

Doty gifts AKA-Theta Sigma Omega Chapter with Endowed Scholarship at JSU



Doty PHOTOS BY ANITA YOUNG

Special to The Mississippi Link

Dr. Juanita Sims Doty became a “Golden Soror” (50 years of service) in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (AKA) January 23, 2022. It was on January 23, 1972 that she was initiated as a ‘General’ member of AKA by the Theta Sigma Omega Chapter in Hattiesburg, MS.

Doty recalls that her sister, Shirley Christian, was initiated in AKA in 1966 in Gamma Phi Chapter at Al-

corn State University. Shirley came back to Canton to tell her family about this great organization.

When Juanita entered the University of Southern Mississippi in 1969, she began to look for an AKA chapter on campus. Of course, with only about 50 black students on the USM campus, there was no black Greek-Lettered organization.

Because of Juanita’s lead-

Doty
Continued on page 3

University of Southern Mississippi’s president to leave

The Associated Press

University of Southern Mississippi President Rodney Bennett has announced he is stepping down at the end of his contract, which expires in 2023.

Bennett, the school’s first African-American president and the first African-American president of any predominately white university in the state, announced the decision Friday.

“My intention is to begin exploring other professional opportunities later this spring, and I wanted to be transparent with each of you about my plans for the future,” Bennett wrote in a letter to USM faculty, staff and students.

“I am deeply grateful for



USM President Rodney Bennett

my strong tenure here,” he said. “I have learned a great deal – I have grown a great deal – and I have worked with and mentored outstanding individuals, who I am confident will continue to have a positive impact on

Bennett
Continued on page 3

Black Mississippi senators protest vote on race theory bill

By Emily Wagster Pettus
The Associated Press

Black lawmakers walked out in protest Friday and withheld their votes as the Mississippi Senate passed a bill that would ban schools from teaching critical race theory.

The state superintendent of education has said critical race theory is not being taught in Mississippi schools and legislators have offered no evidence to show it is.

Republicans said the theory teaches “victimhood,” while Democrats said the ban could squelch discussion of Mississippi’s racist history.

“This bill is not morally right,” Democratic Sen. Barbara Blackmon of Canton, who is black, said during the debate.

The bill’s chief sponsor, Republican Sen. Michael McLendon of Hernando, who is white, said hundreds of constituents have told him they have heard about the theory on national news and they don’t want it taught to their children.

McLendon struggled to define critical race theory when he was asked about it. But he said: “Systematic racism should not be taught to our children.”

Critical race theory is an academic framework that examines how racism has shaped public policy and institutions such as the legal system, and



Sen. Barbara Blackmon, D-Canton, speaks at the well in the Mississippi Senate Chamber in Jackson Thursday. Blackmon was among the black lawmakers who walked out of the Senate Chamber in protest Friday. PHOTO BY ROGELIO V. SOLIS / AP

how those have perpetuated the dominance of white people in society.

Republicans across the country have been raising money for months by saying critical race theory is a threat and multiple Republican-led states have banned or limited the teaching of critical race theory or similar concepts through laws or ad-

ministrative actions.

Republicans control the Mississippi House and Senate. Gov. Tate Reeves and House Speaker Philip Gunn are among the GOP leaders who have publicly said critical race theory is harmful.

Black senators walked out of the Mississippi Senate chamber before the vote on Senate Bill 2113. It passed 32-2, with the

only votes against the bill coming from white Democrats.

The bill will move to the House for more work.

“Critical race theory” is in the title of the bill, but the main text of the bill does not define the phrase. The bill says no school, community college or

Race theory
Continued on pages 3

Reeves in State of the State: Raise teacher pay, cut taxes

By Emily Wagster Pettus
The Associated Press

Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves said in his State of the State speech Tuesday that cutting taxes, giving pay raises to teachers, investing in infrastructure and expanding the state police presence in the capital city of Jackson are among his priorities this year.

