donald Trump's votes in those areas voting "Yes" on the recall, and the actual numbers Trump received in the same areas during the November 2020 election.

Newsom, in his victory speech, said he was humbled by the votes of the people of California, but acknowledged what so many already knew. In his words, this was a victory for De-



Governor Newsom PHOTO: COURTESY OF CBM

mocracy, for diversity, for individual human rights; a victory for vaccines, the wearing of masks, the safety of our children, our economy and all we hold dear. These remarks reflected everything that Larry Elder, the leading Republican contender, stood against.

Elder was a Trumper all the way.

He was calling election fraud before the votes were counted and the polls opened. He was against the vaccine, against the wearing of masks, against the idea of vaccines for children and in favor of reparations for former slave owners. Elder was the "Great Black Hope" of the Republican Party without the party endorsing him. Newsom said his defeat of the recall was a defeat of all Elder and his supporters stood for, from voter suppression to plans to change the balance of power in the U.S. Senate.

Elder had said that if he won the election and Senator Feinstein's seat became vacant during his time as governor, he would appoint a republican. This single act would have given the republicans control of the U.S. Senate.

San Diego County was one of the first to overwhelmingly report a vote against the recall and it only went downhill from there for the recall supporters.

## Has COVID-19 and injustice made America divided and mean-spirited

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



I believe in the humanity of Americans. We look out for each other and want what is best for one another.

We want peace in the land. Confusion is not a trait that we want to see practiced in the public square.

However, is the tide turning? Are we getting mad and upset with each other?

According to a recent CNN poll 74% of Americans are angry. That is not good news and is an indicator of where we are these days according to some pundits.

Did this ill-tempered wind that is blowing across the United States of America just happen?

My opinion is no.

Like rain, it started with clouds. It was the cloud of hate that happened in Charlottesville, Virginia. It was the cloud of false allegations about election fraud and the cloud of mistreating people because you have power.

While some will vehemently disagree, it began with the former president of the United States.

Early in his quest for the top job, he made outrageous comments about people. He demeaned them and verbally abused them. Black and brown people were his targets.

As president, he became worse.

During his unhinged and lie-filled presidency, he empowered racists in this country.

Before him, racists and hate groups were not as visible. They stayed in the closet, not wanting to be readily identified.

The fabric and moral underpinning of America would not allow them to have a stronghold in our beloved community.

The floodgates of meanness and contempt opened when he was elected.

Groups like the proud boys were not household names. Now they are. We are surrounded by overt acts of bad behavior.

Racism is clearly out for all to witness. The color of one's skin sometimes determines your fate.

No and not available are responses that we are hearing way too often.

When stopped by the police, as people of color, we don't know the outcome. Life and death hang in the balance.

Politics have turned ugly. Laws have become weapons. Some states are using them to cause upheaval and mistrust.

The coronavirus is deadly in all forms. Health experts have clarified and amplified this message on a daily basis.

Yet, we have people in our nation who refuse to take the vaccine.

They are so obstinate in their views that the fear of death does not move them.

But wait. They only fear it if it hits their doorstep. If it happens down the street or in another city, it does not matter to them.

That attitude is cold, insensitive and incomprehensible, at least to me.

President Joe Biden wants to mandate vaccines for certain groups. Most all federal workers and those with governmental contracts must be vaccinated. Of course, there is pushback on this new directive.

Parts of America are in a nightmare where they believe science does not matter and that doctors do not count.

What can be done to stop this train of turmoil? Some of our citizens just don't get it.

As we have pushed past Labor Day going to the Fall, will we survive this detour of indifference?

Schools and colleges are struggling to reopen. Different states have different policies about mask wearing. Protests have been held outside of schools. Verbal attacks have occurred at school board meetings.

Keeping children safe should be the overarching goal. Those who don't want their children to wear masks are emotional without the facts.

So, we must find some solutions to these pressing problems.

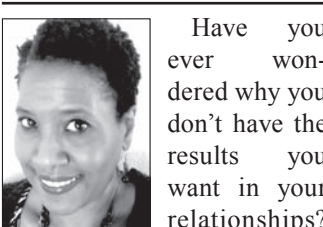
Let's start by treating each other with dignity and respect.



P R E S E R V E D

# Loving in the red zone

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



Have you ever wondered why you don't have the results you want in your relationships? Usually, it's because we don't have the right strategy (God's will and purpose for our lives) or use the right play book (The Bible).

We see the importance of following strategy illustrated in all sports but never more so than in the all-American game of football. And in this game, no place is more important for following strategy than the red zone. In football, the red zone is the field position where the game ball is 20 yards or less from the end zone. Depending on whether you are on the offense or defense, your goal may be ei-

ther scoring or preventing a touchdown in the red zone. Both active and retired players agree that the red zone can be a football player's place of greatest triumph or greatest defeat.

In fact, football players quickly learn the importance of knowing how to execute the right strategies at this critical field position. Even if it's only 20% of the football 100-yard football field, most of the key game statistics are made (yards gained or lost, touchdowns, etc.) in the red zone. One miscalculation on the part of a player in the red zone will shift the momentum of the game and sometimes change the winner into a loser.

It's amazing to me how much equipment football players have to put on as part of pre-game preparation before they even take the field. From helmets to shoulder pads to wrist tape to the

mouth and nose guard, each piece of equipment is vital to helping the player feel like he's best prepared to play effectively in the red zone.

