



Malcolm X daughter, Malikah Shabazz, found dead in New York



Malikah Shabazz, the daughter of Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz, was found dead in Brooklyn on Monday, November 22, 2021

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Malikah Shabazz, the daughter of cultural and civil rights icon Malcolm X, was found dead inside her Brooklyn home Monday, November 22.

Authorities said they found Shabazz, 56, unconscious and unresponsive inside her home on East 28th Street in the Midwood section of the borough just before 4:30 p.m. Medical officials pronounced her dead

a short time later. Reportedly, officials aren't suspecting foul play.

One of five daughters to Malcolm X and the late Dr. Betty Shabazz, Malikah shares a twin sister named Malaak. The twins are the youngest of the Shabazz children. Dr. Shabazz died in 1997.

The sad news comes only days after investigators and a New York judge cleared the men convicted in the 1965

Malikah
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Groveland Four cleared of 1949 false rape allegations

A different Thanksgiving atmosphere says family member



From left, Lake County Sheriff Willis McCall and an unidentified man stand next to Walter Irvin, Samuel Shepherd and Charles Greenlee in Florida in 1949.State Library and Archives of Florida

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

A judge in Florida has finally exonerated the “Groveland Four,” the African American men falsely accused of raping a white teenager in 1949.

“Wow, it’s been a long time

coming,” Gerald Threat, the nephew of Walter Irvin, stated in a news conference following the judge’s ruling Monday, November 22. “This Thanksgiving, we can have an entirely different atmosphere without this hanging over our head,” Ir-

vin stated.

Carol Greenlee, the daughter of Charles Greenlee, said, “My father was a caring, loving, compassionate person that did not rape anybody.”

Administrative Judge Heidi Davis dismissed the indict-

ments of Ernest Thomas and Samuel Shepherd, both fatally shot not long after the false allegation made by Norma Padgett, who was 17 at the time.

Judge Davis then set aside

Groveland Four
Continued on pages 3

Jackson State spoils Alcorn’s championship hopes



Coach Sanders, JSU



Coach McNair, ASU

By Tim Ward
Sports Writer

The “Soul Bowl,” “Capitol City Classic,” or as they said Saturday, “The SWAC Classic” held up to the hype. It was announced over 58,000 fans were in attendance at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium. Later that night, it was reported over 62,000 tickets were sold. It was also senior night for the football team.

Coach Prime took pics with each senior as their name as called. Now on to the game.

The game was a defensive battle. Neither team scored in the 1st quarter. The punters were working the hardest for both teams as both teams played for field position.

Early in the second quarter Alcorn was able to put 3 points on the scoreboard. In the ensuing drive, Jackson State was able drive to the endzone when quarterback Shedeur Sanders connected with Keith Corbin III.

Jackson State lead at the half 7 to 3. As usual, Jackson State showed improvement in the second half. Shedeur Sanders, who passed for 297 yards with 3 touchdown passes, got into a rhythm. Sanders completed 28 passes connecting with 9 different receivers. Although he was sacked twice, he

managed to add 23 yards of rushing to his numbers.

Keith Corbin III was the leading receiver with 9 catches totaling 110 yards with 2 touchdowns.

The Darkside defense played well harassing Alcorn’s quarterback Felix Harper into 1 interception, several rushed throws and sacked him 5 times. Harper managed to throw for 210 yards on 18 completions. CJ Bolar had 5 receptions for 48 yards for Alcorn State. Felix Harper connected for a 50 yard touchdown pass to Calvontay Key in the 3rd quarter, keeping the game close.

Shilo Sanders was able to grab an interception in the 3rd quarter. His interception lead to a field goal for Jackson State. Sanders has been feasting on opposing quarterbacks in the past few games grabbing interceptions in 3 of the last 4 games.

Jackson State scored again in the fourth quarter sealing the victory 24-10. As the final horn sounded, players were given SWAC East champion shirts to wear, and tiger fans were ecstatic.

Next up, Prairie View at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium, December 4 at 3 p.m.

Expect another packed house.
See photos on page 13.

Jury begins deliberating the case of the murder of Ahmaud Arbery



Jurors are deliberating the fate of the three men involved in the killing of Ahmaud Arbery

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

In the trial of the three white men involved in the shooting death of Ahmaud Arbery, a black man who seemingly jogged innocently through a predominately caucasian neighborhood in

February 2020, the chief prosecutor provided jurors with a dynamic closing argument.

Looking at the defendants, Greg and Travis McMichael and William “Roddie”

Arbery
Continued on page 3

As of press time Tuesday night with 98% of the votes in, the unofficial results, as reported by WLBT TV, of the Hinds County Sheriff’s race showed Tyree Jones as the winner with 14,416 votes (69%) and Marshand Crisler with 9,487 votes (40%).

In the Hinds County Constable District 5 race with 100% of the votess in, Beverly Wade Green was declared the winner with 2,033 votes (55%) while Juan Cloy had 1,664 votes (45%).

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AARP Mississippi recognizes Yolanda Ratcliff with its most prestigious volunteer award

Special to The Mississippi Link

Yolanda Ratcliff of Jackson has been selected by AARP, the nonprofit organization for people 50 and older, to receive the 2021 AARP Mississippi Andrus Award for Community Service, the association's most prestigious and visible state volunteer award for community service.

AARP Mississippi selected Ratcliff for her remarkable service, which has greatly benefited the community, reflected AARP's vision and mission and inspired other volunteers.

Ratcliff serves as a mentor for Girls with Purpose. She is founder and CEO of Peace & Pearls Single Parent Support Network, Inc., a non-profit organization.

Peace & Pearls hosted a community Halloween Parade for the Washington Addition community in Jackson to bring laughter, joy and sweets to children and adults.

Peace & Pearls has partnered with several community agencies to support healthy families and adopted several single-parent grandmothers giving them extra support.

The award was formally presented to Ratcliff at a virtual ceremony November, 18.

"This award acts as a symbol to the public that we can all work together for positive social change," says AARP Mississippi State Director



Ratcliff

Kimberly L. Campbell, Esq. "AARP has long valued the spirit of volunteerism and the important contributions volunteers make to their communities, neighbors and the programs they serve."

Peace & Pearls launched a bike campaign and gave bikes to girls, boys and single parents to get children riding to reduce childhood obesity.

The organization also established P&P Garden Learning Center, which hosted about 300 children this summer teaching them about gardening. During each session the children were introduced to the importance of healthy eating, childhood obesity and how academics are applied in gardening.

The program offered several mentoring sessions for single

moms. Ratcliff is the author of a 40-day women's devotional, *He Sees Me He Sees You*.

Andrus Award recipients across the nation were chosen for their ability to enhance the lives of AARP members and prospective members, improve the community in or for which the work was performed and inspire others to volunteer.

About AARP

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With nearly 38 million members and offices in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families with a focus on health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also works for individuals in the marketplace by sparking new solutions and allowing carefully chosen, high-quality products and services to carry the AARP name. As a trusted source for news and information, AARP produces the nation's largest circulation publications, AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin.

To learn more, visit www.aarp.org or follow @AARP and @AARPadvocates on social media.

AARP
Mississippi



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



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

Malikah

Continued from page 1

assassination of Malcolm X at the Audubon Ballroom in Manhattan.

Muhammad Aziz and the late Khalil Islam were both exonerated after serving decades in prison for the fatal shooting of Malcolm X.

The state granted Aziz parole in 1983, and authorities released Islam in 1987.

He later died in 2009.

Mujahid Abdul Halim, who police arrested along with Aziz and Islam, confessed to the shooting, and in 2010, Halim was paroled.

“I’m deeply saddened by the death of Malikah Shabazz,” Bernice King, the daughter of the late civil rights hero Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., wrote on Twitter.

“My heart goes out to her family, the descendants of Dr. Betty Shabazz and Malcolm X. Dr. Shabazz was pregnant with Malikah and her twin sister, Malaak, when Brother Malcolm was assassinated. Be at peace, Malikah.”

In a conversation in New York last month with the Black Press of America, Ilyasah Shabazz, the third daughter in the family, remarked about the closeness of her family.

“We talk and get together as much as we can,” Ilyasah Shabazz said.

“We are close, and we love each other. We always look forward to our zoom get-togethers, and we love it when we can get together in person.”

Groveland Four

Continued from page 1

the convictions and sentences of Charles Greenlee and Walter Irvin.

The men who became known as the Groveland Four ranged from 16 to 26 at the time.

“We followed the evidence to see where it led us, and it led us to this moment,” state attorney Bill Gladson remarked during the news conference.

Following the 1949 accusation, the Ku Klux set fire to numerous black neighborhoods in the town of Groveland.

The Klan reportedly shot Thomas more than 400 times, killing him. They beat false confessions out of Greenlee, Irvin and Shepherd.