“We tell every young parent: We will be your partner in educating your child. Together, we will make sure that if they work hard, they will learn what they need to learn,” Reeves said during the 46-minute speech on the south steps of the state Capitol.

State of the State speeches traditionally are held in the Mississippi House chamber, with lawmakers, judges and other spectators sitting shoulder-to-shoulder. For the second year in a row, the speech was outdoors as a pandemic precaution, ac-



Reeves

cording to Reeves chief of staff Parker Briden.

Reeves – now in his third year in the state’s highest office – called on the Republican-controlled Legislature to eliminate the state income tax, saying that would help Mississippi attract

more jobs.

“We can put ourselves in a position to stand out,” Reeves said.

The House has already passed a bill that would phase out the income tax, reduce the tax on groceries and reduce the property taxes that people pay for car

tags. That bill goes to the Senate, where leaders have not revealed their own plans for tax changes.

Mississippi teachers are among the lowest-paid in the nation, and Reeves said he supports a salary increase for them. The House and Senate are working on plans.

“Teachers in Mississippi did not, and will not, back down amid this unprecedented educational battle between a virus and a child’s right to learn,” Reeves said. “That is why we must give our teachers the pay raise they deserve.”

Reeves also called on legislators and the state Board of Education to prohibit schools from teaching that either the U.S. or Mississippi are “inherently racist.” State Superintendent of Education Carey Wright has said schools are not teaching that.

Reeves
Continued on page 3



Willie J. Tucker

June 6, 1937 – January 23, 2022

Willie J. Tucker, wife of the late Attorney Eddie Howard Tucker, Sr., passed away peacefully Sunday, January 23, 2022 in Birmingham, Alabama. A Friends and Family Hour will be held Wednesday, February 2, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Farish Street Baptist Church located at 619 North Farish Street in downtown Jackson. The Omega Omega Service for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter will begin promptly at 6 p.m. The Funeral Service will be held Thursday, February 3 at 11 a.m. at Holy Ghost Catholic Church located at 1151 Cloister Street in northwest Jackson.

A lifelong resident of the Bel-Air community in northwest Jackson, Willie Tucker was a model citizen, a pillar, a stabilizer and contributor of the community. Born to Willie Jones and Magnolia Clark Jones of Birmingham, Alabama in 1937, she was the oldest of her two brothers, the Reverend Dave W. Jones who preceded her in death; and a younger brother Samuel, who died at the age of one year old.

Willie Tucker received her formative education in Birmingham City Schools and graduated from Parker High School (Birmingham, Alabama) in 1957. As a promising young scholar, she entered college at the tender age of seventeen and attended Tennessee State Agricultural and Industrial University with an emphasis in Social Administration. Having completed 140 quarter hours, she transferred to Jackson State College where she received the bachelor's degree in Social Science in 1963. Steeped in a quest for continual and higher educational pursuits, Tucker was awarded the master's degree in Educational Technology with an emphasis in Educational Administration in 1979.



Tucker

The footprint of Willie Tucker's career tract is traced through her time and talent as an educator and developer. She was motivated by her students as a Social Studies teacher at Lanier High School from 1963-1969. Her twenty-year stint at Mississippi Educational Television (MS ETV) grounded her work and gave rise to an unexplored territory of public broadcasting in lead positions of administration, management and development as a Utilization Specialist, Coordinator Supervisor of ITV/ETV Services, Director of Community Awareness, Coordinator of Major Planned Giving and Grants Administrator. She is credited for organizing the First National Instructional Television Utilization Conference at Mississippi ETV that included 38

states. Through her oversight and development, she successfully prepared the annual instructional television broadcast schedule and publication. As the Grants Administrator there, Tucker orchestrated grants totaling upward of \$10 million dollars.