Helmets, kneepads and the all-important athletic cup are just a few of the pieces of equipment that football players wear as part of their preparation for the field. Most players will tell you that even the smallest piece of equipment is vital to them having a successful game and reducing the threat of injuries.

Looking at how important equipment is to football players as we watch early season NFL games reminds me so much of the scripture that talks about how we have to be prepared as Christians. Ephesians 6:14-16 says we should put on the helmet of salvation and the breastplate of righteousness. However, many of us can't put on those necessary tools because we have

our heads covered with unforgiveness, our hearts covered with shame and are walking around in shoes of strife and anger.

Many football players can recount how despite an injury they opted to play beyond the pain. How did they do that? By focusing on effectively executing the strategy and achieving their goal. Following this example of football players, instead of keeping track of how many people hurt us, we should praise God for giving us the grace to successfully overcome those hurts and learn how to forgive and be restored.

Shewanda Riley is the author of "Love Hangover: Moving From Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email [preservedby-purpose@gmail.com](mailto:preservedby-purpose@gmail.com) or Twitter [@shewanda](https://twitter.com/shewanda).

# In-depth survey assesses religious life of black Americans

By David Crary  
AP National Writer

Black Americans attend church more regularly than Americans overall, and pray more often. Most attend churches that are predominantly black, yet many would like those congregations to become racially diverse. There is broad respect for black churches' historical role in seeking racial equality, coupled with a widespread perception they have lost influence in recent decades.

Those are among the key findings in a comprehensive report released Tuesday by the Pew Research Center, which surveyed 8,660 black adults across the United States about their religious experiences. It is Pew's first large-scale survey on the topic.

Among black adults who go to religious services, 60% attend churches where the senior clergy and most or all of the congregation are black, Pew found. It said 25% are part of multiracial congregations, and 13% are part of congregations that are predominantly white or another ethnicity.


Vaughn III, senior pastor of Bethel AME Church in San Diego.

"We're not as bold and courageous as we used to be," said the Rev. Sandra Reed of St. Mark AME Zion Church in Newtown, Pennsylvania. "I have to say, I'm somewhat ashamed of that, because the AME Zion Church is known as the Freedom Church that was at the forefront of addressing all the ills of America, and we sort of lost that."

The survey indicates that congregants at black Protestant churches are more likely to hear preaching about race relations and criminal justice reform than those attending multiracial or white churches.

Black Protestants, meanwhile, are less likely than U.S. Protestants overall to hear sermons on abortion. Pew found 68% of black adults said abortion should be allowed in most or all cases — compared with 59% of all U.S. adults.

Pew also posed some survey questions to 4,574 Americans who do not identify as black, to provide comparisons.



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10 a.m.

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8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Services

WEDNESDAY  
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8:00 a.m. - Channel 14 (Comcast)

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Worship Service | Sundays 10:30 a.m.  
Bible Study | Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

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(712) 832-8330 (Alternate Number)  
YouTube Channel: True Light Baptist Church

Pew said patterns of worship are shifting across generations: Younger black adults, born since 1980, attend church less often than their elders, and those who attend are less likely to do so in a predominantly black congregation.

Among 30 black pastors and religious leaders interviewed by Pew, some predicted further shrinkage of predominantly black churches and an increase in multiracial congregations.

"I don't think there should be a Black Church," said Dr. Clyde Pasley Jr. of Antioch Baptist Church in Indianapolis. "There isn't a black heaven and a white heaven. A proper church will one day eschew the label of Black Church and be a universal church."

The survey found that 66% of black Americans are Protestant, 6% are Catholic and 3% identify with other Christian faiths — mostly Jehovah's Witnesses. Another 3% belong to Islam or other non-Christian faiths.

Some 21% are not affiliated with any religion and instead identify as atheist, agnostic or "nothing in particular." Black Americans born since 1980 are far more likely to be among the unaffiliated.

Survey responses were collected from November 2019 through June 2020, but most respondents completed the survey by Feb. 10, 2020, before the coronavirus outbreak and the racial-justice protests that spread after the death of George Floyd in May at the hands of Minneapolis police.

Among the respondents, 77% said predominantly black churches had played a role in helping black people move toward racial equality. Yet just one third said historically black congregations should preserve their traditional character; 61% said these congregations should become more racially diverse.

Nearly half of respondents said black churches are less influential today than 50 years ago.

Among the clergy interviewed by Pew, some said too few black pastors have been on the front lines of recent struggles against racism.

"When you look at Black Lives Matter, this is the first time that there has been any political uprising and the church isn't spearheading it," said the Rev. Harvey L.

Asked whether religion is very important in their lives, 59% of black respondents said yes, next to 40% of all U.S. adults. Asked if they prayed daily, 63% of black respondents said yes, compared with 44% overall.

According to a recent national study cited by Pew, women make up only 16% of religious leaders at black Protestant churches. Pew's survey found that 85% of respondents favored allowing women to serve as senior leaders of congregations, however.

Pew said the survey's margin of error, for the full number of respondents, was plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

Black pastors and worshippers in predominantly white or multiracial denominations, face a number of contemporary race-related issues.

Some black pastors have left the predominantly white Southern Baptist Convention in dismay over decisions by white leaders that they view as downplaying the problem of systemic racism.

