

Celebrated Tuskegee Airman Charles McGee dies at 102



McGee
By Douglass K. Daniel
Associated Press

Charles McGee, a Tuskegee Airman who flew 409 fighter combat missions over three wars and later helped to bring attention to the black pilots who had battled racism at home to fight for freedom abroad, died Sunday. He was 102.

McGee died in his sleep at his home in Bethesda, Maryland, said his son, Ron McGee.

After the U.S. entry into World War II, McGee left the University of Illinois to join an experimental program for black soldiers seeking to train as pilots after the Army Air Corps was forced to admit African Americans. In October 1942 he was sent to the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama for flight training, according to his biography on the website of the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

“You could say that one of the things we were fighting for was equality,” he told The Associated Press in a 1995 interview. “Equality of opportunity. We knew we had the same skills, or better.”

McGee graduated from flight school in June 1943 and in early 1944 joined the all-black 332nd Fighter Group, known as the “Red Tails.” He flew 136 missions as the group accompanied bombers over Europe.

More than 900 men trained at Tuskegee from 1940 to 1946. About 450 deployed overseas and 150 lost their lives in training or combat.

In recent years the Tuskegee Airmen have been the subject of books, movies and documentaries highlighting their courage in the air and the doubts they faced on the ground because of their race. In 2007 a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award from Congress, was issued to recognize their

“unique military record that inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces.”

McGee remained in the Army Air Corps, later the U.S. Air Force, and served for 30 years. He flew low-level bombing and strafing missions during the Korean War and returned to combat again during the Vietnam War. The National Aviation Hall of Fame says his 409 aerial fighter combat missions in three wars remains a record.

He retired as a colonel in the Air Force in 1973, then earned a college degree in business administration and worked as a business executive. He was accorded an honorary commission promoting him to the one-star rank of brigadier general as he turned 100. Another event marked his centennial year: He flew a private jet between Frederick, Maryland, and Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

In 2020, McGee drew a standing ovation from members of Congress when introduced by President Donald Trump during his State of the Union address.

In addition to encouraging young men and women to pursue careers in aviation, McGee was a source of information about the Tuskegee Airmen and offered a unique perspective on race relations of the era through the airmen’s nonprofit educational organization.

“At the time of the war, the idea of an all African American flight squadron was radical and offensive to many,” McGee wrote in an essay for the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

“The prevailing opinion was that blacks did not possess the intelligence or courage to be military pilots. One general even wrote, ‘The Negro type has not the prop-

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Strike three! Still no garbage contract for City of Jackson

2-4-1, the council votes down mayor’s third recommendation



Jackson City Council members (L-R) Ashby Foote, Ward 1; Angelique Lee, Ward 2; Kenneth Stokes, Ward 3; Virgi Lindsay, Ward 7; Brian Grizzell, Ward 4.; Vernon Hartley, Ward 5; Aaron Banks, Ward 6

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

The order read:
“Order authorizing the mayor to execute the contract and related documents with Richard’s Disposal, Inc. to provide solid waste collection and hauling services for a six (6) year term commencing April 1, 2022, with four (4) one (1) year extension options.”

After numerous questions from Jackson City Council members of the vendor, the city attorney and the city’s Waste Management Department, the vote failed as follow: Lee: Yes; Grizzell: Yes; Banks: No; Foote: No; Hartley: No; Lind-

sey: No; and Stokes: Abstain.

“I don’t see a reason why we didn’t get awarded the contract,” Albert Richard of the New Orleans-based Richard’s Disposal, Inc. told reporters. “But if that’s the City Council’s choice then there is nothing, I can do about it.”

Councilmember Hartley told Richard that “I wish we had more time. We just got this yesterday, and the information on your company, we just got it within the last couple of hours.”

Ward 4 Council Member Brian Grizzell, who attended the meeting remotely, told his constituents in his email update late Tuesday night that: “The

Council was given the names of the 3 vendors who submitted an RFP a little over a month ago. The City Attorney gave us those names.”

However, during the bidding process, the council members only knew the bidders by assigned numbers until the deadline was over, according to Grizzell.

In his email, Grizzell further stated the following:
“While the bidding process was a blind process, we were prohibited from having conversations with any of the vendors. I, Brian Grizzell, did not participate in any conversations with any vendor (including any

owner, employee, relative or representative of their firm).
“I knew exactly who we were voting on today because I researched the company a while ago. We were given the contract yesterday, and, in my mind, had plenty of time to weigh it. It’s the same minority company that submitted a bid in the previous RFP process.
“I have no reservations about this company’s ability to do the job or its resources.
“This company was the lowest bidder and was a high scorer in the blind process. It was substantially lower than

Garbage
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On MLK Day, Biden says Americans must commit to King’s work

The Associated Press

Americans must commit to the unfinished work of Martin Luther King Jr., delivering jobs and justice and protecting “the sacred right to vote, a right from which all other rights flow,” President Joe Biden said Monday.

Martin Luther King Day is a moment when a mirror is held up to America, the president said in a video address.

“It’s time for every elected official in America to make it clear where they stand,” Biden said. “It’s time for every American to stand up. Speak out, be heard. Where do you stand?”

Major holiday events included marches in several cities and the annual Martin Luther King Jr. service at the slain civil rights leader’s Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, where U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock is the senior pastor. Pews have been packed by politicians in past years, but given the pandemic, many offered pre-recorded



speeches instead.

Monday would have been the 93rd birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who was just 39 when he was assassinated in 1968 while helping sanitation workers strike for better pay and workplace safety in Memphis, Tennessee.

King’s eldest son criticized Biden and Congress as a whole on Monday for failing to pass voting rights legislation, even as 19 Republican-led states have

described their stonewalling as part of “a true attack on our democracy, from the Jan. 6 insurrection to the onslaught of Republican anti-voting laws in an number of states.”

“It’s no longer just about who gets to vote. It’s about who gets to count the vote. And whether your vote counts at all. It’s about two insidious things: voter suppression and election subversion,” Biden said.

Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, the Senate’s vlack Republican, countered with a series of King Day-themed videos he said would emphasize positive developments on civil rights. Scott sidestepped criticism about GOP actions and accused Democrats of labeling his party members as racists.

“To compare or conflate people who oppose his positions as being racists and traitors to the country is not only insulting and infuriating, it’s dead wrong,”

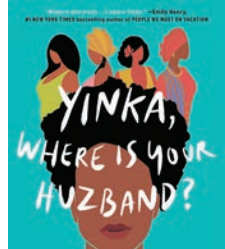
Biden
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Inside

Mississippi city names street for blues artist Bobby Rush



Yinka, Where is Your Husband



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Battlefield Park tennis community has big plans for future

By Gabriele Szymanowska
Associated Press

When Jackson police found a body lying near a children’s playground at Battlefield Park one rainy March day in 2021, it was the catalyst for a drive to change the area’s perception.

Venecia Green, a Jackson attorney and captain of the Battlefield Tennis Community Association, said for years other tennis clubs and community members murmured about how unsafe the park was, painting a picture of criminals slinking around in the dark.

But for Green and other tennis players at Dorothy Vest Tennis Center at Battlefield Park, the perception didn’t fit the reality they knew, or the future they knew the park could have.

Following that dreary morning, Green founded Friends of Battlefield Park Foundation, a nonprofit organization aimed at increasing community engagement, improving the health and wellness of the community and reducing crime, according to the group’s website.

“We actually see the restoration and revitalization of that whole quarter through tennis,” Green said about expanding the Dorothy Vest Tennis Center for tournaments and restoring the area around Battlefield Park and along Highway 80.

Green’s plan focuses on a tennis center economic development project that could bring not only potential revenue to the city, but the revitalization of Highway 80 near the park.

The idea came to Green after attending the Southern Sectionals at the Mobile Tennis Center in Alabama.

One of the world’s largest public tennis facilities with some 60 state-of-the-art lighted courts, the facility hosts many tournaments, including adult and junior U.S. Tennis Association



Venecia Green, center, a captain of the Battlefield Tennis Community Association, watches closely as young tennis players work out during a pre-season practice at the Dorothy Vest Tennis Center in Battlefield Park

tion games, which bring in thousands of attendees to the Mobile area, according to the center’s website.

Jackson City Council President and Ward 7 representative Virgi Lindsay said part of the city’s role is to help assist Green and the organization’s efforts as best they can, including providing some funding, fixing the lights at the courts and installing more lights throughout the park. The park is in Lindsay’s district.

While plans for economic development in and around Battlefield Park are still in the beginning stages, with Green having an engineer and architect sketch up her vision, there is support from the U.S. Tennis Association and other investors, Green said.

The next step is reaching out to stakeholders to get the ball rolling.

Green said she sees the development of a Battlefield Park hotel across the street for people to stay while attending tournaments.

LaPeria Jones, facility manager of the Dorothy Vest Tennis Center, said since the first meeting with city officials and community members in April 2021, there have been talks with park and recreation officials about ways to uplift the park.

This includes removing the unused pool and replacing it with a water feature for kids to play in and removing the basketball courts.

Security cameras have been installed around the courts, Jones said, adding the tennis community has a great relationship with the Jackson police who routinely patrol the area and are responsive when called.

Jones’ own organization, Ace to Deuce Community Tennis Association, wants to get more children and teens interested in tennis, as well as recruit more volunteers, coaches and donors to help with fundraising.

“What this does, it gives the kids something to do,” Jones said. “They’re not sitting at home playing

video games, they learn a skill, they get to think, and they’re not just sitting there plotting what’s the next big adventure we can get into with friends.”

Because of the pandemic, many community centers and recreational centers have had to close, leaving children without a place to hang out. Advocates and city officials have said that many kids become involved in crime when they are left to their own devices.

In 2021, at least nine teens were killed and at least six were involved in a shooting in Jackson. Five days into 2022, 14-year-old DeMarcus McGinnis was shot and killed while sitting in a car and three other teens were injured, police said.

Jones and Green hope to partner with Jackson State University to bring coaches and mentors to the courts to teach after-school programs filled with Jackson Public School students.

Jones said Ace to Deuce has been working with Jackson Public School kids but would love for more to get involved.


“Research supports that (tennis) encourages kids to become individuals, critical thinkers and problem solvers,” Green said. “And if we can solve our problems other than with a gun, then they’re not committing a crime.”

Jones added the goal is to create teams for kids to compete against others and help build life skills. In the fall, Ace to Deuce formed two teams for kids under 18 and both competed in the state championships, with the girls’ tennis team placing third and the boys’ tennis team placing second.

“We need people like Ms. Green and her organizers to step up and be a part of positive energy for our children,” Lindsay said. “We need more Venecia Greens.”



Where the experience of being healthy, is leading to an even healthier tomorrow.

MISSISSIPPI

Garbage

Continued from page 1

the other bids, thus a savings to Jacksonians. Yes, sanitation rates are still going to increase. They have to increase, and this was the lowest and best bid, even with that increase. Yes, two pickups a week.

“This was a legal bid. No mistake about it! We have to be honest! We have to be fair! We have to do the right thing!”

During the meeting, Ward 3 Councilmember Stokes, who abstained, questioned Richard’s lawyer, Attorney John Walker, as to whether he felt the company had the capacity to do the job for the City of Jackson. Walker assured Stokes that he had “complete confidence” in Richard’s performance.

“I’ve been in business 44 years,” Richard told the Council. “I am a full-service contractor.” He said he services more than 100,000

homes a week. He also assured the council that he would bring in managers to train the people of Jackson that he will hire.

Richard assured the council that he has done everything that was asked of him. In addition, he even purchased 15 new trucks to insure he had total capacity to do the job.

Ward 6 Councilmember Aaron Banks told *The Mississippi Link* that he voted against the contract because “the carts complicate the whole service. 1) We currently pick up at approximately 53K houses, but exactly 45,000 carts will be provided. What about the other 8K; and 2) The \$90 fee to citizens to replace a cart if its damage or stolen, when there is already a shortage of who will have carts can cause many problems.”

Grizzell said the carts are not an issue for

the residents of his ward. They welcome the idea. “The company also offers assistance for those residents who are not physically capable of getting their garbage to the curb. I don’t understand,” Grizzell said.

Richard explained during the meeting the replacement of a missing cart the first time would be at no cost to the resident.

As to what is next for them regarding the matter, the City Attorney Torri Martin told *The Mississippi Link*, “The City of Jackson does not have a comment regarding the solid waste contract.

However, Attorney Walker via telephone before press time said, “We are evaluating all options in determining what we will do. My client was the lowest and best bidder. We were shocked that he did not get the contract!”

Biden

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Scott told The Associated Press.

Warnock, now running for reelection as Georgia’s first black senator, said in his speech to the sparse crowd at Ebenezer that “everybody loves Dr. King, they just don’t always love what he represents.”

“Let the word go forth, you cannot remember Dr. King and dismember his legacy at the same time,” Warnock said. “If you will speak his name you have to stand up for voting rights, you have to stand up on behalf of the poor and the oppressed and the disenfranchised.”

King, who delivered his historic “I Have a Dream” speech while leading the 1963 March on Washington and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, considered racial equality inseparable from alleviating poverty and stopping war. His insistence on nonviolent protest continues to influence activists pushing for civil rights and social change.

The U.S. economy “has never worked fairly

for black Americans – or, really, for any American of color,” Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in a speech delivered Monday, one of many by national leaders acknowledging unmet needs for racial equality on Martin Luther King Day.

Yellen referred to King’s famous speech in remarks she recorded for delivery at the Rev. Al Sharpton’s National Action Network breakfast in Washington, noting the financial metaphor he used when describing the founding fathers’ promises of equality.

King said on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial that “America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned.” He called it “a bad check, a check which has come back marked insufficient funds. But we refuse to believe the bank of justice is bankrupt!”

