

Emmett Till investigation closed by feds; no new charges



Till

By Emily Wagster Pettus and Michael Balsamo
Associated Press

The U.S. Justice Department said Monday it is ending its investigation into the 1955 lynching of Emmett Till, the black teenager from Chicago who was abducted, tortured and killed after witnesses said he whistled at a white woman in Mississippi. The announcement came after the head of the department’s civil rights division and other officials met with several of Till’s relatives.

Till’s family members said they were disappointed there will continue to be no accountability for the infamous killing, with no charges being filed against Carolyn Bryant Donham, the woman accused of lying about whether Till ever touched her.

“Today is a day we will never forget,” Till’s cousin, the Rev. Wheeler Parker Jr., said during a news conference in Chicago. “For 66 years we have suffered pain. ... I suffered tremendously.”

The killing galvanized the civil rights movement after Till’s mother insisted on an

open casket, and *Jet* magazine published photos of his brutalized body.

The Justice Department reopened the investigation after a 2017 book quoted Donham as saying she lied when she claimed that 14-year-old Till grabbed her, whistled and made sexual advances while she was working in a store in the small community of Money. Relatives have publicly denied that Donham, who is in her 80s, recanted her allegations about Till.

Donham told the FBI she had never recanted her accusations and there is “insufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that she lied to the FBI,” the Justice Department said in a news release Monday. Officials also said that historian Timothy B. Tyson, the author of 2017’s “The Blood of Emmett Till,” was unable to produce any recordings or transcripts in which Donham allegedly admitted to lying about her encounter with the teen.

“In closing this matter

Till

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Mississippi confirms its 1st case of COVID Omicron variant

The Associated Press

Mississippi health officials said Monday that the state’s first case of Omicron variant of COVID-19 has been confirmed.

The state Health Department said the case was in a fully vaccinated person who recently traveled to New York. The person was not hospitalized.

“We were prepared for the appearance of this variant in Mississippi,” state health officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs said in a news release.

He said the Delta variant of COVID-19 is still “very active.” Mississippi joins more than a dozen other states that have reported cases of Omicron variant.

“Vaccines remain the best public health measure to protect people from COVID-19, slow the transmission rate and reduce the likelihood of new variants emerging,” Dobbs said.

“COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations and death.”

Jackson State University 2021 SWAC CHAMPIONS

By Tim Ward
Sports Editor

Saturday, December 4, 2021, the Jackson State Tigers football team captured their 17th SWAC Championship before a reported crowd of over 50,000 fans. The tigers won 27-10 over Prairie View but 2 touchdowns came from special teams and the defense. Offensively, the tigers struggled passing the ball, so they relied heavily on the run game. Peyton Pickett lead the way with 107 rushing yards on 19 carries scoring 1 touchdown. Quarterback Shedeur Sanders was 8 of 16 for 85 yards with 1 touchdown and 1 interception.

Coach Deion Sanders said it was probably his worst game of the season. Shedeur also ran for 25 yards on 9 carries.

Prairie View couldn’t get over the hump offensively and the Darkside Defense did everything they could to frustrate them. The Panthers started with quarterback Jawon Pass but ended the game with quarterback Trazon Connely. Pass was 6 of 19 and threw 3 interceptions. One being a pick six to James Houston in the third quarter. That would turn out to be his last pass attempt of the game.

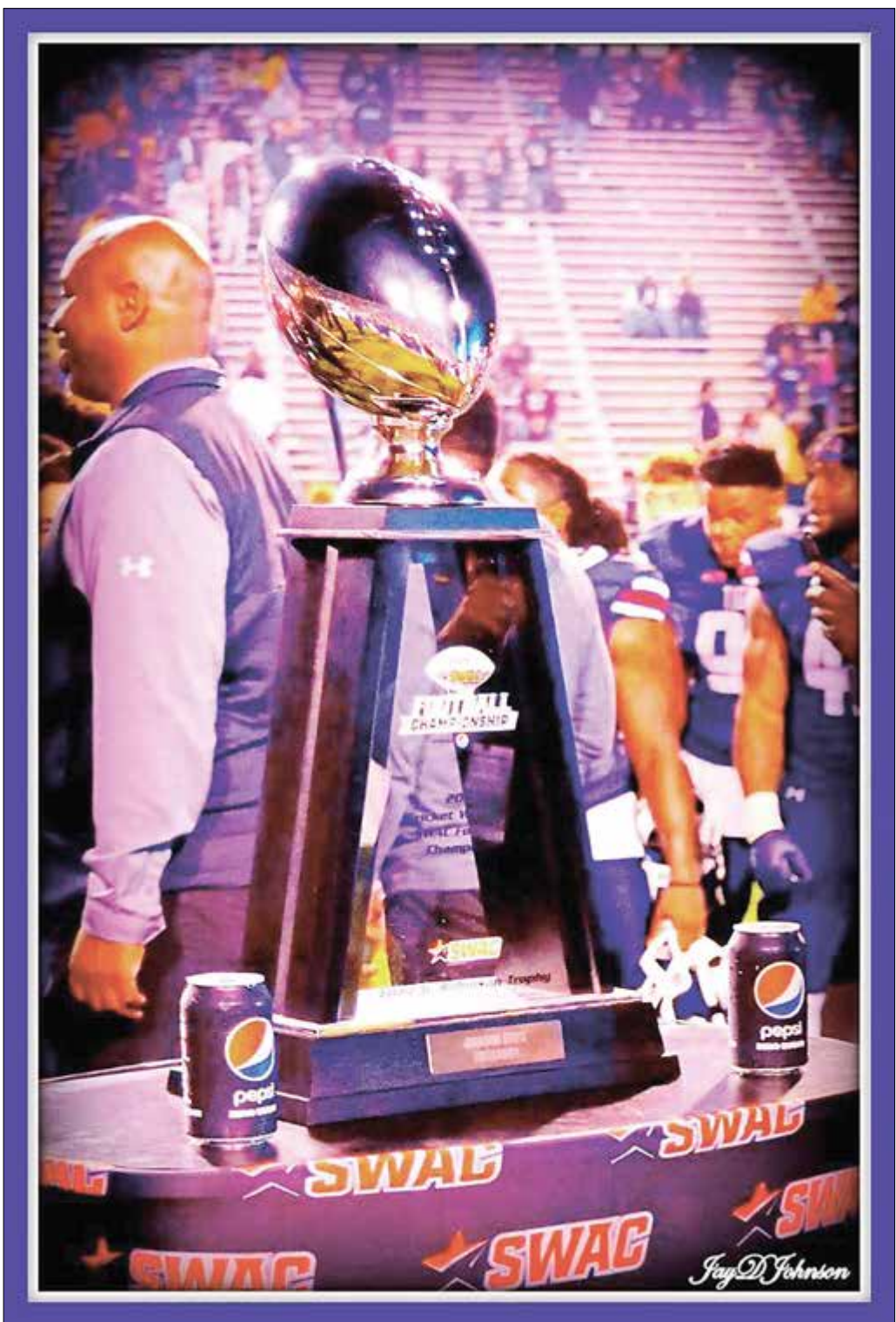
Pass was also sacked four times. Turns out it didn’t matter who Prairie View put at quarterback, the darkside defense was amped and frustrated all offensive players. Prairie View’s running backs only rushed for 21 yards, while the quarterback tandem rushed for 121.

Despite being offensively challenged, Prairie View actually lead 10-7 in the second quarter after a 37 yard field goal by kicker, Luis Reyes. On the ensuing kickoff, Isaiah Bolden returned the kickoff 91 yards for a touchdown. The crowd went wild. The extra point attempt failed, but Jackson State went into halftime leading 13-10.

After the defensive touchdown by

JSU

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Sold out event in Nashville celebrates Tennessee Tribune’s 30th anniversary and the ‘Queen Mother’ of the Black Press



Ambassador and gospel legend Dr. Bobby Jones (left) and publisher Rosetta Miller-Perry (right). STACY M. BROWN, NNPA NEWSWIRE

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

For 30 years, the *Tennessee Tribune* and its publisher Rosetta Miller-Perry have set the standard for news covering Nashville and beyond.

During a sold-out celebration Sunday, December 5, Miller-Perry, the trailblazing 2019 National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, captured another high honor.

“Yes, the 30th anniversary of the *Tennessee Tribune* certainly has to be celebrated here in Nashville, but this is global,” NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. declared to the hundreds gathered at the Lighthouse on the Lake in Hendersonville.

“As of this day, we claim [Miller-Perry] as the Queen Mother of the Black Press of America,” Dr. Chavis exclaimed as the crowd rose to its collective feet, responding with a thunderous ovation of approval.

The crowd featured several notable dignitaries, including NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards, *Houston Forward Times* Associate Editor Jeffrey

Boney, Tennessee State University President Dr. Glenda Glover, Nashville Mayor Jim Cooper, and U.S. Rep. Jim Cooper (D-Tenn.).

Ambassador and gospel legend Dr. Bobby Jones introduced Dr. Chavis who provided the keynote address.

“This is a tremendous honor for me to celebrate with Rosetta Perry,” Dr. Glover told NNPA Newswire.

“We’re so pleased to have someone so courageous and eager to assist in making things right here in Nashville. We really appreciate her because she’s such an institution here and throughout the state of Tennessee.”

“In November, *The Tennessee Tribune* opened a store in the Nashville Airport and remains as integral today as it was when it began 30 years ago,” Dr. Jones asserted.

“Perhaps even more so,” Dr. Jones remarked.

“The impact of health disparities, the educational gap, and the voting rights are among the other critical concerns that this wonderful media piece has exposed in our city,” Dr.

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Bishop Henry Joseph's recent missionary voyage to Egypt and Malawi has lasting impact

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent, Ph.D.
Contributing Writer

Bishop Henry Joseph, international bishop for the Fellowship of International Churches (FOIC) and lead pastor of Zion Church, has been ministering cross-culturally since 1999. He returned to Mississippi last Friday after spending one week in Egypt and one week in Malawi, along with three days in Johannesburg. The total time of his journey to these sites and back to Jackson was three weeks.

Accompanied by Cedric Abston, one of Zion Church's members, Joseph was invited to be one of the keynote speakers at the International Leaders and Pastors' Conference which was to be held in Egypt. (This was their first trip to Egypt). Upon their arrival in Egypt, however, they discovered that the Egyptian government had cancelled the conference.

"It appeared that someone complained that Christians were arriving from around the world and reported us to the Intelligence Agency who then strongly prohibited us from the meeting," said Joseph. This astonishment reminded them that Egypt is a pro-Muslim country.

Despite this revelation, Joseph maintained that it is safe for American tourists to travel to Cairo where the ancient



Joseph and Cedric Abston at the Great Pyramids

Joseph and Dr. Lazarus Chakwera, president of the Republic of Malawi



pyramids and other legendary sites are. Acknowledging that the pyramids were "spectacular," he noted that it was dinner on the Nile River that left him "speechless." "After preaching and teaching from the biblical Exodus narrative, being in that place physically was profound. The very place where Moses was found by Pharaoh's

daughter, the river that God turned into blood will forever impact my life. The bible was already real to me – but even more real as I sat there on the Nile River," he explained.

Joseph's trip to Malawi was three-fold. He first congratulated a long-time friend for more than two decades – Dr. Lazarus Chakwera – now the

president of the Republic of Malawi. BiJoseph served as manager for Chakwera's two presidential bids. His second mission – to proclaim God's word – was fulfilled when he preached at African Bible College in Lilongwe, Malawi and at Capital City Baptist Church where he was senior pastor for seven years while he and

his family were missionaries in Malawi from 2004 to 2011. The bishop's third mission was fulfilled as he represented some local businessmen who are seeking opportunities in Africa.