In the Episcopal church and some other mainline Protestant denominations, there are reparations initiatives aimed at making amends for past involvement in slavery and the mistreatment of black and indigenous people.

And many black Catholics have urged leaders of their church to be more forceful in combating racism. Some have asked the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to consider reparations and promote the teaching of black catholic history in Catholic schools.

"We still don't have the church taking a necessary stand against systemic racism," Tia Noelle Pratt, a sociologist who has studied racism in the U.S. Catholic church and an adviser on Pew's survey, told The Associated Press via email. "This means acknowledging the white supremacy that exists in the church and ways white church leaders and white members of the faithful benefit from it."

The Rev. Mario Powell, a black priest who heads a Jesuit middle school in Brooklyn, said Catholic clergy need to preach more often against racism and speak out against some of their colleagues "who brazenly post white nationalist ideology online."





# CLASSIFIED

## LEGAL

### JPD Auction - October 2021

Inv. No.	Case Number	Year/Make/Model	Vin Number
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40018	20-053293	2002/WHITE/TOYOTA/SEQUOIA	5TDZT34A72S807342
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40040	20-056129	1989/BLUE/FORD/F-150	1FTDF15Y5KKA22961
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40436	20-114533	2004/HYUNDAI/SONATA	KMHWF35H74A948819
26126	16-244632	2003/CHEVY/TRAILBLAZER	1GND5138232133129
24659	16-015071		

9-16-2021, 9-23-2021, 9-30-2021

## LEGAL

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS HOLMES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the HOLMES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT will receive SEALED BIDS VIA REVERSE AUCTION for the purchase of the following:

Bids will be received by an Electronic Reverse Auction Sealed Bidding Process administered by Southern Procurement Services at which time bidding will begin and run until Suppliers have completed entering all bids. Thereafter, bids will be taken under advisement and awarded accordingly.

A complete bid package which contains bid instructions and specification response sheets may be obtained by emailing HYPERLINK "mailto:vaughn@southernprocurement.com" vaughn@southernprocurement.com and requesting a complete bid package. The following must be placed in the Subject Line of the email:

Holmes County Schools – Anti-Microbial Treatment

Vendors will then receive instructions as to how to register with Southern Procurement to receive a complete bid package. Please include full contact information, including company name, email address, telephone numbers and contact person in your email request. Email requests will be filled within 24 hours of submission or registration. Registration with Southern Procurement and acceptance of the Southern Procurement Platform Agreement is not optional and is required in order to participate in this bidding event. No exceptions will be made.

Specification responses must be submitted for this bid event in order to be considered for this bidding opportunity. Bid responses should be delivered to:  
Vaughn Blaylock  
Southern Procurement  
HYPERLINK "mailto:vaughn@southernprocurement.com" vaughn@southernprocurement.com

DO NOT INCLUDE PRICING INFORMATION WITH YOUR SPECIFICATION RESPONSE. BIDS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN ONLINE AT THE APPOINTED TIME AND DATE.

Questions regarding these specifications shall be directed to Vaughn Blaylock, Southern Procurement.

No bid shall be withdrawn after the scheduled date and time of the beginning of the bidding event without the written consent of the Purchasing Entity. Within the limitations of Mississippi State Purchasing Law, the Purchasing Entity reserves the right to reject any or all bids received, to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bids received, or to accept any bid which is deemed most favorable.

Dr. Furlinda Travis  
Director, Federal Programs  
Holmes County Consolidated School District

9/16/2021, 9/23/2021

## LEGAL

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS HOLMES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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A complete bid package which contains bid instructions and specification response sheets may be obtained by emailing HYPERLINK "mailto:vaughn@southernprocurement.com" vaughn@southernprocurement.com and requesting a complete bid package. The following must be placed in the Subject Line of the email:

Holmes County Schools – Student and Cafeteria Furnishings

Vendors will then receive instructions as to how to register with Southern Procurement to receive a complete bid package. Please include full contact information, including company name, email address, telephone numbers and contact person in your email request. Email requests will be filled within 24 hours of submission or registration. Registration with Southern Procurement and acceptance of the Southern Procurement Platform Agreement is not optional and is required in order to participate in this bidding event. No exceptions will be made.

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Vaughn Blaylock  
Southern Procurement  
HYPERLINK "mailto:vaughn@southernprocurement.com" vaughn@southernprocurement.com

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Dr. Furlinda Travis  
Director, Federal Programs  
Holmes County Consolidated School District

9/16/2021, 9/23/2021

## LEGAL

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Holmes County Schools – HVAC as a Service and Duct Cleaning/Repair/Replacement

Vendors will then receive instructions as to how to register with Southern Procurement to receive a complete bid package. Please include full contact information, including company name, email address, telephone numbers and contact person in your email request. Email requests will be filled within 24 hours of submission or registration. Registration with Southern Procurement and acceptance of the Southern Procurement Platform Agreement is not optional and is required in order to participate in this bidding event. No exceptions will be made.