“It is compelling rhetoric, but I also think Dr. King knew it was a more than a metaphor. He knew that economic injustice was bound up in

the larger injustice he fought against. From Reconstruction, to Jim Crow, to the present day, our economy has never worked fairly for black Americans – or, really, for any American of color,” Yellen said.

She said the Biden administration has sought to ensure that no economic institution fails to work for people of color. Equity was built into the American Rescue Plan so that communities of color would get pandemic relief, and Treasury is injecting \$9 billion into Community Development Financial Institutions and Minority Depository Institutions traditionally poorly served by the financial sector.

“There is still much more work Treasury needs to do to narrow the racial wealth divide,” she said.

Atlanta’s planned events also included a march, a rally and a voter registration drive by the Georgia Coalition for the People’s Agenda and Youth Service America.

McGee

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er reflexes to make a first-rate fighter pilot.’ The Tuskegee Airmen certainly proved men like him wrong.”

Charles Edward McGee was born Dec. 7, 1919, in Cleveland, the son of a minister who also worked as a teacher and social worker and was a military chaplain. He graduated from high school in Chicago in 1938.

Survivors include daughters Charlene McGee Smith and Yvonne McGee, 10 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and a great-great grandchild. His wife of more than 50 years, Frances, died in 1994.

A family statement described McGee as “a living legend known for his kind-hearted and humble nature, who saw positivity at every turn.”

In tweets Sunday honoring McGee, both Vice President Kamala Harris and Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III called him an American hero.

“While I am saddened by his loss, I’m also incredibly grateful for his sacrifice, his legacy and his character. Rest in peace, General,” Austin wrote.

In his Smithsonian essay, McGee wrote that he was often asked why the Tuskegee Airmen were so successful in combat.

“I would say it was because of our courage and perseverance,” he wrote. “We dreamed of being pilots as boys but were told it was not possible. Through faith and determination we overcame enormous obstacles. This is a lesson that all young people need to hear.”

He added: “I am most proud of my work as a Tuskegee Airman that helped bring down racial barriers and defeat the Nazis.”

A new era for state employment

By Kelly Hardwick
Executive Director
Mississippi State Personnel Board



Forty years. Four decades. Consider how much has changed in 40 years. The way we communicate, the way we travel, the way we work, and the list goes on and on. With all the advancements in technology and societal changes, Mississippi state employees had not seen any significant updates or improvements in how their positions or salaries are determined. So, the Mississippi State Personnel Board and staff reviewed our priorities and evaluated how we work to meet our statutory mission of “ensuring a quality workforce.”

During this review, we knew it was time to undertake what we believe will be the most significant impact on state employees in 40 years. In the fall of 2019, MSPB decided to overhaul the state’s classification and compensation system. During the

COMMENTARY

past two years, we launched Project SEC2 (a State Employee Classification and Compensation initiative) and worked tirelessly to implement the new system on January 1, 2022.

We understand that most state employees are concerned with how this will affect their salaries. However, we can’t ensure fair and equitable compensation for employees until they are in the correct job classification based on their duties, responsibilities, and authority level.

So, how did we ensure that all 25,000 state employees under our purview were appropriately classified?

First, we had to evaluate the 1,900 job classifications in our old system. We removed duplicate and generic classifications and simplified the system with only 650 new job classifications. We met with nearly 300 state employees who are considered subject matter experts in their fields to help us understand what state employees in various in-

dustries do.

In what was an immense undertaking in state government HR, it was time to place employees in accurate job classifications based on their duties, and we needed their help with this critical step. We surveyed each employee about what they do each day and their role in their agency’s mission. Our staff evaluated each response, and we worked with employees’ supervisors and HR departments to help classify employees correctly.

Meanwhile, we used the relevant labor market, including the Mississippi private sector and contiguous state governments, to help create a salary structure to help ensure employees are paid fairly and equitably for what they do. Each job classification received a pay grade, including a minimum, market and maximum salary. An employee’s salary falls within the range based on several factors, including performance, experience, special certifications, or scarce skills. The employing agency determines this intending to compen-

sate employees competitively, consistently and equitably.

If you’re reading this, you’re probably wondering if you or a state employee you know is receiving a pay raise due to the new system, and the short answer is, maybe. The employee’s agency will determine pay increases related to implementing the new system.

The Legislature gave each agency the discretion to award increases of up to 3% January 1, based on where each employee’s salary falls within the new pay grade.

Employees with a salary above the market rate of their new pay grade will not be eligible for an increase in the new system. Just as some state employees’ salaries are above the market for their classification, some state employees’ wages are below the minimum salary set for their new classification.

MSPB is committed to advocating that each current employee below minimum obtain the minimum salary as soon as practicable upon adequate agency

funding. And, each agency has the discretion to award increases for employees with salaries below the market rate of their pay grade yet above the minimum salary.

With the implementation of the new system, there is no longer a need for an across-the-board pay increase granted by the Legislature. But that is a good thing because it gives both the Legislature and state agencies and their employees more accountability and transparency through this functional system. Using the new system, agencies, employees and legislators can see how agencies determine employees’ salaries within policy. And we have a plan in place to show if employees are being paid fairly and equitably for their duties.

It also makes it easier for current and future employees to pursue a defined career path in public service through state government.

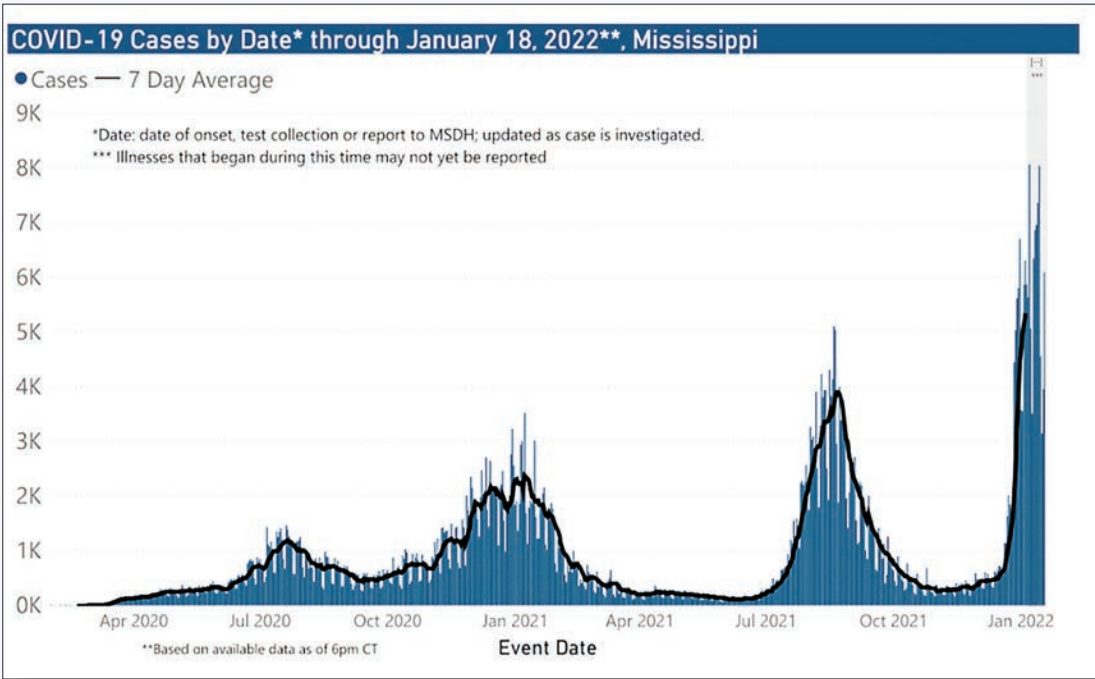
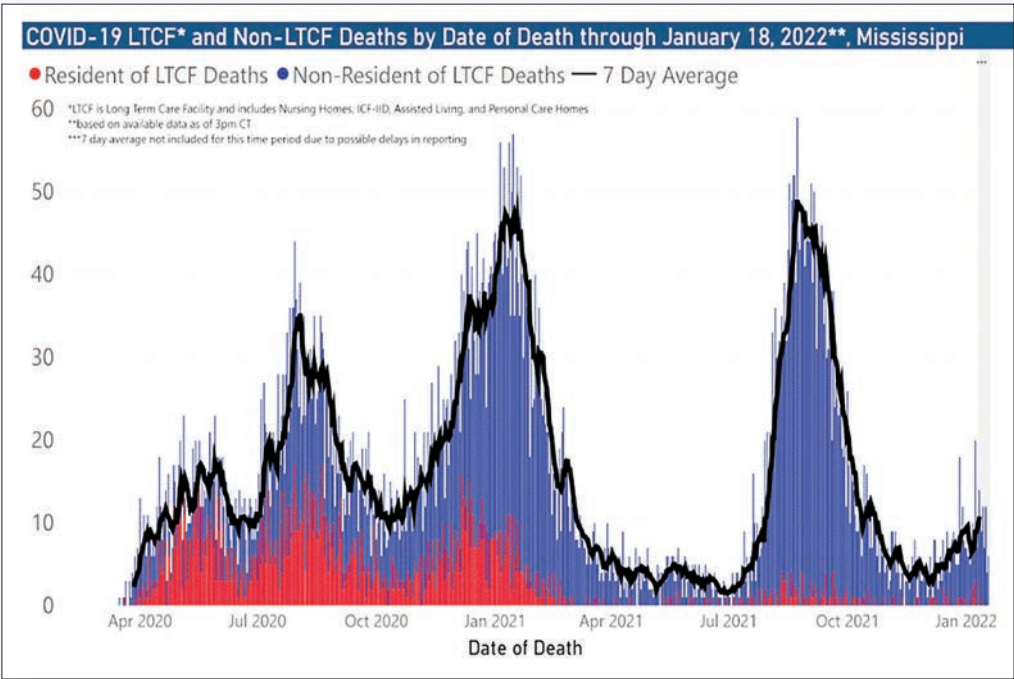
Through all this, no state employee received a salary reduction due to implementing the new system.

As a taxpayer, you may be wondering how much a project of this magnitude costs. We are proud to say that the vast majority of this project was executed by current MSPB employees including project leadership and oversight, the electronic questionnaire state employees submitted regarding their job duties (Mississippi is proud to be the first state to complete this monumental process electronically), and all communications materials including a new project website, informational videos and marketing collateral.

We knew that this would be a difficult task with growing pains as with any worthwhile undertaking. Our staff remains committed to working with agencies and state employees to continue improving the system for state employees for years to come.

State employees with questions about their classification or compensation should contact their agency’s HR department and check out *careers.mspb.ms.gov*.

MISSISSIPPI COVID-19 UPDATE



Harrison receives second W. K. Kellogg Foundation grant for Scott Ford House Inc.

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

W. K. Kellogg Foundation recently awarded a second grant to Alferdteen Harrison, executive director of Scott Ford House Inc., in the amount of \$50,000 for an exhibit to feature documented stories of Mississippi family members’ recollections of “granny” midwives in their family or community within four regions: Jackson Prairie, Delta, Black Belt and Loess Hills.

The exhibit, Reclaiming our Legacy and Shifting the Narrative of Mississippi Granny Midwives: A Storytelling Project, is slated to open Juneteenth weekend, Friday, June 17 and Saturday, June 18 this year at Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center.

Selective interviews among the four regions will be displayed from persons who were interviewed in 2021.

The project fosters a greater shared knowledge about Mississippi’s past while identifying regional pride through the use of video kiosks (central parts of the exhibit) to help youth understand systemic racism.

Interviewees will share the roles of the granny midwives during the birthing process along with their influential interactions with children. Elementary, middle school and high school



Scott Ford House, Inc. - 136 & 138 Cohea Street (Jackson) is a Mississippi landmark which was owned by MS granny midwife, Virginia Scott Ford and family. Ongoing plans are for stabilization and restoration.

essay winners who rehashed the stories of storytellers will share excerpts.

Executive director, Alferdteen Harrison (Ph.D.), explained that since the beginning of human

history, “all human life shared a common cultural touch stone – women helping other women deliver babies – our mothers and grandmothers – with the support of men, fathers and grandfathers.

This bond was through women called the granny midwives.”

The exhibit will interpret the two 130-year-old Mississippi historical landmarks that honor Mississippi granny midwives in

Jackson’s Farish Street historic district (136 and 138 East Cohea Street).

According to Harrison, these houses “are perhaps the only extant site in the United States.”

“The site reminds us of our commonalities and the importance of communities. The midwife is an example of moments where societal barriers of race and class barriers could be set aside and less educated could be celebrated leaders and those with status could honor the skill, compassion and humanity of these hardworking women,” added Harrison.


Griots who tell the context for the story of the granny midwives will be featured. The story will include how granny midwives were once excluded from Mississippi history and how they recently made a comeback. Thus, in appreciation of their historic services, Scott Ford House Inc. is reclaiming their legacy.

Scott Ford House Inc. is appealing to readers and supporters to assist in generating an additional \$85,000 by the end of April 2022.

Checks should be payable to Scott Ford W. K. Kellogg Foundation II and mailed to P. O. Box 1173, Jackson, MS 39215.

The first five donations above \$5,000 will be listed on a special plaque at the exhibit entrance. All donors of \$100 will be recognized on the exhibit program.

For inquiries, contact Alferdteen Harrison at 601 953-4060 or Scott Ford House, Inc. P.O. Box 1173, Jackson, MS 39215.




ACDBE

FOOD & BEVERAGE

PART II

JANUARY 26

2022



IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL EVENT

@ Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport

Community Room | Main Terminal Building - 3rd Floor

2:00 pm CST | Advance Registration Required

To register or for additional information, contact Mary Geter at
dbesupport@jmaa.com or 601.360.8610.

Mississippi House takes 1st step to approve tax cut plan



Mary Williams delivered health to a rural area in desperate need of faith in the system.

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

Mississippi would phase out its income tax, reduce the sales tax on groceries and set a higher sales tax rate on many other items, under a bill that advanced Wednesday through the state House.

