

WE
SALUTE
OUR
VETS



THE MISSISSIPPI LINK

DEDICATES THIS WEEK'S ISSUE TO THE MEMORY OF

DR. MARVIN HOGAN



IN MEMORIAM

Marvin Hogan

August 29, 1938-November 6, 2021



Hogan

The birth of Marvin Hogan to Nina Murphy Hogan and Willie Hogan in Waynesboro, Mississippi on August 29, 1938 blessed their lives and stirred the elements of the universe. There was a knowing that a quiet thunder was unfolding that would be a force for fundamental changes in the lives of many people who were yet unborn. The dash between his birth and his transitioning to his eternal home on November 6, 2021 was filled with impactful, relevant moments.

Growing up in a Christian home, faith was central to how he lived his life. He joined Saint Luke Baptist Church in Waynesboro, Mississippi as a young child and remained active until he moved away for college. When he moved to Jackson, Mississippi, he joined Mt. Helm Baptist Church and served as a deacon under the leadership of Dr. T. B. Brown. He later joined Koinonia Baptist Church in Clinton, Mississippi and served as a deacon under the leadership of Reverend Walter Bowie. After the passing of Reverend Bowie, Marvin rejoined Mt. Helm under the leadership of Dr. C.J. Rhodes and remained an active member, connecting virtually during the pandemic until his passing.

As the son of school teacher, education was always an important part of Marvin's personal growth and development. He received his elementary and secondary education in the public schools of Wayne County, Mississippi and earned his high school diploma from Riverview High School. He began his college education at Tougaloo College with the support of a football scholarship and during his first year, the college's football program was discontinued. Without scholarship aid, the cost of college was beyond Marvin's reach and he transferred to Rust College where he completed his undergradu-

ate education. He later studied management at Texas Tech University and completed his graduate education at UCLA's John E. Anderson School of Management.

He began his professional career as a history teacher and head football coach at Rosa Scott under the tutelage of Dr. H.T. Drake who was the principal at the time. After several years, he joined the teaching and coaching staff at Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Mississippi. It was during this phase of his work that his father summoned him to Jackson, Mississippi to help establish what is now Friends of Children of Mississippi, Inc (FCM). He accepted and stepped into history, as he embraced his professional calling. He served as the CEO/executive director for 53 years before he retired on March 31, 2020, and developed FCM into an award-winning program with unparalleled national recognition.

This was his defining moment as he began his lifelong commitment to obliterating generational poverty through education and compassionate partnerships with families and community. Throughout his career, he used his positional ladder of influence to stimulate growth in minority businesses by opening doors of opportunity for many aspiring entrepreneurs. And in 1994, he established the Self Sufficiency/Empowerment and Micro Enterprise Development Project and assisted in developing nearly 300 small businesses in the 15 counties in which FCM operated. His visionary leadership guided FCM to become a Small Business Administration Non-Profit Micro-Loan Intermediary Leader for the State of Mississippi.

Hogan was a sports enthusiast. After his coaching career ended, he became a football

Hogan
Continued on page 3

Councilman Brian Grizzell holds town hall meeting on crime

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

A 'Let's Talk About Crime' town hall meeting, organized by Ward 4, City Councilman Brian Grizzell, was held Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Holy Temple Baptist Church located on Cabaniss Circle in Jackson. It was hosted by Pastor Audrey Hall who, after being introduced by Grizzell, offered prayer.

Mayor Chokwe Lumumba, Police Chief James Davis and Interim Hinds County Sheriff Marshand Crisler were in attendance to provide information.

JPD commanders from Precincts 1, 2, and 3 are in Ward Four and each spoke of issues in their precincts and encouraged citizens to call them if they had problems. Commander Marco Johnson of Precinct 3 gave an example of what citizens are doing to assist.

He stated, "Ms. Johnson calls me and says, well, they've been shooting down at this house five times a week." Johnson said this is the kind of information that gives him the tools to approach that house and let them know he is keeping an eye on them.

Chief Davis said 85% of crimes are taking place inside the homes of individuals in personal relationships. He said, these disputes are hard to predict and hard to prevent and all hands need to be on deck to address crime.

Interim Sheriff Crisler said the sheriff's department and Jackson Police Department must work together to help solve the crime issues. Crisler said those committing crimes in Hinds County



Hall



Davis



Moore

will be put in jail. Crisler said the word is out that people are being told not to commit a crime in Rankin County because they will go to jail. He said the same is true in Hinds County, however, when we put them in jail we will give them a skill set so they can be better when they get out and won't find the need to commit crimes. Crisler said they will also be able to earn a GED.

Mayor Lumumba recognized representatives from an organization from Strong Arms of Jackson. This organization seeks out young people that are of high



Grizzell

PHOTOS BY GAIL BROWN

crime risk to the community and they are building relationships with these young people in order to interrupt that cycle of committing crime. The mayor stated that out of 126 homicides committed this year, 78 have been solved, which is above the national average.

A young citizen Terun Moore from south Jackson spoke out and said help is needed prior to going to jail. Moore, who spent 20 years in jail for a crime committed at age 17 said, "Why not help young people get a GED prior to going to jail? School is not for every-

one," he said.

After a passionate plea to get help now for people headed for a life of crime, Moore received a standing ovation. He said we must get together and help one another and be about positive action. Moore said, "Love is action."

Davis said there are police classes to address broken people as well as conflict resolution classes, which are available to the community. He said these classes, which are conducted by social workers, address anger management and other social issues.

Jackson, Stay Well!

Nearly 200 turned out for a battle cry against COVID-19: 'Get educated, get vaccinated.'

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

Elizabeth Cousin of Jackson was among nearly 200 who braved the relatively chilly but sunny Saturday morning, Nov. 6, for a major community health fair in the fight against COVID-19.

Hosted by W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute and the Greater Jackson Area Chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA), Inc., along with 22 other community partners, the Jackson Stay Well community health fair and vaccine event was a wake-up call to everyone.

Cousin, a 70-year Jackson resident, wrapped in warm clothing, told *The Mississippi Link* that the presenters "were real informative about all these fake things that I have been hearing about." "They cleared it up for me," she said. Cousin made a point to inform



Keneen Children was in ICU 38 days

this writer that she has taken all her vaccinations. "I just took my booster shot this morning," she added.

Cousin took her booster inside the facilities of the Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center (J-HCHC), located at 3502 West Northside Drive. The health cen-

ter's grounds and parking lot were the strategic battleground for the 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free, public event.

The presenters Cousin referenced were local 'trusted' African-American healthcare professionals in eye-opening panel discussion moderated by Dr. Lynda Jackson Assad, medical director, J-HCHC. Assad told the audience that it is extremely important to "trust the science," which was the focus of the panel of doctors and nurses.

"We must educate before we vaccinate," stressed Assad. And, educate is exactly what the panel on "Trusting the Science" did.

Dr. Edith Smith Rayford (OB/GYN) said for those who are concerned about getting the COVID-19 vaccine while pregnant that it is safe. Rayford is with the W.Montague Cobb/NMA Initiative.

She also shared that it is safe to get your dental care after one member of the audience asked a question about some fear going to the dentist because of the pandemic.

"I was in the dentist chair recently," Rayford said. She pointed out that dental offices have protected screens up, and that dentistry "had the PPE's before medical offices did."

RN and ICU nurse Sheneta Magee also emphasized the importance of continuing one's regular dental care during the pandemic because one would not want to develop endocarditis. "It is an infection from your mouth if you have a tooth that needs to be pulled, and it may set up an abscess. You're swallowing the secretion from the abscess," Ma-

COVID-19
Continued on page 3

Inside

H. T. Drake celebrates 99th birthday at Tougaloo College

Page 2



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H. T. Drake celebrates 99th birthday at Tougaloo College

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

A drive-by birthday celebration was held in honor of H.T. Drake's 99th birthday at Tougaloo College where he continued a long-time tradition of raising funds to benefit the Henry T. and Maggie Burkhead Drake Endowed Scholarship Fund, which was started shortly after his wife's death in 1976.

Drake, now recognized as the oldest active Tougaloo alum, asked scholarship donors to give in denominations with "99" (\$99, 99 cents, etc.). He turned 99 on Saturday, November 6 and was celebrated with a drive-by birthday parade on November 7.

In a brief telephone interview with The Mississippi Link, Drake said of his celebration, "It was just great. There were a lot of my students from Jim Hill and Rosa Scott coming by in cars. I was so happy to see so many family members and friends."

Drake who has three children, Regina, Godfrey and Denise, was asked how many grandchildren he had. "Last I counted I had 9 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren" but while laughing he said, "there might be more now as they are coming so fast." When asked about his secret to the longevity of life he simply said, "I just keep on living and try to do what is right."