An all-white jury convicted the men, but legendary NAACP attorney Thurgood Marshall successfully fought for a new trial.

Lake County Sheriff Willis McCall shot and killed Shepherd, claiming he attempted to escape.

During the retrial, jurors still returned a guilty verdict, but Greenlee and Irvin were given life sentences instead of the death penalty.

Officials granted Irvin his release from the state prison in 1968. He died one year later of a heart attack at age 39.

Charles Greenlee, the last surviving member of the Groveland Four, was released on parole in 1962 and moved to Nashville, Tennessee. He died on April 18, 2012, at 78.

Independent investigations determined that all four were innocent, and in 2017, the state issued an apology to their families.

In 2019, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis granted the men pardons, but family members continued their fight to clear their names fully.

Arbery

Bryan,” as she delivered closing arguments, Prosecutor Linda Dunikoski railed, “You can’t start something and claim self-defense.” Then pointing toward the men, Dunikoski remarked: “And they started this.” Judge Timothy R. Walmsley then charged the jury, which retired for deliberation Tuesday, November 23.

Arbery, 25, jogged through Satilla Shores, a neighborhood in Glynn County, Georgia, where the primarily white population outnumber black residents by 70 percent to 26 percent.

As the McMichael duo chased in their vehicle, Bryan helped to trap Arbery with his pickup truck, and Travis McMichael fatally shot him.

Throughout the trial, defense attorneys objected to the presence of black pastors, including the Revs. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton arrived on varying days to offer support to Arbery’s family.

The racially charged case grew tenser during Defense Attorney Laura Hogue’s inciteful statements during her closing arguments.

“Turning Ahmaud Arbery into a victim after the choices that he made does not reflect the reality of what brought Ahmaud Arbery to Satilla Shores in his khaki shorts with no socks to cover his long, dirty toenails,” Hogue remarked.

Many in the legal community immediately rebuked Hogue’s statement to the jurors, and Arbery’s mother walked out of the courtroom. “I thought it was very, very rude to talk about his long, dirty toenails and to totally neglect that my son had a huge hole in his chest when he was shot with that shotgun,” Wanda Cooper Jones, Arbery’s mother, said in a televised interview after the comments

The jury will now consider whether the defendants were justified in the shooting and if they had reasonable cause to conduct a citizen’s arrest under Georgia law.

They will also consider one count of malice murder and felony murder for each defendant, and both charges carry a sentence of life in prison without parole or the death penalty. However, prosecutors said they were not seeking death in the case.

The three defendants also face two counts each of aggravated assault, which carries a maximum 20-year sentence. The 12-member panel also will deliberate on charges of false imprisonment and criminal intent to commit a felony. Each of the defendants has pleaded not guilty.

Four Jackson Public School administrators recognized for excellent leadership



*Dr. Anthony Moore**Terrance Hill**Ruthie Johnson**Dr. Valerie Bradley*

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools is proud to announce November’s Administrators of the Month. These four individuals exude passion, dedication and true leadership in their roles as building administrators.

Dr. Anthony Moore, Casey Elementary, Division 1, previously served as assistant principal at Casey Elementary in JPS. The areas he supported included administration and supervision of personnel, Title I, school discipline, design and delivery of professional development, and implementation of curricular standards. His educational experiences started as a substitute teacher, which later landed him a teaching position at Duling /CAP Alternative school in JPS. During his tenure with JPS, he has been in the roles of principal, asst. principal and teacher.


Terrance Hill, Green Elementary, Di-

vision 2, is in his second year as principal of Green Elementary School. Hill displays all JPS Core Values at all times. He is very hands-on with data as well as teaching and learning on a daily basis. When you walk into the building, he can be found modeling instruction, conducting data meetings, observing teachers and providing feedback. It is evident that he is a true instructional leader, role model and mentor to male students.


Ruthie Johnson, Kirksey Middle School, has served in education for over 25 years. Most of those years were spent in the middle school division of the Jackson Public School District teaching mathematics at Brinkley Middle School and as a math coach at Rowan Middle School. She also served at the district level as an instructional specialist/lead teacher for middle school mathematics. Most recently, she served as the assistant

principal at Kirksey for the past three years.

Dr. Valerie Bradley, Lanier High School, is a highly qualified K-12 instructional leader. She previously served as the director of school support for the Office of Federal Programs in JPS. For more than a decade, she was a building-level administrator serving as an assistant principal and principal at Powell Middle School, Blackburn Middle School and Boyd Elementary School. She became the science department chair as well as the Science Engineering and Mathematics Enhancement coordinator (SECME) during the six years she taught at Northwest Jackson Middle School. Bradley has also taught on the college level as an adjunct professor at Jackson State University. Additionally, she has attended and presented at several professional educator conferences.



Shining more light on solar.




Entergy Mississippi is committed to providing affordable, reliable and clean power to Mississippians for generations to come. So we’re making it easier for our customers to self-generate solar electricity and incorporate solar power into our power grid. Thanks to net metering, registered solar users earn credit for excess solar energy sent back to the grid.

The Mississippi Public Service Commission is making it easier to understand how solar can work for you. “A Consumer’s Guide to Solar Power in Mississippi” provides information on how solar and net metering work, and the details you need to consider before purchasing or leasing hardware.

Get the working group’s guide for free at entergybrightfuture.com.

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WE POWER LIFE®

College Hill Church hosts a fall harvest festival

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

College Hill Baptist Church hosted a three component 'Fall Harvest Festival' Saturday, Nov. 13, in which church members as well as members of the community and beyond participated. It was held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event was a collaborative effort of the evangelism ministry, youth ministry and deacons ministry.

The event included a COVID-19 clinic which was held in the church's family life center.

A drive-thru water and holiday dessert give-away was held under the portico of the side entrance to the building, and a fun and treats walk-thru was held on the parking lot where various ministries of the church decorated their SUVs and set up tables offering the young ones hot dogs and other treats.

Sweets were handed out in the parking lot as though it was Halloween.

Each component of the fall festival was successful as one could drive by and see cars lined up in front of the family life center where individuals could receive first time vaccine shots, second shots and boosters.

Deacon Jacob McEwen, who heads the evangelism ministry, said, "College Hill made a difference. I think everything went very well and I am very pleased."

Linda Rush, leader of the youth ministry, stated, "The whole event brought an awareness to the community that College Hill is concerned about the health and wellness of the stakeholders. It was also a great fellowship period for the members who came together to assist."

College Hill church member Tim Rush, who spearheaded the COVID-19 clinic, said, "We were able to vaccinate 40+ individuals and this included booster shots. Some of our own members were able to receive their shots on Saturday." Rush said he was very pleased and appreciative of Central Mississippi Health Services for their assistance.

Dr. Robert Smith and Dr. Lionel Frazier, along with other members of their staff, were there to answer questions or concerns regarding the vaccines.

College Hill Pastor Chauncy Jordan felt the event was a complete success and was very appreciative of the church family working together to make it happen. He received his booster shot at the event and encouraged others to get vaccinated.

College Hill is located at 1600 Florence Avenue in Jackson.



Central MS Health Service assisted with the Vaccine Clinic: (l-r) Dr. Lionel Fraser, Dr. Robert Smith, Robert Porter and Sharon Ivory.



Sharon Ivory gives Pastor Jordan booster shot.



College Hill members Denise Griffin and Shirley Davis assist with youth fun and treats.



First Lady LaShanda Jordan poses with a child in front of her vehicle decorated for fall festival.



College Hill Deacon Louis Wright Sr. received booster shot.



College Hill member Leon Williams and Deacon Jimmy Coleman assist with water give-away.



Courtney Harris receives booster.



Man in the community carrying water on his lap.



Pastor Jordan, Dr. Fraser and Timothy Rush, church member who organized the COVID-19 clinic



(l-r) Deacon Robert Green, Jerry Mitchell, Pastor Jordan, Toroski Green and Deacon Reginald Knight
PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON



Deaconess Daphne Higgins

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



**TALK TO HIS
DOCTOR ABOUT
COVID VACCINES.
BECAUSE HE'S
IRREPLACEABLE.**

COVID hospitalizations of young people have tripled since the start of summer. However, vaccines are highly effective in preventing hospitalizations and deaths, even from the Delta variant.

Find vaccines near you at
vaccines.gov



Two historic properties in Tupelo could be demolished

The Associated Press

A pair of historic buildings in downtown Tupelo could be demolished soon.

City officials say the two North Spring Street structures, one of them being the Jefferson Davis Hotel, are a danger to the public.

On Oct. 8, the city sent the then-owner, former mayor Jason Shelton, a condemnation order for both properties. He was ordered to demolish the structures and remove all debris by Nov. 8.