In addition to fulfilling his three-fold mission, Joseph also visited Dzaleka Refugee Camp where he witnessed first-hand

Bishop Joseph preaching at African Bible College in Lilongwe, Malawi



the progress of a church building project that Zion Church and New Horizon International Church (pastored by Bishop Ronnie Crudup Sr.) are sponsoring.

"Malawi is a beautiful country, and the people are extremely kind," said Joseph. He injected that persons who want to experience the Motherland should visit Malawi, "a safe and scenic place."

Joseph concluded that his was an exciting and eventful trip. "It was also exhausting from the strict COVID-19 protocols. I have been tested in various countries a total of five times in two and a half weeks." He mentioned also that he had to go through South Africa on his return flights. Upon arrival, the Omicron variant was made public and flight cancellations began. The Johannesburg Airport was "virtually a ghost town." "Eventually, I was able to get a flight back to Jackson, Miss. via Puerto Rico," said Joseph.

The bishop admits that though he endured his travels, "International travel is not for the faint of heart these days, but if you are willing to persevere, the result will be life-changing experiences."

Bishop Henry Joseph can be emailed @ hjosephiii@gmail.com.

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

Till

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without prosecution, the government does not take the position that the state court testimony the woman gave in 1955 was truthful or accurate,” the Justice Department release said. “There remains considerable doubt as to the credibility of her version of events, which is contradicted by others who were with Till at the time, including the account of a living witness.”

Tyson said in a statement Monday that he gave the FBI information from two interviews he did with Donham. He said those “did not change the prospect of prosecution in this case.”

“But our knowledge of her lying in court does not at all depend on those interviews, as I explain on page six of The Blood of Emmett Till,” he said.

“Since nothing Carolyn Bryant Donham said in our two interviews implicated any living person, including herself, at the time I did not think them particularly newsworthy. The only crime she admitted to me was perjury, and that she had lied was news to no one. The statute of limitations for perjury in Mississippi was two years, so she had been beyond prosecution since the fall of 1957 on that charge,” Tyson said.

Thelma Wright Edwards, one of Till’s cousins, said she was heartbroken but not surprised that no new charges are being brought.

“I have no hate in my heart, but I had hoped that we could get an apology, but that didn’t happen,” Edwards said Monday in Chicago. “Nothing was settled. The case is closed, and we have to go on from here.”

Days after Till was killed, his body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River, where he had been tossed after he was shot and weighted down with a cotton gin fan.

Two white men, Roy Bryant and his half-brother J.W. Milam, were tried on murder charges about a month after Till was killed, but an all-white Mississippi jury acquitted them. Months later, they confessed in a paid interview with *Look* magazine. Bryant was married to Donham in 1955.

The Justice Department in 2004 opened an investigation of Till’s killing after it received inquiries about whether charges could be brought against anyone still living. The department said the statute of limitations had run out on any potential federal crime, but the FBI worked with state investigators to determine if state charges could be brought. In February 2007, a Mississippi grand jury declined to indict anyone, and the Justice Department announced it was closing the case.

Bryant and Milam were not brought to trial again, and they are now both dead. Donham has been living in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The FBI in 2006 began a cold case initiative to investigate racially motivated killings from decades earlier. A federal law named after Till allows a review of killings that had not been solved or prosecuted to the point of a conviction.

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act requires the Justice Department to make an annual report to Congress. No report was filed in 2020, but a report filed in June of this year indicated that the department was still investigating the abduction and killing of Till.

The FBI investigation included a talk with Parker, who previously told the AP in an interview that he heard his cousin whistle at the woman in a store in Money, but that the teen did nothing to warrant being killed.

JSU

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James Houston, Peyton Pickett would score just before the third quarter ended on a 5 yard touchdown run. That would prove to be the final scoring play for both teams.

As the clock displayed all zeros, Tiger Nation was going wild. Coach Prime delivered. The team delivered. SWAC Championship number 17.

Head coach Deion Sanders, was also named the SWAC Coach of the year last week. He marveled at the reaction of the crowd and took a moment to take it all in. Still not able to fully walk without the use of his trusty scooter, he smiled and even seemed to tear up.

Undefeated SWAC football season. Not overall, but undefeated SWAC record. Team record 11-1.

First 11 win season in Jackson State history. However, coach Prime reminded Tiger Nation, there is still one more game left. That game will be December 18, 2021 in Atlanta versus South Carolina State, the MEAC champion.

Peyton Pickett was the offensive MVP and James Houston was the defensive MVP. The defensive MVP probably could’ve been given to Aubrey Miller Jr. who lead the team in tackles with 7.5 with a sack or freshman defensive back, Cam’Rom Silm-on-Craig who caught two interceptions.

Tiger Nation said, I Believe from day one with coach Prime. Now everyone should Believe. Jackson State University Tigers, back on top in the SWAC.



Veterans Memorial Stadium crowded with fans as JSU wins their 17th SWAC championship.
PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

Tribune

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Jones continued.

“*The Tennessee Tribune* is pressing on and still here, and we want it to be that way for a long time.”

A longtime supporter of the *Tribune*, Mayor John Cooper, called Miller-Perry “a force of nature.”

“She began as a pioneer in the industry, and she’s been speaking the truth no matter what,” Mayor Cooper stated. “That’s why, 30 years later, her words speak to our conscious. She advocates passionately for the future of our city, for affordable housing, for HBCUs, for our communities and for us to have a better city.”

The Tribune reaches more than 150,000 readers with its unique perspective on the issues and concerns of African Americans.

The weekly newspaper has become a lifeline for many who desire the unvarnished truth. It also provides a window into the historical life of Miller-Perry.

She joined the U.S. Navy in 1954. Miller-Perry supported the Civil Rights Movement and joined Dr. Martin Luther King in marches from Selma to Washington.

As a federal observer for the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, Miller-Perry arrived in Memphis during the 1968 sanitation workers strike when an assassin’s bullet cut down Dr. King.

She remained in government service until she started *The Tribune* in 1991.

Determined to bring a black perspective and speak truth to power, Miller-Perry remained steadfast in publishing *The Tribune* even after banks repeatedly turned down her loan requests.

“I’ve been in this business for 30 years, and it was tough,” Miller-Perry insisted. “Many times I’ve had to fight with advertisers, and one time, it almost broke me,” she said.

Miller-Perry relayed a story of integrity and activism when Sen. Barack Obama sought the presidency in 2007.

“When Obama ran for office, I was so naïve that I went and got the names of every unregistered black voter in the city of Nashville, and I had the nerve to print those names,” she recalled.

“I had a company that paid us over \$100,000 a year to advertise, and I banked on that [money],” she continued.

“We had to bank on that to print, and they closed me down. [However], when they did that, another company came and paid the same amount. Eventually, the other company came back to us, but it has been a struggle for all black newspapers.”

Miller-Perry said there’s a quintessential lesson all black-owned newspapers must learn.

“We have to struggle together,” she declared. “I’ve never in my life said it’s about me. Everything I’ve done in this city is to help other people. I didn’t open the news store just for me. I’m 87 years old, and if I haven’t made any money, I’m not going to make any now. So we’ve got to be together.”



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WE POWER LIFE®

Crudup: 'Black businesses matter, too!'

WTJ convenes first public Economic Accountability Summit meeting

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

Despite cold temperatures, more than 300 concerned citizens, entrepreneurs and public officials turned out Tuesday evening, Dec. 7, for Working Together Jackson's (WTJ) first public Economic Accountability Summit meeting.

Held at New Horizon Church International (NHCI) on Ellis Ave., the need for the summit developed out of WTJ's "commitment to renewing and rebuilding the civic life of Jackson by crossing the divisions of race, religion, economic status and political ideology," the 25-member diverse organization stated in its press release.

The summit's thematic call is for "Economic Justice

Through the Development of a re-sounding sentiment emerging from the summit was echoed by WTJ President, Bishop Ronnie Crudup, who is also pastor of NHCI. "Black businesses matter, too! Black businesses matter, too!" Crudup chanted repeatedly during his call-to-action remarks on behalf of WTJ.

Prior to Crudup's call to action segment, the summit took great efforts in building the need for the action via an informative, historic, and data-driven presentation on "Black City and Black Business Development" by WTJ members Rev. Horace McMillion, Iris Brown and Rev. Phil Reed (who humorously drew audience laughter by whimsically point out that he was white).

Reed, who with his wife, has lived for decades as "proud residents of West Jackson, Ward 5." "My wife and I are committed to live in the intercity of Jackson. He pointed out that WTJ is a movement that is made up of individuals with different races, ethnicity and political viewpoints. "We have a chance to transform this community" [with the federal funds that are

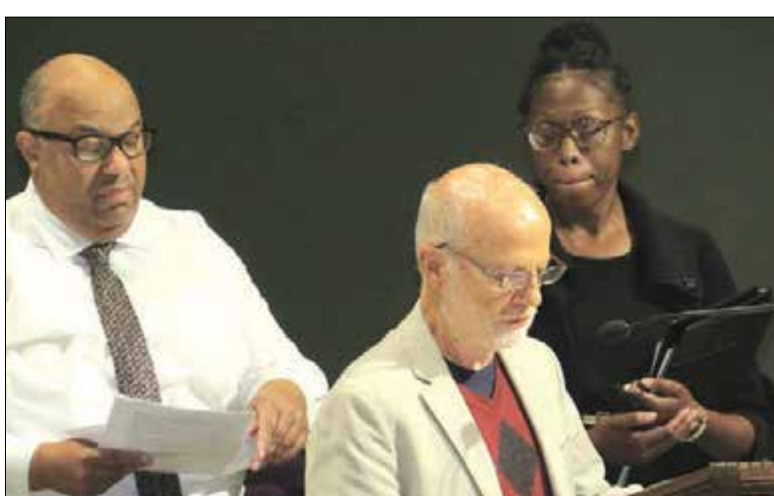


WTJ Co-chairs Bishop Crudup and Pearl Wicks serve as moderators



Mayor Lumumba

PHOTOS BY GAIL BROWN



WTJ members, Rev. Phil Reed (center) Rev. Horace McMillion, and businesswoman Iris Barnes present facts

being made available].

The summit also posed eight (8) questions of commitment and actions to Mayor Chokwe A. Lumumba pertaining to working with WTJ in helping to increase black business contract participation in the city. The mayor, who pointed out that he would consult the legal department on most of them, but he would look at questions like

targeting 55% of professional service contracts with black-owned contractors a priority as "a stated goal."

The mayor was very careful and reluctant to make any public commitment without legal advice.

However, he did answer a firm "Yes" to the following questions which drew audience applause:

Question No. 7: As part of developing a transformative program for black owned businesses, will you instruct your Department of Economic Opportunity to work with WTJ/Economic Accountability Summit to develop a targeted plan to help encourage the creation of major black owned enterprises in the city and present this plan publicly by November of 2022?

Three councilpersons also accompanied the mayor. Crudup pointed out that all the council members could not participate because legally it would have constituted a public meeting of the council.

Councilwoman Angelic Lee of Ward 2, Councilman Brian Grizzell and Councilman Foote all consented that they would work with administration, other local government contracting entities and WTJ/Economic Accountability Summit to create and monitor the progress on the development of this transformative agenda for social and economic justice through targeted black owned business contract.

Lee went as far as publicly calling on two of Jackson's top-tier black business owners Socrates Garrett and Robert Gibbs to help her in Ward 2 build and retain minority businesses through a business incubator that would teach the owners how to compete for RFP's, etc.

Garrett, who said he was instrumental in helping WTJ organize the accountability summit, told *The Mississippi Link* he would call it "a targeting of contracts specifically top-tier businesses, then target those tier-2 businesses in the African-American community." "It would be akin to the apprenticeship program where we would train businesses to develop, help them with bonds, help them grow capacity and capital and show them how to apply for contracts," Garrett added.