Tucker's awards and achievements far exceed the limits of this obituary but are cited in the annals of Mississippi ETV and other documents for perpetuity and include: United States Department of Education Grant Recipient (Comprehensive Health Education Grant); National Endowment for the Humanities Recipient; Bill of Rights Grant Recipient; Phil Harden Grant Recipient; Guest Consultant for the National Critical Viewing Teleconference in New York City; First Place Award in the First Nation-

al ITV Utilization Contest; National Advisory Committee Member for the Development of the Africans Television Teacher's Guide; Chairperson for the First National ITV Utilization Conference; and Project Director for 'You've Got That Right' and Richard Wright's 'Black Boy.'

Varied community service organizations devoted to community empowerment and civic engagement are realized through the achievements and engagement of Willie Tucker. A Golden Life Member, Tucker was initiated into the Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated in 1965. She served as chair of the Arts and Letters and the Political Awareness Committees. Her more than 10-year membership on the board of directors for the Jackson Historic Preservation Commission of Jackson helped move the needle in addressing abandoned and deteriorated housing in some of Jackson's downtown districts, particularly, the Farish Street district under then Mayor Frank Melton. Coupled with her character and her grace, her demeanor, no doubt kept her in the company of the Jackson Jewels – Jackson, top Senior's Modeling squad, who graced our audiences at special occasion runways.

In the challenges of balancing a bustling family life of four girls and a doting son, Willie Tucker was a devoted wife and mother. Her path is traced from her birthplace in Birmingham (AL) to Fort Benning, South Carolina, where her husband was stationed (1958) and on to Nuremberg, Germany where they remained until their return to the states in 1961.

A faithful member of Holy Ghost Catholic Church, Willie J. Tucker was a Grand Lady of the Lady Knights of Peter Claver.

Having lived a full and vibrant life she is preceded in death by her husband, Attorney Eddie Howard Tucker, Sr. and her parents, Willie and Magnolia Clark Jones.

She is survived by her four daughters: Cerita Tucker Smith (Myles) of Birmingham, Alabama; Valerie Tucker-Thomas (Tom) of Memphis, Tennessee; Terri Tucker of Birmingham, Alabama; Pamela Tucker-Gorden of Stone Mountain, Georgia; her only son, Eddie 'Ricky,' Jr. (Samantha) of Pinson, Alabama, and one sister-in-law, Sarah Jones of Birmingham, Alabama. Her generation of seventeen grandchildren include: Takiyah Tucker and Ifetayo Tucker of Birmingham, Alabama; Marcus Thomas of Dallas, Texas; Brian Tucker Smith of Dallas, Texas; Rachel Smith of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Craig Gorden, Jr., (Eryn) of Stone Mountain, Georgia; twins, Kafinia and Kamaria Tucker of Birmingham, Alabama; Michael Gorden of Jackson, Mississippi; triplets, Razika and Razina Tucker of Birmingham, Alabama and Raziya Tucker of Newark, New Jersey; Kayla Gorden of Stone Mountain, Georgia; Eddie H. Tucker, III of Stockbridge, Georgia; Gabriella, Evan and Zoey Tucker of Pinson, Alabama. Eleven great-grandchildren, and two nieces, Lethia Harris (Otto) and Tracey Nelson (Reginald), both of Birmingham, Alabama; one nephew, Rodney Jones (Wendy) of Bountiful, Utah; a devoted godson, Steven Powell and a loving god-daughter, Rhonda Cooper both of Jackson Mississippi; two honorary children, Ira Vaughn of Jackson, Mississippi and Valeria Johnson of Chesapeake, Virginia and a host of cousins along with the extended community of affiliates, colleagues and friends complete the family circle of Willie J. Tucker.

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MISSISSIPPI

Race theory

Continued from page 1

university could teach that any “sex, race, ethnicity, religion or national origin is inherently superior or inferior.”

“I’m trying to find the mischief in this language, and I don’t see it,” said Republican Sen. Chris McDaniel of Ellisville, who is white.

McDaniel said the bill would have been considered “the most dynamic piece of civil rights legislation in this state’s history” if it had been introduced in the 1950s. At that time, schools were segâregated, the state Legislature was all-white and blacââk people faced violent repercussions for trying to vote.