Shelton told the *Daily Journal* he does not contest that the buildings are in disrepair, but believes the buildings are worth preserving. Shelton, a Democrat, also said he believes the current mayor, Republican Todd Jordan, is targeting him politically because he's criticized him on social media.

Jordan has said he is not targeting Shelton and he is only worried about the community's safety.

Shelton initially appealed the October condemnation order on the basis that the city was acting outside its legal authority. That appeal has now been postponed indefinitely, according to a press release from the city of Tupelo.



Jefferson Davis Hotel

Shelton said he is now selling one of the properties, and is trying to sell the other.

"I don't want to fight with the city on this," Shelton said.

Although the city has condemned the properties, it does

not yet have the legal authority to tear the buildings down. State law requires the city to hold a public hearing before the properties are demolished to give homeowners a chance to contest the city's order.

City Attorney Ben Logan said that the buildings are currently on the city's blight review list, and the city council could vote to tear the buildings down at the beginning of 2022.

D. A. recommended for federal judge position



Colom

The Associated Press

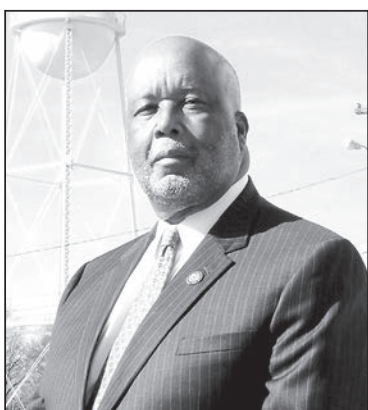
U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson has recommended a north Mississippi district attorney be appointed to an open position on the federal bench.

The Democratic congressman sent a letter to President Joe Biden endorsing Scott Colom as judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi, *The Columbus Dispatch* reports.

Colom, of Columbus, is currently serving as District Attorney for the 16th Circuit Court District.

"Obviously, it's a great honor," Colom told the newspaper. "As excited as I am for this opportunity, I have to also say that I love being district attorney and I'll always appreciate the faith the voters put in me."

A graduate of Columbus High School, Millsaps College and the University of Wisconsin School of Law, Colom was the first black and youngest ever justice court



Thompson

judge in Lowndes County history when he took the post in 2011. He was appointed municipal court judge in 2012 and then became Columbus' first black prosecutor later that year.

Colom won his district attorney race in 2015, and was re-elected in 2019. Colom is the first elected black district attorney in District 16.

The federal judge position is open following the departure of Judge Michael P. Mills, who retired on Nov. 1 at age 65 after 20 years in the position. The judge presides over the U.S. District Court in Oxford.

If Biden approves the recommendation, the U.S. Senate will hold a confirmation hearing to consider the nomination. There is no set timetable for the confirmation process.

Colom's term as district attorney expires Dec. 31, 2023. He said if he is elevated to the federal bench, he plans to continue living in Columbus.

C Spire celebrates grand opening of new retail store



C-Spire employees and community leaders prepare for ribbon cutting
PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON

The Associated Press

C Spire, a private-held telecommunications and technology company, celebrated the grand opening of its new 3,100 square foot, state-of-the-art retail store Friday Nov. 19 with a ribbon cutting. It is located at 4864 I-55 North in Jackson.

The North Jackson store is the company's first fully equipped drive through location featuring same day curbside pick-up orders and other features offering customers a 21st century shopping experience. The store has been opened for business since Monday, November 1.

Store employees, community and business leaders and elected officials kicked off the grand opening at 10 a.m. Craig Jackson, general manager of the company's wireless services division said, "We're excited to bring this store online as the layout is truly next generation with our first drive through window for same day curbside pick-up orders and state-of-the-art security features for our staff and customers," Jackson said. "Shopping should be exciting, focused and help consumers get what they want quickly and efficiently. This store accomplishes that goal."

Jackson said the store also will have built-in stations with infor-

mation and details on other products and services the company offers, including its game-changing fiber-based broadband internet and smart home and business services for consumers and enterprises.

Local business and government leaders praised C Spire for its continuing investment in the Jackson metropolitan area and for investing in the new retail location.

"C Spire is a great community partner and its continued confidence in the retail viability of local markets is an encouragement to all of us involved in promoting the growth and development of our regional economy," said Jeff Rent, president and CEO of the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership, which represents businesses with over 200,000 workers. "We're looking forward to this new business serving as an anchor in north Jackson," said Ward 1 Jackson City Council member Ashby Foote. "C Spire has been a long-time partner in the economic growth and vitality of the city and this new store represents a much-needed shot in the arm."

The grand opening included food and gifts for those attending the grand opening as well as shoppers who received special offers and C Spire swag throughout the day.

Privilege for some and not for all. That's America.

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



There is trouble all over the land. Wrongdoing is at every turn. We cannot escape it. Evil and cynicism have taken centerstage.

Bad people and bad things are coming at us non-stop. Our sensibilities have left us. We are in a spin cycle of injustice and ill repute.

Transgressions are littering our once proud land. Our democracy is in trouble. People in power have been corrupted by their misuse of it. We are suffering and help does not seem to be on the way. Our moral compass has gone awry.

It begs the question, how did the world's greatest country become a shadow of its former self? We are shellshocked.

Our once strong and vibrant institutions have become broken and fractured. Our criminal justice system in some cases has become unhinged. Those responsible for adju-

COMMENTARY

dicating justice have become blatantly partial and unfair.

Recently, a case in Kenosha, Wisconsin has drawn national attention for its not guilty verdict.

Kyle Rittenhouse shot and killed 2 people and injured another in August of last year. All of the people involved in this tragic incident were white.

Was race a factor in this case? I believe it was.

First off, Rittenhouse was not a resident of Kenosha, Wisconsin – so why was he there?

Here's why. Jacob Blake, an African-American male, 29 years of age, was shot and killed by police officer Rusten Skeskey on August 23, 2020.

Blake was shot 4 times in the back and 3 times in the side. Skeskey said that he feared for his life. Blake had a knife. Skeskey was acquitted of all charges.

Unrest ensued and Black Lives Matter became a part of the protest.

Rittenhouse was 17 years old and drove to Kenosha

from his residence in Antioch, Illinois.

According to court reports, Rittenhouse gave Dominick Black, one of his friends the money to purchase an AR-15 rifle. Prior to arriving in Kenosha, Rittenhouse was working as a lifeguard. His mother, Wendy Rittenhouse, said she had no idea where he was at the time.

I wonder if she ever thought about contacting the police about the whereabouts of her son. That in my opinion is questionable parenting.

So young Rittenhouse empowers himself as a keeper of the peace. He is in riotous conditions and is walking down the street with a loaded assault rifle.

This is almost unbelievable that a teen could patrol the streets of that city as if he were the police, just without a uniform.

Video shows him waving at the police and getting water from them. The police thanked him and his group for their service. According to reports, an officer said, "We really appreciate you guys, we really do." Really.

So, on August 25, 2020, Rittenhouse shot and killed Joseph Rosenbaum and Anthony Huber. He injured Gaige Grosskreutz.

He was found innocent of the 5 felony charges against him. He is a free man.

During the trial, he was sobbing and saying that he feared for his life. Sound familiar? The judge in the case, Bruce Schroeder, had poor courtroom demeanor in my opinion.

I know for sure that a black man could not have paraded around any city streets toting an assault rifle and be celebrated by the police.

Rittenhouse had white privilege on his side.

So, my white brothers and sisters who look side eyed when black people start talking about white privilege, look no further than Kyle Rittenhouse. He is white privilege.

Tucker Carlson from Fox News has created a documentary about Kyle Rittenhouse. Of course, Rittenhouse will be seen as some type of hero by some segments of America.

We know better.

Prospective students enjoy the Alcorn experience during High School Day



Alcorn State University newswire

That ole' Brave spirit filled the Davey L. Whitney HPER Complex during Alcorn State University's annual High School Day festivities Saturday, Nov. 13. A host of Greek organizations and student-centered clubs provided entertainment for its visitors with Greek stroll-offs, a modeling show by modeling squad TREND, music and a performance from the Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite (SOD) Drumline.

Prospective students experienced the fun HBCU culture and what the university has to offer academically. Various departments set up tables to showcase the quality education that's available to them if they choose to attend.

Sydney Graham, a student from McLaurin High School, has Alcorn as one of her top choices for college. If she chooses Alcorn, she will be a third-generation Alcornite in her

family.

"I am strongly thinking about attending Alcorn since my grandparents and dad came here. If so, I want to be a biology major because I want to be a doctor," said Graham.

Some alumni came out to enjoy the festivities as well. Amanda Carter, a 1973 graduate was proud to attend the event with her granddaughter.

"I'm always excited to come to Alcorn because this was my beginning after high school. I sent two of my sons here, and they both marched for the Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite and it's just been so exciting. My first grandchild is here now, and I'll always enjoy coming because it's a family atmosphere and an experience I will never forget," said Carter.