Drake's son, Godfrey, attended his dad's celebration and shared how proud he was of his dad who started his career in education started at Hinds County Agricultural High School. At Jim Hill High School, he taught history and coached girls' basketball." He recalled that it was under his dad's coaching that the girls won their first Big 8 championship. After leaving Jim Hill he became principal of Rosa Scott School in Madison, MS, which at the time was grades 1 through 12.

Drake retired as Assistant Director of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, which merged after integration with the Magnolia High School Activities Association where Drake was employed as the executive director.

PHOTOS BY ANITA YOUNG



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

MISSISSIPPI
It's good to be Blue.

Hogan

Continued from page 1



Beverly and Marvin Hogan

PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

and basketball referee, with the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC) and South Western Athletic Conference (SWAC). This was an advocacy he enjoyed for thirty years or more. He approached his role as a referee with a sense of commitment, discipline, accountability, civility and control while on the court. Among his greatest rewards as a referee was the opportunity to bring other individuals into this arena which had not been open historically to African Americans or women.

As much as Hogan loved his vocational and advocational work, he also loved his family and found joy and fulfillment spending at-home time with his immediate family. He was a supportive husband, a hands-on father and loving grandfather. As well, he was an involved and supportive uncle to his nieces and nephews. His professional and personal values were in alignment because he allowed God to order his steps.

Hogan accepted people as they were, allowed them to be what they wanted to be, assisted them in being the best they can be and encour-

aged them to cast aside doubts and accept success and empowerment which were within their reach.

On Saturday, November 6, 2021, at 7:03 a.m., surrounded by his beloved family, the country boy from Waynesboro, Mississippi, (as he loved to describe himself) who only wanted to make a difference in the lives of children and families, accepted his highest calling and is now walking around heaven in the presence of our Lord.

His father, mother and three brothers preceded him in death.

Missing his earthly presence and gratefully cherishing the joy of memories they made together are his wife of 50 years, Beverly Wade Hogan, their two sons, Maurice DeShay Hogan and Marcellus Wade Hogan and his wife, Latoya; eight grandchildren, Marsei DeShay Hogan, Emani DeShay Hogan, Liyah Marcella Hogan, Laila Young, Tai Micah Hogan, London Paige Hogan, Messiah Hogan and Maverick Hogan; one great grandson Seimar DeShay Hogan; one brother, Clarence Hogan

and his wife Mary, three additional sisters-in-law, Shirley Hogan, Effie Wade Washington and Florene Wade; two brothers-in-law, W. D. Wade and Johnny Crisler; one goddaughter, Sylvia Lyna Turner; several nieces and nephews; and legions of friends across the globe.

Final arrangements for homegoing services for Marvin Hogan are as follows:

Friday, November 12, 2021

2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Celebration of Life Memorial Service

Kroger Gymnasium/Tougaloo College

Saturday, November 13, 2021

12 p.m. Homegoing Services Mt. Helm Missionary Baptist Church, 300 Church Street, Jackson, MS 39213.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Dr. Marvin Hogan Scholarship Fund for Child Development, Office of Institutional Advancement, Tougaloo College, 500 West County Line Road, Tougaloo, MS 39176

Westhaven Funeral Home is in charge.

COVID-19

Continued from page 1

gee explained.

According to *mayoclinic.org*: “Endocarditis is a life-threatening inflammation of the inner lining of your heart’s chambers and valves (endocardium). Endocarditis is usually caused by an infection. Bacteria, fungi or other germs from another part of your body, such as your mouth, spread through your bloodstream and attach to damaged areas in your heart. If it’s not treated quickly, endocarditis can damage or destroy your heart valves. Treatments for endocarditis include medications and, sometimes, surgery.”

There were several other questions and concerns posed to the panelists. Dr. Doris Browne of Browe and Associates shared that: “It is safe to get your mammogram. Protect yourself.” Of course, the panelists told all audience members to consult their own physicians about every concern.

COVID-related depression was also among those concerns. “I’m treating more and more depression,” said Dr. Geraldine Chaney Buie (Pediatrics), Capital City Children and Adolescent Clinic, PLLC.

Browne commented that it is important to see your mental health provider.

One of the partnering exhibitors Fredniki White, clinical director with Mississippi Families for Kids, (a non-profit organization under the department of mental health), also shared with *The Mississippi Link* the importance of maintaining good mental health during COVID and anytime. She said, “My executive director is Dr. Linda West, and our agency



Participants and workers in front of JHCHC building. PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY AND GAIL BROWN

was excited to partner with this event.” “We provide mental health services for children ages 3-21.”

“Today, what I realized is that everyone I’ve spoken with is concerned about their mental health. We are here to help with those who are dealing with anxiety, depressions, and those who have lost love ones,” White added.

Speaking of loss of loved ones, local pastor Bruce Landing of New Season Christian Fellowship Church was on hand to do a memorial prayer in memories of lives lost to COVID -19. He also gave words of comfort and strength for the families they left behind.

Landing later said, “Many pastors have lost their lives due to COVID. So, as we’ve heard today, COVID has no respect of persons.” He said that although some people think pastors are the closest to God, they are impacted by COVID too. He

explained that he “can personally say that this has been one of the most stressful times for pastors.” He had to pray his wife through and others. Landing said he advocates vaccination. “Please sir, please ma’am, get vaccinated,” he said as he spoke into the microphone.

Panel 2 consisted of “Voices of COVID-19,” individuals who suffered from the virus. They gave power testimonies of recovery but some at great loss. Keneen Children no longer has his 10 toes as a result of COVID-19-related complications.

“Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. has a 113-year history of ‘Service to all Mankind,’” said Candace Holloway, lead coordinator.

Asked how well she thinks the event did in accomplishing their goals, Holloway said, “I think we had a pretty good turnout.”

She said more than 70 individuals were vac-



St. Dominic health care professional taking blood pressure.

inated against COVID, and the majority of those received their boosters (Pfizer, Merdero or Johnson and Johnson). “Everything was completely free; no one had to pay anything,” she said.

The event partners included W Montague Cobb/NMA Health Initiative, United Health Care, Voter Registration Setup, Beta Delta Omega, St. Dominic’s Mobile Care Van, Kidney Focused Care, UMMC School of Dentistry, MS Shared Health, Speak Out Speech Therapy, Harmony Court, Prevention Access, Total Healthcare, MS Lupus Warriors, Tougaloo College, DREF Research JSU, The Links, Temple Rec Fitness, Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, Rho Xi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated and Alpha Beta Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma.





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Dr. Marvin Hogan



It is with deep sadness that Friends of Children of Mississippi, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start informs you of the passing of regional and national Head Start pioneer, Dr. Marvin Hogan.

Dr. Hogan had a lasting commitment to Friends of Children of Mississippi, Inc., Head Start/Early Head Start-Flowood Mississippi. Before his retirement in February, 2020, Dr. Hogan served as the Executive Director for 53 years of the award-winning agency, an agency that he assisted to establish.

Dr. Hogan's steadfast leadership has enabled Friends of Children of Mississippi, Inc. to thrive ever since the early inceptions of Head Start in Mississippi. Dr. Hogan's decision to join Head Start developed from an ultimatum put in place by his father.

He was a human services champion empowering individuals, families and communities to succeed. He demonstrated an unwavering commitment to changing people's lives and improving communities. He has made an in-