Transportation Commissioner Willie Simmons, a former longtime legislative senator, was on the submit agenda to offer a response. However, he told WTJ that he needed to be one of the ones they should hold accountable as well as other officials. Simmons stressed that if everyone would work together, and in essence, hold each other accountable, Jackson has the potential to become the next "Black Wall Street." "We need to learn how to turn dollars over in our community."

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If Roe falls, some fear ripple effect on civil rights cases

By **Lindsay Whitehurst**
Associated Press

If the Supreme Court decides to overturn or gut the decision that legalized abortion, some fear that it could undermine other precedent-setting cases, including civil rights and LGBTQ protections.

Overturning *Roe v. Wade* would have a bigger effect than most cases because it was reaffirmed by a second decision, *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, three decades later, legal scholars and advocates said. The Supreme Court's conservative majority signaled in arguments last week they would allow states to ban abortion much earlier in pregnancy and may even overturn the nationwide right that has existed for nearly 50 years. A decision is expected next summer.

"If a case like *Roe*, which has this double precedent value, is overturned simply because there's a change in the composition of the court, there's really no way that we can have confidence in any of those precedents going forward," said Samuel Spital, director of litigation at the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund.

Anti-abortion advocates and legal scholars, meanwhile, argue that the *Roe* decision was unique, both in its legal reasoning and effects, and so overturning it wouldn't affect other landmark cases.

"In *Roe*, I think you have really just a particularly bad decision," said Erin Hawley, senior appellate counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative legal group. She did not expect a Supreme Court decision against *Roe* to affect landmark cases that legalized same-sex marriage and LGBTQ intimacy.

Other experts disagree. Alison Gash, a professor at the University of Oregon, said *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which made same-sex marriage legal, and *Lawrence v. Texas*, which overturned laws which criminalized same-sex intimate relationships, rest on the same legal precedent.

"Literally the logic that allows for a woman to argue that she has a right to choose that she has a right to choose to have an abortion is the same logic that is used to argue that gay couples have the right to choose and marry the partner of their choice," she said.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh mentioned those two landmark cases for the LGBTQ community during the Supreme Court arguments last week, along with *Brown v. Board of Education*, which ended race-based school separation and *Gideon v. Wainwright*, which said indigent defendants must have representation.

All of those, Kavanaugh said, were cases where the high court overturned precedent. If they had not "the country would be a much different place."

Those cases, though, are distinctly different, said Melissa Murray, a law professor at New York University. By overturning those precedents, the court expanded civil rights for more Americans. Overturning *Roe*, by contrast, would take rights from women.

"We have never had significant overturning of precedent for the purpose of withdrawing rights. It's always worked the other way, to expand rights. Not to withdraw them," she said.

The reference to *Brown v. Board of Education*, meanwhile, was "offensive and dis-

turbing," Spital said. While justices often pose hypotheticals, comparing *Roe* to an 1896 court decision that "facilitated the legal dehumanization of black people" crossed a line, he said.

For anti-abortion advocates, though, the *Roe* decision allows for "the purposeful termination of a human life," as Mississippi Solicitor General Scott Stewart put it during arguments. "Nowhere else does this court recognize the right to end a human life," he said.

A decision in favor of Mississippi wouldn't call into question any of those other civil rights cases, he argued.

The *Obergefell* case that gave LGBTQ people the legal right to marriage would also be safe because thousands of same-sex couples have relied on it to wed, and reliance like that makes courts less likely to make a major change, said Teresa Collett, a University of St. Thomas School of Law and director of its ProLife Center. "In short, I think overruling *Roe* and *Casey* will have zero impact on *Lawrence* and *Obergefell* as binding legal precedent," she wrote in an

email.

At least some conservative attorneys have a different point of view. The lawyer who conceived Texas' strict new abortion ban also suggested that same-sex intimacy and marriage are "court-invented rights" in a brief filed in support of the Mississippi law. Jonathan Mitchell argued for the Supreme Court to not only overturn *Roe* and *Casey*, but to "write an opinion that leaves those decisions hanging by a thread."

"Lawrence and *Obergefell*, while far less hazardous to human life, are as lawless as *Roe*," he wrote.

That line of thinking has some LGBTQ advocates deeply concerned.

Recent landmark precedents "stand on the foundation of cases protecting reproductive justice, like *Casey* and *Roe v. Wade*," said Camilla Taylor, litigation director at Lambda Legal.

The *Obergefell* decision, she said, came after decades of LGBTQ people all over the country coming out, ensuring that millions of people knew they had a gay loved one. By

contrast, abortion is often still considered a private matter between a patient and doctor.

"It is possible for people walking around today to believe that they don't know anyone who's had an abortion," said Taylor, adding that she herself had an abortion at age 40. The pregnancy would have been medically risky, and more importantly for her, she didn't have the resources to care for a third child. "Coming out played a big role in securing civil rights for LGBTQ people ... that's the only way we can achieve an acknowledgement that the people who get abortions are humans, equally human, with lives and dreams that deserve some modicum of respect."

Sarah Warbelow, legal director with the Human Rights Campaign, said she doesn't necessarily see a direct effect on LGBTQ cases from a *Roe* decision. But after a "historically bad state legislative session" for LGBTQ rights it could "encourage state lawmakers that are pandering to the base to test the limits of court-recognized LGBTQ equality."

Federal judge: Mississippi eviction law unconstitutional

By **Leah Willingham**
Associated Press/Report for America

A federal judge has declared that a Mississippi law allowing landlords to seize tenants' belongings during the eviction process is unconstitutional.

In his Tuesday order, U.S. District Judge Michael P. Mills called the Mississippi law "unpredictable and absurd" and said it goes farther than eviction statutes in any other state in the U.S.

Under current law, "Mississippi tenants who overstay their lease may be confronted with the loss of virtually everything they own, even cherished belongings such as family photos and diplomas which have no discernable economic value to the lessor," Mills wrote.

Mills was tasked with reviewing Mississippi's law after Columbus resident Samantha Conner filed a lawsuit against an apartment rental company, the apartment's owner and manager and the Lowndes County constable last year. She was aided by a low-income housing clinic at the University of Mississippi School of Law.

When she was evicted in 2019, Conner said, her landlord changed the locks on her apartment and refused to let her take any of her belongings inside. Those belongings included her computer and hard drive needed for her work as a paralegal, keepsakes from when her son was a baby, family photographs and personal records.

Many of her personal items were later discarded by her landlord.

"In the court's view, it can only be regarded as an act of pure mean-spiritedness and spite that Casteel deemed it preferable to throw plaintiff's cherished personal items in a dumpster rather than allow her to keep them or return them to her," Mills wrote in his order.

Mills said these mean-spirited actions were "encouraged by Mississippi eviction statutes, which engage in the legal fiction that a plaintiff who fails to timely vacate her apartment, as required by an eviction order, has irrevocably 'abandoned' her property."

That's the case even if a person is present in the property at the time of the eviction and "makes it clear that she is prepared to leave, but wishes to do so with her property," Mills wrote.

Other states deal with this differently. In West Virginia, for example, for the personal property of an overstaying tenant to be deemed "abandoned," the landlord must receive a statement from the tenant in writing to that effect.

The West Virginia statute further provides that any property seized by the landlord must be removed and stored at the tenant's expense. The landlord may only dispose of the items after 30 days, if the tenant has not taken possession of the items or paid the landlord

for their storage.

Mills' order will be stayed pending an appeal. Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch's Chief of Staff Michelle Williams said Friday that the office was reviewing the order and evaluating its next steps. The Legislature will have a chance to review the law during its session, which starts in January.

In a statement Friday, Mississippi Center for Justice spokesperson Patrick Taylor called the state's eviction laws "oppressive."

"Mississippi landlords enjoy a lightning-quick eviction process that is unimpeded by considerations of tenant rights or the hardships that can be visited upon tenants by depriving them of their homes and personal property," he said. "Mississippi's eviction process, at every step, favors expediency over protection of the rights of tenants."

Taylor said the center views the ruling as "an opportunity for the Mississippi legislature to fix our eviction laws and craft an eviction process that is fair and passes constitutional muster."

Leah Willingham is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on under-covered issues.



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Junior League of Jackson donates to Partners in Education for JPS scholars



Partners in Education and Junior League of Jackson

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Junior League of Jackson has donated uniform bottoms to Partners in Education for JPS scholars in need. The Pile O' Pants initiative generated a donation of over 900 pairs of uniform pants.

The donation ceremony was held December 3, 2021, at Morrison

Academic Advancement Center where Partners in Education (PIE) is headquartered.

"Any family who has a scholar in need of uniforms can request them through their school," said Thea Faulkner, director of PIE. "We have a form that the school fills out that indicates the size that

the child wears. We pack them and send them to the school, or the family can pick them up."

Some parents cannot find uniforms for their scholars due to supply chain issues and inflation from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Jackson Public Schools has a fully-stocked clothes closet of uniforms

for students who are in need thanks to donations from organizations like The Junior League of Jackson.

The Junior League of Jackson's purpose is to improve the lives in our community by working with community partners to deliver services and assistance to those in need.



Junior League of Jackson



Thea Faulkner, PIE director

Black man banned by Miss. University

The Associated Press

Some University of Southern Mississippi students are working on a project to document the story of a black man who was barred from attending the university in the 1950s.



Clyde was denied entry between 1955 and 1959 and later died after inadequate medical treatment while serving prison time for crimes he did not commit, philosophy professor Samuel Bruton said in a news release from the university.

Bruton is teaching the philosophy of law class that is exploring Kennard's case. He said it gives students a chance to see how the legal process can be corrupted and distorted.

Students have been taking documents related to Kennard's case and making them accessible in a centralized, accessible digital humanities site. Students researched materials from the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission, transcribed previously recorded interviews and conducted oral histories with people who figured prominently in Kennard's story.

Cynthia Myles, one of Bruton's students, said it has been a learning experience.

"Being able to go and conduct oral history interviews is like you are literally speaking to history," Myles said.

Bruton underscored the importance of remembering and honoring Kennard's story.

"It is a clear example of racial injustice," Bruton said. "It is a potent reminder of unconscionable behavior that occurred not so long ago, right here in Hattiesburg and USM."

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Black men die of prostate cancer at double the rate of all other races

Virginia insurer under fire for refusing coverage of treatment despite law

By Hazel Trice Edney
TriceEdneyWire.com

Benjamin J. Lambert IV, a member of one of the most prominent black families in Virginia's public service history, lost his battle to prostate cancer June 3, 2019. He was only 52. His father, Virginia Senator Benjamin J. Lambert III, his grandfather, and four uncles also all died of prostate cancer, according to Lambert family members.

The Lamberts are just seven examples of the thousands of black men per year – from every socio-economic walk of life and every part of the U. S. – who are disparately diagnosed with prostate cancer. Not only is the rate of prostate cancer among black men higher than whites, but the chances of black men dying from it are more than double that of white men and men of other races, according to the National Cancer Institute.

But doctors and medical administrators across the nation believe these grossly disparate numbers can be minimized or at least equalized by one form of cancer therapy that top-level cancer doctors and researchers say could pivot the death disparities.

The therapy, called Proton Beam, specializes in zapping cancer cells with laser focused radiation without damaging surrounding non-cancerous tissues. Some of the top medical universities across the nation have proton beam centers; including Harvard, MD Anderson, the Mayo Clinic and Johns Hopkins.

This is the reason that a list of insurance agencies are currently under fire by cancer advocates across the nation for refusing to cover the cost of proton beam therapy. For example, even after the Virginia General Assembly passed a bipartisan bill, that encourages insurers such as Anthem, Aetna, Cigna and Humana, to stop labeling the FDA-approved treatment as experimental, Anthem is still under fire for what is deemed as unfair decisions that, in some instances, are believed to have led to deaths.

In doing so, the insurers have been covering the other forms of treatment by radiation mainly because of the lower costs, reported Jeremy Lazarus for the *Richmond Free Press* as the bill passed through the General Assembly during its spring legislative session of 2017.