House Bill 531 passed 96-12, with bipartisan support. It is similar to a bill that passed the House but ultimately died in 2021 because Senate leaders did not agree.

“The bill this year is much simpler, easier to understand, and I would say to you an improved product over the bill that passed overwhelmingly in this body last year,” Ways and Means Committee Chairman Trey Lamar, a Republican from Senatobia, said during House debate.

This year’s bill also faces an uncertain fate in the Senate. Republican Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann has said he wants legislators to cut taxes, but he has not released a proposal.

Mississippi tax collections were higher the first half of the current state budget year, from July through December, than they were for the same period a year ago.

Republican House Speaker Philip Gunn said eliminating the income tax is his priority this legislative session because he believes the change will make Mississippi more competitive with states such as Texas, Florida and Tennessee, that don’t tax income.

Russ Latino is president of Empower Mississippi, a group that pushes for limited government. He praised the House vote and said this year’s bill is better than last year’s.

“People will have more money to invest in their families, businesses, and communities and Mississippi will be a more attractive place to move,” Latino said.

One Voice, a group that advocates policies to help low-income residents, said the House proposal “largely benefits the state’s wealthiest.”

“The state’s surplus is not enough to support much-needed investments in the public services that Mississippians want, like quality schools, affordable healthcare, solid infrastructure, safe neighborhoods and affordable housing,” One Voice said in a news release.

The House bill would reduce the grocery tax from 7% to 4%. The change would be phased in over six years, starting this July.

The bill also would increase several taxes from 7% to 8.5% – an increase of more than 21% in that rate. That would include the general sales tax; the sales tax on alcohol; and the tax on music, games, cellphone ring tones and other products delivered electronically.

If the general sales tax were to increase by the proposed amount, for example, a person buying \$100 of clothing would pay \$8.50 in sales tax rather than the current \$7. The increased tax amount would apply to in-person or online purchases.

Biloxi backlash after city tries to relabel Esters Boulevard

By Isabelle Taft
Associated Press

The signs that triggered outrage in Biloxi’s Ward 2 last week looked ordinary enough.

In blue font on a white background, they announced that the Biloxi Planning Commission would hold a public hearing on “street name change from Esters Blvd. North to Railroad St.”

To East Biloxi residents who remember the contributions of Michael Esters as the city’s first black councilman, the language suggested the city was considering an act of great disrespect: removing his name from the street that had honored him since he was killed by a train while driving across the tracks there in 1983. Elected two years earlier, he was only 31 years old.

The street named for him consists of two roads, one north of the railroad tracks and one south. Both roads were previously called Railroad Street.

Ward 2 Councilman Felix Gines said he received 60-70 phone calls asking what was going on, plus text and Facebook messages. Like his constituents, Gines said, he was “caught off guard” and “blindsided” by the signs. On Facebook, residents worried about the erasure of the neighborhood’s history.

“It looked like a betrayal of the community,” Gines said.

He called Mayor Andrew “Fofu” Gilich, who didn’t know about the proposal either, to get the item removed from the Planning Commission’s agenda for their Jan. 20 meeting. Then Gines personally took down about 18 signs posted around the neighborhood.

Community development director Jerry Creel told the *Sun Herald* that removing the name of Esters altogether was never the plan.

North of the railroad tracks, Esters Boulevard becomes North Railroad Street, then turns into Strangi Avenue for a few blocks, then back to Railroad Street again. The goal, Creel said, was to eliminate confusion that could affect first-responders by making sure that section of road has a unique and consistent name.

Any plans to alter the street name have been tabled for at least a few months.

Eventually, the city may for-



Esters

mally change the entire northern part of the street to North Esters and the southern to South Esters, Creel said.

Creel said he should have consulted Gines before moving forward. “It was my mistake,” he said. “I take responsibility for it. ... The people went out there one day and saw the signs and misinterpreted it, thinking we’re fixing to remove the Esters name, and that was not the case and that was never the suggestion.”

When Esters was killed in March 1983, a columnist for the *Daily Herald* described him as “an oasis of logic and social conscience in a regularly heaving sea of political conflict.”

He was elected in 1981 to represent the newly created Ward 2, which remains the only predominantly black ward in Biloxi. The graduate of Notre Dame High School had led the Black Civil Rights Organization of Biloxi and worked on voter education and outreach efforts before being elected to the City Council.

On the council, he championed funding for John Henry Beck Park and successfully fought for an ordinance to cut down on sales of alcohol to minors.

James Crowell, president of the Biloxi NAACP, said Esters worked hard to keep the community informed about city decisions and policies. He also brought Ward 2 residents’ concerns to the council.

On the night Esters was killed, he was heading home from an NAACP meeting, where Crowell had heard him give an update on city issues, he said. Esters won a reputation for fighting hard for his community.

“So for that reason, when he was killed there on the track, it really tore a lot of people up,”

he said. The name of the street kept his legacy alive in Biloxi.

“A lot of us, when we walk, drive down that street, and talk about how it came about, it brings back memories to us,” he said.

To Crowell, the name is especially important because there are few streets in the city named for local black leaders.

When he learned about the signs announcing the public hearing on the street name, he posted on the Biloxi NAACP Facebook page to urge residents to attend the Jan. 20 meeting of the planning commission. Even though the item is no longer on the agenda, Crowell still plans to go to the meeting, just in case.

Creel said discussion of the street name began a few weeks ago when a staffer pointed out the inconsistencies in the name of the northern portion of the street, which stemmed from recent railroad crossing closures.

Assigning addresses is part of his department’s duties.

The signs went up to invite the community to provide input into discussion on the name change, Creel said. The planning commission would consider the issue and then make a recommendation to the City Council, which would vote on the matter.

“All this is to do is to make sure that for police and fire and clear understanding, that the name, whatever the name is, it’s the same from one end of that street to the other,” he said.

He said he spoke with Biloxi’s Chief Administrative Officer Michael Leonard, who agreed it was a good idea to consider a name change for part of the street.

“We just didn’t think about contacting the council person, which in retrospect, would have been the right thing to do, to talk to him and let him know what we were proposing,” Creel said.

A week after the issue was pulled from the planning commission agenda, Gines was glad the resolution had been quick. And he said Creel had told him that removing the Esters name from part of the street had not been on the table.

“But of course the sign said different,” Gines said.

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The Mississippi Link™

Volume 28 • Number 14

January 20 - 26, 2022

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Publisher.....Jackie Hampton
Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett
Graphics.....Marcus Johnson
Photographers.....Kevin Bradley & Jay Johnson
Tim WardSports Editor

The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307 or e-mail us at: publisher@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting items to be considered for publication is Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Subscriptions are \$32 per year; \$64 for two years or \$96 for three years.

Postmaster:
Send all address changes to The Mississippi Link, P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307.

Advertising: For all advertising information, please call (601) 896-0084.

Member:

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Jackson Public Schools recognizes the excellence of JPS

JPS Newswire

On Tuesday, January 11, Jackson Public Schools recognized team excellence throughout the district. JPS Superintendent Errick L. Greene personally honored five outstanding individuals for their contributions which uplift the commitments to the scholars, families and employees of the district.

The recipients of the Jackson Public Schools’ Best of the Year Awards for 2022 are:

- Administrator of the Year - Chinelo Evans, principal of the Jackson Tougaloo Early College High School
- Teacher of the Year - Ebony Marshall-Newsome, Lester Elementary School
- Parent of the Year - Linda Faye Arnold, Bates Elementary
- District Leader of the Year - Thea Faulkner, director of Partners in Education
- Support Staff of the Year - Tamora McConnell, Office of Teaching and Learning

About The Honorees

Administrator of the Year

Chinelo Bosah Evans is the founding principal of the JPS-Tougaloo Early College High School Program where 120 JPS scholars are working toward earning an associate degree by the completion of their senior year of high school. Dr. Evans is a proud Mississippian. She received both her bachelor’s degree in English and master’s degree in Educational Leadership from Jackson State University. She also earned a specialist’s and doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and Supervision from Mississippi College. One of her most notable accomplishments was having served as head learner and principal of Northwest Jackson International Baccalaureate World Middle School. This is not the first time Evans has been recognized for her excellence in leadership. She was also most recently named the JPS Principal of the Month for the High School Division in October 2021. Evans was also recognized as Middle School Principal of the Year during the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years.

Teacher of the year

Ebony Marshall-Newsome is a second-grade teacher at Lester Elementary School. She holds a



Dr. Chinelo Bosah Evans, Administrator of the Year

Bachelor of Science in Child Care & Family Education and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Jackson State University. She is currently working on her Specialist in Psychometry from Jackson State University. She has been employed with the Jackson Public School District since 2006, the start of her career in education.

She believes that education is the only field in which other careers are made possible and teachers have the opportunity to change students’ lives and futures every day. She understands that educators face the responsibility of setting students up for success and high achievement

Parent of the Year

Linda Faye Arnold is the grandparent of a senior at the JPS-Tougaloo Early College High School Program. Over the past four year, Arnold and her family have modeled parental engagement, support of students and true altruism.

Since 2018, The JTECHS faculty and staff continue to be impressed with the initiative she takes to meet the needs of all scholars and staff. She never wants recognition or to be in the limelight. Instead, she focuses on being an excellent parent to a graduating senior and meeting any need she can.

During this pandemic, many families have experienced food insecurity. Arnold made a habit of frequently bringing additional lunches or snacks for the entire school to make sure that no one would be hungry. She would also bring snacks to the entire student body and staff just to brighten their day. While Arnold saw this as a small way to show appreciation to students who have been engaged in a rigorous dual enrollment



Ebony Marshall-Newsome, Teacher of the Year



Thea Thomas-Faulkner, District Leader of the Year

program, she was unaware of the impact that she was making. The scholars noticed her generosity and commitment to taking care of everyone at the school. She is an example of how everyone can do what they can, with what they have, to make a difference.

“Her efforts and unwavering support have helped many of us through challenging times,” said JTECHS Principal Chinelo Evans. “It is her quiet nature and caring heart which demonstrate servant leadership.” Arnold is a beacon of hope for those who may need a helping hand.

District Leader of the Year

Thea Thomas-Faulkner is the Director of Partners in Education. The goal of this department is to cultivate community engagement to enhance academic experiences and to support the various social-emotional needs of our scholars, families and educators. Faulkner has established an excellent rapport with the Greater Jackson community, yielding over 30 new partnerships and more than \$215,000 in donations and grant funds during the Fall semester of the 2021-22 school year.



Linda Faye Arnold, Parent of the Year



Dr. Tamora McConnell, Support Staff of the Year

Support Staff of the Year

Tamora McConnell was born and raised in Jackson, MS. After graduating from Murrah High School, she earned a Bachelor’s in Broadcast Journalism with a double minor in French and English at the University of Southern Mississippi. By her senior year, she knew she had a calling to become an educator. McConnell enrolled at William Carey University where she would earn three graduate degrees. She began her teaching career in Hattiesburg, MS.

Later, she moved closer to home and began teaching in Byram, MS. McConnell yearned to make an impact on her hometown, so she moved back to Jackson and began working at Wells APAC. After nine years in the classroom, McConnell was ready to help more children than just those in her classroom; therefore, she accepted a position at the Central Office of Jackson Public Schools. After 11 years in education, McConnell is dedicated now more than ever to show others the greatness that Jackson produces by bringing out the light of every child.

Jim Hill alum Attorney Keith B. French donates designer basketball uniforms to alma mater



Attorney Keith French, and Public Figure Owner Rickey Robinson

JPS Newswire

Attorney Keith B. French, a Jackson native and Jim Hill High graduate, donated custom uniforms to Jim Hill High School’s girls and boys basketball teams January 12 during a surprise ceremony in the school’s gymnasium. The uniforms are Public Figure Clothing Brand originals designed by brand owner Rickey Robinson, a fellow Jackson native and Provine High alum. Both men have also sponsored and designed athletic apparel for JSU head coach Deion Sanders and the JSU football team.

“It means everything to give back to this school. Jim Hill is the place that shaped me, and West Jackson is the place that raised me,” French said. “So, I really want to remind the students that this is where it starts. It’s the culture and roots of Jim Hill that teach them to be people-oriented, not property and things-oriented. That’s what I want to show these kids so they can pay it forward when they graduate and enter the world.”

Robinson has also donated custom Public Figure Clothing Brand uniforms to Callaway, Provine and Murrah’s athletic programs. “Before I left, I always wanted to come back and be that kind of individual that gives back because I remember when other celebrities came back to our school and gave back,” Robinson said. “That motivated me to become the man I am now.”

Jim Hill High Principal Bobby Brown thanked the men for their generous donation to his scholars. “We really appreciate the energy you have. It’s very inspiring and motivating for our community.” Brown also reminded us that Jim Hill is “the best! We’re better than the rest! We are the mighty, mighty Tigers!”



Principal Bobby Brown and Attorney Keith French

127 student-athletes earn GPAs of 3.0 or higher during fall semester

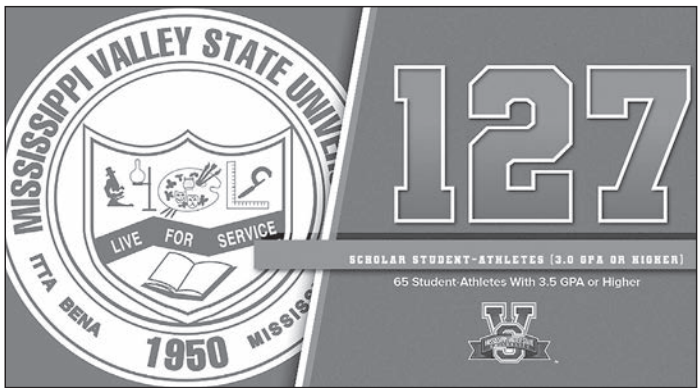
MS Valley State newswire

The Mississippi Valley State athletic department would like to recognize and congratulate the 127 student-athletes who have excelled in their respective sports as well as inside the classroom.