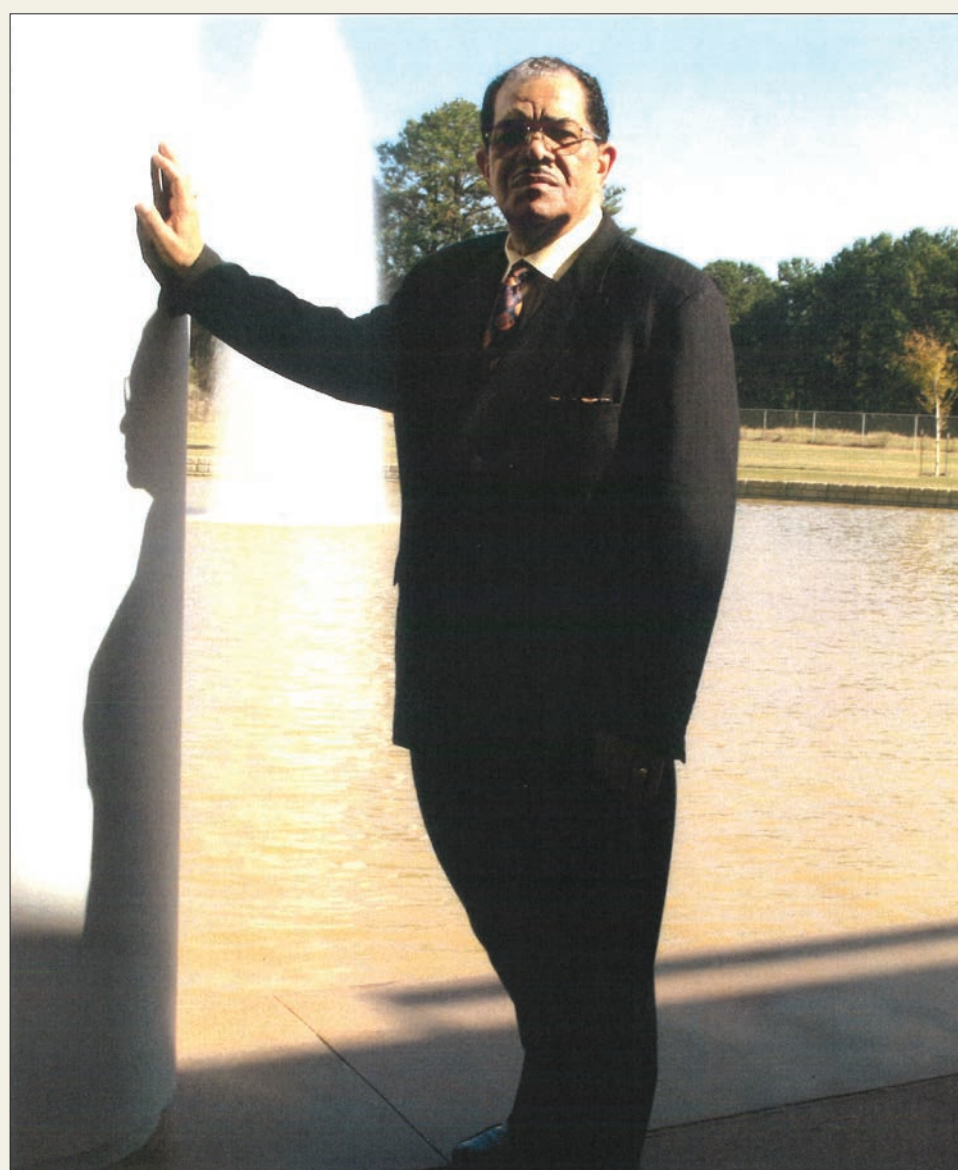
delible imprint in the Head Start community – not only in Mississippi and Region IV but also across the nation.

Dr. Hogan's visionary leadership placed emphasis on 'Breaking the Cycle of Generational Poverty.' He is a recipient of numerous distinguished awards, certificates and accomplishments as an outstanding advocate for children and families as well as a recipient of an honorary doctorate degree.

Dr. Hogan is a native Mississippian from Waynesboro, Mississippi who considered himself a country boy from Mississippi who wanted to make a difference in the lives of children and families and that is what he did.

He was also a former teacher, soccer coach, and a phenomenal referee for basketball and soccer games. He touched many lives through his generosity of time, experience and resources.

We have suffered the terrible loss of a legend, but his legacy will endure, on the wings of eagles.





Analysis: Mississippi faces big decisions on relief money

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

Mississippi is running behind many other states in deciding how to spend billions of federal dollars for pandemic relief.

Congress allocated \$1.8 billion for Mississippi through the American Rescue Plan, and the first half of the money arrived in the state treasury in May, weeks after legislators finished their 2021 session.

The federal government says American Rescue Plan money may only be spent on certain expenses. Those include public health, including COVID-19 mitigation; addressing economic harms that the pandemic has caused for businesses; replacing state government revenue that was lost because of the pandemic; providing premium pay for essential workers; and investing in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure.

Republican Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann said it's imperative that the money go to "transformational projects."

"The legacy for the Legislature this year, and for everybody that's in it or works there,

is how we spend that money," Hosemann said Oct. 28 at Hobnob, a gathering hosted by the state Chamber of Commerce, Mississippi Economic Council.

Cities and counties are also receiving millions of federal dollars for pandemic relief.

Hosemann said spending the money effectively could help businesses prosper today and ensure "children have someplace to come home and work" once they're grown.

"If we do this right, if we're able to match our cities and counties with things that go in the ground, not for one or two years but for one or two generations, we will have a tremendous asset going forward," Hosemann said.

Northern District Public Service Commissioner Brandon Presley, a Democrat, wrote in a recent newspaper column that Mississippi needs to invest pandemic relief money in projects that could boost people's quality of life, including expansion of broadband access and improvement of water systems.

"Like all programs, there's

some wiggle room on expenditures, but now isn't the time to get cute and cocky with these dollars," Presley wrote.

He said frontline pandemic workers deserve extra pay, and the state should help businesses hurt by a decrease in tourism.

"These funds have a very limited focus and leaders must be extra responsible with them, realizing that they are one-time funds that may never come around again," Presley wrote.

"We simply cannot bend over backwards to skirt and stretch guidelines for a wish list of questionable pet projects while ignoring the real intent of the funds."

Hosemann has appointed a Senate subcommittee to lead discussions on spending the pandemic relief money. He named Republican Sen. John Polk of Hattiesburg as chairman. The other members are Republican Sens. Dennis DeBar of Leakesville, Walter Michel of Ridgeland, Rita Potts Parks of Corinth and Bart Williams of Starkville; and Democratic Sens. Albert Butler of Port Gibson and Hillman Frazier of Jackson.

Senators will work with House members on any spending plans.

Republican House Speaker Philip Gunn has made clear that he also wants the pandemic relief money to go toward projects that provide long-term improvements – not short-term fixes.

Even as legislators prepare to spend the federal money, they are starting to work on the state budget for the year that begins next July 1. That brings a complex series of questions about priorities, including promises by many leaders to increase teachers' pay.

Without even taking the federal pandemic relief money into account, Mississippi has had robust state tax collections in recent months. According to the Legislative Budget Office, tax collections exceeded expectations by more than \$258 million for the first three months of the budget year, which began July 1.

Hosemann told the Hobnob audience that the bounce in state tax collections is "awesome." In the next breath, he warned: "It won't last."

Vaccinations have begun for children ages 5-11



The Associated Press

Children ages 5 to 11 in Mississippi began receiving COVID-19 vaccinations at county health departments Monday.

U.S. health officials gave the final signoff last week to Pfizer's kid-size COVID-19 shot doses just a third of the amount given to teens and adults.

Mississippi Department of Health officials said appointments were available beginning Nov. 5 for online booking. Vaccinations for all Mississippians five and older can also be found from other providers including primary care providers, community health centers and pharmacies.

The Mississippi State Department of Health has ordered 51,000 doses of vaccine for this age group, officials said.

State Epidemiologist Dr. Paul Byers said Friday that Mississippi

health officials are pleased the shots for children five and older have been approved, and that they recommend that all eligible children are vaccinated.

"If you have questions or concerns, we urge you to please talk with your pediatrician or health-care providers," Byers said in a press release.

Appointments can be made at covidvaccine.umc.edu for all county health departments. Appointments can also be made by calling the COVID-19 hotline at 866-498-4948 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week.

Around 46% of the total population of Mississippi, a state of 3 million people, is fully vaccinated, according to the Mississippi State Department of Health. Around 10,150 people have died of coronavirus in the state since the pandemic began.

HCHRA - Public Meeting Announcement

Special to the Mississippi Link

Hinds County Human Resource Agency will host its next monthly Board of Directors meeting Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 7 p.m. at HCHRA Central Office located at 258 Maddox Road in Jack-

son, Mississippi. The public is invited to attend. For more information, call (601) 923-1838.

Since 1976, HCHRA has built its solid reputation in eradicating poverty by empowering disadvantaged Hinds County citizens to become self-reliant

and realize their full potential. Through Head Start and Early Head Start, rural transportation, home-delivered meals, congregate meals, home energy assistance and case management programs, HCHRA continues to improve the con-

ditions of children, families, single adults, the elderly and citizens with disabilities in our communities.

For more information on HCHRA, its programs and its services, please visit www.hchra.org.

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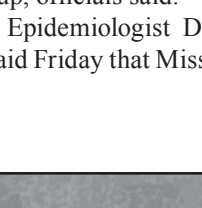
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JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

‘Ask for More’ recognizes ten JPS teachers as 2021 outstanding educators

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Ask for More Jackson celebrated ten Outstanding Educators from the Jackson Public School District who inspire hope, ignite imagination and instill a love for learning in scholars. A generous anonymous donor through the Outstanding Educator Award Funds for the Community Foundation for Mississippi makes this award possible each year. The awardees may use the funds for professional or personal purposes.

“There are so many outstanding teachers in the district, and we commend them all for their dedication and commitment to educating scholars,” said Gwen Gardner of Ask for More Jackson. “We thank and appreciate teachers for planting the seed of knowledge that continues to grow.”

Honorees are:

Regina K. Carpenter, a first-grade teacher at Smith Elementary School, has 21 years of teaching experience. Carpenter holds a master’s degree in education. She has been named Teacher of the Year at Galloway and G.N. Smith and Employee of the Month at Watkins, Smith and Galloway. She had perfect attendance at Smith Elementary in 2020. She also volunteers at the local library with all of their educational showcases/activities. Congratulations to Carpenter and her principal, Stephanie Wilson.