The *Free Press* article quoted Anthem spokesman Scott Golden as saying Anthem stopped covering the therapy after finding “no clear scientific evidence that proton beam treatment for localized prostate cancer is equal to oth-



Benjamin J. Lambert IV, 52, died after being turned down for prostate cancer therapy that the NIH says is too often denied to black men.

er forms of conventional photon radiation therapy.”

But that was before Virginia's General Assembly passed the law prohibiting insurers from holding proton therapy to a higher standard in comparison to other therapies. Although the law does not mandate coverage for any specific case, according to Virginia's Legislative Information System, the law “Prohibits health insurance policies and plans from holding proton radiation therapy to a higher standard of clinical evidence for benefit coverage decisions than is applied for other types of radiation therapy treatment. The measure applies to policies and plans that provide coverage for cancer therapy.”

The Virginia Legislature's move to make law concerning the issue was mainly because the refusal to cover Proton therapy has baffled cancer experts and advocates alike.

“Proton therapy is a medically necessary, FDA-cleared treatment for cancer patients,” says a report by the D.C.-based Alliance for Proton Therapy Access (APTA).

“For many cancer patients, proton therapy is prescribed by their physician and is the optimal and most effective treatment option. Studies have shown that proton therapy can help increase survival, reduce the risk of secondary cancers, result in fewer acute and long-term conditions as well as debilitating short-term side effects and improve quality of life for individuals undergoing cancer treatment,” states the APTA report titled, “Cancer Care Denied: The Broken

State of Patient Access to Proton Therapy.”

Daniel E. Smith, executive director of the APTA, says the coverage denials are often shocking and have led to death.

“It's inconceivable that an insurer would play games with a disease like cancer, where a diagnosis can be a matter of life or death. Cancer patients wait days, weeks, or even months for an opaque appeal process to play out while their cancer and anxiety grow – they must either start treatment without their insurer's approval and no guarantee of payment, continue waiting, or opt for a cancer treatment that is less effective or poses higher health risks. We can no longer tolerate a process that endangers the lives of cancer patients who don't have time on their side,” Smith said in a statement to the *Trice Edney News Wire*.

“Our report shows that private insurers deny proton therapy six out of 10 times for patients aged 18-64. While improper denials are reversed a third of the time, appeals take an average of five weeks; and that's time cancer patients do not have when fighting an aggressive disease.”

The Lambert family pleaded for what they believed could be the life-saving treatments for Benjamin IV.

“I am writing this letter to you, our elected officials in the Commonwealth, in order to solicit your help to save the life of my son,” wrote his mother, Carolyn Lambert, to Republican Sen. Frank W. Wagner and Democratic Sen.

Richard Saslaw on Feb. 10, 2017, nearly two years before his death. Our medical team in Arizona has recommended that Benjamin's best chance at life is with proton therapy. Fortunately for us, there is a proton facility just an hour away from our state capitol at Hampton University.”

Even after the bill passed, Anthem continued to deny the coverage, ultimately forcing the Lambert family to shoulder the cost of the therapy. But by then, it was too late. Benjamin IV's widow, a nurse and mother of his two children, believes he would have lived had Anthem initially covered the treatment.

Meanwhile, the *Free Press* article reported that “advocates note that the same insurers that refuse to cover treatment in Virginia are willing to provide coverage for patients that travel to proton therapy centers in other states.”

This apparent discriminate behavior has drawn the ire of Bill Thomas, associate vice president for governmental relations at Hampton University, which has an 11-year-old Proton Beam Center that costed \$225 million. Thomas has led the fight in Virginia against the apparently racially discriminate coverage.

“Proton beam is just a therapy. But it's the best therapy in the world because all the top cancer centers in America have proton beam. There's nobody arguing with Harvard about this. There's nobody arguing with Johns Hopkins about this. There's nobody arguing with MP Anderson about this. They're arguing with a black

school,” Thomas said in an interview. “The medical efficacy has been proven. The General Assembly took us through a four-year drama of even approving this law, so, all the issues have been discussed, adjudicated and denied and that's why they came up with the law. All we're interested in is for the attorney general for the Commonwealth of Virginia to make Anthem obey Virginia law. It has nothing to do with anything else...Anthem – against Virginia law – did not pay for his insurance coverage,” said Thomas, referring to Lambert's case.

Thomas continued, “They originally were turning people down point blank, saying that proton therapy was investigational and experimental. That's a lie. It's FDA approved. Now let me put that in context. That's how we got the law passed because the insurance companies were lying.”

Thomas' view is that with black men dying from prostate cancer at twice the rate of whites and others, insurers who go out of their way to deny the prostate treatment at Hampton are considered suspect. About 30 percent of the patients there are black men, Thomas says.

Besides that, Petersburg, Va., which is 79 percent black and less than a hundred miles from Hampton, has the highest death rate of black men from prostate cancer in the U. S., according to an article reported earlier this year by the Massey Cancer Center at Virginia Commonwealth University. The statistic was a quote from Luisel Ricks-Santi, di-

rector of the Hampton University Cancer Research Center.

Whether or not insurers are intentionally discriminating in their decisions about what or who they cover, their conduct is being monitored and documented by the U. S. government, particularly the National Institute of Health (NIH), which has designated Hampton University as a center of excellence for biomedical research.

“Not surprisingly, racial biases continue to impact such decisions, with reports showing that historically, black men undergo less aggressive treatment and more watchful waiting (WW), even after adjusting for socioeconomic status,” states an NIH study. “Within the context of high-risk disease, numerous studies have shown a clear racial variation in the primary treatment of prostate cancer, including more use of WW and lower use of radical prostatectomy (RP) among minorities compared to their white counterparts.”

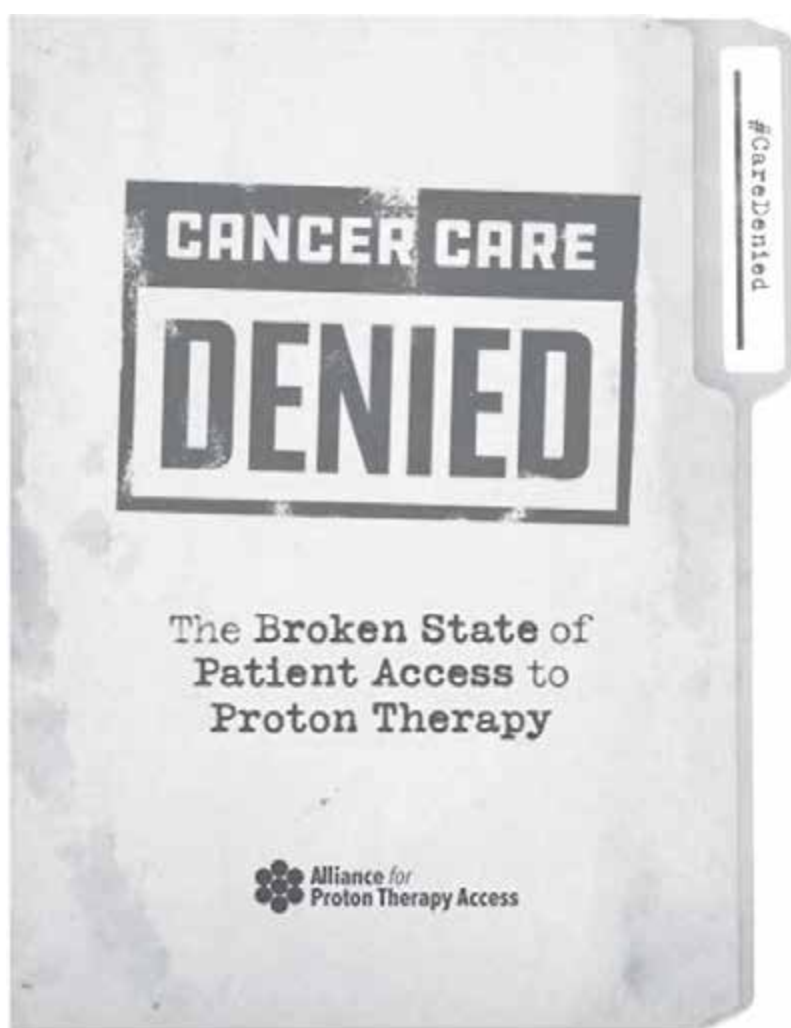
For many of the families and loved ones of prostate cancer patients left behind, there is no need for proof.

“I think that if proton therapy were an option, I think he would still be here,” said Mary Lambert, the widow of Benjamin Lambert IV, in an interview. “We appealed it. We had doctors write letters, we saw different specialists, and they flat out refused. We went to the insurance after it was passed into state law in the state of Virginia and Terry McAuliffe who was governor at the time and he signed an emergency deal to make it law immediately, stating that proton therapy could be held at a higher standard than photon therapy. And they are still refusing to adhere to the letter of the law.”

Their children, a son and daughter who were ages 9 and 12 respectively when Lambert died, are now in middle and high school.

“I think he would still be here living a full life and contributing to his community and society as a whole,” Mary Lambert said. “At this point, I am just so beat up. I think this is ultimately their goal when they do this stuff. You know, they want you to just accept what they say and go away.”

Smith, of the Alliance for Proton Therapy Access, agrees: “We have worked with far too many cancer survivors who waited days, weeks, or even months, for a broken review and appeals process to play out while their cancer and anxiety grew. It's time to hold insurers accountable for providing fair, timely and transparent access to cancer treatment.”





Lay aside every weight

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



What a friend we have in Jesus! The songwriter could not think of an adjective that would adequately describe his friend, so he said, “What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.”

We can talk to God anytime. The line is never busy. Instead of getting angry about

something, we can talk to the Lord about it. Instead of saying what we will do to someone, we can talk to the Lord about it. We can talk to God anytime.

Doing things God’s way will put us into Heaven. If we miss Heaven, we will have to stay in hell throughout eternity. That is too long to suffer. If that should happen, we will be thinking about where we could have been and despising where we are now.

Nothing on God’s green earth is worth losing our soul. No matter what someone does to us and no matter what Satan offers us, we need to go God’s way. Christian friend, we need to stay with the Lord.

It may seem tough at times, but the Lord will always make a way for us. In some cases, He has already made the way, but we have not accepted it.

I thank God for saving me from a miserable life of sin. I was wretched and undone, without hope and without God on my side, but God saw fit to save me. As one songwriter said, “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!”

It is no secret what God can do. What He has done for others, He will do for us. The Gospel is good news. We do not have to continue to live in sin. That is news that we can use. Jesus said in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world,

that He gave his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

We read in Hebrews 12:1, “Wherefore seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” It is worth it to look to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

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 Give your best

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



During the holidays, it’s almost inevitable that one person, mistakenly or on purpose, will remind you of just how awful your situation (job loss, financial strain, weight loss/gain, relationship problems) is. I admit that it is hard for me not to reply with comments just as rude when people say something mean-spirited. You may love God but at that point, you ain’t thinking about turning the other cheek like Matthew 5:39 says. So, what do you do? 1 Peter 4:11-12 reminds us that love covers a multitude of sins and that we should strive to show compassion to others. It’s not always easy, but showing compassion works because rather than focusing on changing the other person (the usual response), if you let it, it changes you.

It also seems like the holiday hustle and bustle can bring out the best and worst in people. In the past, it always amazed me how Black Friday shoppers ended up fighting to get what they wanted. This year, it seems like there are more and more stories about people fighting on airplanes. Yet there was no mention of Jesus in the tv news stories that I saw. Christmas is the only birthday that I can think of where people give themselves and others gifts and forget to get the real “birthday” honoree a present.

If you had a chance to give Jesus a gift this Christmas, what would it be? It is easy to say,

“Happy Birthday, Jesus” but what gift are you going to give him this year? Are you going to give him the same ungrateful attitude that asks for more without acknowledging what he’s already done?