Among the scholarly athletes, 65 individuals stood taller than the rest as they were able to maintain GPAs of 3.5 and above. Eleven of the university’s 13 NCAA-sponsored sports programs were represented.

Football

- Kalib Alexander (3.70)
- Andrew Bartter (3.04)
- Andrew Bloodsaw Jr. (3.18)
- Eugentavious Blue (3.13)
- Jeremiah Caine (3.70)
- Sylvester Campbell (3.10)
- Jarius Clayton (3.27)
- Jalani Eason (3.90)
- DePhabian Fant (3.25)
- Orlando Fernandez (3.88)
- Jayren Fox (3.52)
- Markel Gladney (3.66)
- Nakia Green (3.87)
- Travis Hines (4.00)



- Antione Howard (3.41)
- Gregory Jean (3.06)
- Donald Johnson III (3.33)
- Carl Jones (3.07)
- Jalen Jones (3.33)
- Kaiyus Lewis (3.75)
- Kyah Moore (3.17)
- Morgan William (3.24)
- D’Anthony Page (3.05)
- Taylor Payne (3.34)
- Dontavious Porter (3.70)
- Eric Powell (3.00)
- Elijah Rawlins (4.00)
- Deione Reed (3.41)
- Deivone Reed (3.31)
- Ryon Rigsby (3.17)
- Barry Robertson (3.80)

- Jakobe Thomas (3.55)
- Ronnie Thomas (3.39)
- Deangelo Wagoner (4.00)
- Verandre White (3.33)
- Darius Williams (3.04)
- Ricky Williams Jr. (3.66)
- Terrance Williams (3.83)
- Baseball**
- Darrien Chapman (3.25)
- Ethan Charles (3.43)
- Keith Harden (3.00)
- Cedric Holt (3.27)
- Eric Johnson (3.90)
- Treadwell Kennedy (3.72)
- Calvin McClendon (3.66)
- Davon Mims (3.25)
- Angel Perez (3.95)

- Juan Reyes (3.06)
- Jose Salazar-Ortega (3.30)
- Iankel Santos (3.72)
- Christopher Soeder (3.61)
- Jan Tolentino (3.91)
- Isaiah Valenzuela (3.43)
- Antonio Walker (3.83)
- James Walton (3.06)
- Ty Washington (3.88)
- Dylan Whitfield (3.00)
- Joshua Wilson (3.31)
- Johnathan Yandrich (4.00)
- Men’s Basketball**
- John Aguer (3.66)
- Elijah Davis (3.08)
- Devin Gordon (3.17)
- Caleb Hunter (3.13)
- Jordan Johnson (3.54)
- Daniel Umoh (3.86)
- Quoiren Waldon (3.32)
- Kadar Waller (3.26)
- Women’s Basketball**
- Jasmine Elliott (3.25)
- Milia Gibson (3.66)
- Kerrigan Johnson (3.33)
- Zakiya Mahoney (3.12)
- Sarah Moore (3.25)
- Annya Moss (3.36)
- Carria Smith (3.33)
- Ronni Williams (3.66)

- Kendria Wilson (3.72)
- Men’s Track & Field / Cross Country**
- Calvin Adolph (3.56)
- Chad Chandler (3.59)
- Desmond Ferrell (3.70)
- Elijah Johnson (3.41)
- Stanley Rop (3.08)
- Kiion Smith (3.26)
- Women’s Track & Field / Cross Country**
- Michaela Brown (3.46)
- Terreka Gibson (3.05)
- Chanelle Houston (3.89)
- Alice Kimutai (3.32)
- Devina Neal (3.54)
- Averi Sanders (3.80)
- Makiah Sherman (3.48)
- Myah Sherman (3.48)
- Carrie Snipes (4.00)
- Imani Walker (3.71)
- Rickeysha White (3.11)
- Soccer**
- Merica Abnathy (3.94)
- Taiwo Badejo (3.79)
- Madeleine Hebert (3.29)
- McKenzie McCarthy (3.03)
- Tallulah Nemet-Sargent (3.83)
- Beatriz Olimpio-Kretteis (3.77)

- Ananda Pritchett (3.97)
- Softball
- Brianna Alston (3.88)
- Shelby Carson (3.62)
- Jaylon Davis (3.82)
- Naomi Drake (3.68)
- Aulora Edwards (3.56)
- Kyler Espadron (3.62)
- Mykaila Fleming (3.00)
- Morgan Gutierrez (4.00)
- Aleyah Munford (3.11)
- Daisy Page (3.77)
- Cailyn Peterson (3.94)
- Alina Salazar-Bowens (3.58)
- Karlee Schierbeek (3.01)
- Kathleen Sims (3.63)
- Demi Slater (3.56)
- Jade Smith (4.00)
- Laeni Terrones (3.83)
- Breeauna Troup (3.70)
- Jewel Unga (4.00)
- Sydney Wesley (4.00)
- Keisha White (3.00)
- Volleyball**
- Chardea Berthelot (3.25)
- Takiyah Flynn (3.28)
- Kiya Garza (3.57)
- Seerdyn James (3.60)
- Victoria Mallard (3.68)
- Ellis Spencer (3.26)

Teens, anger and the growing violence

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

I've attended a lot of meetings that discussed the growing violence in our society. "Road rage," "Facebook rage," "stepped on my shoe rage" and "you disrespected me rage".. Blame was placed on the police, the district attorney's office, no jobs, no education opportunities, on gun control. All of these issues are problems, but is it the reason for all the violence we had in the United States?

According to U.S. Statista Research Department in 2020, 13 to 20 year olds committed most of the violent crimes in the U.S. Most of the victims knew their perpetrator. People that are young, immature and lack self-control are committing most of the violent crimes in the U.S.

More police, more convictions nor more jobs will control this mental health issue that is causing the violence.

Two thirds of the U.S. teens have had an anger attack so severe they have destroyed property or threatened or attacked another person. When these attacks continue it becomes a mental health issue called "intermittent explosive



disorder"(IED). One in 12 teens may have this condition.

This is one of the most common teen disorders in America and is not being treated as much as it should. Anger is a big problem with teens when they can't control it. I think we could solve some of the violence if we help our teens learn to control their anger. This condition can continue into adulthood. When it continues into adulthood it can lead to depression, drug use and alcoholism.

Most teens with IED have parents with violent tendencies or a parent with panic disorder. Teens in a situation with a par-

ent having a mental health issue will mimic the violence of the parent.

There is not a lot of scientific research being done on IED. The largest amount of study data comes from The U.S. National Comorbidity Survey Replication Adolescent Supplement. Most is published in the Archives of General Psychiatry. Their data revealed that 8% of U.S. teens met the criteria for IED. This means they have had a few explosive episodes of impulsive and aggressiveness behavior that was grossly out of proportion to any precipitating psychosocial stressor. This

means what ever was going on with the teen, their response did not match the situation. This condition was more common among teens not living with their biological parents and those with the most siblings. The data also showed that there was very little treatment for this condition.

We don't know what causes IED. We need to put more money into mental health treatment and research. We need to focus on the factors that put teens at risk. We need to also focus on any identifiable prevention factors.

Remember intermittent explosive disorder involves the repeated behavior, which is grossly out of proportion to the situation. Road rage, domestic abuse, throwing or breaking objects or other temper tantrums may be signs of intermittent explosive disorder. We see this everyday in our community.

Symptoms of IED:

- Fits of rage
- Increased energy
- Irritability
- Sudden episodes of impulsive behavior
- Racing thoughts
- Tingling
- Tremors

- Palpitations
- Chest tightness
- Temper tantrums
- Heated arguments
- Tirades
- Slapping, shoving or pushing
- Shouting
- Physical fights and property damage
- Threatening or assaulting.

If you feel your teen has intermittent explosive disorder talk to your primary care physician (PCP). Your PCP may recommend one or more diagnostic tests and procedures as part of an evaluation. You should try to eliminate physical conditions or other mental health issues that may be causing the symptoms.

Your PCP can help you find a psychiatrist that specializes in the branch of medicine concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness. There is no cure for IED but you can gain control over behavior with treatment. There are inpatient treatment programs you can use for treatment. There's no single treatment that's works best for teens with IED.

Remember your teen's brain is growing mentally and their prefrontal cortex (the center for self-regulation, reasoning and

impulse control) is not fully developed. You should not expect them to have clear decision-making. Their brain can be trained.

Families can help teens by:
Help your teen to manage their anger

Developing healthy and meaningful connections with their family

Form well-developed social skills

Develop good sleep hygiene. Poor sleeping habits significantly affect our emotions, how we control them and our overall mental wellbeing.

Teenagers between 13 and 18 years old should get around 8.5 hours of sleep per night

Learn and adopt problem solving by coming up with more than one solution to a problem.

Learn to think before taking action and finding creative or physical outlets for anger.

Try to understand and re-frame situations to make a better assessment of events.

Try to understand the emotions that impact us and being capable of managing reactions to them.

Identify when to concede ground and when to push for a good outcome.

To test frequently or to vaccinate?

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

Our America is full of both problems and solutions. We test different theories and then make decisions.

Information provides us with the tool by which we make informed choices. The problem with information is that we don't always use it to make good decisions.

For example, I knew growing up that I would suffer the consequences of my choices. Even when I had the right information, I made the incorrect decision. Why? Hardheaded.

Maybe I thought that the facts did not apply to me. My think-

ing now is that I temporarily misplaced my thinking cap.

I think that is happening with the Coronavirus and the judgments people are making about it. People have the facts yet are ignoring them or not believing them. I say that respectfully.

Many Americans are putting aside statistics about hospital stays and even deaths. They are using their own logic and reasoning to come up with their way to combat COVID-19.

I have been around long enough to know that we have different lens through which we look at life experiences.

No matter our different and varied experiences, COVID-19 is a shared experience. We are

all getting it and some have passed away from it.

To respond to citizens who want to be tested, the government is giving away testing kits. Each family can get up to four testing kits. The website to order them is covidtests.gov

You can expect to receive them within a two-week window. That is good news for people who want to go the testing route.

Those who are choosing to be tested should also be aware of fake testing sites. They are in business and their reviews are not good. In other words, buyer beware. One such operation is called The Center for COVID-19 Control. According to

reports, they have testing locations across the country.

Michelle McDaniel, a customer said, "I still haven't heard anything. It was very frustrating."

This company is being investigated by the Department of Justice in Oregon and the Better Business Bureau in many cities.

Liz Gerard, another duped customer said, "At the moment I was asked for my driver's license number along with quite a bit of personal data that I thought was excessive, but I was sick, so I went along with it."

If you are sick, then going to the doctor and getting some medication might be a good step to take. By not going to the doc-

tor, it might indicate that some people are on a COVID testing frenzy. You get sick and you automatically think you have the Omicron variant.

Now if you have been vaccinated and boosted, your chances are much better. It is my opinion that too many people are not vaccinated and running to these testing sites on a regular basis.

That is their choice, and some will continue to do it. However, it is my hope that some minds will be changed and they will get vaccinated and boosted.

The Supreme Court ruled against a federal mandate for companies to require their employees to be vaccinated. However, SCOTUS did say that it

would leave the decision up to the employers.

I think large companies will want to see their employees vaccinated. Chief executives see these statistics so I think they will make wise and prudent decisions.

The sports world has also been affected by this vaccine dilemma. Kyrie Irving of the Brooklyn Nets cannot play in New York because of the vaccine rules in that state. Novak Djokovic, the top ranked men's tennis player in the world, will not be able to play in the Australian Open because he is un-vaccinated.

To vaccinate or to test? Those are the choices. Which will you choose?

Phoenix Suns owner Sarver's commitment to public health research

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

The Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research and ESPN have teamed up each year for 15 years to raise awareness and funding to support life-saving cancer research. Phoenix Suns owner Robert Sarver has remained a big supporter of the Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research.

With the annual V Week, which concluded in December of 2021, top sports and corporate world leaders pledged to work together to increase funding to help defeat cancer in America.

Named after the late North Carolina State Basketball coach Jimmy Valvano, the coaching legend was diagnosed with metastatic adenocarcinoma, an aggressive form of cancer.

Today, the V Foundation has continued to work diligently to do more cancer research.

Despite his diagnosis, Jimmy V – as he was known – didn't go



The University of Arizona's Sarver Heart Center has pursued life-saving innovations, research and patient care.

down without a fight.

He set a standard for battling that remains part of sports folklore.

At the inaugural ESPY Awards in 1993, Valvano received the Arthur Ashe Courage and Humanitarian Award.

Because of his courageous fight against cancer, Valvano remains the epitome of sports resiliency, determination and overachievement.

The late North Carolina State

coach, who led his team to an improbable national championship in 1983, inspired an entire country and coaches and players everywhere.

But more than anything else, Valvano, who died at the age of 46 on April 28, 1993, is known for never giving up.

The 2021 Jimmy V Week closed December 12 at Madison Square Garden in New York with matchups between Tennessee vs. Texas Tech and Syracuse

vs. Villanova.

"The mission – victory over cancer – is still as important as ever," Pam Valvano Stasser, Valvano's widow and mother of their three children, wrote in an op-ed.

While final numbers aren't yet available for 2021, last year's Jimmy V Week for Cancer Research raised more than \$8.8 million for cancer research – a 6 percent year-over-year increase from 2019.

Sports fans, employees, leagues and the corporate community contributed.

And, like many other social equity causes, the Phoenix Suns remains on the frontlines to ensure public health research and healthcare equity for all communities.

As one of the leading owners of a NBA team, Robert Sarver continues to promote health on the basketball court as well as off the court in communities where there are health dispari-

ties, in particular in communities of color. Sarver has also lived to battle his own fight to challenge heart disease.