Mautoyia Cooper, a ninth-grade teacher at JPS-Tougaloo Early College High School, has 28 years of teaching experience in education. Cooper holds a master’s degree in school leadership and administration. She received Teacher of the Month in 2011 and 2018 and has served as science fair coordinator since 2000. Congratulations to Cooper and her principal, Chinelo Evans.

Christopher Evans, a 9th-10th grade algebra I and foundations to algebra teacher at Callaway High School, has 21 years of teaching experience. Evans holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics education. He received the Metro Jackson Teacher of the Year award in 2018 and the Callaway Teacher of the Year award in 2013, 2018 and 2020. Evans is an Independent Educational Consultant and a NAACP mentor at Tougaloo College. Congratulations to Evans and his principal, Shemeka McClung.

Shelia Gibson, a first-grade at Boyd Elementary School, has 37 years of teaching experience and holds a master’s degree in education. She has been selected as Teacher of the Month and Teacher of the Year at Boyd. Gibson is a member of the NAACP and the American Legion Auxiliary. Before the pandemic, she was also a tutor at Friendship Baptist Church. Congratulations to Gibson and her principal, Joseph Collins.

Tisithia Knotts, a second-grade teacher at Bates Elementary School, has two years of teaching experience and holds a Master of Education in curriculum and instruction. She serves as a new teacher coach for grades K-2 through the Ignite Initiative which Bates is implementing this school year. Knotts teaches remedial learners as well as learners who are showing academic improvement. Congratulations to Knotts and her principal, Stephen Johnson.

Christopher Little, a 9th-



Regina Carpenter



Mautoyia Cooper



Christopher Evans



Sheila Gibson



Tisithia Knotts



Christopher Little



Kurtina Maholmes



Shanita McDonald



Wanda Moses



Kandance Taylor

12th grade band director at Jim Hill High School, has 17 years of experience in education. Little holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees of music in education and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in music education. He received the 2014 Holland’s Opus Award, the 2015 City with Soul Music Award for “Most Outstanding Marching Band” and many other awards throughout his career. Congratulations to Little and his principal, Bobby D. Brown.

Kurtina Maholmes, a K-5th grade music teacher at Sykes Elementary School, has five years of experience teaching music. She holds a bachelor’s degree in vocal performance and is presently pursuing her Master of Music Education degree. She received the Schulwerk Teaching Approach Certification in July of 2021.

Maholmes has participated in mission work rebuilding churches and schools through the Kingdom Culture Organization. Congratulations to Maholmes and her principal, Tan-taneishia Houston.

Shanita M. McDonald, an interventionist at Galloway Elementary School, has 16 years of teaching experience and holds a specialist degree in education. She is a first-year teacher in the Ask for More Arts Program, has received Teacher of Month and is a JPS mentor teacher. She is a very active member of Multi-Tiered System of Supports team where she is always willing to analyze individual student data to drive instruction. Congratulations to McDonald and her principal, Linda Murray.

Wanda Moses, a fourth-grade teacher at Marshall Elementary School, has 12 years of teach-

ing experience in education. She holds Bachelor of Business Administration degree and completed her 4-8th grade certification through the Master of Arts in Teaching alternate route program at Jackson State University. She received Teacher of the Year in 2015 and was a NEA/MAE Teacher Leadership Fellow in 2019. Congratulations to Moses and her principal, Rachea Williams.

Kandace Taylor, an eighth-grade teacher at Brinkley Middle School, has six years of teaching experience in education. She holds a Master of Arts in Teaching degree and serves as the lead science teacher at Brinkley. She was named Teacher of the Month in 2018 and Mentor of the Month for JPS for August 2021. Congratulations to Taylor and her principal, Jeffrey Mumford.

JPS communications veteran named 2021 Communicator of the Year

The Mississippi Link Newswire

After years serving as executive director of Public Engagement for Jackson Public Schools, Sherwin Johnson was named the 2021 Mississippi School Public Relations Association Communicator of the Year.

The MSPRA Communicator of the Year is the top competition in Mississippi recognizing one outstanding professional in school communications. The recipient is someone who is dedicated to school public relations issues and is willing to grow professionally.

According to the contest criteria, the potential applicant pool is far reaching. This contest is open to all public or private schools or districts, including special schools such as vocational-technical institutes, regional or county education service agencies, education agencies and private businesses serving as partners with those organizations.

“An enormous amount of messaging is thrown at him daily for dissemination,” said William Merritt, JPS chief of staff. “Sherwin’s poised response and measured approach to our frequent, often time-sensitive, requests are exceptional. Besides his exemplary public relations work, I am most proud of Sherwin’s commitment to service as a volunteer in the community and a mentor to our scholars.”

As executive director, Johnson manages a team of more than 20 members and conducts the internal and external flow of communications to various audiences.

Prior to his promotion to this role in 2014, Johnson was the communications specialist for the department. He became a well-known local journalist while serving as a news videographer for WJTV Channel 12, broadcast news writer/producer for WAPT Channel 16 and WLBT Channel 3, and assistant production manager for WJSU TV 23.

He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Radio/TV/Film from the University of South-



Sherwin Johnson

ern Mississippi and is pursuing a master’s degree from Jackson State University in mass communications. He actively serves as a member of the board of deacons at Black’s Chapel Baptist Church, as a member of the board of directors for Ballet Mississippi, and as a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

In addition to the Communicator of the Year, the Public Engagement team won First Place for school website based on a reorganization strategy for teacher pages that seeks to address parent and scholar engagement, a project led by the web manager, Oluwafemi Oloko.

The district was also recognized as a finalist in the Special Publications Category for the Spirit of Excellence, a new annual publication showcasing our amazing scholars and team members released for the first time in the 2021, and for a video entitled “Our Educators, Our Heroes” that was widely shared during a recruitment series produced by Human Resources in collaboration with Insight Communications Group.

The awards were presented during the MSPRA Awards of Excellence luncheon held October 27. The Awards of Excellence recognizes outstanding school communications programs and campaigns. This year’s event was MSPRA’s first in-person program since 2020 and included two years of accomplishments for school PR teams across the state submitting entries for each award category.

Jackson Public Schools educators awarded classroom grants



Stacey Jules-Dunn



Susan Bender



Christopher Little

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Professional Educators (MPE) has awarded three JPS teachers with classroom grants to enhance their students’ instruction and educational experience.

Stacey Jules-Dunn is a kindergarten teacher at Oak Forest Elementary and has been a member of MPE since 2013. Her grant-funded, literacy project entitled “The Library Connection” will equip students with various literacy materials to increase reading comprehension, phonemic awareness, fluency, and vocabulary.

Susan Bender is a 10th-12th grade science teacher at Jim Hill High School and has been a member of MPE since 2014. Her grant-funded, microbiology lab project entitled “Microbiological Masters” will give students the skills necessary to master pathogen identification

techniques, growth requirements, inhibitory practices and classifications of bacteria.

Christopher Little is a music teacher at Jim Hill High School and has been a member of MPE since 2020. His grant-funded, art project entitled “Marching to Our Future” will expose and empower students with the skills necessary to recognize and perform correct intonation on musical instruments.

MPE is a statewide professional association with approximately 13,500 teachers, administrators, and non-certified staff from kindergarten to graduate school. The organization awards up to \$40,000 in classroom grants to MPE members who wish to enhance their instruction and improve their classroom learning environment. We look forward to witnessing the success of their endeavors.

Finding spiritual shelter from mental health struggles

NNPA Newswire

Keith Thompson was alone again with his thoughts, and, as usual, it wasn't good. Recently divorced, drowning in debt and facing a fourth back surgery for chronic pain, the 48-year-old trucker no longer cared whether he lived or died.

Such mental and emotional distress haunts millions. A recent government survey showed a doubling since 2019 in the proportion of Americans reporting anxiety or depressive disorder symptom.

The pandemic increased the number turning to unhealthy coping mechanisms, such as alcohol and substance abuse.

That's what Thompson had tried since his teenage years as he battled depression and self-hatred.

Then an unexpected phone call changed everything for the Hebron, Ohio, resident.

Just days before his surgery, Thompson spoke to one of Jehovah's Witnesses, a group known for their public preaching but now pivoting to phone calling and letter writing to share their Bible message during the pandemic. It was a wake-up call for Thompson. "I tried it my way for some 40 years, and look where it got me," he said. "I thought I'd try God's way for a change."

After his surgery, Thompson started studying the Bible in earnest. His instructor became his confidant and mentor, help-



As one of the some 8 million in the United States who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), Gloria Acosta knew she needed comfort even if there is no cure. COURTESY JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

ing him use Bible principles to work through his intense negative feelings.

Thompson then began to help others by sharing in the ministry alongside the Witnesses.

"I got to the point where I felt, 'I want to be alive,'" he said, "like I had done something worthwhile."