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## LEGAL

**ORDINANCE GRANTING JACKSON MANOR APARTMENTS, INC. & JACKSON MANOR PRESERVATION, L.P. A REZONING FROM C-2 (LIMITED) COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO NMU-1 (NEIGHBORHOOD) MIXED-USE DISTRICT, PEDESTRIAN ORIENTED AND A VARIANCE OF UP TO TWENTY FEET FROM THE MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF FORTY-FIVE (45) FEET FOR PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS IN THE NMU-1, PEDESTRIAN ORIENTED DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 332 JOSANNA STREET (PARCEL 61-29-17), CASE NO. 4125.**

**WHEREAS**, Jackson Manor Apartments, Inc. & Jackson Manor Preservation, L.P. has filed a petition to rezone the property located at 332 Josanna Street (Parcel 61-29-17), in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, from C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to R-5 (Multi-family) Residential District and Variances from the required number of parking spaces and the front and rear yard setback; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has recommended the rezoning of the above described property from C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to NMU-1 (Neighborhood) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented and a Variance of up to twenty feet from the maximum height of forty-five (45) feet for principal buildings in the NMU-1, Pedestrian Oriented District; and

**WHEREAS**, notice was duly and legally given to property owners and interested citizens that a meeting of the Council would be held at the City Hall at 2:30 p.m., Monday, May 17, 2021 to consider said change, based upon the record of the case as developed before the Jackson City Planning Board; and

**WHEREAS**, it appeared to the satisfaction of the Jackson City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on April 8, 2021 and April 22, 2021 that a hearing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on April 28, 2021, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board has recommended the rezoning of the above described property from C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to NMU-1 (Neighborhood) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented and a Variance of up to twenty feet from the maximum height of forty-five (45) feet for principal buildings in the NMU-1, Pedestrian Oriented District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jackson City Council after having considered the matter, is of the opinion that such changes would be in keeping with sound land use practice and to the best interest of the City and that there has been a substantial change in the land use character of the surrounding area that justifies rezoning the property and there is a public need for additional property in that area zoned in accordance with the request in said application since any previous Jackson City Council action.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI:**

**Section 1.** That the property located in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, more particular described as follows:

A parcel of land situated in the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 34, Township 6 North – Range 1 East, Hinds County, Mississippi and being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at Northeast corner of Lot 15, Josie Johnson Subdivision, as recorded in Plat Book 7 at Page 34 in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi and run South 89 degrees 52 minutes 00 seconds West along the Northern boundary of said Lot 15 for a distance of 32.80 feet; leaving said Northern boundary, run thence

North 02 degrees 06 minutes 10 seconds West for a distance of 170.78 feet to the Southern boundary of Block 2, Purnell Addition to Millsaps College, as recorded in Plat Cabinet A at Slot 49; thence

South 89 degrees 39 minutes 07 seconds East along said Southern boundary for a distance of 146.18 feet; leaving said Southern boundary, run thence

North 02 degrees 06 minutes 10 seconds West for a distance of 59.92 feet; thence

South 89 degrees 56 minutes 41 seconds East for a distance of 48.78 feet to the Western boundary of Lot 2 of aforesaid Block 2, Purnell Addition to Millsaps College thence South 02 degrees 10 minutes 59 seconds East for a distance of 364.32 feet to the northern Right-Of-Way line of Josanna Street, as it is now (Oct. 1989) in use; thence

South 89 degrees 52 minutes 00 seconds West along said Northern Right-Of-Way line for a distance of 166.19 feet to the Southeast corner of aforesaid Lot 15 Josie Johnson Subdivision; thence

North 00 degrees 35 minutes 14 seconds West along the Eastern boundary of said Lot 15, for a distance of 134.97 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Said parcel contains 1.337 acres more or less.

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the property located at 332 Josanna Street (Parcel 61-29-17) from C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to NMU-1 (Neighborhood) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented and a Variance of up to twenty feet from the maximum height of forty-five (45) feet for principal buildings in the NMU-1, Pedestrian Oriented District. However, that before for any structure is erected or use thereof on the said property, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

**SECTION 2.** That the cost of publication of this Ordinance shall be borne by the petitioner.

**SECTION 3.** That this Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after its passage and after publication of same by the petitioner.

**Council Member Lindsay moved adoption; Council President Banks seconded.**

**Votes – Banks, Foote, Lee and Lindsay.**

**Ayes – None.**

**Abstent – Stamps, Stokes and Tillman.**

**WITTEST:**

**Angela Harris  
Municipal Clerk**

Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Zoning Meeting on May 17, 2021 and recorded in Minute Book “6T Pgs. “116-118.”

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.



*Angela Harris*  
Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

9/16/2021

## LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION  
IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
ESTATE OF HENRY STAMPS, DECEASED

CAUSE# P2021-218 O/3

BY: Delphia W. Green

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF HENRY STAMPS, DECEASED

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Delphia W. Green Petitioner seeking the adjudication of heirs of Henry Stamps, Deceased

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 1:30 o'clock p.m., on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021, in the Chancery Courtroom of Hinds County, Mississippi, before Honorable Denise Owens and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

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

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 31<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2021.



CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY  
Mississippi

*K Howard*

9/9/2021, 9/16/2021, 9/23/2021,

9/9/2021, 9/16/2021

## LEGAL

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
HOLMES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Holmes County Schools – Technology Items

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Dr. Furlinda Travis  
Director, Federal Programs  
Holmes County Consolidated School District

9/9/2021, 9/16/2021

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2. Sold at a discount
3. Parent teacher groups
4. Big Apple (abbr.)
5. Leather worker's tool
6. Several notes
7. Not allowed
8. Brood
10. Actor Christopher
16. Warmer
18. Yes
19. Dr.. 's helper
20. Cut of beef
21. Lessen
22. Black
24. Hose
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**Hint: Quote by John F. Kennedy**

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

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CHANGE IS THE LAW OF LIFE.  
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CHANGE IS THE LAW OF LIFE.  
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# Firefighter Roderick Lewis was there, and in ways, he still is remembering 9/11

By Ahnayah Hughes  
Howard University News Service

Even now, the pain of that day lays just below the surface for retired New York City firefighter Rodney Lewis. As Lewis recalled the sights, smells, sounds and horror of Sept. 11, tears accompanied those memories even as he sat in the comfortable Queens, N.Y., home he shares with his wife.

"I had quite a few friends that were at the scene," Lewis, 66, said through his tears. "People I had just spoken to the week before. People I directly worked with. People whose homes I went to on New Year's Eve. Just like that, so many lives were just gone."

Twenty years after the attack after leaving the department and busying himself with new hobbies, after his birthday celebration, his daughter and his daughter had graduated high school, after buying a sailboat and exploring deeper his love of sailing, after he and his wife purchased another home in Chesapeake, Virginia, after counseling and consultation, it eventually surprises Lewis that quickly the feelings can come bursting to the surface.

"I can talk about it now, but it's still very emotional," he said. "I remember what I went through, and what so many others went through."

Three hundred and forty-three. It is a number nearly all New York firefighters have seared into their consciousness.



We knew we may not make it home, and so many didn't," said retired New York City firefighter Rodney Lewis. (Pictured left)

That's how many firefighters died combatting the devastating fire that took down the World Trade Center and claimed more than 2,600 lives. Lewis knew well over 30 of those firefighters.

Lewis, then a lieutenant with Engine Company 330, was there to

Lewis, a native of New York, was studying for his captain's exam in Staten Island that day, when a firefighter announced that a plane had crashed into a tower at the World Trade Center.

It wasn't until another firefighter arrived shortly after and explained that both towers had been hit, that the room of firefighters fell silent as their new reality began to take shape.

"We were off duty, but we were under attack," he said. "We

knew we may not make it home, and so many didn't," said retired New York City firefighter Rodney Lewis.

After Lewis arrived in Brooklyn, he and the other firefighters around the station geared up to face the unknown. With no trucks or buses to take them to the site, Lewis ordered another firefighter to commandeer a city bus. As the passengers filed off, the firefighters piled on, preparing themselves for what lay ahead.

"We were all going to Manhattan to fight a fire we had never fought before," he said. "But we all knew someone was going to die."

Lewis describes Manhattan as a hell in two words: perilous. All the experience he had gathered in his then 22 years on the job, he said, could not have prepared him for the catastrophe that lay before them.

smoke.

"It was like walking in a cloud, you couldn't see beyond 100 feet in front of you," he said. "I thought it was the end of the world. That's just how it felt. The silence."

Lewis and his colleagues were in the third wave of firefighters to respond to the burning buildings. There was no organized effort as the firefighters aided civilians and attempted to calm the raging flames. Spending hours on the scene without adequate protection, the first responders were exposed to a toxic mix of asbestos, ash and smoke, he said.

"I was covered in black ash, we were just breathing all of that stuff in," he said. "I remembered the telephone company fire in 1977 released asbestos into the

air, and many of the firefighters working died from lung cancer. I always thought about that and had that on my mind at the Towers, but we had to do what we had to do."

Lewis spent a long time on the scene before being relieved of duty on Sept. 2. That day, the firefighters felt they had been there for a long time.

"For a long time, we [firefighters] were unable to talk about it because it was so traumatic," Lewis said. "We could talk about it amongst each other, but if a supervisor came around, we wouldn't say anything."

There is partially due to the standard of excellence and bravery firefighters feel they must hold themselves to, he said. But beneath the masks, badges and gear, he said, were hurt people trying to make sense of the losses and the trauma they had experienced.

"We're firefighters," he said. "Firefighters were supposed to do this. Firefighters were supposed to be strong. We're not supposed to be afraid or show weakness. But you can't have people walking around with such a traumatic event bottled up inside and not be able to release it."

A special counseling unit was assigned to visit different firehouses and helped those involved to process their experiences. Although it was a challenge, it was a first step in the healing process, Lewis said.

"It took a long time, years," he said, "but time itself is very healing."

As the years go by, documentaries are made, memorials are constructed, articles like this one are written every year, but Lewis said he still feels the loss.

"I have mixed emotions," he said, "A part of me wants me to spend the anniversary of what happened for the people who died, but another part of me doesn't want to go out or celebrate."

In previous years, Lewis would participate in a firehouse ceremony to commemorate the firefighters who died and those who lived.

"It's just not enough," Lewis said as he fought back tears.

The experience of the rest of us are going to die from the complications, whether it be lung disease, cancer, whatever it may be. We knew the risks, but we went in anyway. We knew we may not make it home, and so many didn't. To stand up there in my uniform just can't be enough. So, I don't do that anymore."

Instead, Lewis has the words "343" tattooed on his arm to honor the first responders who he believes made the ultimate sacrifice.

"They were human beings," he said. "They were people with lives. They came in knowing the likelihood that they might not make it out and continued anyway. Every so often, I go through this book of victims and look through their names and remember their faces, because I don't ever want to forget."