Sarver's father, Jack, passed away in 1979 at 58 after a battle with heart disease. Since then, Sarver has partnered with the University of Arizona to create the Sarver Heart Center.

Sarver said his childhood memories of his father's valiant struggle still motivate him and his three sons to end the heritage of heart disease.

Founded in 1986, just three years after Valvano's Wolfpack defeated the mighty Houston Cougars to win the NAACP championship, the Sarver Heart Center began with the goal of preventing and curing cardiovascular disease through the three pillars of research, education and patient care.

Renamed in 1998 in recognition of generous support from the Sarver family, the center is composed of about 150 physi-

cians and scientists with national and international reputations.

According to the information posted on the hospital's website, the goal is to bring together scientists from complementary backgrounds and expertise to work collaboratively toward a future free of heart disease, vascular disease and stroke.

The University of Arizona's Sarver Heart Center has pursued life-saving innovations, research and patient care. They've reported progress since the 1960s, when 40 percent of Americans died of cardiovascular disease. Today, that figure reportedly has decreased to 34 percent, and death from the illness now occurs at an older age.

While Jimmy V week 2021 recently closed, organizers said it'll certainly return in 2022 to help basketball fight for healthier communities, and the Sarver Heart Center continues to leave a transformative legacy on behalf of Jack Sarver.

P R E S E R V E D

Change can do you good

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Divorce after 10 years of being together. Terminated without cause after 3 years of employment. As I listened to my two friends describe how they were adjusting to the shock of those changes, all I could think about was the only major change I'd made recently was to get braids. Not much of a change compared to theirs.

The very familiar story of Joseph in the Old Testament is a good example of learning from sudden changes and their effects. He was sold into slavery by his brothers, endured an unfair prison sentence and decades of separation from his family. Yet, in the midst of all the negative things that happened in his life, he was still willing to be used by God. When asked to interpret

dreams of the Pharaoh, he gave a God inspired response. This response so impacted the Pharaoh that Joseph was not only released from jail, but he also was given a position of great importance in the government.

Through every transition that Joseph experienced, he remained in God's favor. But they also show us that God was also working on Joseph. No longer was Joseph a boastful teenager. He had matured into a man who recognized that God's will and not his brother's hatred had prevailed.

Genesis 45:4-5 shows this as when Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life."

I encouraged my friends to remember Joseph and to try to see the great things that were ahead despite how things

looked. Even though what they were going through wasn't necessarily a good thing, God would turn it to good for them. I dutifully recited Romans 8:28 which says, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

They said they were too angry to accept the truth of those words. Being angry was understandable but I prayed that one day they would hopefully see the unwanted changes as an opportunity for a fresh start. Rather than fight or complain about the process, I encouraged them to do their best to submit to the process and learn the specific lesson God had for them.

Sometimes sudden changes can leave us feeling rejected, ignored and devalued. However, sometimes God allows those things to happen not so we can focus on how others re-

spond to us but for us to refocus on how we respond to the circumstances. Do we respond with grace and humility, or do we become petty and bitter?

John 5:12 says "He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."

These sudden changes could be seen as God's way of maturing us.

A few years later, both admitted that the pruning or cleansing their lives of things (and people) led to them having the space to receive things (and people) that allow them to be fruitful and blessed.

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.

The hardening of the heart

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



Do we know what happens when one hears the Gospel and then postpones salvation and continues to say no to God repeatedly? The Gospel becomes common. I fear that is what is working on many of us today. We can become hardened to the Gospel. Possibly, we who have not been raised in the church might be moved easily to an altar of prayer. However, we can become Gospel hardened because we have heard the message so many times. We can become less and less sensitive to the voice of God.

The things that once moved our hearts no longer move us because we have procrastinated. Often, I have seen evidence of people's hearts becoming hardened when they hear the Gospel. The Gospel will turn a person's heart to God, but if we do not listen to God; if we do not do something about it, it will turn our hearts further away from God.

If we are not a Christian, we are getting closer to hell than we have ever been because the Gospel changes us one way or the other. It is to have either a positive ef-

fect or a negative effect. There is something about God's Word. The Bible says it "shall not return unto me void" (Isaiah 55:11). God's precious Word will not return void. It accomplishes that which it is sent to accomplish.

Second Corinthians 2:15-16 says: "For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?" Those who are not saved by the Gospel will find that the Gospel has hardened their hearts.

Pharaoh hardened his own heart by neglecting warning after warning, so his repentance was insincere. His heart grew calloused and indifferent. Plague after plague came from God, yet Pharaoh hardened his heart. Pharaoh would not repent with godly sorrow, and since he would not do what God was urging him to do, God forced the issue so that his heart was forever hardened. He died in the Red Sea with his army, forever to be an example of a man who would not hear God's voice.

Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joyne's Road Church of God, 31 Joyne's Road, Hampton, VA 23669.



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From MLK’s alma mater and John Lewis’ district, reminders of the power of direct action

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



President Joe Biden could have delivered his recent voting rights message to U.S. senators from the White House just down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol. Instead, he and Vice President Kamala Harris traveled to Atlanta a few days before Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It was the perfect place for the president’s powerful message urging senators to be on the right side of history by doing whatever it takes to get voting rights legislation passed and put on the president’s desk.

The president and vice president visited King’s church before traveling to Morehouse College, King’s alma mater. They spoke in a place represented long and nobly by the late civil rights champion and congressman John Lewis.

I was honored to be in attendance, surrounded by friends and colleagues in the voting rights movement. History was all around us. I could feel the presence of so many witnesses, including those who gave their very lives to the cause.

I had to think that Dr. King and the late Rep. John Lewis would appreciate that some of us sitting in the front row for the president’s speech had been on the front lines just a few weeks earlier. We were arrested outside the White House while urging the president to put the full power of the presidency behind a push for voting rights protections.

King and Lewis had great strategic understanding of the power of nonviolent direct action to highlight injustice, to motivate supporters, to stir the conscience of those on the sidelines – and sometimes to light a fire under allies.

The invitation extended by the White House to those of us arrested outside its gates in November was a sign that the president appreciates the urgency that drove our direct action. President Lyndon Johnson and Martin Luther King were partners in passing civil and voting rights laws, and each understood that movement leaders had a different role to play than the politicians. Some voting rights advocates held a sit-in inside the White House itself just days before President Johnson made his famous “We Shall Overcome” speech calling on Congress to uphold American ideals by

passing voting rights legislation.

Voting rights advocates have known all along that President Biden was an ally. He has publicly criticized the wave of voting restrictions passed by Republican states after record voter turnout in 2022 led to former President Donald Trump’s defeat. We respected the importance of other items on the president’s legislative agenda, including investments in infrastructure and the American people.

But we watched with increasing alarm as Republicans in the U.S. senate used filibuster rules to repeatedly block action on federal voting rights bills that are needed to override voter suppression and brazen election subversion schemes being put in place in key states. We saw time running out to reverse these changes before the 2022 elections.

So we took to the streets and called on the president to make the case to U.S. senators that the right to vote is far more important to our democracy than the current version of the Senate’s filibuster rules.

President Biden rose to the occasion in Atlanta. “To protect our democracy, I support changing the Senate rules, whichever way they need to be changed, to prevent a minority of senators from blocking action on voting rights,” he said. “When it comes to protecting majority rule in America, the majority should rule in the United States Senate.”

“I will not yield,” President Biden said. “I will not flinch. I will defend the right to vote and our democracy against all enemies, foreign, and yes, domestic.”

I believe that the president’s call to action was a reminder of the power of direct action. And a reminder of the power of the people – that when it comes to preserving voting rights and our democracy, we must all remain vigilant and willing to act with what Dr. King called “the fierce urgency of now.”

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way. Jealous has decades of experience as a leader, coalition builder, campaigner for social justice and seasoned nonprofit executive. In 2008, he was chosen as the youngest-ever president and CEO of the NAACP. He is a graduate of Columbia University and Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and he has taught at Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania.

The silent “white” in America

By Oscar H. Blayton
Pres. Black Chamber of Commerce



On a recent Sunday broadcast of NBC’s “Meet the Press,” viewers witnessed a classic example of the decoupling of people of color from notions of America.

The program’s white host, Chuck Todd, had as his guest, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones, to talk about conservatives’ latest manufactured bogeyman, critical race theory.

In framing a question to his guest, Todd stated in part, “[P]arents are saying, ‘Hey, don’t make my kid feel guilty,’” and then said, “And I know a parent of color is going, ‘What are you talking about? You know, I’ve got to teach reality.’”

Hannah-Jones was quick to pick up the skewed mindset of the host and brought it to his attention.

“Well, I think you should think just a little bit about your framing...You said ‘parents,’ and then you said, ‘parents of color.’ So, the ‘white’ is silent,” she told him.

Continuing, she pointed out, “As a matter of fact, white parents are representing fewer than half of all public school parents... And yet, they have an outsized voice in this debate.”

Todd made a feeble attempt to walk back his racially tone-deaf comment, but it was clear that his personal frame of reference “othered” parents of color and centered whiteness in the American narrative.

It seemed clear that to Todd, like to so many other white Americans, “American” means “white American” and the “white” is silent.

In our use of language, when an element is silent, we do not pronounce it, but it is there just the same. And in the normative concept of America, whiteness is always there, even when it is

not pronounced.

Thought leaders in this country need to ask why, when whiteness is almost always present in so many American conflicts, it is silent in the related conversations?

The American discourse about race is often framed in a way that erases black folk from the concept of society. This makes “white” the normative and the acknowledgment of everyone else an accommodation. Because of this, to many white Americans, “white” is a given.

Never does an election cycle go by without political pundits commenting on the voting patterns of “suburban moms,” although those patterns may be the exact opposite of the voting patterns of black mothers living in the suburbs. “Suburban moms” is a term used in a way that erases the presence of black voters and centers the focus on whiteness.

I want to make it clear that I do not believe Todd was knowingly engaged in trying to “other” or intentionally diminish the status of parents of color with his misstep. But Todd, like asymptomatic COVID carriers, can wreak havoc on a community without even knowing that they are spreading a deadly disease.

When someone gives an outsized voice to – or aggrandizes – whiteness, they may simply be responding to centuries of intergenerational social conditioning without giving any critical thought to how they are processing their thoughts.

The late Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in a 2010 interview on National Public Radio, recounted how he had once, as a conditioned reflex, questioned the competence of the two black pilots of the airliner in which he was traveling when the weather got rough. The archbishop acknowledged that his moment of doubt was caused by a lifetime of being subjected to notions of white superiority and black

incompetence. For years, in white dominated societies, the “white” was silent in “airline pilots.”

If Archbishop Tutu was not immune to racist stereotyping, it is easy to understand how Chuck Todd could fall short in his reasoning. But in this day and age, we need to critically explore where the silent “white” comes from and its impact on America today.

The type of logical disconnect that gives us the silent “white” in “white suburban moms” can be better understood by considering the silent “p” in the word “pterodactyl.”

Pterodactyl comes from two Greek words, “pteron” meaning wing and “daktulos” meaning finger. This is an apt description of the prehistoric flying reptile with fingers on its wings.

But the sound that begins the word pterodactyl in Greek does not occur in English, so rather than create a new word, we pronounce the Greek word differently to conform it to the English tongue. But when you remove the “p,” the remaining word is nonsensical and disconnected from logic.

There are many long theses explaining why silent letters persist in the English language, but to be brief, they resulted from the introduction of the printing press. Originally, English was totally phonetic and English speakers pronounced every letter in a word. But over the centuries, loanwords were introduced from around the world. These loanwords were printed as they were received from foreign tongues. But as the pronunciation of these words yielded to social forces and were altered into anglicized versions, their spelling remained fixed by the literate segment of the society. Letters without phonic utility remained on the printed page as traces of history but disappeared from the spoken word.

Just as the logical Greek “pt” in pterodactyl is a trace of the

historical origins of that word, “white suburban moms” evidences the origins of the current political term “suburban moms.” But just as pterodactyl without the “p” is a logical disconnect, so is white suburban moms without the “white.”

We now have the ubiquitous silent “white” because in years past, the white supremacists who set many of the norms under which we struggle today, clearly articulated a preference for whites to reap the lion’s share of what this world had to offer. There was no necessity for them to dissemble on this point because black folk and other people of color had no rights the white man was bound to recognize, according to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Roger Taney in the Dred Scott decision. But over the course of time, with the rise of new nations in Africa, Asia and elsewhere, whites had to tamp down their hubris and arrogance in order to enjoy the benefits of a new global economy. “White” had to become an unspoken and unwritten inference.

But while “white” had to become silent due to social pressure, the logic of the silent “white” underpinning the expressions remained written in the continuing effects of white supremacy. And therein lies the root of the logical disconnect.

Pundits don’t say “white suburban moms,” and Chuck Todd did not say “white parents” that Sunday morning. But its presence is loud and clear.

We must listen critically to what is being said with the understanding of what is meant by the silent “white” in statements. And we must let this understanding inform our actions.

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

No matter the vote: We can’t wait

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



By the time most of us read this, the United States Senate would have taken a vote on the Voting Rights

Legislation that has been delayed for so long. While passage of the Voting Rights Act and the John Lewis Act would go a long way in nullifying the many voter suppression laws enacted during the past year in more than 28 states, we must all realize that this battle for the right to vote now rests with each and everyone of us.

We must now understand that the issue is not one of whether we will have a democracy. The real issue is will we become a

nation of racists fighting to kill the continuation of a representative government that some of us think of as a democracy, or will we allow our future to rest with two individual members of the Senate? Will we allow citizenship suppression to become the symbol of democracy for those who truly believe that only a select few are to be counted in the limited and non-inclusive government that tramples on the rights of people of color and marginalized citizens.