Amid the pandemic, he became one of Jehovah's Witnesses and made it his life's work to reach out to comfort others with the Bible's message of hope, love, and forgiveness that helped change his life, even studying the Bible with a man dealing with his own addiction and mental health issues.

Thompson's transformation is no isolated phenomenon. Faith and the support of a congregation have helped many others turn the corner in their recovery.

"While the Bible does not indicate that spirituality cures medical problems, many have derived comfort and strength from what the Bible teaches and the practical guidance it provides," said Robert Hendriks, U.S. spokesman for Jehovah's Witnesses. Hope, support, and positive coping skills aid mental health – whether these are built up by professional or faith-based sources, noted Lawrence Onoda, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist based in Mission Hills, California.

Even those with serious mental health conditions may find some aspects of religious participation help them cope with their symptoms, he said.

As one of the some 8 million in the United States who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), Gloria Acosta knew she needed comfort even if there is no cure. While an arduous journey towards sobriety through a veterans' program helped her get stabilized and settled in her own apartment in Los Angeles, her journey stopped short of providing peace of mind.

"There was this constant fear," recalled the 68-year-old. "I nailed the windows shut, put extra locks on the door, kept

the blinds closed." Then one Saturday, a ray of sunshine knocked at her door.

It was Elizabeth, a 12-year-old in yellow ruffles, whose innocence and boundless enthusiasm for the Bible message she was sharing disarmed Acosta. Acosta started studying the Bible with Elizabeth, accompanied by others in the girl's congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. After years of fighting for her life on the streets, the faith Acosta was gaining, and the warm support of fellow believers gradually had an emotionally healing effect on her.

"I started feeling safe in my own surroundings," said Acosta. "I felt happy, which I had never felt before." In August 2020, she's removed all the extra locks on her doors. Warm sunlight floods through her windows as she sits at her desk to join congregation meetings on a virtual platform since the pandemic started.

While her PTSD still causes sleepless nights, she expressed feeling at peace with God and herself. "I don't have to be all those things that I thought I had to be to survive in life," she said. "I can just be Gloria."

The Hardrick family, of Westland, Michigan, also fought through survival mode for years as they struggled with both homelessness and cancer. They stayed in a claustrophobic hotel room where drug deals and prostitution awaited

just outside the door.

Leaving his wife, weak from chemotherapy and radiation treatments, there with his son shrouded Willie Hardrick in overwhelming anxiety every day as he headed to work. "I was feeling defeated and useless – like I couldn't do anything for my family," he said.

Taking the advice of his Bible teacher to pray every day would calm him, though. Hardrick kept up with his Bible studies and got baptized during the pandemic. While his family eventually found a place to call their own, their anxieties weren't over. Hardrick soon got his own diagnosis of cancer spreading through his body.

"The congregation has helped me keep my sanity," said Hardrick, recalling the meals, rides to the hospital and other practical assistance he received from fellow worshippers. Even more than that congregation support system, the hope from the Scriptures is what his wife, Angela, said helps her through what can feel like a hopeless situation.

"I remind myself every single day that – no matter how bad things go – I have to look forward to the future: No more sickness, no more homelessness," she said, referring to Bible teachings about a future free from suffering. "And with a brotherhood and their love that is so strong, you can overcome anything."

The fight is not over, keep your guard up

Vaccinations and diligence are key to controlling COVID-19

By Darryl Sellers, M.A.
Special to The Mississippi Link

As the shades of fall become more vibrant, the color of the season is also bringing some good signs that the United States is making progress in the fight against COVID-19. A large part of the reason is due to the Delta variant surge starting to slow down in October, leading to a declining number of new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, which is helping to give America's overwhelmed hospitals some much-needed relief.

Despite the COVID-19 downturn in October, the United States reached a grim milestone in the pandemic, exceeding 750,000 COVID-19-related deaths, which means roughly one in 500 Americans have succumbed to the virus. COVID-19 is now the deadliest pandemic in American history. It's a stark, sad portrait of what has shaken and ravaged our nation in a mere 20 months, and further heightens our country's imperative to get the pandemic under control.

Though COVID-19 cases are currently declining overall, many communities are still facing barriers to vaccination. A September survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation indicates an uptick in vaccinations for black Americans, with 70% now having received at least one dose. But that increase in COVID-19 vaccinations doesn't tell the whole story. Vaccination rates are still lagging behind in some states in the South, including in Mississippi (which has one of the nation's lowest vaccination rates) and in Louisiana, and Alabama, which both have partial vaccination rates slightly above 50%.

With high infection rates driven by the Delta variant and vaccine hesitancy in some black communities in the South, many health care professionals, including Dr. Michele Benoit-Wilson, a trusted black doctor with WakeMed Health in Raleigh, North Carolina, are stressing the importance of black Americans getting vaccinated.

Another troubling trend is how COVID-19 is negatively impacting children of color. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is shedding some light on these effects, which include higher rates of infection, hospitalization, and death. Studies have also shown children of color are more likely to develop the sometimes deadly multi-system inflammatory syndrome.

A recent report from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) cites more data from the CDC regarding how COVID-19 is impacting all children in the U.S. The report indicates that children made up around one quarter of all weekly COVID-19 cases as of October 21, making it imperative to vaccinate children who are eligible.

Dr. Benoit-Wilson has shared the importance of getting her children vaccinated – it helps to mitigate their higher risk of COVID-19-related infections, hospitalizations, and deaths. She has also reminded adults that they

also have a responsibility to get vaccinated to help keep themselves and everyone else safe and healthy, including children.

Tragic events throughout history, like the Tuskegee Experiment, have fueled mistrust and vaccine hesitancy among black Americans. Dr. Benoit-Wilson says a key to building vaccine trust among black Americans is to have candid conversations with your doctor. She said that's the counsel she has daily with her patients, helping to ease their COVID-19 fears and historical concerns.

Echoing Dr. Benoit-Wilson's message about building vaccine trust in black communities is Gary Hines, director and producer of the Twin Cities-based inspirational group Sounds of Blackness. While he acknowledges the misgivings some black Americans have about the vaccines and the historical medical malpractices, Hines, who got the vaccine, has a strong call-to-action for others to do the same.

Centuries of racism in the United States have been the impetus of distrust that is interwoven into the fabric of many black communities, but there are ways for black Americans to take control to be well informed and proactive to control COVID-19.

Knowledge is power. Be sure to get your research from credible sources, trust science, avoid misinformation, and seek black messengers you trust the most – doctors, faith-based and community organizations and other credible black voices.

Here is some helpful information about COVID-19.

The vaccines are safe and effective against the virus, including the Delta variant.

You can resume many activities you did before the pandemic if you're fully vaccinated.

You should practice safety measures, such as wearing a mask indoors, even if you've been fully vaccinated.

Slowing the spread of

COVID-19 is a tough task that isn't going to happen overnight or even in the next few months. But for black Americans, by getting more shots into our arms and being diligent about practicing safety precautions, the number of new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths will continue to trend downward. So, please keep your guard up. This is the way we'll save more lives and get the pandemic under control.

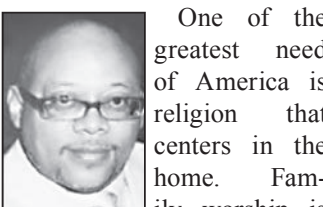
Remember these insightful words from Nelson Mandela: "It always seems impossible until it's done." And together, "We Can Do This!" Together, "We will Do This!"

Learn more about the Delta variant and COVID-19 vaccines.

Darryl Sellers is the director of the Public Relations Team for Creative Marketing Resources, a strategic marketing agency in Milwaukee whose mission is to create positive social change within the communities that need it most and a partner of Cobb Institute.

Christianity begins in the home

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



One of the greatest need of America is religion that centers in the home. Family worship is needful. Parents, you need to share your faith, your trust and your hop in the living God with your children. If you share it with them, they in turn will share it with your grandchildren.

As a Christian parent, you need to realize the awesome importance of rearing your children in the fear of God. It is a challenge to raise children

today. We need all the tools that we can possibly acquiring in rearing them in the fear of the Lord so that they can stand against the opposing powers that work against the church.

There are many enemies of Christianity. Father, if I were to walk into your home and you must act differently than you normally do, then you are a hypocrite. I hate hypocrisy. You should act the same way at home as you do at church.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 14:7, "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." Parents, you are affecting your children either favorably or unfavorably. The home is a child's first

classroom, and the parents are his first teacher. A child adopts the attitudes and the thought patterns of the parents. Parents should be careful of their feelings, their thoughts, and their attitudes about the pastor, because they are copied by the children. Parents, you need to watch your attitudes about the church, the work of God, the government, and our country.

God gives stability to the home, and a godly home contributes to the strength and the stability of the church and the nation. Society suffers when homes become dysfunctional. Statistics say that seventy percent of the men incarcerated

in the prison systems of our country had no live-in fathers. We read in Psalm 127:3-5, "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them." The Bible standard is this: the mother is joyful, the father is happy, and it is a house full of love.