The event was the first High School Day experience for the newer employees in attendance. Roslyn White, assistant vice president for enrollment management, was

thrilled about the turnout of students who registered.

"This is my first year here, so it's really wonderful to see many students come. We had over 800 students registered for the event, so it's a great way for them to check out our academic programs, tour campus and have fun," said White.

Professor of military science, LTC Jackey Fortenberry, was proud to inform students about the ROTC program and what they offer.

"It feels great to showcase what the students here at Alcorn do, as well as, promoting the ROTC and the benefits that we can offer to the other students at the university," said Fortenberry.

Lastly, students packed Jack Spinks-Marino Casem Stadium to watch the Alcorn Braves football team claim the victory over Prairie View, which kept the Braves's SWAC championship hopes alive.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity members and staff at Jim Hill surprise seniors with scholarships

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., who are employed at Jim Hill High School, raised funds to provide three book scholarships to seniors at the school totaling \$1,000. The surprise ceremony was held November 17, 2021, the Omega's Founder's Day, at 10 a.m. on the front steps of Jim Hill High School.

Eleven students entered the scholarship contest. They were required to submit two essays, their current grade point average and their ACT score. Out of the eleven scholars, three students were awarded book scholarships: Ashanti Knight, Jahliyah Readus, and McKinley Washington.

I'm very excited that I won. I know that I can use this money to help me further my education at whatever college I choose to attend," said Readus.

Each recipient was presented with the scholarship award by Frank Branch, scholarship chair for the Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and Michael Cormack, deputy superintendent.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is the first international fraternal organization founded on the campus of a historically black college. It was founded November 17, 1911, on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. Their cardinal principles are Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift.



Ashanti Knight, center, with Branch and Cormack



Jahliyah Readus



McKinley Washington

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Are your supplements sabotaging your lab tests?



By Vince Faust
Tips to be Fit

Do you take vitamins or use herbal products? Most of us know that vitamins and herbal products can interact with your medications. But did you know that those same vitamins and herbal products could also affect some of your laboratory test? A lot of the laboratory tests your doctor ask you to take to help diagnose cardiac diseases, endocrine disorders, cancers and infectious diseases could be affected by the use of your vitamins and herbal products.

More than half of the adults in the U.S. take one or more dietary supplements everyday. U.S. adults also take over ten billion lab test every year. This mix of supplements and lab test can produce “false-positive” and “false-negative” test results. These vitamins and

herbal products can change your body chemistry. Both of these scenarios can lead to an incorrect diagnosis and treatment.

It’s hard to know which vitamins or herbal products will cause problems with your test. There are millions of vitamins and supplements sold everyday. There are also new products introduced in the market every year. All of which can affect your test. You should always tell your doctor about any vitamins or herbal products you are taking and ask about the possible effects.

A few labs told me that in most cases and depending on the dose, you could skip your vitamin or supplement for a day to a week before your test to prevent any issues. One lab said that your results might need to be interpreted differently. It was also pointed out

that it depends on the test and on your vitamins or herbal products.

A few vitamins and herbal products that could affect your test results:

Vitamin C – Two grams of vitamin C per day can produce a false-negative for a fecal blood test for colon cancer. This vitamin can also cause a urinary sugar test to show positive results when no glucose is present. It’s suggested that you stop taking this vitamin three days before lab test.

Iron – Iron supplements can produce a false-positive reading on a fecal blood test. Excess iron in red blood cells can be mistaken for blood in your stool. It’s suggested that you talk to your doctor if you are taking an iron supplement.

Vitamin B2 (Riboflavin) – This vitamin if taken over the recommended dose can turn

your urine bright yellow and will interfere with any urine test that uses a dipstick. This vitamin quickly clears your body. It’s recommended you stop taking the vitamin the night before your test.

Vitamin B12 (Folic Acid) – This vitamin can mask it’s own deficiency. A vitamin B12 deficiency can cause abnormal large red blood cells. It can also cause anemia, neuropathy, memory loss and other mental difficulties. It’s suggested that you talk to your doctor if you are taking an iron supplement.

Calcium – Undigested or unabsorbed calcium in your intestines can interfere with a bone density scan. It’s recommended you stop taking this supplement 48 hours before your test.

Vitamin E – This vitamin has blood thinning properties. This vitamin can affect the test

results that measure your clotting factor. It’s suggested that you talk to your doctor if you are taking a Vitamin E supplement.

Vitamin B7 (Biotin) – Biotin is a water-soluble vitamin that’s a part of the vitamin B family. Biotin in your blood from supplements can cause your lab test results to be either falsely increased or falsely decreased. This will cause your healthcare practitioners to misdiagnose and mistreat you.

It’s suggested that you talk to your doctor if you are taking a Biotin supplement.

Niacin – Niacin may cause an increase in catecholamine results. It’s suggested that you talk to your doctor if you are taking a Niacin supplement.

Other of things that can affect certain lab test results:

- Intense physical activity.
- Some foods (like avocados,

- walnuts and licorice)
- Sunburn.
- Colds or infections.
- Having sex.
- Some medications or drugs.

Even your sleep affects your blood test. In a study they were able to find out with 92 percent accuracy whether the blood samples came from a person who was sleep deprived or had enough rest.

Dehydration can affect the results of a cholesterol test. Dehydration can cause blood volume to decrease, leading to a drop in blood pressure and blood flow.

When you need to have a blood test, it’s important to know what type of blood test you’re taking. You should understand instructions about your blood test. Your understanding these instructions will affect your results.



COVID in the classroom: A look at Mississippi

By Edelia J. Carthan, Ph.D
Contributing Writer

Classrooms across America have changed forever, especially classrooms in Mississippi. Students, teachers and parents all have been negatively affected by COVID-19, the virus also known as Coronavirus. Learning was disrupted in March 2020 when the pandemic first started, forcing many schools to move strictly to virtual or hybrid learning.

In a hurry to get back to normal, many school districts started the 2021-2022 school year off face to face, and Mississippi saw a surge in cases. In fact, several teachers and students have lost their lives because of complications due to COVID.

The 2021-2022 school year began in August and Mississippi’s highest cases were reported during that same month. The highest number of cases reported in one day were 7,249 new cases reported on

August 23 with a daily average of 3,502 cases within seven days. According to the Mississippi State Department of Health, 22,513 students have tested positive for COVID-19 since August 2021 while 3,946 teachers and staff tested positive out of 670 schools reporting in 70 of the 82 counties in Mississippi.

In August, a 13-year-old, eighth grader died just one day after testing positive for coronavirus, according to Smith County School District Superintendent Nick Hillman.

“The girl wasn’t feeling well on Thursday and her mother kept her home,” Hillman said in an interview. The teenager tested positive Friday and was taken to a hospital. She died on the way to the hospital.

A 16 year old high school football player from Pontotoc County died of COVID-19 in September.

Moreover, Theodora Bridges, a Jackson Public Schools

teacher, died from complications of COVID-19 Thursday, September 2. She taught at North Jackson Elementary School. There have been many other teachers and students who have died because of COVID.

Many students, teachers and parents have mixed feelings about returning to the classroom so soon.

Genette Holmes, who teaches 4th grade in the Mississippi Delta at Davis Elementary in Greenwood, said she feels safe teaching in the classroom during the pandemic because of the measures her district has taken to keep them safe. “I am a 4th grade social studies teacher in Mississippi. I feel safe teaching during COVID. Cases are at an all time low as of now. Many have received at least one dose of the COVID vaccine,” Holmes stated.

“Others are fully vaccinated. To say the least, the dis-

trict has put in many safety procedures including weekly COVID testing for students and teachers; extended leave due to testing positive, and access to cleaning/sanitizing products,” Holmes continued.

While Holmes feels safe in her classroom, many teachers do not feel safe because masks are not required in all districts.

Carter, a teacher in the Mississippi Delta, said she doesn’t feel safe because the students don’t wear their mask correctly if they wear them at all.

“Some of the students do not understand how serious this virus is because they don’t wear their masks correctly if they wear them at all,” Carter exclaimed.

Gov. Tate Reeves ended the mask’s mandate in March 2021 and filed a lawsuit in November to block President Joe Biden’s vaccine mandate calling it unconstitutional. “The President has no authority to require that Americans

inject themselves because of their employment at a private business. The vaccine itself is life-saving, but this unconstitutional move is terrifying. This is still America,” Reeves wrote in a Tweet.

Dr. Lane Rolling, director of Clinical Education & Research at Tropical Pathology and Infectious Disease Association, who has studied infectious diseases all over the world said we will be dealing with COVID a minimum of 10 years.

Schools need to adopt protocols to help keep students, teachers and staff safe. The Center for Disease Control recommends the following safety protocols for schools.

Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

In addition to universal indoor masking, CDC recommends schools maintain at least three feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk.

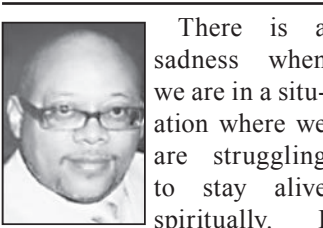
Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.

Students, teachers and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.

This guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies to protect students, teachers, staff, visitors and other members of their households and support in-person learning.

Guard your soul

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



There is a sadness when we are in a situation where we are struggling to stay alive spiritually. I want to encourage us to throw away all the excuses and cast ourselves afresh on the mercies of God. He alone can help us, save us and set our feet on the solid rock. We do not have to live a miserable spiritual life. We can have real victory and be happy.

There are efforts made from time to time to revive a soul. People can become righteously stirred as the Holy Spirit speaks to them. They sometimes make moves to an altar of prayer and appear to

be sincere in wanting to get things straightened out in their lives. They try to revive their dying souls, but within a few weeks or months, they find themselves struggling again. They push themselves to pray, sometimes they read the Bible more, but they do not get anywhere doing those things. The soul is slowly suffocating under the pillow of indifference.

Many times, souls leave an altar of prayer after they have shed some tears feeling better emotionally because shedding tears are an outlet for our emotions. However, crying does not save us or cure the problem. We may weep and feel a little better, but the truth is we need to stay a little longer after drying our eyes and get down to business with

God. We should not leave the altar until we have victory in our soul.

Proverbs 3:1-8 reads: “My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledging him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.”

What was David’s prayer? In Psalm 51:10-12 he cried: Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation.”

We need to guard our soul. It is the most important task we have on this side of eternity. We should guard our soul with all our strength and obedience to God. People say it costs too much to obey, but to disobey costs so much more. We need to obey the Lord!

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.

Be thankful for what you lost

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Is it possible to be thankful for what you lost? I know it’s Thanksgiving season and we are focused on being grateful for the many blessings we have. However, in some cases, homes and jobs have been lost. For others, this season is difficult because we’ve lost loved ones and the holidays remind us of their absence. Hope for some is fading. It’s hard to be thankful because of growing fear and uncertainty. How can you be thankful when you feel like you’ve lost so much?

Philippians 4:11-12 says, “I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.” How do you apply that scripture to everyday life, especially if you are struggling?

I had to re-learn this when I dealt with an unexpected loss of something I valued. For a time, I struggled with coming to terms with the disappointment of the loss. Then it hit me one day: the loss was really God making room for what he really wanted me to have. And, less than one month later, God blessed me with something better than what I’d previously complained about losing.

We complain to God and wonder why he doesn’t give us certain things when we pray for them.

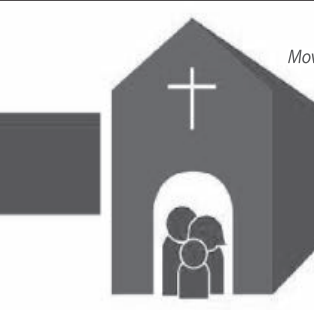
Spiritual temper tantrums might happen when we send up heartfelt prayers and they are not answered. We spend so much time focusing on what we didn’t get that we miss what God has for us on the other side of that disappointment: A challenge to trust Him again. And in trusting him again comes the opportunity to show obedience to God’s awesome sovereignty.

Do we pass the test of being able to congratulate the person who got their prayers answered when their prayer was similar to ours? An even bigger test is praying that God would bless that person as they accepted those new blessings if/when they run into difficulties. Being able to pray that kind of prayer requires that we go back to thanking God for what we didn’t get or loss...regardless of the reason why we believe he didn’t allow it to happen for us. Sometimes when we get blessings from God, we quickly forget that he is sovereign; we’d rather give credit to our prayer partner.

It seems a little odd to thank God for not giving you something, but this kind of thankfulness is just as important because it forces us to take a crash course in spiritual maturity. Not getting a prayer answered is God’s ironic reminder that he really is still in control and knows what is best for us.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

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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A Black Happy Thanksgiving 2021

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



African Americans and other communities of color across the United States of America will spend the traditional Thanksgiving holidays this year with multiple perspectives ranging from gratefulness of having life itself to increasing feelings of speculation about our future destinies and progress in America. We have won some victories. We have suffered some defeats.

Yet, we are a people of African descent who are also profoundly aware that our long struggle for freedom, justice and equality continues today in America, in Africa and throughout the world. The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) representing the Black Press of America reaffirms our mission to “To plead our own cause” in speaking and publishing truth to power.

At the same time, we acknowledge a sacred respect and resolute solidarity with our Native American sisters and brothers who inhabited what now is known as America long before Christopher Columbus discovered that he was lost. The subsequent genocide and oppression of native peoples throughout this hemisphere that Columbus and others initiated with impunity and a callous disregard for human life



also contributed to the eventual launching of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Yes, there are significant matters, circumstances and advances that we all should note with a consciousness of thanksgiving and gratefulness. Over the past twelve months we have a new Biden-Harris Administration that is the most racially diverse and inclusive federal administration in American history. The Biden Infrastructure Bill is now law and will help stimulate economic recovery for African-American owned businesses.

The House of Representatives has now passed Biden's

“Build Back Better” legislation. We must now put serious pressure on the U.S. Senate to also pass this unprecedented initiative that will further help to eliminate poverty, housing discrimination, health care disparities and environmental injustice.

Even though we have not been able to end the reality of systemic racism in the very fabric of society, we have in fact made progress. This is no time for us to get distracted, disillusioned and chronically disappointed about the present and the future.

Poverty and unemployment

within our families and communities are now on a steady decrease after years of increasing economic disparities even before the devastating impact of COVID-19 on Black America. We express our condolences to those families who have suffered deaths from that deadly pandemic that continues to disproportionately hit our communities.

We are thankful to those healthcare professionals, physicians, medical researchers and other first responders who have helped all Americans to survive and to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. It is,

therefore, appropriate that part of our Black Happy Thanksgiving wishes go out to the medical research genius of our sister, Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, the leading viral immunologist, who helped to develop the vaccine process that led to the preventive COVID-19 vaccines that has enabled millions of Americans and others to avoid infection from COVID-19. Dr. Corbett stated, “Vaccines are the great equalizer when it comes to addressing health disparities, especially around infectious diseases.”

We are thankful for the effectiveness of the Black Voters Matter movement and all

of the civil rights and voting rights national, regional and local organizations that are challenging the voter suppression statutes, laws and regulations that are being put into place in Texas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and in other states. We are thankful for the leadership of Congressional Black Caucus Chair Congresswoman Joyce Beatty and each member of the CBC.

We are thankful to Attorney Benjamin Crump and a growing host of other civil rights lawyers and leaders who refuse to be silent about the continuing racially motivated police brutality and misconduct across America that inflicts fatal consequences for Black Americans throughout the nation.

We are thankful that the Black Press is expanding to all multimedia platforms and channels. We have to remain proactive to ensure that the formulation and distribution of the narrative of Black America is authentic, accurate, truthful and trusted.

Thus, we wish all a Black Happy Thanksgiving.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr is president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and executive producer/host of The Chavis Chronicles broadcast weekly on PBS TV stations across the nation, and can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org

A great way to “Listen to Black Women” is to elect them

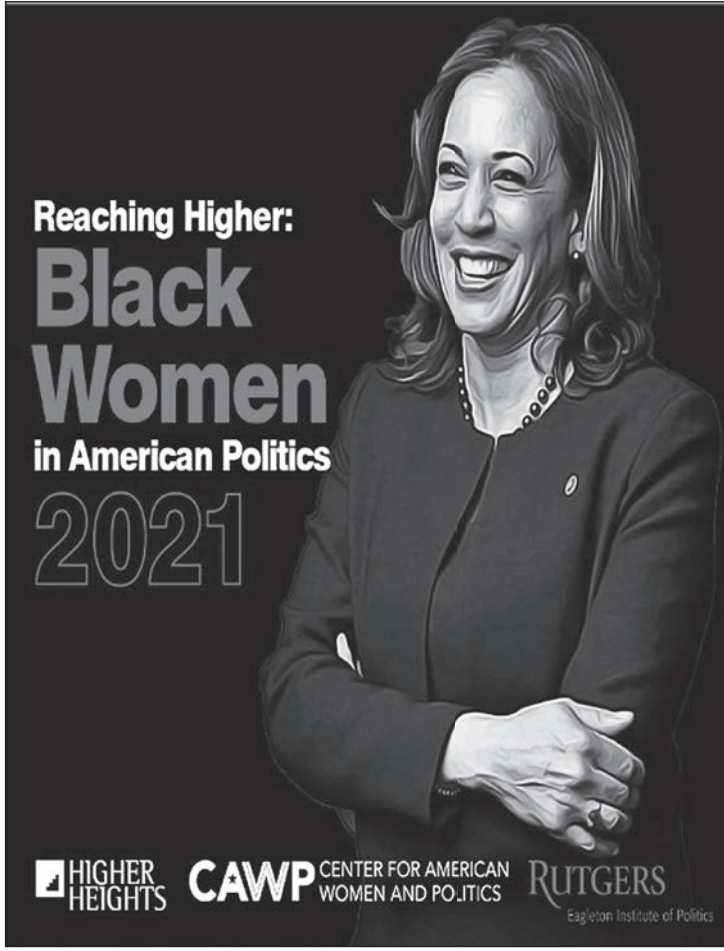
By Kelly Dittmar
and Glynda C. Carr
Contributing Writer

Listen to black women, they say. Support black women, they tweet. The praise of black women in recent years is evident in words, but public statements and hashtags must translate into action. And that action should include efforts to elect black women.