Because the attack on voting rights is so aggressive and uniform, those of us in favor and support of voting rights legislation must act now and take this cause beyond the necessary votes needed to make the pending bills the law of the land. We must now register and

re-register every person capable, of voting age, for the midterm elections which will take place this November 2022. We must check existing voter rolls for the names of all those who have been or are being “purged” for whatever reason. We must find and re-register those individuals so that they can be in good standing to vote in November. We must conduct election drills just as Dr. King and those in the Civil Rights demonstrations prepared for each march before they went out to be attacked by dogs and high powered water hoses.

We must establish committees to look at and examine those persons seeking to run for office at all levels and test whether they have campaign proposals that would weaken both elections and tamper with

the people who handle such elections. This would include laws against election workers, voting opportunities at the local and state level as well as a national commitment to ensure that those elected to the House and Senate will maintain the control of those bodies to meet our goals.

We can’t wait to study the new electoral districts; we can’t wait to find the right people to run for office or to start the fundraising that will be necessary to change the projected Republican outcome for November 2022. Now is the time to start both here and with our families, friends and neighbors across this country.

We must prove that no laws can stop an idea whose time has come with the people the laws were intended to serve.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 4157

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 Westhaven Memorial Funeral Home has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for the extension of services offered for an existing business within a C80-C3 (General) Commercial Subdistrict on property located at 4660 Highway 80 W. (Parcel 822-365), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A certain lot or parcel of land being situated in Lots 6 and 7; Block 1, Van Winkle Estates, Part 2, in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows:

Beginning at a point in the South line of Summer Place, a subdivision of part of Lot 5, Block 1, Van Winkle Estates, Part 2, said point of beginning being the Southwest corner of Lot 7 of said Summer Place, run thence Westerly along the South line of Summer Place for a distance of 50 feet; turn thence to the left through an angle of 83 degrees 07 minutes and run Southwesterly 81 feet to an iron stake, said point being the point of beginning of the land herein described, a point of beginning of survey herein described; turn thence to the left and through an angle of 59 degrees 42 minutes and run Southwesterly 189.5 feet to the northern right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 80; turn thence to the right through an angle of 88 degrees 48 minutes and run northwesterly along the northern right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 80, 100 feet to a point; turn thence to the right through an angle of 59 degrees 12 minutes and run Northeasterly 133.2 feet to a point; turn thence to the right through an angle of 59 degrees 42 minutes and run Easterly 115.6 feet to the point of beginning.

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, January 26, 2022, 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 JANUARY 19, 2022.

WITNESS my signature this 27th day of December 2021.

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

1/6/2022, 1/20/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

ZONING CASE NO. 4158

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 Elizabeth and Bill Brister has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-1A (Single-Family) Residential District to NMU-1 (Neighborhood) Mixed-Use District to allow for the development of multi-family apartments and/or condominiums to complement the changing character of the neighborhood at the property located at 4562 N. State St. (Parcels 433-181, 433-182, 433-183 & 433-185), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Parcel 433-181
Lot 1, Block H, G.I. Subdivision, a subdivision according to map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, in Plat Book 8 at Page 29, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 433-182
Lot 2, Block H, G.I. Subdivision, a subdivision according to map or plate thereof which is on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, in Plat Book 8 at Page 29, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 433-183
Lot 3, Block H, G.I. Subdivision, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of the First Judicial District of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book 8 at Page 29, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 433-185
Lot 5, Block H, G.I. Subdivision, a subdivision according to map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, in Plat Book 8 at Page 29, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

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, January 26, 2022, 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 JANUARY 19, 2022.

WITNESS my signature this 27th day of December 2021.

1/6/2022, 1/20/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

SIGN VARIANCE FOR SMILOW PREP

THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SIGN VARIANCE FOR SMILOW PREP TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022 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.

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ORDINANCE GRANTING CAGE PROPERTIES A REZONING FROM C-2 (LIMITED) COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO C-3 (GENERAL) COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO ALLOW FOR MORE REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 4855 I-55 NORTH (PARCELS 511-636) AND PARCELS 511-650 & 511-652), CASE NO. 4126.

WHEREAS, Cage Properties has filed a petition to rezone the property located at 4855 I-55 North (Parcels: 511-636, 511-650 & 511-652), in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, from C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to C-3 (General) Commercial District to allow for more redevelopment opportunities for the subject properties; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has offered the recommendation to rezone the properties from C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to C-3 (General) Commercial District to allow for more redevelopment opportunities for the above described properties; and

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

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on April 8, 2021 and April 22, 2021 that a hearing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on April 28, 2021, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board has recommended the rezoning the above described properties from C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to C-3 (General) Commercial District; and

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

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

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

Parcel A:
A part of the East one-half of the Southwest Quarter and the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 13, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, lying in and being a part of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and more particularly described as follows:

Begin at the Northeast corner of the intersection of the North line of the dedicated road or street along the South side of that certain property conveyed by W. P. Bridges to the Trustees of the Jackson Municipal Separate School District, with the East line of the road or street along the East side of said School property, as recorded in Deed Book 818, at Page 562; from said intersection run easterly along the North line of said road or street a distance of 150 feet to the Southwest corner of the Pan-Am Southern property as recorded in Deed Book 868, at Page 158; turn thence to the left through an angle of 89°58' and run Northerly along the West line of said Pan-Am Southern property and parallel with the road or street along the East side of the School property, for a distance of 295.9 feet to the Northwest corner of the Pan-Am Southern property and the point of beginning of the property herein described; continue thence Northerly on an extension of the last mentioned course, and parallel with the road or street along the East side of said School property for a distance of 348.2 feet to the Southwest corner of the D. F. Lyle property as recorded in Deed Book 930, at Page 253; turn thence to the right through an angle of 89°58' and run Easterly along the South line of said D. F. Lyle property for a distance of 360.9 feet to the new Right-of-Way line of U. S. Highway #51; turn thence to the right through an angle of 99°30' and run Southwesterly along the present Right-of-Way line of said U. S. Highway #51 for a distance of 353 feet to the North line of the Pan-Am Southern property; turn thence to the right through an angle of 80°30' and run Westerly along the North line of the Pan-Am Southern property for a distance of 302.9 feet to the point of beginning.

Together with a non-exclusive easement or right-of-way for the purposes of ingress and egress over the following described property:

A strip of land 20 feet wide, East and West, and 940 feet long, North and South, described as follows: Commence at the Southwest corner of the Pan-Am Southern property described above, thence North 940 feet to a point, which is the Northwest corner of the D. F. Lyle property described above, thence West for a distance of 20 feet to a point on a projection in a westerly direction of the North line of the said Lyle property, thence South for a distance of 940 feet to a point which is 20 feet West of the Southwest corner of the said Pan-Am Southern property, thence East 20 feet to the point of beginning, being a part of Section 13, Township 6 North, Range 1 East.

This being the same easement conveyed by W. P. Bridges to Sidney D. Jones and Elizabeth M. Jones by instrument recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, in Deed Book 1132, Page 513. And being the same property as described in Warranty Deed recorded in Book 1736 at Page 457.

Parcel B:
A certain parcel of land being situated in the Southeast Quarter (SE ¼) of the Northwest Quarter (NW ¼) of Section 13, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the South line of the dedicated road or street along the North side of that certain property conveyed by W. P. Bridges to the Trustees of Jackson Municipal Separate School District with the Western right of way line of U.S. Highway #51, said School property being described by a deed in Book 818 at Page 562 and the said road or street being described in Deed Book 818 at Page 564, both being recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk, at Jackson, Mississippi. From said point of beginning run thence Southwesterly along the Western right of way line of said U.S. Highway #51 for a distance of 300 feet; turning to the right through an angle

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

ZONING CASE NO. 4156

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 Jill Reyes has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to I-1 (Light) Industrial District to allow for a construction storage site for property located at 0 McRaven Rd (Parcel 825-410) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

ALL THAT PT SW ¼ SE ¼ SOUTH OF THE RAILROAD LESS 4 ACRES IN THE NE CORNER, ALL IN SECTION 3, T5N, R1W

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, January 26, 2022, 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 JANUARY 19, 2022.

WITNESS my signature this 27th day of December 2021.

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

1/6/2022, 1/20/2022

LEGAL

of 80 degrees 30 minutes run Westerly and parallel with the South line of the street along the North side of said School property for a distance of 396 feet to a point which is 150 feet East of the East line of the Street or road which runs along the East side of said School property; thence Northerly and parallel with the said street or road along the East side of said School property for a distance of 295.9 feet to the South line of the Street or road along the North side of said School property; turning thence to the right through an angle of 89 degrees 58 minutes and run Easterly along the south line of said street or road 445.2 feet to the point of beginning.

LESS AND EXCEPT, a parcel of land off of the entire East end of said property conveyed by D. F. Lyle, et al, to State Highway Commission of Mississippi recorded in the aforesaid office in Book 1044, Page 159.

And being the same property as described in Warranty Deed recorded in Book 1736 at Page 460.

Parcel C: #511-650
At the intersection of the East line of that certain street lying on the East side of McWillie Elementary School known as McWillie Circle said street running Northerly and Southerly, and the South line of McWillie Street; and run thence Southerly along the East line of said McWillie Circle a distance of 300 feet to a point; using this point as a point of beginning, continue thence Southerly along the East line of McWillie Circle a distance of 100 feet to a point; turn thence to the left through an angle of 90° and run thence

Easterly for a distance of 130 feet to a point; run thence Northerly and parallel to the East line of said McWillie Circle a distance of 100 feet to a point; run thence Westerly a distance of 130 feet to the point of beginning. This parcel of land is part of that tract conveyed by Millsaps College to R.D. Hudgins by instrument recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, in Deed Book 1654, Page 299, and said property being located in the West ½ of Section 13, Township 6 North, Range 1 East.

Together with the right of ingress and egress to 20-foot alleyway which lies immediately East of and adjacent to that tract of land conveyed by Millsaps College to R.D. Hudgins by the above mentioned warranty deed recorded in Book 1654, Page 299; it is understood by the parties hereto that each party and his successors in title shall have the right of ingress and egress across said alleyway.

And being the same property described in Instrument recorded in Book 2160 at Page 560.

Parcel D: 511-652
For a point of beginning, begin at the intersection of the East line of that certain street lying on the East side of McWillie Elementary School known as McWillie Circle, said street running northerly and southerly, and the south line of McWillie Street and run thence southerly along the East line of said McWillie Circle a distance of 400 feet to a point, using this point as a point of beginning, continue thence southerly along the east line of McWillie Circle a distance of 100 feet to a point; turn thence to the left through an angle of 90 degrees and run thence easterly a distance of 130 feet to a point; run thence northerly and parallel to the East line of said McWillie Circle a distance of 100 feet to a point; run thence westerly a distance of 130 feet to the point of beginning; together with any and all rights of the sellers in and to the 20-foot alleyway adjoining said property on the East.

This parcel of land is part of that tract conveyed by Millsaps College to R.D. Hudgins by instrument in the office of the Chancery Clerk of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, in Deed Book 1654 at Page 299 and said property being located in the West half of Section 13, Township 6 North, Range 1 East.

And being the same property described in Instrument recorded in Book 2080 at Page 381.

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the property located at 4855 I-55 North (Parcel 511-636) and Parcels 511-650 & 511-652 from C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to C-3 (General) Commercial District to allow for more redevelopment opportunities for the subject properties. However, that before for any structure is erected or use thereof on the said property, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

Council Member Lindsay moved adoption; Council President Banks seconded.

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Lee and Lindsay.
Nays – None.
Absent – Stamps, Stokes and Tillman.

ATTEST:

Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an order passed by the City Council at its Regular Zoning Meeting on May 17, 2021 and recorded in Minute Book "6T Pgs. "118-121."

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this 18th day of August, 2021.

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

1/20/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 4159

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 Kamberly C. Ledford has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for a tattoo parlor within a C-3 (General) Commercial District on property located at 1411 Old Square Rd. (Parcel 511-475-6), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

The following described land and property located in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, to wit: Lot 6 and part of Lot 7, OLD SQUARE, according to the plat on file in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, as now recorded in Plat Book 28 at Page 23, containing 20, 145.21 square feet or 0.4625 acres more or less and being more particularly described as follows

Begin at the Northwest corner of the above mentioned Lot 6; said point Iso being on the South right of way of Old Square (as now laid out and in use, April, 1981); run thence easterly and along the said South right of way of Old Square (as now laid out and in use, April, 1981); run thence easterly and along the said South right of way of Old Square for a distance of 106.27 feet to the Point of Curvature of a 48.9164 degree curve to the right for a distance of 70.36 feet; thence leaving said curve and the said South right away of Old Square, turn right through a deflection angle of 84 degrees 36 minutes 50 seconds and run southerly for a distance of 106.78 feet to the South line of the aforementioned Lot 7; turn thence right through a deflection angle of 77 degrees 54 minutes and run westerly and along the said South line of said Lot 7 and an extension thereof, said extension being the South line of the aforementioned Lot 6 for a distance of 151.0 feet to the Southwest corner of Lot 6; turn thence right through a deflection angle of 90 degrees 00 minutes and run northerly and along the West line of said Lot 6 for a distance of 125.55 feet to the Point of Beginning.

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, January 26, 2022, 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 JANUARY 19, 2022.

WITNESS my signature this 27th day of December 2021.

1/6/2022, 1/20/2022

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

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

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DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
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DOLLAR GENERAL
104 Terry Rd
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MCDADDE'S MARKET #2
653 Duling Avenue
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5492 Watkins Drive

SPORTS MEDICINE
Fortification and I-55
MURPHY USA
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)
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Terry Rd (South Jackson)
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380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

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716 Roby Street - Canton, MS
B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
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257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
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VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE
5777 Terry Road
CITY HALL
Terry Road

CLINTON
DOLLAR GENERAL
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Week of January 16, 2022

Pell Grant increases denied to students at career colleges

By Hazel Trice Edney
Trice Edney Newswire

A recent increase in the Pell Grant awarded to low-income college students who need financial help paying for their tuition or other educational needs will not be going to the nearly one million students who choose a career and proprietary schools.