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

P R E S E R V E D Sounds of silence

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



It was almost like a scene out of a science fiction movie when the machine shows that it has a mind of its own. A few years ago, I had a strange experience with my one of my favorite cars: a 2003 Volkswagen Beetle. Even though I pressed buttons to adjust my car stereo volume and change the song on the cd, the stereo did exactly the opposite. It shut off and stopped playing; I casually pressed the on switch hoping it would come back on. Nothing happened.

I waited a few seconds all in vain as the stereo didn't even have the courtesy to blink a light to let me know that it was eventually going to respond. Because I was driving while all of this was going on and I was getting both distracted and frustrated, I decided to wait until I'd stopped to figure out what was wrong.

Once I saw that the stereo wasn't going to come back on, I figured, "I guess I could pray." I did...I prayed that God would fix my radio so I wouldn't have to buy another car radio. Honestly, I wondered if I laid hands on the stereo, would God esurrect it. I decided to wait before I purchased a new one...and two months later, I was still waiting.

Even though in the past I had gone sometimes for weeks without listening to my car radio by choice, this, however, wasn't my choice. A part of me thought of this silence as somehow God punishing me for listening to too much

Barry White and not enough worship music in my car. At first, it was intimidating because I heard every creak that my car made.


Strangely, one day just like it stopped working, the stereo started to work again. Coincidentally, this was on the same day that I'd decided to finally fix my stereo. I was actually thinking about which repair shops were closest to my job when the high pitched "beep, beep" startled me. I then noticed that the light on my stereo was on and working like before.

It's funny that the thing that I dreaded most is now what I seek after. Before my stereo "broke," I dreaded the idea of silence. Even though I'd often prayed to hear God's voice with crystal clear clarity, I wondered if I could handle it if I was told to do something that I didn't want to do. I eventually got to a point where I looked forward to the quiet of my car after a long day at work. I also got confirmation on some future personal and professional goals during those times of intimacy with God.

I dare you to try listening to the sounds of silence during the busyness of this holiday season. 1 Kings 19:12 says that God speaks in a still small voice.

I think this Thanksgiving season what I'm most thankful for is that God still speaks in that whisper for me and anyone else who is willing to hear.

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 preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or Twitter @shewanda.



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Colin Powell gained respect and admiration throughout the world

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



"If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, or walk with kings nor lose the common touch..."

That excerpt is a part of the time-honored poem "If" by Rudyard Kipling. I believe this poem fits the life and times of Colin Powell.

This four-star general passed away from COVID-19 complications October 18 at the age of 84. He was vaccinated.

To say that General Powell lived an enriched and successful life is an understatement. His contributions to this nation will live on forever.

While Secretary Powell was an American hero, he was also a world ambassador.

Integrity, high ideals and standards were more than just lofty words to him. He lived them on an everyday basis.

His homegoing celebration was held last Friday at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington D.C.

His funeral was attended by former presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. Hillary Clinton, former secretary of state, and President Biden and the first lady were also in attendance.

So family, friends and dignitaries were there to say one last and final farewell to this world

leader.

Colin Powell's son, Michael, in eulogizing his dad said, "Colin Powell was a great leader because he was a great follower. He knew you could not ask your troops to do anything you were unwilling to do yourself."

He added, "His zest for life was driven by his endless passion for people. He was genuinely interested in everyone he met."

Powell was of Jamaican heritage. I share proudly this Jamaican heritage with him.

His work ethic was undeniable and contagious. It was universally known he made others around him better. It was often said that he went out of his way to make sure that Army privates felt valued and needed.

Powell never let politics get in the way of doing his job. He supported both Democrats and Republicans. He advocated and believed in the power of people and not in the fleeting power of political parties. His vote was not taken for granted by either party.

Over his lifetime, Secretary Powell held many military positions. He was the first African American Secretary of State and also served as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Madeleine Albright, in her eulogy, said, "On policy, the general and I didn't always reach the same conclusions. And in fact, he would later re-

count that one of my comments almost gave him an aneurysm. But over the past quarter century we also became very close friends."

It is my belief Colin Powell was always able to provide rational suggestions and solutions to complex problems. His wise counsel to presidents made for fewer problems and stronger positions for this country in the world.

The history books will remember General Colin Powell as a statesman and a diplomat. These titles were well earned. There are untold numbers of military personnel who see him as a role model. They have made an excellent choice.

In the coming months and years, there will be many commemorations in honor of Colin Luther Powell. Schools, colleges and social justice centers will bear his name. Scholarships and endowments will have his name attached to them. His name will be revered and held in high esteem.

Kipling wrote, "If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you; If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, But make allowances for their doubting too."

Our hearts are heavy, yet we are thankful and eternally grateful that Colin L. Powell passed this way. His labor was not in vain.

America will miss him.

The beloved lies about America

By Oscar H. Blayton
Pres. Black Chamber of Commerce



White supremacists love their narratives of America. They spoon feed it to their children and force feed it to people of color.

When Francis Scott Key penned the lyrics for "The Star-Spangled Banner" in 1814, stating that America was the "land of the free and home of the brave," he crafted a stirring image of goodness and virtue. Who wouldn't love and admire such a homeland?

But these high-minded sentiments were written by a racist and proponent of chattel slavery for black Americans. Most disturbingly, the third verse of this song that would become America's national anthem, proposed a particularly horrible fate for the once enslaved African Americans who were then fighting for the British in the War of 1812.

"No refuge could save the hireling and slave

From the terror or flight, or the gloom of the graves."

These words were a clear call to slaughter people of color who dared to challenge the authority of white Americans.

America was never the land of the free. Just ask the descendants of the multitudes of the enslaved who had every manner of inhumane abuses handed to them. Or just ask the families of innocent and unarmed black and brown men and women who have been gunned down in great numbers across America by police in recent years. This is the factual history that is woven into our culture, and this is the reality with which we live every day.

But now, there is a movement afoot by white supremacists to gaslight not only Americans of color, but the entire world that these injustices do not exist, and never did exist.

One particularly blatant example was the political maneuver by Virginia's Republican Gov.-elect Glenn Youngkin when he claimed that he would ban Toni Morrison's book "Beloved" from Virginia's public schools. This attack by Youngkin on a book, which won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1988 and was written by the 1993 winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, was clearly in-

tended to be a loud dog whistle to the white supremacists whose votes he was courting.

Youngkin's campaign dug up a controversy from more than eight years ago to successfully whip his supporters into a frenzy of grievance politics that would drive them to the polls.

The truth of this matter is that while the pretext for attacking Toni Morrison's book was its explicit references to sexual activity, it was not the sex that sent white supremacists into a rage, but the agonizingly embarrassing description of how enslaved black people were treated in "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

There are too many currents in "Beloved" to give a full account of the book here. But the core of the story's horror is based upon a true account of the actions of an escaped slave, Margaret Garner. Rather than allow her children to be returned to the abomination of slavery by slave catchers who had tracked them down, Garner attempted to kill them all, but succeeded only in killing her 2-year-old daughter.

All of Garner's children had been fathered by white men, including her owner's brother, who had raped her during her years of enslavement. This revelation in "Beloved" rips the flesh from the mythical America of goodness and virtue.

White fragility cannot abide a book that so unsparingly brings this type of evil to light with such glaring intensity. It pains the worshipers of the false god of white supremacy to see that its feet are made of clay.

Another attempt to keep the fiction of a noble America alive is the 1836 Project in Texas. Described by historians and educators as "propaganda that seeks to erase the role of slavery as a driving factor in the Texas Revolution," the 1836 Project was a reaction to the *New York Times'* 1619 Project, whose introductory essay, written by Nikole Hannah-Jones, garnered the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary.

While the 1619 Project laid bare the provable facts of slavery and racism in America's past, the 1836 Project is a racist construct built of myth and undergirded by fantasy. The ridiculousness of the 1836

Project is easily exposed by the most cursory reading of the 1836 Constitution of the Republic of Texas. After Sam Houston's army defeated the forces of Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna and halted the northward march of the Mexican army to abolish slavery in Texas, the mostly European-American Texans formed a republic and installed a constitution.

Section 9 of the 1836 constitution of Texas read in part:

"All persons of color who were slaves for life previous to their emigration to Texas, and who are now held in bondage, shall remain in the like state of servitude, provide (sic) the said slave shall be the bona fide property of the person so holding said slave as aforesaid."

"Congress shall pass no laws to prohibit emigrants from the United States of America from bringing their slaves into the Republic with them, and holding them by the same tenure by which such slaves were held in the United States."

"[N]or shall Congress have power to emancipate slaves; nor shall any slave-holder be allowed to emancipate his or her slave or slaves, without the consent of Congress, unless he or she shall send his or her slave or slaves without the limits of the Republic."