# Civil Rights Attorney Ben Crump named to TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

TIME magazine named nationally renowned civil rights and personal injury attorney Ben Crump to the 2021 TIME100, its annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world, making him the only personal injury trial lawyer to make the list. Crump has established himself as one of the nation's foremost lawyers and advocates for social and racial justice.

In addition to working on some of the most high-profile cases in the U.S., representing the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown, Crump has fought for justice for the residents of Flint, Michigan, who were affected by poisoned water; black women with ovarian cancer targeted by Johnson & Johnson to use talc products; and people who experienced discriminatory practices – "banking while black" – by some of the nation's largest banks.

He is the founder and principal owner of Ben Crump Law. "Ben Crump transcends and transforms the traditional role of a lawyer," said U.S. Rep.



NNPA President and CEO Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. (left) and Publisher Natalie Cole present Newsmaker of the Year award to Attorney Ben Crump NNPA PHOTO BY FREDDIE ALLEN

Maxine Waters. "He is not only having an impact on the culture both inside and outside the courtroom, but his advocacy is influencing corporate boardrooms and the highest levels of government."

Crump has been nationally recognized as the 2014 NNPA Newsmaker of the Year, The National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Lawyers, Ebony Magazine Power 100 Most Influential African Americans and has been referred to as "Black

America's Attorney General."

His book, published in October 2019, Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People, documents how America is killing black people, whether with a bullet or a lengthy prison sentence, and justifying it legally.

"It's an honor to be recognized this way and to use any influence I have to bring about greater racial justice for all Americans," Crump said.

"I am deeply grateful to

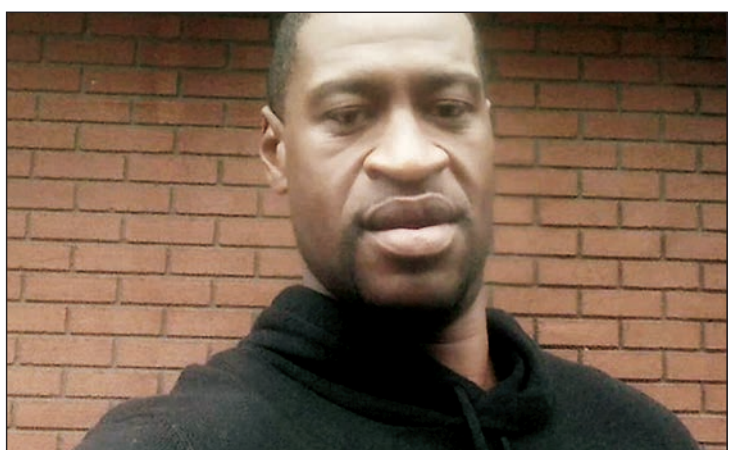
every single person who has raised a voice to elevate our cries for equality, and I will continue to use any influence I have to make our laws, our justice system and corporate America more just and free of systemic racism."

Crump is currently leading an effort to generate 50,000 calls in 50 hours to the U.S. Senate, urging passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. He released a video with the family members of people killed by police, urging supporters to call their senators.

"Ben is shining a light on racial injustice everywhere it exists," said Rev. Al Sharpton, who has called him Black America's attorney general. "He is changing hearts and minds, practices and precedents, laws and lives."

The full list and related tributes will appear in the Sept. 27 / Oct. 4 issue of TIME, available on newsstands on Friday, September 17, and now at time.com/time100. The list, now in its eighteenth year, recognizes the impact, innovation and achievement of the world's most influential individuals.

## George Floyd fund has awarded over \$50,000 in scholarships



Floyd

The Associated Press

A fund set up to honor George Floyd and raise awareness about racial injustice said Monday that it has awarded more than \$50,000 in scholarships since it was created.

The George Floyd Memorial Foundation said it has recently given scholarships valued at \$1,000 to 15 law school students, scholarships valued at \$10,000 to interns, and \$2,500 scholarships to undergraduate students. The foundation said it has also awarded \$25,000 to Fayetteville State University, a historically black college in North Carolina.

Foundation Executive Director Jacari Harris said the scholarships keep Floyd's memory alive and support students.

"Our hope at the George Floyd Memorial Foundation is that these high-achieving students will become attorneys, activists and scholars who will work to ensure people are treated fairly around the world," Harris said in

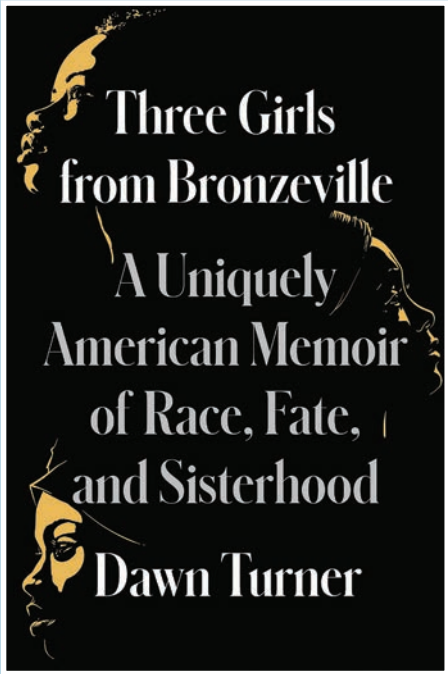
a statement.