That's because the Build Back Better bill that passed the House in late November, by a vote of 220-213, mostly along party lines, has a one-line provision tucked away on page 76 of the 2,135-page bill that excludes underserved college students who choose a career or proprietary colleges for their academic studies from the \$550 increase in Pell benefits.

"We need to do more to bring accountability to all sectors of higher education; however, punishing students does not accomplish that objective. Any accountability rules should be focused on institutions, not students," said a letter signed by 13 Democrats encouraging a change in the bill that would allow the additional students to receive the increase. "Financial aid professionals agree this is not the right policy approach."

The Pell Grant program, which dates back a half-century, has been among the strongest support to expanding access for low-income students, which largely include African Americans and other students of color. Some go as far as describing the Pell Grants as the "Cornerstone of African-American Higher Education." More than 6 million low-income undergraduate students receive Pell Grants every year.

This new proposal, if left in by



13 Lawmakers signed on a letter led by Al Lawson (D-Fla.) to make for-profit college students eligible for the Pell increase.

the Senate, which is now negotiating the bill, puts the legacy of Pell Grants at risk. Moreover, it appears contrary to the principles of the Build Back Better bill to support low-income people who may seek the less costly and convenient career colleges. A White House description of the bill says it aims to "expand access to affordable, high-quality education beyond high school."

The following are more details of how the legislation would impact students and states:

- Some states are big losers with this new provision. Statistical data from the Department of Education confirms that many states are disproportionately harmed by the proposal, including West Virginia and Arizona. For example with 120,000 Arizona students choosing proprietary colleges for their schooling every year, the state is going to lose approximately \$66 million each year.

- The House proposal will exclude a significant number of low-income and students of color. The Pell Grant program is particularly important for black

students, as roughly 58 percent of African Americans, 47 percent of Hispanic students receive Pell grants. Approximately 70 percent of all Pell Grant funding goes to students whose family income is below \$30,000, and 95 percent goes to students with family incomes below \$60,000.

- While Congress excludes these career college students, Congressional staff continue to receive generous college debt repayment benefits. Both the House and Senate offer very generous college re-payment programs. Recently, Congress capped the tuition assistance program at \$60,000 for House staff members and \$40,000, for Senate staff over their Capitol Hill career. With House staff receiving up to \$10,000 a year in college tuition repayment, the annual benefit can be larger than what Pell Grant recipients receive.

The controversy over the Pell is slowly growing into yet another fight on Capitol Hill as for-profit colleges discover the omission.

Democrats "clearly hoped they would be able to slip this in and

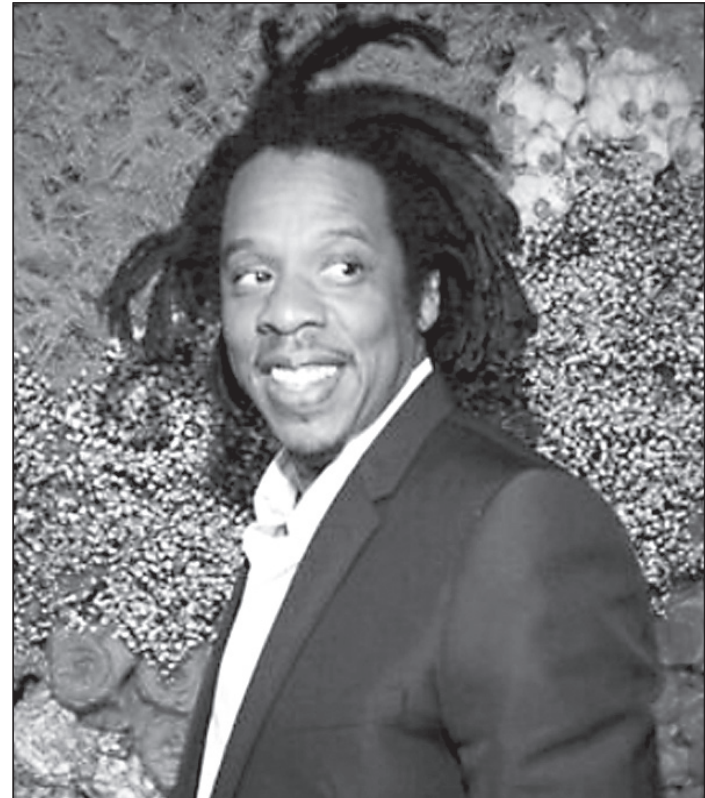
nobody would notice, and the process would move so quickly that nothing could be done about it. Of course, that hasn't been the case," Politico quotes Jason Altmire. Altmire is a former Democratic congressman who is now president and CEO of Career Education Colleges and Universities, the main trade association for career colleges. Altmire indicated that he believes the move could also dissuade students from going to for-profit schools necessary for their careers.

Thirteen House Democrats had sent a letter to Democratic leaders urging them to rescind the proposal and make for-profit college students eligible for the Pell increase.

The letter states, "The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators also opposes this proposal and believes it would add an unprecedented and overly complicated administrative burden for schools and students. Congress has never passed legislation creating this type of distinction in the Pell Grant program. We urge you not to break from that bipartisan tradition and hope you will ensure that all low-income students are eligible for the expanded Pell Grant."

The 13 lawmakers who signed on the letter, led by Al Lawson (D-Fla.) and Veronica Escobar (D-Texas); include Anthony G. Brown (D-Md.); Jim Costa (D-Calif.); Ted Deutch (D-Fla.); Sanford Bishop (D-Ga.); Madeleine Dean (D-Pa.); Darren Soto (D-Fla.); Troy A. Carter, Sr. (D-La.); Adriano Espaillat (D-N.Y.); Tom O'Halloran (D-Ariz.); Thomas Suozzi (D-N.Y.); and Congress Elaine Luria, (D-Va.).

Rap mogul Jay-Z and Team ROC demand DOJ investigate racism, corruption in KC Police Department



Jay-Z

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

Hip-hop pioneer Jay-Z and Team ROC, the social justice side of his entertainment company, have demanded the U.S. Department of Justice probe the Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department for systemic misconduct.

Jay-Z, whose real name is Shawn Carter, joined in writing an open letter to the Justice Department stating that there's no excuse to justify the department's silence.

The letter asserted that "there is enough evidence of systemic police misconduct in the department that a pattern of practice investigation is necessary to review allegations of wrongdoing and discrimination."

The nonprofit Midwest Innocence Project has joined Team ROC in the call for an investigation.

"The DOJ's continued inaction tells targeted minority communities held hostage to the whims of the carceral state that justice does not exist for them, that their lives do not matter," the organization wrote in the letter addressed to Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta.

Alex Shapiro, Team ROC's lawyer, said incidents they've

uncovered include a former Kansas City detective whom federal authorities investigated in 2021 over allegations of exploiting black women for sex and framing individuals for crimes they did not commit.

Shapiro noted that FBI records dating to the 1990s found numerous allegations of civil rights violations. About 200 Kansas City police officers were accused of misconduct and excessive force complaints over the years.

"They kept hitting our desk over and over again, and we knew we had to get involved," Shapiro told reporters.

In its letter to the Justice Department, Team ROC noted that "we've seen the cover-up unfold right before our eyes. And yet here we are having to plead with you to ensure the Justice Department allows the U.S. Attorney's Office to do the right thing."

"Because after years of denial and avoidance by the U.S. Attorney's office, your department, and despite the lives that have been broken and ruined by their criminal actions and your inaction, there's still time for you, as a leader in the department, to lift this city and these people up and out of the hell that has been their constant companion."

'The Harder They Fall,' 'Insecure,' H.E.R. nab NAACP awards noms

Jonathan Landrum Jr.
AP Entertainment Writer

Netflix could be a dominant force at next month's NAACP Image Awards.

The streaming giant on Tuesday emerged with a leading 52 nominations including the film "The Harder They Fall." The movie — featuring a large starry cast including Regina King, Jonathan Majors, Idris Elba and LaKeith Stanfield — pulled in 12 nominations, including for best picture. Netflix landed 23 nominations in the television/streaming categories.

"The Harder They Fall," produced by Jay-Z, is based on real black characters from the Old West who have generally been overlooked in the genre. The story follows Nat Love, a cowboy whose gun-slinging crew face off with Rufus Black, an outlaw who killed Love's parents years ago.

Issa Rae's "Insecure" earned 13 nominations including best comedy television series. "Harlem," "black-ish," "Run the World" and "The Upshaws" are also competing for best comedy series. "The Upshaws" and "Colin in Black & White" are among the Netflix series recognized by the Image Awards.

H.E.R. received the most nominations in the music recording categories with six, including best female artist and album for her project "Back of My Mind." She will compete in the outstanding



This image released by Netflix shows Regina King, center, from the film "The Harder They Fall." DAVID LEE/NETFLIX VIA AP

album category against Silk Sonic's "An Evening with Silk Sonic," Drake's "Certified Lover Boy," Jazmine Sullivan's "Heaux Tales" and "When It's All Said and Done. Take Time" by Giveon."

Regina King will compete for entertainer of the year against Lil Nas X, Megan Thee Stallion, Jennifer Hudson and Tiffany Haddish.

The nominees were announced by "black-ish" actor Marcus Scribner, singer Tinashe and actor/musician Kyla Pratt.

In addition to "The Harder They Fall," the nominees for best

picture are "King Richard," "Respect," "The United States vs. Billie Holiday" and "Judas and the Black Messiah."

Stanfield could come away with best leading and supporting actor trophies. He's nominated for best actor in a film for his role in "Judas and the Black Messiah" and his supporting efforts in "The Harder They Fall."

For best actor, Stanfield will compete against Denzel Washington, Majors, Mahershala Ali and Will Smith.

The nominees for best actress in a film are Andra Day, Halle

Berry, Jennifer Hudson, Tessa Thompson and Zendaya.

RCA Records might make its presence felt with the most nominations across record labels. The label garnered 15 nominations with the musical success of H.E.R., Sullivan, Doja Cat and Kirk Franklin.

With the rise in COVID-19 cases, the awards honoring entertainers and writers of color will move forward without an in-person audience. The two-hour awards show, hosted by Anthony Anderson, will be broadcast Feb. 26 on BET at 8 p.m. EST.

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MCTLC celebrates Human Relations Day by honoring MLK, Jr.

Special to the Mississippi Link

On January 14, 2022, Mary Church Terrell Literary Club celebrated Human Relation Day honoring the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The club donated non-perishable food items to the Salvation Army Food Pantry. The donation consisted of food items provided by individual club members in support of the effort of the club engaging in community action of feeding the homeless and others in need in the Jackson and surrounding communities.

Pictured left to right, Stephanie Griffin, social worker, Salvation Army; Mary Church Terrell Literary Club members Leona Bishop, Alberta Smith, Dr. Ramona Cork, Patricia Taylor, Rolanda Alexander, director of Social Services, Salvation Army; and Mary Church Terrell Literary Club members, Dr. Linda Anderson and Valerie Blue.



Mississippi city names street for blues artist Bobby Rush

The Associated Press

Mississippi's capital is renaming one of its major streets for a Grammy-winning blues singer who lives in the city.

The Jackson City Council voted Tuesday to rename Ellis Avenue to Bobby Rush Boulevard, WLBT-TV reported. The north-south corridor provides a direct route from Interstate 20 to the Jackson Zoo.

The name change takes effect in a month.

Rush has won two Grammy Awards for best traditional blues album, one in 2016 and one in 2020.

Rush is a Louisiana native and lived in Arkansas and Chicago before moving to Jackson in the 1980s. A Mississippi Blues Trail marker says Rush is known for a "folk funk" style.

He spoke to the Jackson City Council in April when a member first proposed renaming the street for him. He said he and his family faced racism in the Jim Crow South.

"I remember three white guys, two riding a horse and one guy leading a horse, when my daddy was getting hay out of a barn as a black man. They asked my mom,



Rush

"What are you doing with this n-word?," Rush said. He said his mother replied that she is also black.

"She had to go into the store and prove she was a black woman to save my daddy's life," Rush said.

Rush, on his FB page stated, "I'm so happy that Jackson, Mississippi and the City Council have thought of me

for this Blvd and for giving me the flowers while I still live. I want to thank members of the City Council, the Mayor, the Governor, Lt. Governor, and everyone else involved for saluting me with this street. Thank you to Jackson, Mississippi, and national media for sharing the news. I'll see you on Bobby Rush Boulevard." – Bobby Rush



New Hope Baptist Church
Dr. Jerry Young, Pastor
5202 Watkins Drive, Jackson, MS 39206



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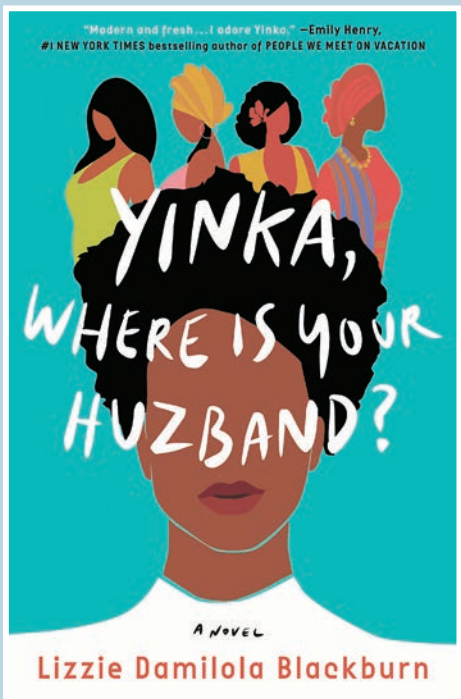
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BOOK REVIEW: YINKA, WHERE IS YOUR HUZBAND? A NOVEL

BY LILZZIE DAMILOLA BLACKBURN
C.2022, PAMELA DORMAN BOOKS / VIKING
\$26.00 • 384 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

“I just want you to be happy.” You’ve heard that before, and yet, unsolicited advice never does. All the y’oughtas (“What y’oughta do is...”) and the unexpected help make you want to scream, even though you know that people really do mean well when they offer it.