I heard the question of what to give Jesus posed more than once recently. Giving him your life is always a good gift. If you’ve already given him that, here are a few other suggestions.

Now that you’ve made him savior, let him be Lord over your life.

Give him a pure heart that is open to his wishes and his will.

Give him honest words that speak the truth in love as we would want others to speak to us.

Give him a fervent commitment to live with integrity regardless of the circumstances.

Unlike people that we work with who we don’t like that we get gifts for, you can’t pick up a last-minute gift at Dollar General with the attitude that Jesus should be glad I’m getting him something. Also, you can’t really get him a gift card that allows him to purchase what he wants from the store of his choice.

Others may want the perfect gift...Jesus just wants the gift that’s willing to be perfected. Make the right choice this year and next year: completely give yourself to him.

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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Jackson State emerges 2021/22 SWAC Champions

Tigers head for Celebration Bowl

By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob
Contributing Writer



After defeating their rival Prairie View 21-10, Jackson State University Tigers look forward to the Celebration Bowl scheduled for December 18 in Atlanta, Georgia. It will be a splendid contest. The Tigers will lock horns with North Carolina State for the trophy.

Over the last six years, Alcorn State University Braves dominated the SWAC conference but lost the celebration bowls.

Jackson State enters the arena this time with a new coach, Deion Sanders, talented players, along with motivated and generous fans. Sander's leadership and input in Jackson's team is almost magical and magnificent. He turned the Jackson State Tigers from losers to winners in one year.

The battle, therefore, is between two enthusiastic and skillful teams – North Carolina and Jackson State. Whoever wins, captures the SWAC championship trophy.

Any of the teams can emerge victorious. They have good offenses, defenses and special teams. Moreover, their morals are high and they are preparing to capture the cup.

What may matter most, are technicalities such as the kicking game, fumbles, sacks, un-

ruly behavior or unwarranted indiscipline. The winner therefore might turn out to be the side that pays attention to those details. Whatever the case, a new champion will emerge.

Congratulations to SWAC officials, schools, players, referees and all those who ensure its success. This is marvelous.

As the two teams train for the big 2021 Atlanta event, they need backing. We wish both sides resounding success and luck in their championship quest.

Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob, a graduate of E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University-Athens, Ohio is a Professor of Mass Communication, Alcorn State University, Lorman-Mississippi. A journalist, photographer, poet and researcher, he is currently working on two projects. His latest publications are Communication, Culture & Human Rights and Positive Vibration. Domatob earned his Master's degrees in International Affairs and Journalism from Carleton University, Ottawa Canada. An author, he also writes and edits works and articles for newspapers, magazines and other publications. He has taught in reputed schools, travelled extensively in different parts of the world, met outstanding leaders and scholars and participated in several conferences and workshops. Contact him at: domatobj@gmail.com.

COVID 19, Delta variant and vaccines

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



While a great deal of attention is being focused on the Omicron variant of the COVID virus, the number of deaths and positive tests have been increasing at a rapid rate. We now have 74,209 deaths in the State of California, with 3.6 million cases and 55 deaths daily. This means that we must stop acting as though the pandemic is over. It is not.

We still have a large number of African Americans who refuse to take the vaccine. Those of you in this group, for reasons other than already compromised immune systems, should be reminded that while you might escape being infected by the virus, you can still transmit it to others and in some cases even cause the death of a family member or loved one.

The good news here in San Diego County is that while our

positive test rate is up, so is the number of people showing up for the vaccine at the designated sites here in Southeastern San Diego.

If you are not taking the vaccine then, at the very least, wear a mask and practice the social distancing outlined before the vaccine became available.

The sad truth is that more people have died in 2021 with the availability of the vaccine than in all of 2020 before the vaccine became available. The second sad truth is that here in San Diego County, according to data soon to be released, African Americans and conservative whites are the two groups that remain strongly against the vaccine, unless someone close, such as a family member, convinces them otherwise.

Let's skip the rumors and social media lies, take the vaccine, and live; just as you took all the other vaccines you have had, without objections. We are approaching 800,000 deaths in America. We can change this, in spite of the variants.

How will the Omicron variant affect our holiday season?

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



COVID-19 will be here, maybe always. There is not a time at least in the near future that we will be rid of this disease.

For almost two years, the world has been fighting with the Coronavirus. It has been a part of our daily existence in the public square.

The holiday season is upon us. Black Friday and Cyber Monday have come and gone. Cash and credit cards have been flowing so that everyone gets a gift. Television commercials entice us to spend in stores and online.

While we are spending money in a flash, the Coronavirus is creating havoc for us and our loved ones.

Some of us thought that the Coronavirus would leave us because of the vaccine. We were wrong. The tea leaves we thought were right turned out to be wrong.

Last week, another variant of this life altering illness was discovered. According to reports, the first case of the Omicron variant was in South Africa.

The original response from America's healthcare experts was not to worry. Unfortunately, we have heard various iterations of this response before this current outbreak.

Each time, our hopes for a quick cure were dashed in the past. Now, we have been in booster shot mode for a while now.

The Omicron variant is now in at least 12 states. You can be assured that the proliferation of this variant will be widespread. If you think otherwise, you are unwise.

Many people think we are starting over again with treatments and prevention.

U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy said a few days ago that the country is not back to "square one."

He said, "We've been at this for 22 months as a country and the prospect of another variant I know can be

exhausting and frustrating to many people out there. And I get that. What I want to say though to everyone is that we are not back in March 2020. We are not at the beginning of this pandemic."

He added, "What we do know is that if people use the tools that we have that you can actually gather with much, much less risk."

Well, I believe many of us agree with him yet there is still fear and trepidation. We are taking the necessary precautions. These protocols have been used since the beginning of COVID-19.

The Delta variant saw us use both the vaccine and the booster. It is my opinion that the booster shot will become a permanent tool in our remedy box.

The Omicron variant is now officially in my opinion another health hazard. We must guard against it spreading.

Reports say California had the first case of the Omicron variant. The person had been

in South Africa and traveled to the San Francisco area.

At this point, we know the person is between 18 years of age and 49 years of age and had been fully vaccinated. They were not eligible yet for the booster shot.

Could this booster shot have made a difference? That is a good question and may be answered in the coming days. If the answer is yes, then you will see lines forming for people wanting the booster shot. While some may disagree, I believe we will be taking a booster COVID-19 shot yearly. It will become like the yearly flu shot.

All of this is happening when Americans are traveling the most of any time during the year. I would not be surprised if more stringent travel regulations come out in the coming weeks. So be on the lookout for them.

We are in the early stages of the Omicron variant. We will have to wait and see what happens.

Stay safe and get vaccinated.

Let's help those leaving prison re-enter society

By Steven Randle
Justice and Work for Empower MS



Each year, about 8,000 men and women leave prison in Mississippi. But with very little streamlined assistance currently available and unnecessary government roadblocks to work, a large percentage of those ex-offenders will be back in prison within a couple of years, continuing to put a strain on state budgets, families and the economy.

Danny and Christy Austin are two Mississippians who could have been one of those statistics. The couple had struggled with addiction through much of their adult lives.

In his mid-20s, Danny found himself using drugs and stealing. He was also involved in gangs.

"I smoked weed for a long time and started doing hard drugs with the gangs," he said. "The very first time I ever used meth, I injected it. I lost my mind with it."

Christy was a functioning addict who eventually lost her children and her job.

"Living a life that was hard and fast is an understatement for me," Christy said.

She was arrested for felo-

ny possession of meth and dismissed from the nursing program where she was enrolled.

"Everything was falling apart," she said.

On the surface, their story isn't much different from many others serving time in prison. But after several run-ins with the law, the couple found redemption and a new path through a local organization.

But many leaving prison aren't that lucky. They often don't have a family or house to walk right into. If anything, the life they know is the life they had that led them to prison in the first place. We know they will need directions to employment, housing, substance abuse counseling, family restoration guidance, mental health services and faith-based growth.

A 2021 report from the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Committee highlighted a recidivism rate exceeding 30% within the first 36 months of release.

This means that these men and women are returning to prison after committing a new crime or failing to comply with their release's specific terms. Failed reintegration

has the economic costs of court proceedings, inmate processing and housing, but also the social costs of more victims, further destruction of families, and the image of the decline of public safety.

Several entities in Mississippi provide transitional beds, job and skills training, family counseling and parenting classes, and the list goes on. These various organizations, like Living Free Ministries, are doing great work in pockets of the state.

But if you are not internet savvy or do not have the means to scour Google for 16 pages of information that may or may not be relative to your specific problem, then what are you supposed to do.

Through technology, we could narrow that search. We can bring together a hub of information that these men and women could go to that provides an exhaustive list of services, jobs and housing available in their specific geographic area that they could choose from depending on individual needs.

Finding a job is one of the critical factors in determining if a person leaving prison will run into new problems with the law. Ranking 50th in the nation with a labor force participation rate of 55.9 per-

cent, Mississippi could most assuredly benefit from connecting willing and ready individuals in quality jobs. That was true long before the labor shortages of the past year.

Unnecessary barriers to work exacerbate that problem. About a quarter of middle-income jobs that don't require a college education in Mississippi require an occupational license before you can work. But even if you spend the time and money to acquire that license, licensing boards may still deny an application if you have a criminal record. Whether or not it has anything to do with the job you are seeking.

We understand this may be applicable in some instances, but a blanket ban serves no functional purpose. The state could put more people to work and reduce recidivism, with a Fresh Start Act covering all occupations.

The legislature has begun digging into this issue. That is a good thing. Let's help more people have the happy ending of Danny and Christy.

Steven Randle is the director of Justice and Work for Empower Mississippi. E-mail him at steven@empowerms.org.

LEGAL

CITY OF JACKSON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT
PROCESSES FOR PROMOTION TO DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF

Notice is hereby given that the City of Jackson, Mississippi (hereinafter "City"), will receive sealed proposals for the Development, Administration and Management of Testing and Assessment Processes for Promotion to District Fire Chief, at the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 219 South President Street in Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017 or P. O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017 until 3:30 p.m. central standard time, Tuesday, January 4th, 2022.

Copies of the Specifications and Proposal Form for the Development and Management of Testing and Assessment Processes for Promotion to District Fire Chief are on file in the Office of the Director of Human Resources, 1000 Metrocenter, Suite 102, Jackson, Mississippi, 39209, and copies will be provided upon request. All proposals must be submitted to the Municipal Clerk no later than 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 4th, 2022 in a sealed envelope, addressed as follows:

For Delivery: City of Jackson
Municipal Clerk
City Hall
219 S. President Street
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

For Mailing: City of Jackson
Municipal Clerk
P.O. Box 17
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

All proposals must be delivered or mailed in a sealed envelope (mailed proposals must be contained in a sealed envelope inside the mailing envelope) and labeled in the lower left corner as follows:

SEALED PROPOSALS FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT PROCESSES FOR PROMOTION
TO DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF TO BE RECEIVED AND OPENED AT CITY HALL
3:30 P.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 4TH, 2022.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all such proposals.

12/9/2021

LEGAL

CITY OF JACKSON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT
PROCESSES FOR PROMOTION
TO FIRE LIEUTENANT/ DRIVER OPERATOR

Notice is hereby given that the City of Jackson, Mississippi (hereinafter "City"), will receive sealed proposals for the Development, Administration and Management of Testing and Assessment Processes for Promotion to Fire Lieutenant/Driver Operator, at the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 219 South President Street in Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017 or P. O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017 until 3:30 p.m. central standard time, Tuesday, January 4th, 2022.