Seven years ago, our organizations joined forces to spotlight the status of black women in American politics. Since our first report, we have seen – and hopefully contributed to – great progress. In that time, 17 new black women were elected to Congress, including the second black woman to ever serve in the U.S. Senate and the first black women to represent their states from Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Missouri, Minnesota, New Jersey, Utah and Washington. The number of black women state legislators has risen by nearly 50%.

Black women have made tremendous strides in representation as big-city mayors, with 12 black women taking office for the first time as mayors in the top 100 most populous cities from mid-2014 to present. Today, black women are mayors of 8 major cities, including Atlanta, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, New Orleans, San Francisco, St. Louis and Washington, DC.

Just two weeks ago, Elaine O’Neal was elected as mayor of Durham, North Carolina; she will take office in early December. And, of course, with Kamala Harris’ 2020 election as vice president, a black woman now serves in the second-highest position in U.S. government.



Progress for black women in elective office is not measured in numbers alone. The effects of black women’s political representation are evident in both disrupting white- and male-dominated institutions and making policy change. Research at the state legislative and congressional levels has shown how black women’s identities shape policy contributions and behaviors in ways that give voice to underrepresented groups and perspectives.

Five years ago, Representatives Bonnie Watson-Coleman (D-NJ), Robin Kelly (D-IL) and Yvette Clark (D-NY) created the Congressional Caucus on Black

Women and Girls to promote public policy that “eliminates significant barriers and disparities experienced by black women.” Just this year, Representatives Lauren Underwood (D-IL) and Alma Adams (D-AL), with Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), have pushed for “omnibus” legislation to address the crisis in black maternal health. And in late summer, Representative Cori Bush (D-MO) slept on the stairs of the U.S. Capitol as part of a relentless push to extend the eviction moratorium – which disproportionately affects black and brown Americans.

Black women have also been at the forefront of changing the

actual institutions in which they serve. Bush’s efforts on the eviction moratorium included calls for institutional change, such as ending the filibuster, in hopes that it would clear the way for a policy agenda that would better serve black communities. And in a July 2020 floor speech, Representative Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) made clear that patriarchy is “very much at home in the halls of this powerful institution” and called on her colleagues to build the world that all girls and women deserve, beginning with the institution of Congress.

Black women’s gains in representation should not mask the persistent hurdles they must navigate to find electoral success. Research demonstrates how black women are among those women more likely to be discouraged from running for office, confront disparities in campaign fundraising, navigate distinct politics of appearance, and are evaluated by voters and media alike in ways that both rely on and perpetuate damaging stereotypical biases.

Recent reporting has also revealed more than ever before the abuse that black women face as both candidates and officeholders, abuse that is often rooted in the confluence of racism and misogyny and leads not only to personal harm but also to decisions to abandon political careers.

And while many black women have navigated these hurdles en route to electoral success, black women’s underrepresentation in elective office persists, especially in the Republican Party and offices elected statewide. Today, just three black Republican women serve as state legislators

and no black Republican women serve in statewide or congressional offices.

Former Representative Mia Love (R-UT), the only black Republican woman ever elected to Congress, was defeated in election 2018. Her decision to stand up against then President Donald Trump in defense of Haitians specifically, and immigrants more broadly, damaged her chances for re-election and illustrated a distinct challenge she faced in giving voice to her own identity and experience while also aligning with the politics of her party. This challenge persists in today’s GOP, creating unique conditions for black Republican women who decide to run.

Just two black women have ever served in the U.S. Senate, and there are no black women senators serving today amidst key debates over the economy, infrastructure, the environment, voting rights, criminal justice and immigration. Black women also hold just 6 of 310 statewide elective executive offices in the U.S., roles that are key to shaping state policy agendas and outcomes. Just 17 black women have ever held statewide elected executive offices in 14 states, and no black woman has ever served as governor.

The 2022 election offers some opportunities to address these gaps. With more than a year before Election Day, the number of black women who have announced major-party candidacies for U.S. Senate has already exceeded the previous record of 13. Recent reports also show that black candidates are faring especially well in Senate fundraising in the 2022 cycle. While summary numbers might mask per-

sistent hurdles, these data indicate that black candidates might be better financially positioned for electoral success in the next election.

At least five black women have announced major-party gubernatorial candidacies in this cycle, one short of the previous high. And there remains time for more black women to step forward, including former Georgia House Minority Leader and organizer Stacey Abrams (D-GA), who is the only black woman who has ever won a major-party gubernatorial nomination.

Candidacies neither ensure nomination nor election, but it’s a start. These black women – and others who are launching political campaigns – are doing what they can to create a more representative democracy. But their success relies on others, including those who issued public directives to support black women over the past 18 months.

You can support black women on the campaign trail with your time and your money, and you can support black women at the ballot box with your vote. You can listen to black women by ensuring they have seats at policymaking tables where their voices, expertise and perspectives can inform substantive change. It’s time to translate words into actions.

Kelly Dittmar is an associate professor of political science at Rutgers-Camden and director of Research and Scholar at the Center for American Women and Politics, a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University.

Glynda C. Carr is CEO and co-founder of Higher Heights for America.

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Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8
9						10			
11						12			
13					14			15	
			16			17			
18	19	20							
21				22			23	24	25
26			27			28			
29						30			
31						32			

ACROSS

1. Pilgrimage to Mecca

5. Soap Opera

9. Brand of sandwich cookie

10. What a road is

11. Desire

12. Get up

13. Diner

15. Note of debt

16. Warm up lap (2 wds.)

18. Flammable liquid

21. Gone by

22. Appall

26. Computer attachment

28. Carved Polynesian pendant

29. Slipup

30. French ____, instrument

31. Back talk

32. Deer

DOWN

1. ____ schooled, place

2. Opera solo

3. Jape

4. Mary's husband

5. Rested

6. To no ____

7. City

8. Tally (2 wds.)

10. Weirdo

14. I'd ____ not

17. Worlds

18. Dubs

19. Ancient Greek marketplace

20. Gushes

23. Mob activity

24. Vegetable

25. Hoop

27. Distress call

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Sudoku

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

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

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Crossword Solution

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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Week of November 21, 2021

Hundreds protest Rittenhouse acquittal across U.S.

The Associated Press

Law enforcement in Portland declared a riot Friday night as about 200 demonstrators protested the acquittal of a teen who killed two people and injured another in Wisconsin.

The protesters were breaking windows, throwing objects at police and talking about burning down a local government building in downtown Portland, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office said. The crowd had dispersed by about 11 p.m., KOIN TV reported.

The Portland Police Bureau said several people were given citations, but only one person who had an outstanding warrant from another matter was arrested.

The protesters gathered following the acquittal of Kyle Rittenhouse, 18, in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Rittenhouse killed two people and injured another during a protest against police brutality in Wisconsin last year.

Protests have been held in several other U.S. cities into Saturday over the verdict, including New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

About 1,000 people marched through downtown Chicago Saturday afternoon, organized by Black Lives Matter Chicago and other local activist groups. According to the *Chicago Tribune*, protesters held signs that stated, "STOP



Demonstrators chant slogans as they march to protest the verdict of Kyle Rittenhouse in Los Angeles, Saturday, November 20, 2021. AP PHOTO/JAN C. HONG

WHITE SUPREMACY" and "WE'RE HITTING THE STREETS TO PROTEST THIS RACIST INJUSTICE SYSTEM" with a picture of Rittenhouse carrying a weapon.

Tanya Watkins, executive director of Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation, spoke at a rally in Federal Plaza before the march, according to the Tribune.

"While I am not surprised by yesterday's verdict, I am tired. I am disappointed. I am enraged. I have lost every ounce of faith in this justice system," said Watkins, who is black.