"No free person of African descent, either in whole or in part, shall be permitted to reside permanently in the Republic, without the consent of Congress."

All this attention was given to the issue of slavery because Mexico had outlawed slavery in 1829 and the war surrounding the Battle of the Alamo was brought about because Texans refused to free their slaves. These are immutable historical facts, and unless Texas destroys all copies of its 1836 Constitution, the racism of Texas' founding fathers is there for everyone to see.

It is not America that white supremacists love; it is the fiction about this country that is dear to their hearts. And we must never accept their beloved lies as our truths.

Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia. His earlier commentaries may be found at <https://oblayton1.medium.com/>

"My Truth" Let's talk about issues

By Cheryl Smith
Publisher of I Messenger Media
Texas Metro News



Public health continues to be a crisis among African Americans and efforts to educate about, find solutions for, and eventually eradicate the disparities have to become top priorities for us all. Realizing that not only every month, but daily, attention has to focus on health; this month, one of the many ills wreaking havoc in our communities has to be the most common type of dementia, Alzheimer's disease.

Which brings me to my truth. Medical experts say this progressive disease usually begins with minor memory loss; however the long-term effects are devastating and eventually deadly. Alzheimer's disease involves parts of the brain that control thought, memory, and language. Also considered a brain disorder with attention that has focused mostly on ages 65 years or older; Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death, and in the older population it ranks third behind heart disease and cancer. Initially,

I couldn't comprehend what I was hearing; that Alzheimer's Disease kills. When my loved one was diagnosed with dementia, I immediately thought of Alzheimer's and I began researching the disease. It was then I


found out that Alzheimer's can possibly lead to an inability to respond to the environment. It also results in the shutting down of a sufferer's body because the brain stops telling the body how and when to function.

More and more cases are being reported of younger sufferers. And interestingly, I hear fewer people joking about memory loss, these days because it's not funny. Then too, I guess it's because more and more information is being shared about this debilitating disease. The National Institute on Aging releases great information about Dementia and Alzheimer's. Check them out at <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/11-myths-about-alzheimers-disease>.

Florida author Dixie Ann Black is a caregiver for her mom, who is living with Alzheimer's. If you get a chance, you should check out her interview from Tuesday, November 2, 2021 on the National Newspaper Publishers Association's Facebook page. She talks about the challenges and factors that contribute to Alzheimer's and what we should be doing to combat the health crisis in our communities. We can start by eliminating sugar.

We can also share information, talk about our journeys and issues. And, since November is also National Family Caregivers Month, it can be a springboard for us all to show more concern for caregivers.

Whatever illness or situation our loved ones may be dealing with, it always helps to have a loving and compassionate caregiver who is focused on their well-being. And, it is equally important to remember that one day, should we live long enough, we may eventually need a caregiver.




Please join us for a

Reunion Drive Thru

Sunday, November 14, 2021
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

It's been over a year since we have had the opportunity to see and honor our participants. Come meet Dr. April Carson, the new director for the Jackson Heart Study, and have some fun and fellowship.

Jackson Medical Mall
(near the UMMC Conference Center)
350 West Woodrow Wilson Avenue
Jackson, MS
For more information, call 601.815.5773.



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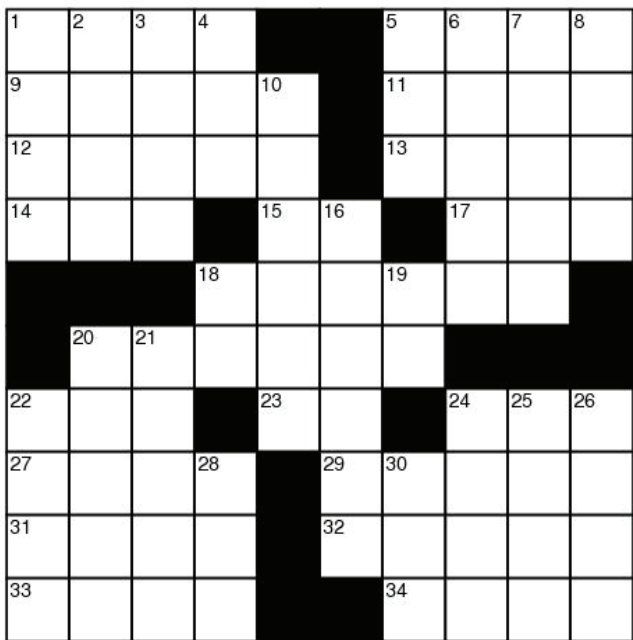
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3. Scratch
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5. Short-term memory
6. Card game
7. Operatic bass
8. All-knowing
10. Rectifies
16. 4-winged insect
18. ___ joe (tv cartoon)
19. Nashville locale
20. Determines how heavy
21. National capital
22. Gush out
24. Elemental
25. Asian country
26. Inlets
28. Sixth sense
30. Hallucinogen

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Hint: Quote by Howie Mandel

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YOU RELEASE THESE THINGS,
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AND IF THEY FLY THEN YOU HAVE
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Week of November 7, 2021

Judge did not change racial makeup of jury in Arbery slaying

By Russ Bynum
Associated Press

The judge in the trial of three white men who chased and killed Ahmaud Arbery declined to override decisions in jury selection that left just one black juror on the final panel of 12, though he agreed with prosecutors that “there appears to be intentional discrimination.”

Prosecutors had asked Superior Court Judge Timothy Walmsley to reinstate eight black potential jurors, arguing that defense lawyers struck them from the final jury because of their race. The U.S. Supreme Court has held it’s unconstitutional for attorneys during jury selection to strike potential jurors solely based on race or ethnicity.

Walmsley said he was limited in his ability to change the jury’s racial makeup because defense attorneys were able to give nonracial reasons for their decisions to strike the potential black jurors from the panel.

Race is a central issue in the trial over the 25-year-old black man’s death. Greg McMichael and his adult son, Travis McMichael, armed themselves and pursued Arbery in a pickup truck after they spotted him running in their neighborhood. A neighbor, William “Roddie” Bryan,” joined the chase in his own truck and took cellphone video of Travis McMichael shooting Arbery three times with a shotgun.

After more than two weeks of jury selection, attorneys on both sides narrowed a panel of 48 potential jurors to a final jury of 12.

Minutes later, prosecutor Linda Dunikoski challenged defense attorneys’ decision to strike eight specific black jurors, arguing they were cut from the panel because of their race.

Laura Hogue, an attorney for Greg McMichael, denied that the black panelists’ race was considered in decisions to strike them from the jury pool.

“We have a very clear selection process within the defense team, and the issue of race is not one of the factors,” Hogue said. “I can give you a race neutral reason for any one of these.”

She noted one such juror, identified in court as No. 218, had written on her juror questionnaire that Arbery was shot “due to his color” and told attorneys during questioning that she felt the defendants were guilty.

Dunikoski noted that many prospective jurors questioned in open court expressed strong opinions about the case, but all who remained in the pool from which the 12 jurors emerged said they could be impartial and base a verdict solely on the trial evidence.

“The defense has not made a case as to why this juror and her opinions are any different than anyone else, black or white,” Dunikoski said of No.

218. “She said the same thing almost every other juror said. So many had opinions. And they said they could put them aside.”

In issuing his decision not to change the makeup of the jury, Walmsley said defense attorneys “have been able to explain to the court why besides race those individuals were struck from the panel.”

But, he said, “This court has found there appears to be intentional discrimination in the panel.”

The jury, along with four alternates, was seated and sworn in, when opening statements in the trial started.

In Glynn County, where Arbery was killed and the trial is being held, black people account for nearly 27% of the population of 85,000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The judge said 25% of the pool from which the final jury was chosen was black.

Arbery’s death became part of the broader reckoning on racial injustice in the criminal legal system after a string of fatal encounters between black people and police – George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Rayshard Brooks, among others.

No one was charged in Arbery’s death until more than two months later, when the video of the shooting leaked online. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation took over the case from local police and soon arrested all three men on

charges of murder and other crimes.

Before a final jury is seated, attorneys in a criminal case get to take turns eliminating a significant number of prospective jurors from the final pool, for virtually any reason. The final process of elimination consisted of a bailiff passing a list of the potential jurors back and forth between the prosecutors and the three defense teams. Lawyers used the list to silently choose people to strike from the jury.

Defense attorneys say the McMichaels and Bryan committed no crimes. They say Arbery had been recorded by security cameras inside a nearby house and they suspected him of stealing. Greg McMichael told police his son opened fire in self-defense after Arbery attacked with his fists and grappled for Travis McMichael’s shotgun.

Investigators have said Arbery was unarmed and there’s no evidence he had stolen anything.

The slaying dominated news coverage and social media feeds in Glynn County, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) south of Savannah. That caused court officials to take extraordinary steps in hopes of seating an impartial jury.

They mailed 1,000 jury duty notices, and nearly 200 people were questioned by the judge and attorneys at the courthouse during jury selection.