Copies of the Specifications and Proposal Form for the Development and Management of Testing and Assessment Processes for Promotion to Fire Lieutenant/Driver Operator are on file in the Office of the Department of Human Resources, 1000 Metrocenter, Suite 102, Jackson, Mississippi, 39209, and copies will be provided upon request. All proposals must be submitted to the Municipal Clerk no later than 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 4th, 2022 in a sealed envelope, addressed as follows:

For Delivery: City of Jackson
Municipal Clerk
City Hall
219 S. President Street
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

For Mailing: City of Jackson
Municipal Clerk
P.O. Box 17
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

All proposals must be delivered or mailed in a sealed envelope (mailed proposals must be contained in a sealed envelope inside the mailing envelope) and labeled in the lower left corner as follows:

SEALED PROPOSALS FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT PROCESSES FOR PROMOTION
TO FIRE LIEUTENANT/ DRIVER OPERATOR
TO BE RECEIVED AND OPENED AT CITY HALL
3:30 P.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 4TH, 2022.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all such proposals.

12/9/2021

LEGAL

CITY OF JACKSON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT
PROCESSES FOR PROMOTION TO FIRE CAPTAIN

Notice is hereby given that the City of Jackson, Mississippi (hereinafter "City"), will receive sealed proposals for the Development, Administration and Management of Testing and Assessment Processes for Promotion to Fire Captain, at the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 219 South President Street in Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017 or P. O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017 until 3:30 p.m. central standard time, Tuesday January 4th, 2022.

Copies of the Specifications and Proposal Form for the Development and Management of Testing and Assessment Processes for Promotion to Fire Captain are on file in the Office of the Director of Human Resources, 1000 Metrocenter, Suite 102, Jackson, Mississippi, 39209, and copies will be provided upon request. All proposals must be submitted to the Municipal Clerk no later than 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 4th, 2022 a sealed envelope, addressed as follows:

For Delivery: City of Jackson
Municipal Clerk
City Hall
219 S. President Street
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

For Mailing: City of Jackson
Municipal Clerk
P.O. Box 17
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

All proposals must be delivered or mailed in a sealed envelope (mailed proposals must be contained in a sealed envelope inside the mailing envelope) and labeled in the lower left corner as follows:

SEALED PROPOSALS FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT PROCESSES FOR PROMOTION
TO FIRE CAPTAIN TO BE RECEIVED AND OPENED AT CITY HALL
3:30 P.M., Tuesday, January 4th, 2022.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all such proposals.

12/9/2021

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
SIGN VARIANCE FOR REIMAGINE PREP

THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SIGN VARIANCE FOR REIMAGINE PREP TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE CITY HALL BUILDING, 219 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MS, 39201. INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. PLEASE CONTACT THE SIGNS & LICENSE DIVISION (601) 960-1154 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

12/9/2021

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPEAL FOR A USE PERMIT
ZONING CASE NO. 4146

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Mohammed Alqadhi has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to operate a tobacco paraphernalia retail business within a C-2 (Limited) Commercial District on property located at 5610 Old Canton Rd., in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Tract 1
Being situated in the Southeast ¼ of Section 7 and in the Southwest ¼ of Section 8, all in Township 6 North, Range 2 East, City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows, to-wit:

Commence at the northwest corner of Lot of Block "A" of Imperial Acres, a subdivision, the map or plat of which is recorded in Plat Book 14 at Page 31 of the Chancery Records of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, said northwest corner being the POINT OF BEGINNING for the parcel herein described; thence North 460 21' 02" East for a distance of 72.22 feet along the southeastern right of way line of Old Canton Road; thence leave southeastern right of way line and run North 890 28' 02" East for a distance of 119.92 feet; thence North 430 32' 53" East for a distance of 79.74 feet; thence North 000 31' 58" West for a distance of 67.72 feet; thence South 890 28' 02" West for a distance of 45.25 feet to the said southeastern right of way line of Old Canton Road; thence North 450 26' 45" East for a distance of 192.52 feet along the said southeastern right of way line; thence South 440 20' 58" East for a distance of 8.79 feet along a right of way offset; thence North 450 34' 02" East for a distance of 48.30 feet along the said southeast right of way line; thence leave said southeastern right of way line of Old Canton Road and run South 480 40' 58" East for a distance of 125.00 feet; thence North 450 34' 02" East for a distance of 125.00 feet to the southwestern right of way line of Parkway Drive; thence South 480 40' 58" East for a distance of 151.68 feet along the said southwestern right of way line; thence run 246.94 feet along the arc of a 985.40 foot curve to the left along the said southwestern right of way line, said arc having a 246.29 foot chord which bears South 550 51' 58" East; thence South 620 52' 58" East for a distance of 99.84 feet along the said southwestern right of way line of Parkway Drive to the northern right of way line of Imperial Drive; thence leave said southwestern right of way line of Parkway Drive and run South 400 57' 02" West for a distance of 137.09 feet along the said northern right of way line; thence run 250.58 feet along the arc of a 294.30 foot curve to the right along the said northern right of way line, said arc having a 243.08 foot chord which South 650 20' 32" West; thence South 890 44' 02" West for a distance of 91.89 feet along the said northern right of way line to the southeast corner of Lot 7 of the said Block "A" of Imperial Acres; thence leave said northern right of way line of Imperial Drive and run North 000 27' 46" West for a distance of 150.00 feet along the eastern line of the said Lot 7 to the northeast corner thereof; thence South 890 32' 14" West for a distance of 545.00 feet along the northern line of the said Block "A" of Imperial Acres to POINT OF Beginning, containing 4.9704 acres, more or less.

Tract 2
Ten foot (10') sewer line easement recorded in Book 5706 at Page 782 in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi.

Said application was heard by the City Planning Board on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 with a recommendation to deny. The applicant has filed an Appeal of the recommendation of the Planning Board. The Case will be heard at the City Council's Zoning Meeting in the Council Chambers, First Floor, City Hall, 219 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 2:30 p.m., on Monday, December 15, 2021.

WITNESS my signature this 29th day of November 2021.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth
Zoning Administrator
City of Jackson, Mississippi

12/2/2021, 12/9/2021

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING
ZONING CASE NO. 4153

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that C & L Real Estate Holdings, LLC has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-1 (Single-family) Residential District & C-1 (Restricted) Commercial District to C-1A (Restricted) Commercial with a Use Permit to allow for the operation of a neighborhood restaurant for property located at 4728 Clinton Blvd. (Parcel: 636-23), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

BEG INTD N/L CLINTON BLVD & E/L COLEBROOK AVE N 231 FT E/LY 366.6 FT S 90 FT W/LY 78.7 FT S 185 FT WLY 207.45 FT TO POB PT SW ¼ SEC 25 T6N R1W (Hinds County tax parcel #636-23, located at 4728 Clinton Blvd), First Judicial District, Hinds County, Mississippi.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO DECEMBER 8, 2021.

WITNESS my signature this 16th day of November 2021.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth
Zoning Administrator
City of Jackson, Mississippi

11/25/2021 12/9/2021

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

88598-122121 – 24- Month Supply of Swimming Pool Purification Chemicals

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV, WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM

The above must comply with the City's specifications. Copies of proposal forms can be obtained from the Purchasing Division, 200 South President Street, Room 604, Hood Building, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Register of bid specifications are filed with the City Clerk for public record in accordance with House Bill No 999, 1999 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in Public Purchasing. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with each bid submission, in accordance with the provisions set forth by the authority of the City of Jackson's EBO Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's EBO Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offer, from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City's EBO Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (601)960-1638. Copies of the EBO Ordinance, EBO Plan Application, and a copy of the EBO Program are available with the Office of Economic Development at 218 South President Street, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The City also reserves the right to waive any and all informalities in respect to any bid submitted. Bid awards will be made to the lowest and best bidder quoting the lowest net price in accordance with specifications. The award could be according to the lowest cost per item, or to the lowest total cost for all items, or to accept all or part of any proposal. Delivery time may be considered when evaluating the bid proposal. In those cases where it is known prior to advertising that the City's intention is to award according to the lowest total cost for all items, or in some variation thereof, statements to this effect will be included on the proposal form. The absence of such statement means the City will make that determination during the bid review.

Destiney Williams, Manager
Purchasing Division
(601) 960-1628 or 1633

DW/

12/2/2021, 12/9/2021

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING
ZONING CASE NO. 4154

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Audrey B. Wiley has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from C2 & C3 (General) Commercial District to SUD Special Use District to develop property for a cemetery on property located at Parcel 835-55 on Highway 18, in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A parcel of land situated in the Southwest ¼ of Section 15, Township 5 North, Range 2 West, City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being particularly described by metes and bounds as follows:

BEG SW COR SECTION 15 T5N R2W S 1181.20 FT TO N/L HWY 18 NLY 630 FT NWLY 328 FT ELY 150 FT SELY 321 FT ELY 170 FT NLY 264.15 FT ELY 320 FT NLY 420 FT W 1046 FT TO POB SE ¼ SW 1/4 SEC 15 T5 R1W LESS TO WILEY

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO DECEMBER 8, 2021.

WITNESS my signature this 16th day of November 2021.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth
Zoning Administrator
City of Jackson, Mississippi

11/25/2021 12/9/2021

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING
ZONING CASE NO. 4152

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Homewood Company, LLC has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from C-3 (General) Commercial District to R-7 Mobile Home Park Residential District to use as mobile home community for property located at 5330 N. State St. (Parcel: 500-1000), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A certain parcel of land lying and being situated in the South ½ of Section 11, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, City of Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi and being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the South line of aforementioned Section 11 with the Eastern right-of-way of North State Street and run North 27 degrees 57 minutes 10 seconds East along the said Eastern right-of-way 406.45 feet; thence leaving said Eastern line run South 63 degrees 21 minutes 34 seconds East 383.44 feet; thence South 25 degrees 07 minutes 35 seconds West 214.12 feet; thence North 89 degrees 07 minutes 27 seconds West along said South line of Section 11 a distance of 442.39 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 2.8 acres, more or less.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO DECEMBER 8, 2021.

WITNESS my signature this 16th day of November 2021.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth
Zoning Administrator
City of Jackson, Mississippi

11/25/2021 12/9/2021

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION
ZONING CASE NO. 4155

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Rosemont Human Services, Inc. has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Special Exception for a residential community facility within a R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District on property located at 3801 Officer Thomas Catchings Dr. (Parcel: 305-49-39) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

12/2/2021

Beginning at a point on the South side of South Drive Road, which point in the Northwest corner of Lot 1, Block E, Dearborn Subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 9 at Page 1 1; from said point of beginning run thence in a Westerly direction along the Southern right of way of South Drive Road a distance of 62 feet, more or less, to a point; thence run Southerly, parallel to the West line of Lots 1, 2 and 3, of Dearborn Subdivision, Block E, a distance of 198 feet, more or less, to a point; thence run Easterly 62 feet, more or less, to the Southwest corner of Lot 3, Block E, Dearborn Subdivision; thence run Northerly along the Western boundary of Lots 1, 2 and 3 of Block E, Dearborn Subdivision for a distance of 198 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning. The property described herein being part of Lots 1, 2 and 3 of that certain survey filed and of record in Deed Book 2726 at Page 265.

It is the Grantor's intent to convey, and the Grantor hereby conveys to the Grantee, all the Grantor's interest in the property that Grantor acquired under a Quitclaim Deed from Yarbrow Wholesale LLC, to Robert Scott, dated November 15, 2016, filed on December 9, 2019 at 3:03 PM, recorded in Book 7242, Page 2433 of the records in the office of the Chancery Clerk of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, including all oil, gas, and mineral interests in and to the above-described property.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER PRIOR TO DECEMBER 8, 2021.

WITNESS my signature this 16th day of November 2021.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth
Zoning Administrator
City of Jackson, Mississippi

11/25/2021 12/9/2021

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that sealed or electronic bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi until 3:30 p.m. (local time), on the 4th day of January 2022. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time at City Hall, 219 S. President Street, Jackson, MS 39201 for the following:

BUS STOP IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO. RFP#2022-01

Contractors have the option of submitting their bids sealed in an envelope or electronically through www.centralbidding.com administered by Central Auction House. If a sealed envelope bid is submitted by mail or hand delivery, the address of City Clerk of The City of Jackson: City Hall 219 S. President Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Sealed bids may be delivered until 3:30 p.m., January 4, 2022.