Democratic Sen. John Horhn of Jackson, who is black, questioned whether the bill could prevent schools from teaching about the late U.S. Sen. James O. Eastland of Mississippi, who led an effort to block anti-lynching legislation in 1948, or the Sovereignty Commission, a state spy agency created in 1956 to support a system of white supremacy. The commission was defunded in

1977.

Horhn said critical race theory examines how race and law impact the economy.

“The whole situation of it is based on the founding of this country and some of the precepts that we, as a country, implicitly or explicitly accepted – chief among which we justified slavery because powers that be judged black people to be racially inferior,” Horhn said. “And a lot of our laws, a lot of our systems, a lot of our customs, a lot of our practices have been impacted by that.”

Democratic Sen. David Blount of Jackson, who is white and voted against the bill, asked McLendon whether Mississippi should ban other things schools are not teaching, such as whether the sun rotates around the Earth.

“We trust our teachers to teach,” Blount said. “And we don’t need to pass laws to prohibit what’s not being done.”

Reeves

Continued from page 1

“We will not teach that your race determines your status as a victim or oppressor,” Reeves said.

Mississippi is receiving \$1.8 billion in pandemic relief money from the federal government. Reeves said he agrees with Republican Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann about spending the money on “transformative” projects.

Reeves called on legislators to expand the presence of the state-funded Capitol Police in Jackson, which saw a high rate of homicides the past two years.

“If our state is to thrive, we need a capital city of order,” Reeves said, speaking just hours after two people were wounded in a shooting a few blocks from the Capitol. “Governed by laws, not abandoned to daily violence. We all have an interest in stopping this deadly cycle.”

In the Democratic response to the speech, Greenville Mayor Errick Simmons said members of his party support

pay raises for teachers, economic development in parts of the state that have been ignored and expansion of Medicaid. Reeves has opposed expanding Medicaid to people who work low-wage jobs that don’t provide insurance.

“Mississippi families desperately need access to affordable, quality health care,” Simmons said.

Weeks before Mississippi recorded its first COVID-19 case, Reeves gave his 2020 State of the State on a platform that had been built on the Capitol’s south steps for his inauguration. He was inaugurated inside the Capitol because of bad weather. Days later, the speech provided an occasion for the platform to be used. That temporary structure was soon removed.

See 2022 Democratic Response to the State of the State Address given by Mayor of Greenville, Wayne D. Simmons on page 5.

Bennett

Continued from page 1

higher education. The University of Southern Mississippi will always hold a special place in my heart, and I will always be excited to hear about the good things I know are still on the horizon for this institution.”

Bennett, 55, joined the university in 2013 just after an EF-4 tornado caused significant damage to the university. He rolled up his sleeves to help with the cleanup effort, before he was formally named to the post. His dedication to the university stood out again in 2017, when he rejected a \$72,630 salary increase, instead donating the money to the USM Foundation to fund an endowed scholarship.

During his nearly 10 years at USM, Bennett said the school has maintained its regional accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, as well as program-specific accreditations. It also has invested in student life, achieved milestones in private

fundraising, and has completed a “wide range of construction projects to maximize the role facilities play in student growth and development, faculty pedagogy and research.”

“I am excited for what lies ahead for me and for my family, but this transition will certainly be bittersweet, as we all love our home here in Hattiesburg – as well as our Greater Pine Belt and Mississippi Gulf Coast communities.”

Bennett said he will work closely with the Institute of Higher Learning system’s commissioner of higher education to develop a transition plan.

“Until my time here has come to a conclusion, we will continue our work at a high level to advance the university and to advance public higher education in Mississippi,” he said. “We will remain committed to being good stewards of the resources that enable us to carry out this important work for our students, for our state and for generations of Golden Eagles yet to come.”