Bridgett Floyd, George Floyd's sister and founder of the George Floyd Memorial Foundation, said: "As the days, months and years go by, one thing is true: my brother George's death truly changed the world and by offering support to these students, it will allow us to continue to bring hope to those in need."

The George Floyd Memorial Foundation, based in Fayetteville, North Carolina, was created in August 2020 and focuses on raising awareness of racial injustices, police brutality and ensuring everyone's civil rights are protected.

Floyd, age 46, died May 25, 2020, after a white former Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck as Floyd said he couldn't breathe. That officer, Derek Chauvin, has been convicted of murder and manslaughter and sentenced to 22-1/2 years. Three other former officers await trial on aiding and abetting counts.





BOOK REVIEW:

# THREE GIRLS FROM BRONZEVILLE:

## A UNIQUELY AMERICAN MEMOIR OF RACE, FATE, AND SISTERHOOD

BY DAWN TURNER

C.2021, SIMON & SCHUSTER

\$26.99 / \$35.99 CANADA • 321 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

Go left or go right?

It seems that at every point in life, you need a decision: take a familiar street, or a route you rarely travel? A restaurant you frequent, or something new for dinner? Sometimes, the choices won't matter next week or in a year, but – as in the new book “Three Girls from Bronzeville” by Dawn Turner – other decisions are more consequential.

One of her earliest memories involves her newborn sister.

Dawn Turner was no more

than a toddler herself then, living in a hotel room with her mother because her father was gone again. Turner remembers the weight of her baby sister, Kim, and knowing that everything had changed.

For the rest of their childhoods, the girls were inseparable though, like many big sisters, Turner sometimes resented Kim's tag-alonging. That became more pronounced when Turner found her first best friend, who lived in the apartment directly above theirs in a new housing project in Chicago's Bronzeville.

Turner wanted Debra to herself, but she had to share the friendship with Kim and that was fine. Summer days and after-school was often better with three. The girls made their own fun, hiding from maintenance men in the building, hanging out on fire escapes, and reading in a secret spot on an accessible rooftop. In the shadows of deteriorating apartment complexes and abandoned buildings, their childhoods were almost idyllic.

And things changed again.

As high school loomed, Turner and Debra slowly started to drift

apart, a slide that was defined by Debra's family's move to Indianapolis. Turner began to plan for college, while Kim struggled in school. Time passed and as the neighborhood that nurtured three little girls fell into a state of disrepair, so did the girls' bond and suddenly, they “were on different trajectories.” One went south, one went to college, boys came around, and so did trouble.

One took a gin bottle, one took a baby bottle, and one took a gun...

Have you ever wondered what life might've been like if you'd

made different choices, picked a different spouse or another job? Yep, then “Three Girls from Bronzeville” is for you.

And yet, this book isn't entirely about choices; it's also about taking what life seems to hand you and molding it to fit. On that, author Dawn Turner is irresistibly nostalgic and her memories will leave you with a sense of carefree childhood in the city – but she's also realistic, describing her surroundings with decreasing enthusiasm that speaks volumes.


Turner points no fingers here

but you'll see likely culprits to blame along the way.

Substance abuse plays a large part in this tale. Opportunities existed to seize or discard freely, the latter of which is painful to watch. Responsibility is taken for wrong turns.

And readers will be thrilled to see that angels existed, too.

This is one of those books that's warm to the start and envelops you like a hug mixed with gravel. It's harsh and gracious, jagged and loving. Yep, “Three Girls from Bronzeville” is all right.