Sealed bid envelopes shall be marked "SEALED BID FOR CITY OF JACKSON – BUS STOP IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO. RFP#2022-01 AT 3:30 PM, Tuesday, January 4, 2022, and if any envelope is not so marked, any bid contained therein will not be considered.

All bid envelopes should contain the bidder's name and mailing address on the face of the envelope. The bid shall also contain the bidder's Certificate of Responsibility number on the outside of the envelope, failing which, said bid shall not be opened or considered.

When submitting an electronic bid, the bid must be submitted in "pdf" format and shall contain the same information and forms as required for the paper bids. Electronic bids must be secured with a bid bond. When submitting a bid electronically, the authorized signature may be a hand-written blue ink signature or be an electronic signature. When bids are submitted electronically, the requirement for including a certificate of responsibility, or a statement that the bid enclosed does not exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), on the exterior of the bid envelope shall be deemed in compliance by including the same information as an attachment with the electronic bid submittal.

Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Auction House at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids shall be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Auction House at (228) 810-4814.

A Pre-Bid Conference Call will be held at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. Please email Marilyn Guice at mguice@jacksonms.gov to receive a Zoom invite no later than Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids not conforming to the intent and purpose of the specifications, and to postpone the award of the Contract for a period of time which, however, shall not extend beyond 90 days from the bid opening date.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi hereby notifies all Bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged and women's business enterprises will be afforded the full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The award of this contract will be contingent upon the Contractor satisfying the DBE/WBE requirements. The DBE/WBE goal will be 6%.

12/9/2021, 12/16/2021, 12/23/2021, 12/30/2021

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Proposed ConnectJXN: Transit Plan for JTRAN

The City of Jackson is hosting a 45-day public comment period regarding the proposed draft recommendations in the ConnectJXN: Transit Plan (JTRAN) to gather input from the community. These recommendations are the product of a comprehensive evaluation of JTRAN's bus and paratransit services and were informed by public and stakeholder input gathered throughout the year-long study. The proposed plan can be accessed online anytime by visiting the project's website page www.jtrantransitplan.com. The full report with appendices can be viewed by visiting www.jtrantransitplan.com/final-report. An interactive executive summary can be accessed by visiting <https://bit.ly/ConnectJXN-TransitPlan>.

- The plan identifies the following recommendations to improve JTRAN:
- A complete redesign of the JTRAN bus network. The New Bus Network provides 12 new routes that improve access to jobs, healthcare, groceries, and services.
 - Long-term bus network investments to further improve mobility for Jackson residents and visitors. JTRAN's long-term vision plan includes new on-demand transit service, increased frequency, evening service improvements, and new Sunday service.
 - Paratransit service strategies to improve the system's long-term financial sustainability, operational efficiency, and customer satisfaction.
 - Capital improvements, including bus stop improvement and technology upgrades, to support the delivery of safe, reliable, and efficient bus and paratransit services.

Comments will be accepted from November 24, 2021, to January 7, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Comments may be submitted using any of the methods listed below.

- WAYS TO PROVIDE YOUR COMMENTS:
- Use the Share Your Comments link provided on the ConnectJXN website page: <https://bit.ly/JTRANcomments>
 - Mail Written Comments: 1785 Highway 80 West Jackson, MS 39204
 - Complete a comment card during the public meeting

An open house style public meeting will be held to discuss the proposed plan with the public on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Union Station (300 West Capitol Street Jackson, MS).

JTRAN officials will review all comments received and will revise the plan based on feedback received and submit the final report to the Jackson City Council for review and adoption. The City of Jackson's transit system, JTRAN, adheres to the public involvement process outlined in the Jackson MPO's Public Participation Plan. The MPO's Public Participation process satisfies the public participation requirements for FTA's notice.

Visit jtrantransitplan.com to review the proposed ConnectJXN: Transit Plan for JTRAN

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AVAILABILITY

Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)
City of Jackson: FY 2020 Housing and Community Development Programs

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS: The City of Jackson receives funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the following programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME); Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG); and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). HUD requires the City to prepare a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) on accomplishments of each of the programs in relation to needs, goals, strategies, and objectives of the City's Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development Programs.

Notice is hereby given that on December 15, 2021 the City's draft copy of the CAPER will be available for review and comment on the City's website at www.jacksonms.gov. There will be a virtual Public Hearing on December 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. to join the virtual public hearing by:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/94099518654>

Meeting ID: 940 9951 8654
One tap mobile
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+13126266799, 94099518654# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location
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+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 940 9951 8654
Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aSApPV6Zy>

In addition, the public is invited to make comments and ask questions regarding the City's FY 2020 CAPER starting Thursday, December 15, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. via email at ohcd@jacksonms.gov. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. December 30, 2021.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Housing and Community Development, at 601-960-2155.

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Week of November 28, 2021

Symone Sanders, VP Harris’ chief spokesperson and senior advisor, plans to leave the administration

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Symone Sanders, Vice President Kamala Harris’ chief spokesperson and senior advisor, plans to leave the administration later this month.

“I’m so grateful to the VP for her vote of confidence from the very beginning and the opportunity to see what can be unburdened by what has been,” Sanders wrote in a letter to Vice President Harris’ staff.

“I’m grateful for Tina [Flournoy] and her leadership and confidence as well,” Sanders continued.

“Every day, I arrived at the White House complex knowing our work made a tangible difference for Americans. I am immensely grateful and will miss working for her and with all of you.”

In November, Ashley Etienne, who served as Harris’ communications director, also stepped down. Prominent news reports suggested major issues between the White House and Harris’ staff, but officials have dismissed such claims.

The daughter of *Omaha Star* publisher Terri Sanders, Symone earned acclaim as “a champion for women.”

A seasoned political strategist, Sanders gained national prominence in 2016 as the National Press Secretary for U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders’ then-presidential campaign.

At 25, she became the youngest presidential press secretary on record and was named to *Rolling Stone Magazine’s* list of 16 young Americans shaping the 2016 election.

Sanders also worked as the principal of the 360 Group LLC, providing strategic communications guidance to organizations, businesses, individuals, campaigns and candidates and helps clients find sound solutions to tough political and social problems.

According to her biography, Sanders counts as “a communicator with a passion for juvenile justice,” and served as the former chair of the Coalition of Juvenile Justice Emerging Leaders Committee and former member of the Federal Advisory

Committee on Juvenile Justice.

She worked diligently to raise the profile of young voices in the fight for juvenile justice reform and bring millennial perspectives to policy conversations.

Sanders, 31, once worked as a political commentator for CNN and served in 2018 and 2019 as a resident fellow at Harvard’s Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School and the University of Southern California’s Center for the Political Future respectively.

“Symone has been working at the highest levels and in an extraordinarily intense environment for three years for Joe Biden and now Vice President Harris,” Anita Dunn, a former top aide to President Joe Biden, said in a televised interview this week.

“When you look at the three years, two on the campaign, one in the White House, nobody can question her decision that she needs a break and it’s time to move on. And she’ll always be a member of the Biden-Harris family,” Dunn asserted.



A seasoned political strategist, Sanders gained national prominence in 2016 as the National Press Secretary for U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders’ then-presidential campaign. PHOTO: SYMONE SANDERS SPEAKING AT THE 2016 POLITICON AT THE PASADENA CONVENTION CENTER IN PASADENA, CALIFORNIA. | GAGE SKIDMORE | WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Stacey Abrams’ gubernatorial run provides a jolt for the 2022 midterms

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

In an announcement that has provided a jolt to the 2022 midterm elections, Stacey Abrams said she’s running for governor of the Peach State.

The race, which could mean a second dual between Abrams and Republican Gov. Brian Kemp, promises to catapult Democrats into the position of favorites.

A Democrat and noted voting rights advocate, Abrams lost to Kemp by just over one percentage point in their controversial 2018 battle.

Her activism helped Democrats claim the majority in the U.S. Senate when Georgia Democrats Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff defeated Republicans Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue in the January 2021 runoff election.

“I’m running because opportunity in our state shouldn’t be determined by zip code, background or access to power,” Abrams declared.

“That’s the job of the governor – to fight for one Georgia, our Georgia,” Abrams exclaimed. “And now, it is time to get the job done.”

Abrams’ work since her 2018 loss to Kemp has received praise across the political spectrum. In 2019, she launched Fair Count and Fair Fight Action to encourage voter participation in elections and educate voters about elections and their voting rights.

The PAC brings awareness to the public on election reform, advocates for election reform at all levels, and engages in other voter education



In addition to her many other achievements, Stacey Abrams broke the glass ceiling as the first black woman to become the gubernatorial nominee for a major party in the United States and as the first black woman and first Georgian to deliver a Response to the State of the Union.

programs and communications.

“Voter suppression, particularly of voters of color and young voters, is a scourge our country faces in states across the nation,” Abrams noted on her website.

She said Georgia’s 2018 elections “shone a bright light on the issue with elections that were rife with mismanagement, irregularities, unbelievably long lines and more, exposing both recent and also decades-long actions and inactions by the state to thwart the right to vote.”

“Fair Fight Action was founded to organize collective efforts to expose, mitigate, and reverse voter suppression. We engage in voter

mobilization and education activities and advocate for progressive issues,” Abrams continued.

Fair Fight PAC has initiated programs to support voter protection programs at state parties around the country and is engaging in partnerships to support and elect pro-voting rights progressive leaders.

After serving for eleven years in the Georgia House of Representatives, seven as Democratic Leader, in 2018, Abrams became the Democratic nominee for Governor of Georgia, winning more votes than any other Democrat in the state’s history.

She broke the glass ceiling as the first black woman to become the gubernatorial nomi-

nee for a major party in the United States and as the first black woman and first Georgian to deliver a Response to the State of the Union.

“It’s a very humbling experience to know that if I win this election, I would have achieved something that black women as far back as Barbara Jordan and Shirley Chisholm fought about, not necessarily the same job, but transforming how we think about leadership in America and physically claiming that mantle of leadership and holding it signals that anything is possible, and we can re-define what leadership looks like and who we can lift up,” Abrams said in a 2018 interview with the Black Press of America.

Biden HIV/AIDS strategy calls racism ‘public health threat’

By Aamer Madhani
The Associated Press

The Biden administration in its new HIV/AIDS strategy calls racism “a public health threat” that must be fully recognized as the world looks to end the epidemic.

The strategy released on the annual commemoration of World AIDS Day is meant to serve as a framework for how the administration intends to shape its policies, research, programs and planning over the next three years. President Joe Biden was scheduled to deliver remarks to mark World AIDS Day.

“The president remains deeply committed to ensuring that those with HIV are treated with equity and dignity,” White House press secretary Jen Psaki said.

The new strategy asserts that over generations “structural inequities have resulted in racial and ethnic health disparities that are severe, far-reaching, and unacceptable.”

New HIV infections in the U.S. fell about 8% from 2015 to 2019, but black and Latino communities – particularly gay and bisexual men within those groups – continue to be disproportionately affected, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data.

African Americans make up about 13% of the U.S. population but accounted for more than 40% of new infections. The Latino population accounted for nearly 25% of new infections but makes up about 18.5% of the U.S. population.

Historically, gay and bisexual men have been the most disproportionately affected group. They account for about 66% of new HIV infections, even though they account for only 2% of the population, according to the CDC. In 2019, 26% of new HIV infections were among black gay and bisexual men, 23% among Latino gay and bisexual men, and 45% among gay and bi-

sexual men under the age of 35.

To reduce the disparities, the strategy includes calls for focusing on the needs of disproportionately affected populations, supporting racial justice, combating HIV-related stigma and discrimination and providing leadership and employment opportunities for people with or at risk for HIV.