House passes bipartisan infrastructure deal; President Biden immediately moves to sign legislation

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Congress has finally passed the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure deal and President Joe Biden said he would sign the bill with lawmakers present at a date he’ll determine soon.

Known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the White House called the measure a once-in-a-generation investment in the nation’s infrastructure and competitiveness.

“For far too long, Washington policymakers have celebrated ‘infrastructure week’ without ever agreeing to build infrastructure,” The White House said in a statement.

“The president promised to work across the aisle to deliver results and rebuild our crumbling infrastructure. After the president put forward his plan to do exactly that and then negotiated a deal with Members of Congress from both parties, this historic legislation is moving to his desk for signature.”

After Congress repeatedly failed to reach a consensus on the president’s domestic agenda and following the catastrophic losses in the November election, Democrats were desperate for a win.

The White House said the bipartisan infrastructure deal would rebuild America’s roads, bridges and rails, expand access to clean drinking water, ensure every American has access to high-speed internet, tackle the climate crisis, advance environmental justice, and invest in communities that have too often been left behind.

“The legislation will help ease inflationary pressures and strengthen supply chains by making long overdue improvements for our nation’s ports, airports, rail and roads,” President Biden declared.

“It will drive the creation of good-paying union jobs and grow the economy sustainably and equitably so that everyone gets ahead for decades to come. Combined with the President’s Build Back Framework, it will add on average 1.5 million jobs per year for the next 10 years.”

The president proclaimed that the bill would make historic investments in environmental clean-up and remediation, “and build up our resilience for the next superstorms, droughts, wildfires and hurricanes that cost us billions of dollars in damage each year.”

“I’m also proud that a rule was voted on that will allow for passage of my Build Back Better Act in the House of Representatives the week of November 15,” President Biden continued. The Build Back Better Act will be a once-in-a-generation investment in our people, the White House stated.

“It will lower bills for healthcare, childcare, elder care, prescription drugs, and preschool. And middle-class families get a tax cut,” President Biden demanded.

“This bill is also fiscally responsible, fully paid for, and doesn’t raise the deficit. It does so by making sure the wealthiest Americans and biggest corporations begin to pay their fair share and doesn’t raise taxes a single cent on anyone making less than \$400,000 per year.”

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- Part D prescription plans for cost, coverage, and convenience.
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Find plans at [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov) or call [1-800-MEDICARE \(TTY 1-877-486-2048\)](tel:1-800-MEDICARE).

Need help with Medicare costs?

If your 2021 income is below \$18,000 you may qualify for help with Medicare costs. To find out about Medicare Savings Programs that could be available for you, call the Mississippi Division of Medicaid at **1-800-421-2408**.

[Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov)

Paid for by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services



Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

CIA Rookie of the Month Recognition



From left to right: Elizabeth Foster, instructional specialist; Ashli Coggins, Rookie of the Month; Sandra Kyles, curriculum director

For the month of September, the Rookie of the Month is Ashli Coggins of Utica Elementary/Middle School.

Coggins, a native of West Point, obtained her bachelor's degree from Jackson State University and her master's degree from Louisiana State University. Before teaching for HCSD, she worked as a news producer for WJTV12. Coggins says, "I want to make learning fun for students, especially in a subject like English when more children are straying away from reading." She also likes to share the connections between literature and real-world interests.

Coggins has learned as much from her students as her students have learned from her. The biggest lesson has been that building strong relationships with her students makes a huge impact on their willingness to learn and their success in the classroom.

Utica Elementary/Middle School Highlights





Raymond Elementary School Highlights



Carver Middle School Football Championship Highlights





Get the facts about the COVID-19 vaccine.

AARP has the latest information.

AARP is working to protect Americans 50-plus by making sure you have the latest information about the COVID-19 vaccines and the distribution in Mississippi.

Find out who's eligible for the vaccine, when and where vaccines are available, and what you need to discuss with your doctor before you decide.

Just visit our website to get the most up-to-date vaccine information, including options for homebound Mississippians.

Learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine availability and distribution at aarp.org/MSvaccine

Paid for by AARP



The Mississippi Museum Store and Nick Wallace Culinary invite you to a

Holiday Open House

Saturday, November 20
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

You're invited!
Enjoy food and beverage samples from some of Mississippi's best. Join us for book signings, artist and maker meet-and-greet opportunities, and shop holiday specials at the Two Mississippi Museums.



MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM STORE

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museumofmshistory.com
mscivilrightsmuseum.com





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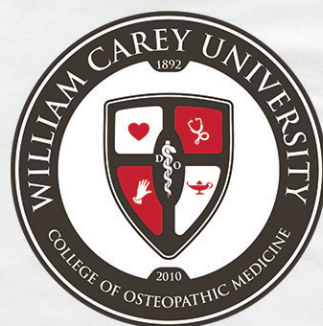
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THE UNIVERSITY of
MISSISSIPPI



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Thank You Hinds County!

My family and I are thankful for your prayers, support and votes, on Nov. 2nd. However, the job isn't finished. We've got more work to do.

TYREE JONES *for* SHERIFF HINDS COUNTY



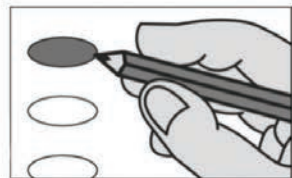
Leading. Impacting. Transforming

Paid for by the Friends of Tyree Jones for Sheriff

I'm asking you to return to the polls Tuesday,
November 23, 2021. Let's finish the job.
I'd be honored if you cast your vote for Tyree
Jones as your next Sheriff of Hinds County.

SAMPLE BALLOT STATE OF MISSISSIPPI HINDS COUNTY 2021 SPECIAL ELECTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER:



Fill in the oval to the left of the name of your choice. You must blacken the oval completely using a dark pen, and do not make any marks outside of oval. Do not use a red pen, felt tip pen or any type of pencil.

DO NOT CROSS OUT - If you change your mind, exchange your ballot for a new one. If you tear, soil, deface or erroneously mark this ballot, return it and obtain another.

For Hinds County
Sheriff
Vote for ONE

☐ Marshand Crisler

☒ **Tyree Jones**

Vote For Tyree Jones
Hinds County Sheriff
November 23, 2021

END OF VOTING



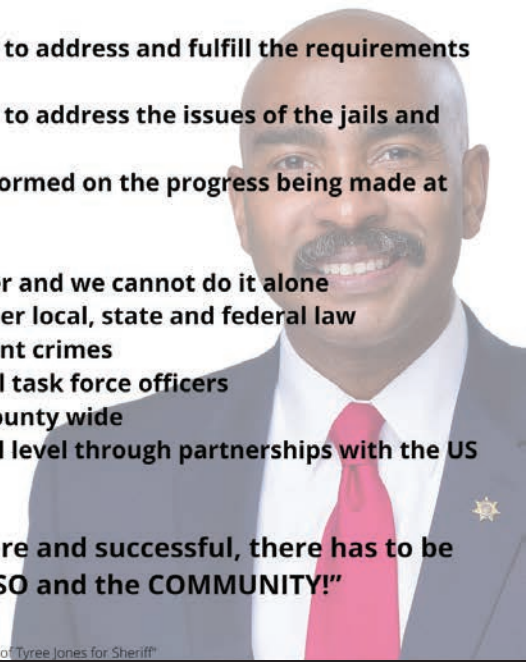
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Five Point Operational Plan

Leading. Impacting. Transforming

- 1. Recruitment and Retention** - To address high turn over and vacancies
 - Competitive salaries for officers both detention and sworn
 - Career plan and advancement opportunities
 - Physical fitness and continued education pay incentives
- 2. Increased Visibility Across Hinds County** - We are in this together
 - We want to ensure that you not only see us; but you also feel safe by our presence
 - Increased presence leads to decrease in crimes
- 3. Community Policing** - HCSO Ambassadors throughout Hinds County
 - Open lines of communication between the office of the Sheriff and the citizens
 - Transparency at all times with the community
 - Relationships/Partnerships to share intelligence from the community through local churches, media and non-profit organizations
 - Outreach programs to bridge the gap between the community and law enforcement
- 4. Detention Services** - Compliance with the DOJ to address and fulfill the requirements of the consent decree
 - Working relationship with the HCBOS to address the issues of the jails and other budgetary items
 - Create online tool to keep citizens informed on the progress being made at the Detention Centers
- 5. Partnerships** - Because we are in this together and we cannot do it alone
 - Build on strong partnerships with other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to reduce violent crimes
 - Fulfill all current vacancies for federal task force officers
 - Share intelligence and information County wide
 - Prosecute perpetrators on the federal level through partnerships with the US Atty's Office.

"If Hinds County is going to be safe, secure and successful, there has to be shared governance from the HCSO and the COMMUNITY!"



*Paid for by The Friends of Tyree Jones for Sheriff