Doty

Continued from page 1

ership and academic accomplishments at USM, in 1971, members of Theta Sigma Omega (a graduate chapter) began the process of inviting Doty to become a member of AKA as a General member in their graduate chapter. Doty became the first student at USM to become a member of AKA.

Following her initiation in 1972, Theta Sigma Omega saw the need to establish a chapter on campus. In 1975, Iota Kappa Chapter of AKA became the first black Greek-Lettered organization on the USM campus.

Since 1972, Doty has worked and served and moved through the ranks of local, regional and national servant leadership in Alpha Kappa Alpha and the community at large. She has served as the 23rd South Eastern Regional Director (states of Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee) and as the National Program Chairman.

When Doty began to approach her 50th year in AKA, she remembered her ‘beginning’ and the trust that Theta Sigma Omega placed in her by initiating her in 1972. During her AKA-versary, on January 23, 2022, the Theta Sigma Omega Chapter hosted a celebration honoring Doty. During this ‘virtual celebration,’ Doty announced the establishment of the Theta Sigma Omega/AKA and Juanita Sims Doty Endowed Scholarship at JSU to express her gratitude to the chapter for believing in and initiating her into Alpha Kappa Alpha.

Dr. Karla McCullough, Doty’s niece and god-daughter stated, “This scholarship will support students from the Hattiesburg and PineBelt areas who will attend JSU. What better way to combine three of Dr. Doty’s most favorite things: Theta Sigma Omega/AKA, Jackson State University, an HBCU, and supporting youth in the community!”

If persons want to give Doty gifts to celebrate her 50th, she requested that they write a check



Leslie Williams, Doty’s sister from Portland, OR

or give a contribution to this scholarship at the Jackson State University Development Foundation.

The Theta Sigma Omega 50th Golden Soror Celebration committee was chaired by Judge Deborah Gambrell Chambers and co-chaired by Jeruthin Rosetta Woullard of Hattiesburg. The president of the chapter is Sheila Varnado.

If someone is interested in giving, the information is below:

Checks can be made payable to: JSU Development Foundation and in the memo line reference Theta Sigma Omega/AKA – Juanita Sims Doty Scholarship. Mail checks to: P.O. Box 17144 Jackson, MS 39217.

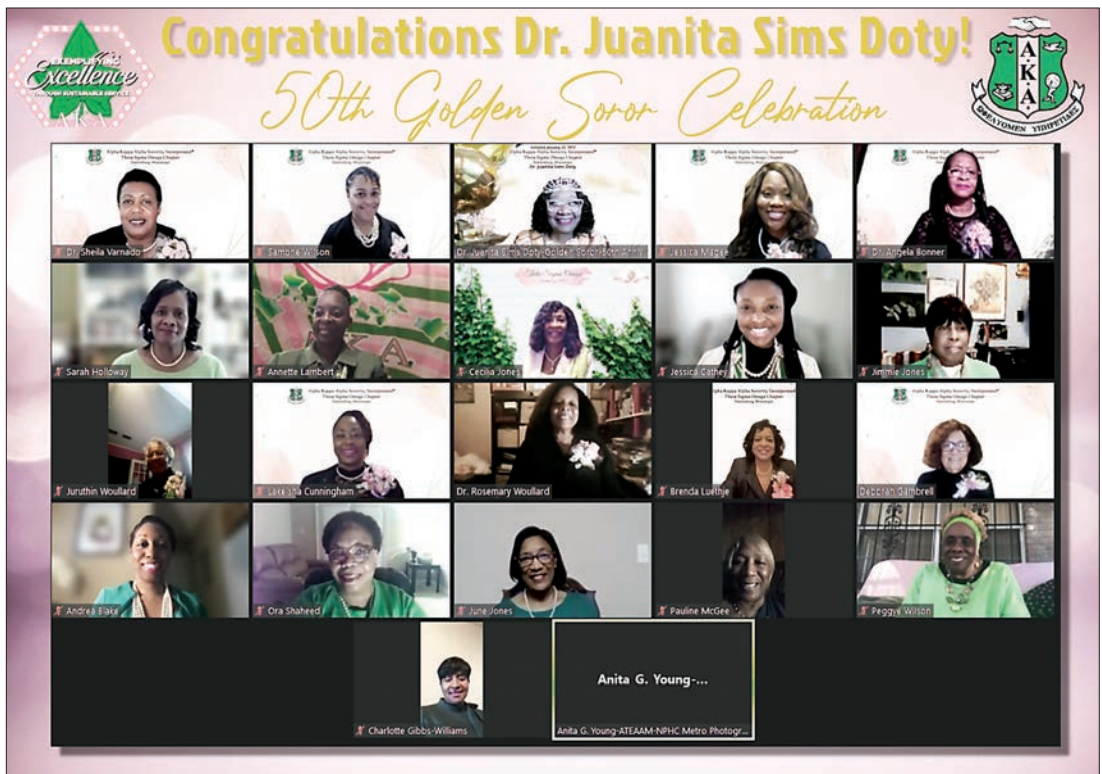
JSU Development Foundation phone number is 601-979-2283. Pay online at: <https://app.mobilecause.com/form/34eUag?vid=2x4p>