Besides addressing racism’s impact on Americans battling the virus or at risk of contracting it, the new strategy also puts greater emphasis on harm reduction and syringe service programs, encourages reform of state laws that criminalize behavior of people with HIV for potentially exposing others and adds focus on the needs of the growing population of people with HIV who are aging.

More than 36 million people worldwide, including 700,000 in the U.S., have died from AIDS-related illnesses since the start of the epidemic more than 40 years ago. Nearly 38 million people are living with HIV, including 1.2 million in the U.S.

The Biden administration recently announced it will host the Global Fund to Fight AIDS replenishment conference next year. The United States has contributed about \$17 billion to the fund, about a third of all donor contributions.

A giant red ribbon, a symbol of support for people living with HIV, was displayed on the North Portico of the White House to mark World AIDS Day. The two-story ribbon display has become an annual tradition at the White House since 2007.

“Honored to continue this tradition on (hash)WorldAidsDay, remembering the lives lost to HIV/AIDS and supporting those living with the virus across the world,” First lady Jill Biden said in a Twitter posting that included a photo of her posing in front of the ribbon display.

National Coalition of 100 Black Women holds annual Top Hat Brunch

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The Central Mississippi Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women (NCBW) held its' 30th Annual Holiday Top Hat Brunch Saturday, Nov. 30, at the Jackson Hilton located at 1001 E. County Line Road.

The theme for the occasion was "30 Years! Strutting Hats to Make a Difference. The program emcee was Othor Cain. Ria Wray, NCBW Central MS president brought greetings and Luigia Hodge, Top Hat chairperson extended the welcome.

There were two phases of the "Parade of Hats" competition.

Phase I categories and winners were:

Divas, Sharon Ray; **The Duchess**, Nemeses Bowles; **First Lady**, Debra Sturgis; **Labelle**, Sharon Ray; and **Enjoli**, 'Kas'.

Parade of Hats phase II categories and winners were:

Belles & Beauxs (12 and under), Allison Kelly; **Belles & Beauxs (13-17)**, Erin Winder and **Sophisticated Gent**, Carter Smith.

The overall winner was "Kas" from the Enjoli category.

Cain said, "I am always honored and humbled when asked to serve as the grand commentator for the Holiday Top Hat Brunch, hosted by the amazing ladies of the Central Mississippi Chapter of the 100 Black Women"

He continued, "It signals that the start of the holiday season is upon us. It is also an opportunity to support. These ladies give so much to our community and it's a great way to sow a seed into their work." Giving a shout out to NCBW he said, "Thank you ladies for 30 years of **Black Excellence!**"

Musical entertainment for the program was performed by Stefunie Luckett and Dr. Jessie Primer III.

Celebrity toasts were given by Ricky Jones, president of 100 Black Men of Jackson; Thea Faulkner, director of Partners in Education - JPS and Ricky Thigpen, president & CEO of Visit Jackson.



Ladies of NCBW at Top Hat Brunch

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Top Hat winners with awards.

Halftime Game' commercial features 2 HBCU marching bands

Associated Press

Marching bands from two historically black universities are being featured in a new PepsiCo TV commercial that aired for the first time last Saturday.

Jackson State University's Sonic Boom of the South and Florida A&M University's Marching 100 are being highlighted in a 60-second spot called "The Halftime Game."

"We know that in HBCU culture, the game is not just about football, but also the energy, hype and history these bands bring to halftime and beyond," Chauncey Hamlett, vice president and chief marketing officer for Pepsi Beverages South Division, said in a news release on Dec. 2..

"The Halftime Game" ran for the first time Saturday on ESPN 2 during the Southwestern Athletic Conference championship game. It will air also across SWAC media, including on ABC, during the Dec. 18 Cricket Celebration Bowl.

The ad was directed by Alan Ferguson, an HBCU alumnus.

PepsiCo's \$3 million commercial is part of a more than \$570 million commitment by the company over the next five years as part of its "Racial Equality Journey" announced in 2020, according to the news release.

Jackson State University's director of bands, Roderick Little, said the ad is an "outstanding opportunity" for his students and the university.

"I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge what this affiliation means for all HBCU band programs regarding exposure that could garner the support of future donors and corporate sponsors," Little said.

Town of Terry holds annual Christmas Parade

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The town of Terry held its' annual Christmas parade Saturday Dec. 4 at 11 a.m. The participants lined up at the Terry High School football field and proceeded to Cunningham Street through downtown.

The parade was organized by a committee which included Bonnie Holly, Lessie Hayes, Jacqueline Mitchell, Doris Young and Addie Wright. Assisting with line-up was Willie Holly and Andy Wade.

Dr. Robert Smith, CEO of Central MS Health Services, Inc., was chosen by the committee to serve as Grand Marshall. Smith, who is a native of Terry, MS, stated he was happy to accept.

Mayor Joseph Kendrick, who participated in the parade, said this was the first time in many years that the parade was held during the day and though participation was good, the kids missed seeing the night lights of the holiday season.

The entry fee for being in the parade was a Christmas toy for a boy and a girl, which will be distributed to the needy.

A public reception was held after the parade at City Hall. Along with the mayor, several other public officials attended the holiday event to include Supervisor Bobby McGowan, Dist. 5; Supervisor Credell Calhoun, Dist. 3; Hinds County Circuit Clerk, Zack Wallace and MS Senator David Blunt, Dist. 29.



Dr. Robert Smith

PHOTOS BY HOWARD SANDERS





BOOK REVIEW:

I'M POSSIBLE:
A STORY OF SURVIVAL, A TUBA, AND
THE SMALL MIRACLE OF A BIG DREAM”
BY RICHARD ANTOINE WHITE
C.2021, FLATIRON BOOKS
\$27.99 / HIGHER IN CANADA 256 PAGES • 256 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Each note is an individual. You know that, but you probably don’t hear it that way. No, your ears are catching a mountain stream of notes that whisper and shout to create your favorite song, the one that runs through your head, the one you know all the words to. As in the new book, “I’m Possible” by Richard Antoine White, it’s beautiful music.

Looking for his Mama was an everyday occurrence for Ricky

White. If she wasn’t in the boarded-up building where they slept, she might be by the tree, drinking. If she wasn’t there, she might be at either of Ricky’s grandma’s houses, or with Miss Vivian.

Then again, Mama might be at a store or somewhere and if he was lucky, Ricky found a few coins while he was looking for her, and he’d get something to eat that day.

This was his life, until the night he almost froze to death and the McClains took him in, just as they did his Mama when she was little.

Old enough to have grown children of their own, the McClains taught “Baby Ricky” that he didn’t have to sleep on the floor. He was kept clean, fed, and responsible for chores; he was taught respect and confidence, but also shame and empathy. Most of all, Vivian and Richard McClain gave him a home and a normal childhood, including the chance to attend school regularly. It was there that he first fell in love with the trumpet.

It became his reason for going to school, doing his homework, and staying off the streets. For the first time in his life, White felt like he belonged. He learned the art of discipline; later, he learned that practice was key and improvising was never going to get him anywhere.

By then, he’d switched to the tuba. Learning that instrument would give him more time to play with a group because not a lot of people wanted to play the tuba.

Even fewer African Ameri-


cans did...

If ever there was a book that can make your heart sing, “I’m Possible” is it.

Part of the reason is that author Richard Antoine White seems so eager to show readers how he lived before he was given up by his mother, an act that he ultimately sees as selfless and brave. There’s no complaint in any of this, just facts, told with the slightest sense of humor and a whole lot of acknowledgment that he wasn’t the easiest kid to love.

And that’s the other part here: this book is the sweetest love song for his adoptive parents, for music, for miracles and for those who supported White all along.

So go ahead. Be charmed; in fact, once you get toward the end of this feel-best of feel-good books, grab a mirror and just look at that happy grin on your face. You need that kind of a boost this time of year, or a perfect antidote for a case of the I-Cant’s, so grab “I’m Possible,” and take note.



ZACK WALLACE

Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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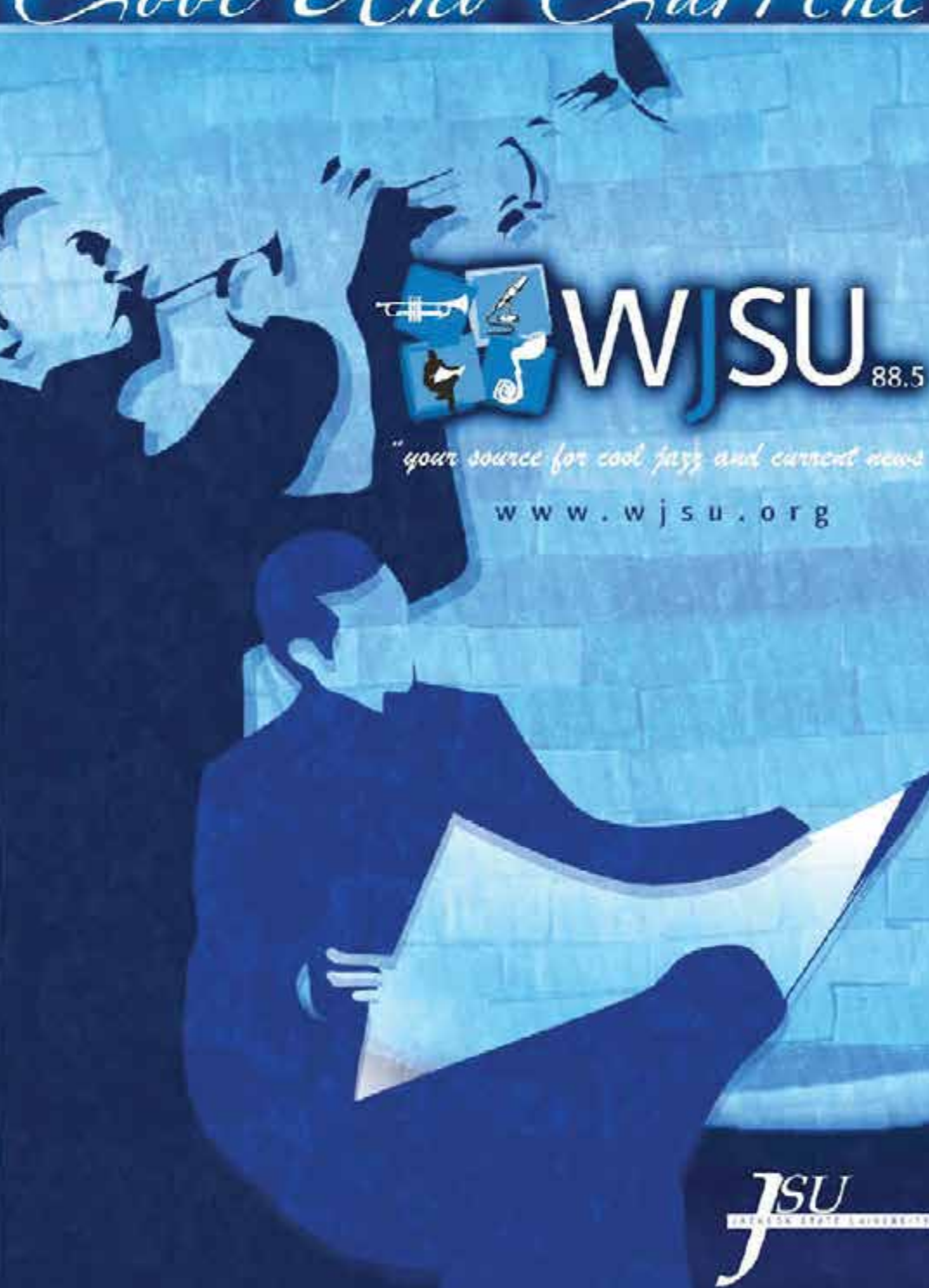
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PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

2021 SWAC Champions



Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Raymond High School Performing Arts Center and Gymnasium Ribbon Cutting Highlights