In North Carolina, dozens

of people gathered Saturday near the state Capitol building to protest the verdict, the *Raleigh News & Observer* reported. Speakers led the crowd of roughly 75 people in chants of "No justice, no peace!" and "Abolish the police!" Police officers on motorcycle accompanied the protesters and blocked traffic for them as they marched down a street past bars and restaurants.

After the murder of George Floyd last year by police in Minneapolis, there were ongoing, often violent protest in Portland. Some activists complained that the police were heavy-handed

in their response. Shortly after the Rittenhouse verdict, Portland Police Bureau Chief Chuck Lovell said that officers were working on plans for Friday night and the weekend.

By about 8:50 p.m., about 200 protesters had gathered in downtown Portland and blocked streets. By 9 p.m., windows were broken and doors of city facilities were damaged.

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office designated the event a riot, and said in a news release Saturday that some demonstrators had thrown urine, water bottles and batteries at deputies.

Oklahoma Governor commutes Julius Jones' death sentence

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt issued a last-minute decision to commute the death sentence of Julius Jones, a condemned inmate whom Kim Kardashian and others had advocated for clemency.

"After prayerful consideration and reviewing materials presented by all sides of this case, I have determined to commute Julius Jones' sentence to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole," Stitt said in a news release.

Kardashian joined Jones' family for months in calling on Stitt to commute the sentence, noting that evidence appears to point to his innocence.

Stitt's decision came just hours before Jones faced a 4 p.m. execution. Jones has sat on death row for more than 20 years after a jury convicted him of the 1999 murder of an Oklahoma City businessman.

His attorneys filed an emergency request to stop the execution, asserting that the state's lethal injection procedures pose a serious and substantial risk of severe suffering and pain.

They noted the October execution of John Grant, whom they said convulsed and vomited as



This photo provided by the Oklahoma Department of Corrections on Feb. 5, 2018, shows Julius Jones. OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS VIA AP

the state put him to death.

Earlier, Oklahoma's Pardon and Parole Board voted 3-1 to recommend that the governor commute Jones' sentence to life in prison.

Several of the board members reportedly stated that they had doubts about the evidence in the case.

Actress Viola Davis produced a documentary in 2018 that included Kardashian, and several athletes who urged the governor to commute Jones' sentence.

As Stitt's decision came down, a large crowd that gathered in the state Capitol roared their approval.

In Kenosha and beyond, guns become more common on US streets

By Morgan Lee
Associated Press

As Kyle Rittenhouse was acquitted in two killings that he said were self-defense, armed civilians patrolled the streets near the Wisconsin courthouse with guns in plain view.

In Georgia, testimony in the trial of Ahmaud Arbery's killers showed that armed patrols were commonplace in the neighborhood where Arbery, a 25-year-old black man, was chased down by three white men and shot.

The two proceedings sent startling new signals about the boundaries of self-defense as more guns emerge from homes amid political and racial tensions and the advance of laws that ease permitting requirements and expand the allowable use of force.

Across much of the nation, it has become increasingly acceptable for Americans to walk the streets with firearms, either carried openly or legally concealed. In places that still forbid such behavior, prohibi-

tions on possessing guns in public could soon change if the U.S. Supreme Court strikes down a New York law.

The new status quo for firearms outside the home was on prominent display last week in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Local resident Erick Jordan carried a rifle and holstered handgun near the courthouse where Rittenhouse was tried for killing two men and wounding a third with an AR-15-style semiautomatic rifle during a protest last year.

"I got a job to do – protect these people. That's it," said Jordan, referring to speakers at a news conference that was held in the hours after the verdict.

Speakers included an uncle of Jacob Blake, the black man who was paralyzed in a shooting by a white police officer that touched off tumultuous protests across the city in the summer of 2020.

"This is my town, my people," Jordan said. "We don't agree on a lot of things, but

we fight, we argue, we agree to disagree and go home safe, alive."

"That's real self-defense."

The comments were a counter punch to political figures on the right who welcomed the Rittenhouse verdict and condemned his prosecution.

Mark McCloskey, who pleaded guilty in June to misdemeanor charges stemming from when he and his wife waved a rifle and a handgun at Black Lives Matter protesters outside their St. Louis home in 2020, said the verdict shows that people have a right to defend themselves from a "mob." He currently is a Republican candidate for U.S. Senate in Missouri.

The verdict arrived as many states are expanding self-defense laws and loosening the rules for carrying guns in public. Both gun sales and gun violence have been on the rise.

At the same time, six more states this year removed requirements to get a permit to carry guns in public, the larg-

est number in any single year, according to the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. In all, 30 states have enacted "stand your ground" laws, which remove a requirement to retreat from confrontations before using deadly force.

Wisconsin has a tougher standard for claiming self-defense, and Rittenhouse was able to show the jury that he reasonably believed his life was in danger and that the amount of force he used was appropriate.

Ryan Busse, a former firearms-industry executive who now supports moderate gun control as an author and consultant, said the case reinforced the normalization of military-style weapons on city and suburban streets.

"Reasonable gun owners are freaked out by this," he said. "How is it that we see this and people are just like, 'There's a guy with an AR-15.' That happens in third-world countries."

He highlighted that a lesser charge against Rittenhouse as a minor in possession of a dangerous weapon was dropped before the verdict.

"There's a facet of Wisconsin law that allows kids to take their hunting rifle out with their dad or uncle," Busse said. "Well he's not hunting. The old gun culture is being used to cover up for this new, dangerous firearms culture."

Gun-rights advocates seeking greater access to weapons and robust self-defense provisions argue that armed confrontations will remain rare.

Republicans including former President Donald Trump have been quick to applaud the verdict. They stand by Rittenhouse as a patriot who took a stand against lawlessness and exercised his Second Amendment rights.

Discord over the right to carry guns in public places spilled over into state legislatures in the aftermath of a 2020 plot to storm the Michigan Capitol, the Jan. 6 insurrection at the

U.S. Capitol and other threats. States including Michigan and New Mexico this year banned guns at their capitols, while Montana and Utah shored up concealed-carry rights.

At the Supreme Court, justices are weighing the biggest guns case in more than a decade, a dispute over whether New York's gun permitting law violates the Second Amendment right to "keep and bear arms."

Defenders of the law say that striking it down would lead to more guns on the streets of cities, including New York and Los Angeles.

During oral arguments this month, justices also appeared to worry that a broad ruling might threaten gun restrictions on subways and at bars, stadiums and other gathering places.

New York's law has been in place since 1913. It says that to carry a concealed handgun in public for self-defense, an applicant has to demonstrate an actual need for the weapon.

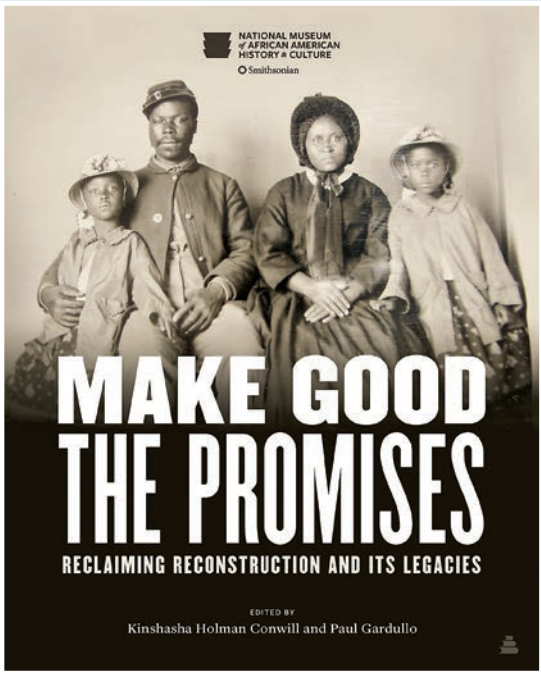
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PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON





BOOK REVIEW:
**MAKE GOOD THE PROMISES:
RECLAIMING RECONSTRUCTION
AND ITS LEGACIES**
EDITED BY KINSHASHA HOLMAN CONWILL
AND PAUL GARDULLO
C.2021, AMISTAD
\$29.99 / \$36.99 CANADA • 224 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Scout’s honor.
It’s a pledge, hope to die, and pinky swear. Someone’s offered their word and now you have expectations. They’ve made a solemn vow and you’ll hold them responsible but remember: as in the new book “Make Good the Promises,” edited by Kinshasha Holman Conwill and Paul Gardullo, some pacts don’t last long.
Three years before he was inaugurated, Abraham Lincoln was concerned “about the deepening crisis between the North-



ern free states and Southern slave states.” He “thought hard” and often about “the institution of slavery” but, though he was against it, he believed that decisions on slavery should lie within the individual states.
He’d “been in office for a month when insurrectionary forces attacked Fort Sumter,” which marked the beginning of the Civil War. Northerners leaped into the war, “believing, or so they said, that the Civil War” was not about slavery or black people.
“Black people insisted, to the contrary, that the war had ev-

erything to do with them.”
Years before War’s end, Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation gave African Americans hope that things would improve. After his assassination in April 1865 and the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment the following December, there was still hope, though Lincoln’s successor, Andrew Johnson, “proved to be an enemy of black freedom.”
Still, Johnson’s Reconstruction plan didn’t entirely undo what Lincoln had started, though it did favor Southern states in ways that made room

for white supremacy and Jim Crow laws, and that still resonate today.
Johnson’s actions lingered in the fight for the vote for black women, long after black men were allowed to cast a ballot; it lingered in their “proper treatment as ladies...” His actions left a long legacy that began with mass incarceration and forced work, often for no valid reason. And they linger in violence and disrespect, in disenfranchisement, in segregation that still affects black lives, and in politics and current events today. And, as the authors indi-

cate here, reviving the subject of reparations may fix all that...
Trace it back. George Floyd back, Medgar Evers back, Rosa Parks back, black GIs back, and you’ll see where editors Kinshasha Holman Conwill and Paul Gardullo are going. Follow it back, and in “Make Good the Promises,” you’ll find a path forward.
It’s not a new one, though, as you’ll see inside this photo-packed narrative; in fact, there’s not even just one. In the chapters that serve as refreshers on the Civil War (with focus on War’s end), there are

many subtle suggestions for establishing equality. More blunt talk comes toward the end of the book, and it comes with some surprises.
Readers are also in for one big delight here: this book would be just another volume on history, were it not for the abundance of photographs. You simply must see the faces inside.
You have to see their lives.
If you’re a history buff or a reader of Civil War-era accounts, one peek inside “Make Good the Promises” will have you hooked. Pick it up, you’ll love it, cross your heart.



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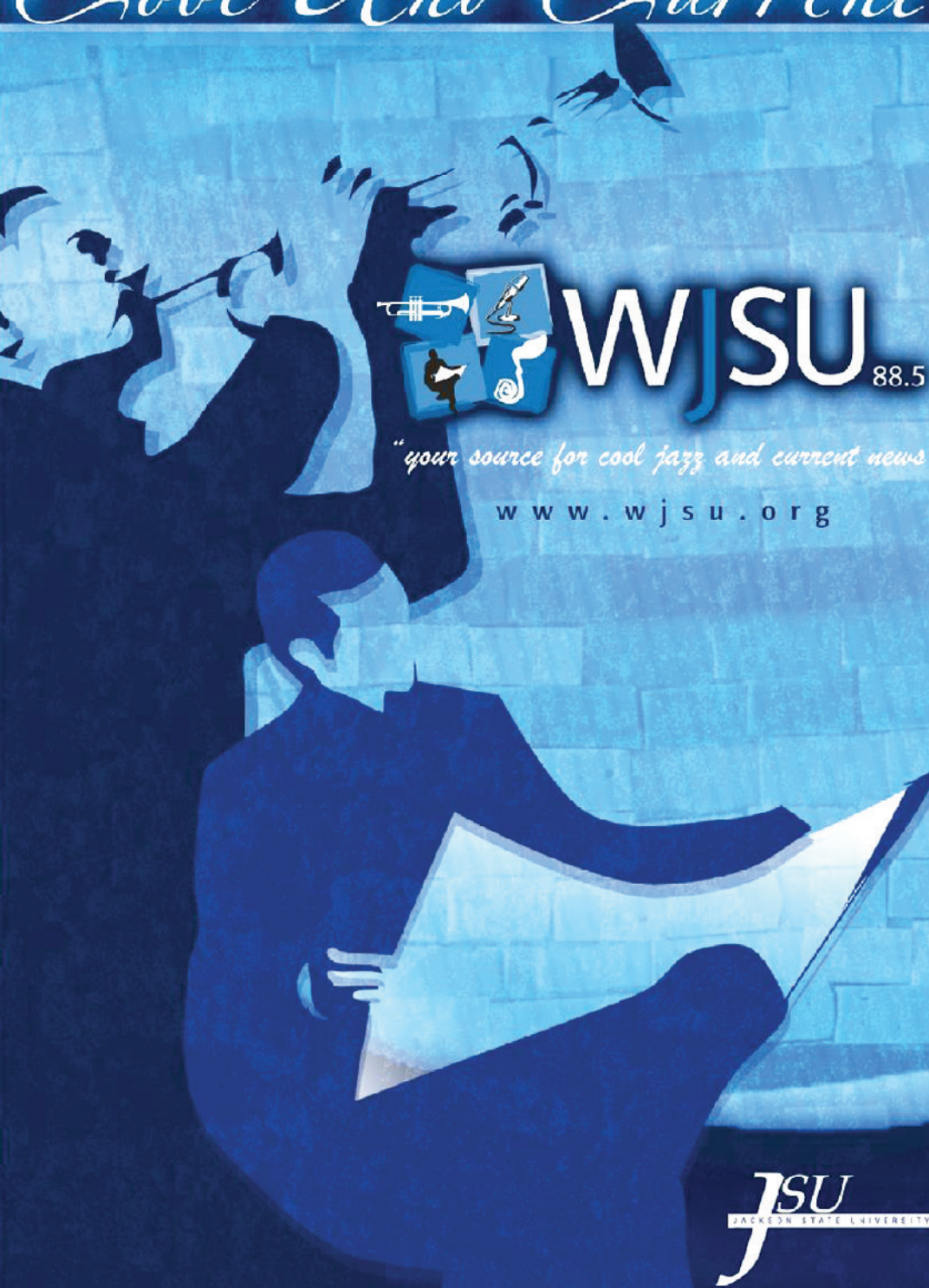
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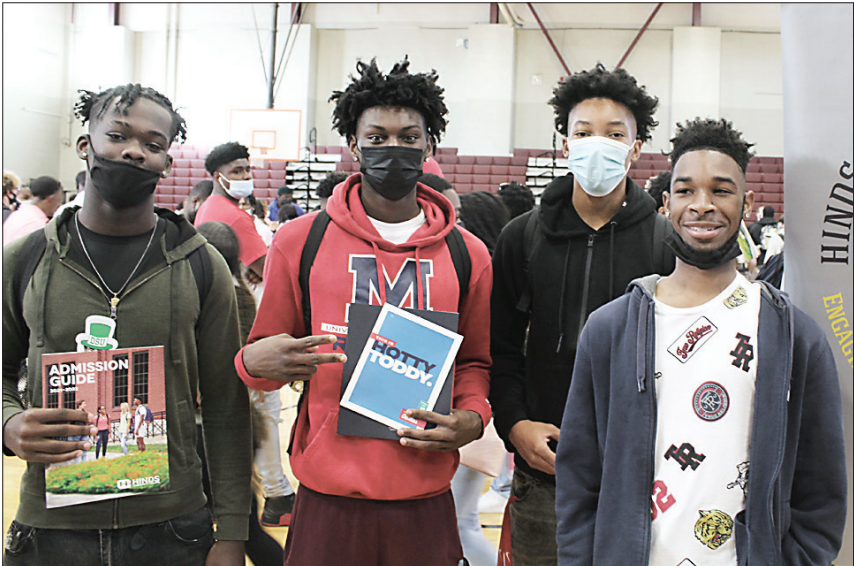
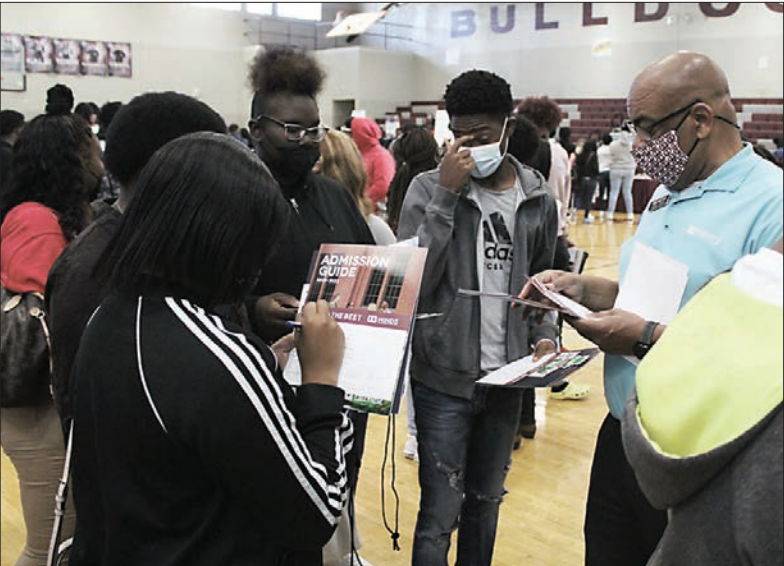
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