## 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)

**Services of the Clerk:**

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

**VOTER INFORMATION**  
[Verify/Update your Registration Today](#)

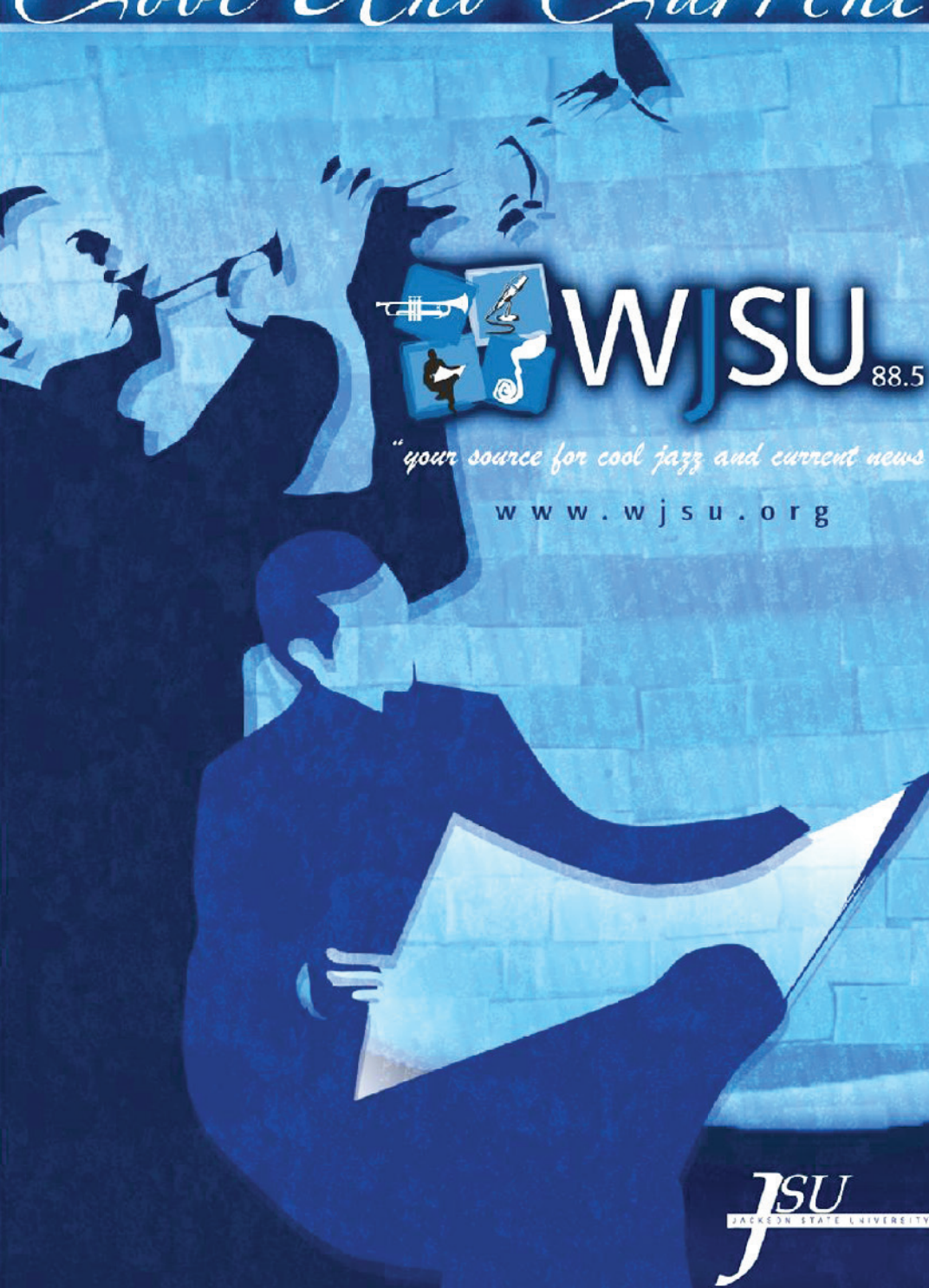
- You must be registered 30 days before the Election.
- Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election

**MARRIAGE INFORMATION**

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

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

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# Sanders leads Jackson State to 38-16 win over Tennessee St.

By Clay Bailey  
Associated Press

Shedeur Sanders threw for 362 yards and three touchdowns Saturday night to lead Jackson State to a 38-16 victory over Tennessee State in the Southern Heritage Classic.

Sanders completed 30 of 40 passes as Jackson State (2-0) used a pair of third quarter scores to build its lead. In the frame, the freshman from Canton, Texas connected with Keith Corbin III for a 67-yard touchdown and then completed a 10-yard scoring toss to Shane Hooks.

An 81-yard punt return by Warren Newman in the fourth quarter added to the Jackson State advantage.

Tennessee State (0-2) could manage little offensively, particularly when Jackson State was building its lead. In that third quarter, when Jackson State pulled away, Tennessee State managed only 54 yards of offense.

Sanders spread around his passing, connecting with nine receivers, the highest number of completions in the Southern Heritage Classic history. The 362 yards passing was the third-highest ever for the game.

The game featured two former NFL stars coaching on the sidelines – Eddie George for Tennessee State and Deion Sanders running the show for Jackson State.

It also marked the 29th time the schools faced each other in the Southern Heritage Classic held at Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium. It was the first time either George or Sanders coached in the game.

The Sanders-George matchup increased the hype, attention and excitement around the game; think tailgates outside Tennessee's Neyland Stadium; Bryant-Denny Stadium, home of the Crimson Tide; the Shoe at Ohio State; or a major bowl game.

Jackson State held a 10-7 lead at the half thanks to a 28-yard field goal by Glenn Misiak in the closing seconds of the second quarter.

**The Takeaway**  
Tennessee State: TSU, coming off a 16-10 loss to Grambling State, again had trouble moving the ball, particularly reaching the end zone. For the night, Tennessee State did not get over 200 yards of total offense until the final minute of the game.

Jackson State: JSU, which defeated Florida A&M 7-6 last week, still used big plays in the third quarter along with a blocked punt to set up another score and built enough of a lead as Sanders had one of the best passing nights in the history of the Southern Heritage Classic.



Jackson State quarterback Shedeur Sanders

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HINDS COUNTY



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*Paid for by Friends of Leon Seals for Hinds County Sheriff*

Citizens of Hinds County, I am asking for your support in my campaign to be the next Sheriff of Hinds County in the November 2nd Special Election.

I am happily married 17 years to the former Lynn Smith, the daughter of Rev. D.D. Smith and Pinkie Smith Amos. We have a beautiful blended family of 4 children, Candice, Jordan, George and Indea. We also have 2 grandchildren, Calvert and Jiana. Our pet dog is named Mollie. I am the son of the late Annie Mae Seals and the late Leon Washington.



**Special Election November 2, 2021**



*Paid for by Friends of Leon Seals for Hinds County Sheriff*



**sealsforsheriff@gmail.com**

**601-624-9949**

**123 Highway 80 East #162, Clinton, MS 39056**



Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Terry High’s visit to Gary Elementary School Highlights



Technology  
Department Highlights



EL Site Coordinator  
Training Highlights