The thing is, they are not the CEO of your life. As in the new book, “Yinka, Where Is Your Husband?” by Lizzie Damilola Blackburn, they need to mind their own business...

It was almost getting so that Yinka Oladeji didn’t want to go anywhere.

Every time she went out, someone – her Mum, her Auntie Debby, Big Mama – someone was asking when she was going to find a husband. Pronounced auzband in the British-Nigerian way, it was a total embarrassment.

It probably didn’t help that Yinka’s little sister, Kemi, was expecting her first baby, or that her friend, Rachel, just got engaged and Ola just had her third child. It also didn’t help that Yinka lost her job, and the man

she loved, Femi, who’d dumped her and moved to America, was back in the city with his beautiful fiancée.

Femi had broken up with Yinka two years ago.

She should have a husband by now, right?

Maybe so. Yinka had to admit that romance would be nice, and so she created a spreadsheet and filled it with sticky-note ideas, vowing that she’d have a date for Rachel’s wedding. She agreed to let Auntie Debby fix her up with Alex, but he was pretty clear that he really liked

Yinka’s BFF, Nana. Yinka went online, on many dating sites and she swiped, swiped, swiped. She considered Derek, but she didn’t like him like that. Donovan was kind of a jerk, Marcus wanted just one thing (ahem!), and Emmanuel had someone with lighter skin in mind.

And so, Yinka began to look harder. She even considered men she rejected once before but the more she looked for a date-slash-potential-husband, the more her other relationships suffered. Now, nobody wanted to be around Yinka. Where’s the happi-

ly-ever-after in that?


At this point in your life, the pandemic, your career, whatever, you’ve had your fill of nosy-but-well-meaning questions and advice you don’t need. And so, “Yinka, Where is Your Husband?” is a book for you.

Indeed, this sweet little rom-com removes any sting a busybody might leave by taking the ultimate in none-of-your-business literature and turning it upside down.

Author Lizzie Damilola Blackburn inserts way too many meddlers into Yinka’s life, and the

resulting mess is hilarious – especially when the lies pile up and readers are given a peek at several obvious solutions, only one of which has anything to do with a husband. Not to be a spoiler or anything, but peace is made, but not before readers get the lightest touch of feminism from this completely enjoyable story.

Beware that there are Briticisms inside this novel but nothing that’s too difficult to understand. Mostly, understand that “Yinka, Where is Your Husband?” is going to just plain make you happy.



ZACK WALLACE

Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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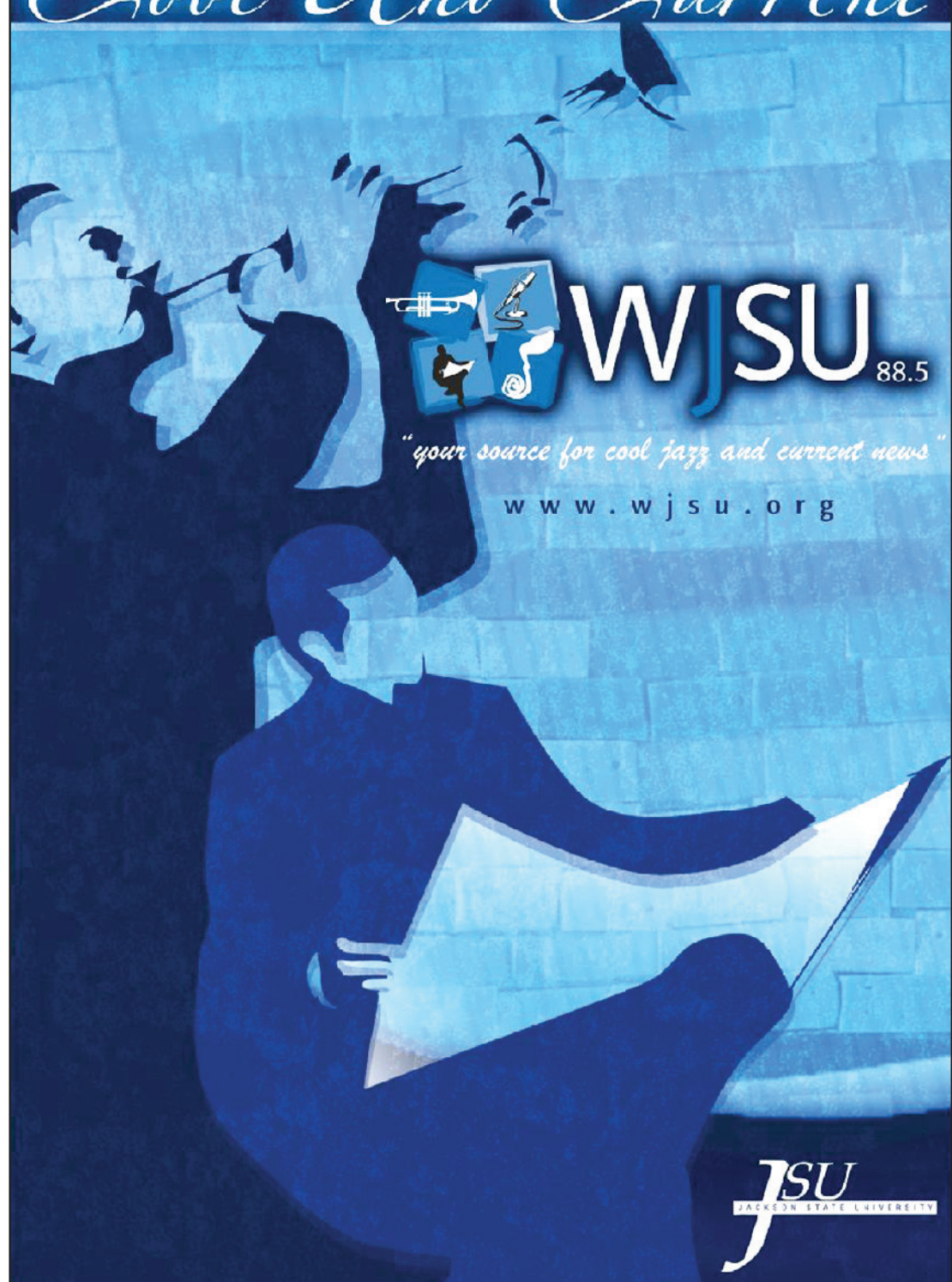
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Osaka, Nadal advance in Australia after Djokovic flies home

Associated Press

The first test of Naomi Osaka's new approach to tennis might have been when she completely whiffed an overhead to give her opponent a break point on Day 1 of the no-Novak-Djokovic Australian Open.

Osaka didn't chuck her racket. She didn't roll her eyes. She smiled.

"There are situations where I previously would get upset. But at this point in my life, like, I'm here because I want to be here and because I find that it's fun for me," Osaka said. "Might as well enjoy it while I still can."

In Osaka's mind, the drama involving nine-time champion Djokovic's deportation on the eve of the Australian Open was something for the players in the men's draw to worry about. Her title defense began smoothly enough: She won the first five games on the way to a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Camila Osorio on the main court.

With so much attention on the 11-day saga of Djokovic's attempt to participate in the year's first Grand Slam tournament, and bid for a fourth consecutive title at Melbourne Park, the returns of Osaka and Rafael Nadal have been overshadowed.

Osaka wasn't bothered by that. Nadal didn't seem to be put off by it, either, renewing his bid for a record 21st Grand Slam singles title with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 win over Marcos Giron.

"Growing up, I've looked up to him," said Giron, a 28-year-old from the U.S. "He's one of the absolute legends of the game."

Nadal is tied with Djokovic and Roger Federer with 20 ma-



Naomi Osaka of Japan reacts during her first round match against Camila Osorio of Colombia at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 17, 2022. AP PHOTO/HAMISH BLAIR

ior singles titles each, the most in the history of men's tennis. With Djokovic unable to defend his crown in Melbourne because he didn't meet Australia's strict COVID-19 vaccination criteria, the door is slightly more ajar to Nadal.

Osaka's main concern, meanwhile, is winning a fifth major title, and her third at the Australian Open.

"To be completely honest, it didn't really affect me," Osaka said about what went on with Djokovic. "My goal, like even before this whole situation, is to just focus on myself more, what

I need to do to become better.

"Me, I'm a tennis player. I'll focus on my matches. You as, I guess, an audience, focus on whatever is in the news, no?"

A potential fourth-round meeting with top-ranked Ash Barty could be waiting. Barty, aiming to be the first Australian woman to win the title here since 1978, started with a 6-0, 6-1 win over Lesia Tsurenko.

After winning here last year, capturing her second Australian Open title in three years, Osaka pulled out of the 2021 French Open before the second round, then sat out Wimbledon. She

played at the Tokyo Olympics, where she lit the cauldron, but ended her 2021 season early after a third-round loss and a teary news conference at the U.S. Open.

Two of her goals for 2022, she said last week, were to stay completely composed on the court and off, and to enjoy the game.

And, yes, finally, the focus was on tennis in Australia. And it got started in a big way, with a combined 64 matches scheduled on Day 1 in the men's and women's singles.

French Open champion Barbora Krejickova, fifth-seeded

Maria Sakkari, No. 15 Elina Svitolina and two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka all advanced.

Two young U.S. contenders went out in the first round, with 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin losing 7-6 (2), 7-5 to fellow American Madison Keys and No. 18 Coco Gauff saving five match points before losing 6-4, 6-2 to Wang Qiang.

Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Belinda Bencic advanced to a second-round match against Amanda Anisimova.

On the men's side, No. 14 Denis Shapovalov followed up his win with Canada in the ATP Cup with a 7-6 (3), 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (3) win over Laslo Djere.

Also advancing were No. 7 Matteo Berrettini, No. 10 Hubert Hurkacz, No. 16 Cristian Garin and No. 17 Gael Monfils and No. 23 Reilly Opelka, while No. 12 Cameron Norrie lost in straight sets to Sebastian Korda.

Nadal won the Australian Open in 2009 and is the only past champion in the men's bracket after Djokovic's late withdrawal Sunday. On Monday, the top-ranked Serbian landed in Dubai, then caught a flight to Belgrade.

Monday was Nadal's first appearance at a major since he lost to Djokovic in the semifinals of the French Open. He missed Wimbledon because of fatigue, skipped the U.S. Open with a painful left foot and, after recovering from COVID-19, started 2022 with a title in a tuneup tournament in Melbourne.

"Honestly, it's been very tough moments and there are still doubts," Nadal said. "But here I am and I can't be happier to be back in this amazing sta-

dium. It's fantastic."

The 35-year-old Spaniard said Djokovic's absence would have an impact on the tournament.

"In a personal level, yes, I would like to see him playing here," Nadal said. "If it is fair or not that he's playing here is another discussion that I don't want to talk anymore."

Djokovic had been scheduled to play Monday night's last match on Rod Laver against fellow Serbian Miomir Kecmanovic.

Salvatore Caruso, who lost in qualifying but became the so-called lucky loser to fill the late vacancy in the draw, lost 6-4, 6-2, 6-1 to Kecmanovic.

Djokovic's ultimately unsuccessful bid to mount a title defense involved two court hearings and time in immigration hotel detention.

It began when he was granted an exemption to strict vaccination rules by two medical panels and Tennis Australia in order to play in the tournament.

That exemption, based on evidence that he recently recovered from COVID-19, apparently allowed him to receive a visa to enter Australia. But upon arrival, border officials said the exemption was not valid and moved to deport him.

Showing evidence of vaccination is a requirement for anyone — players, coaches, fans, others — entering Melbourne Park for the tournament.

A security official with a loudspeaker reminded people lining up outside the complex early Monday to have proof of vaccination ready for inspection and added: "Oh, a ticket would be handy, too!"

President Biden nominates first black woman to serve on Federal Reserve Board of Governors

By Stacy Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

President Joe Biden announced Jan. 14, the nominations of three individuals to serve on the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors, including Lisa D. Cook, a professor of Economics and International Relations at Michigan State University.

If confirmed, Cook would become the first African American woman to serve in that role.

A Marshall Scholar from Spelman College who received a second B.A. in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics from Oxford University, Cook earned a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

She also served as a faculty member of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, deputy director for Africa Research at the Center



Lisa D. Cook

for International Development at Harvard, and a National Fellow at Stanford University.

"[President Biden] is work-

ing to bring long-overdue diversity to the leadership of the Federal Reserve," Erica Lowe, the White House director of

African American Media, wrote on Twitter.

"Lisa D. Cook would be the first black woman in history

to serve on the Board," Lowe concluded.

The President also nominated Phillip Jefferson, the dean of faculty at Davidson College in North Carolina, and Sarah Bloom Raskin, a former Federal Reserve and Treasury official, for positions on the Board.

Raskin was nominated for the top regulatory post.

The Senate must approve each of the nominations.

For Cook and Jefferson, confirmation would mean joining an exclusive club — the duo would count among just five black governors in the 108-year history of the Federal Reserve.

"This group will bring much-needed expertise, judgment, and leadership to the Federal Reserve while at the same time bringing a diversity of thought and perspective never seen before on the Board

of Governors," President Biden said in a statement.

"Together with Chair Powell and Dr. Brainard, who I renominated last month, this group will bring much-needed expertise, judgment and leadership to the Federal Reserve while at the same time bringing a diversity of thought and perspective never seen before on the Board of Governors," the president asserted.

"They will continue the important work of steering us on a path to a strong, sustainable recovery while making sure that price increases do not become entrenched over the long term.

"I have full confidence in the strong leadership of this group of nominees and that they have the experience, judgment and integrity to lead the Federal Reserve and to help build our economy back better for working families."