Scroll down to the section under endowments and select Theta Sigma Omega- AKA - Juanita Sims Doty Endowed Scholarship under the scholarship listing.

Please be advised that this is a temporary site due to a website problem JSU is experiencing.

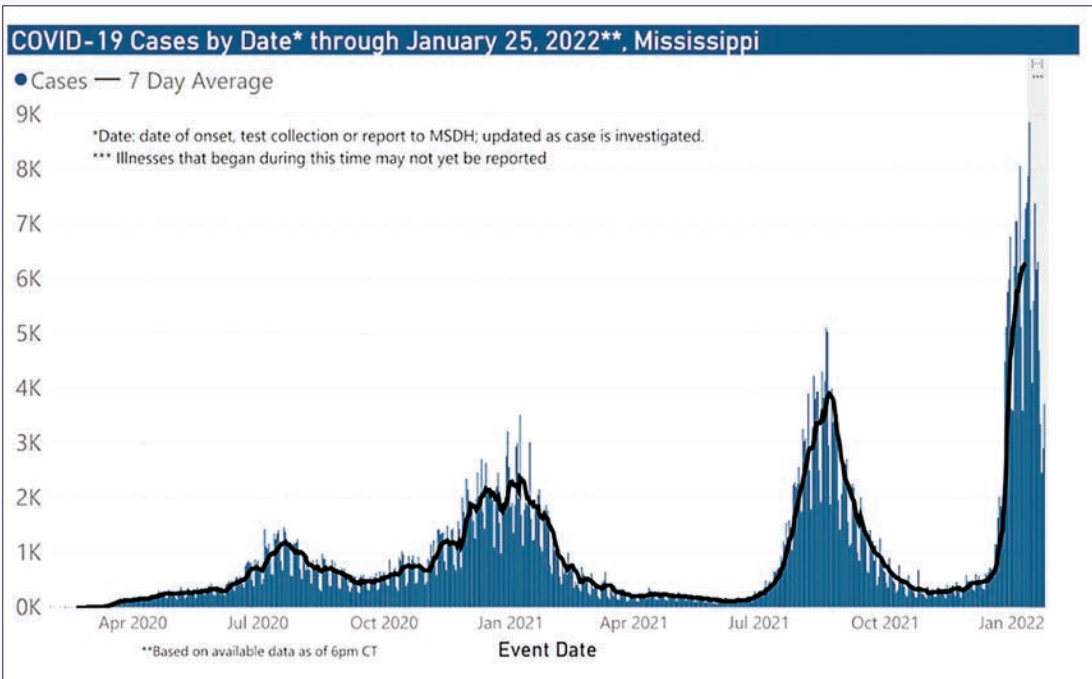
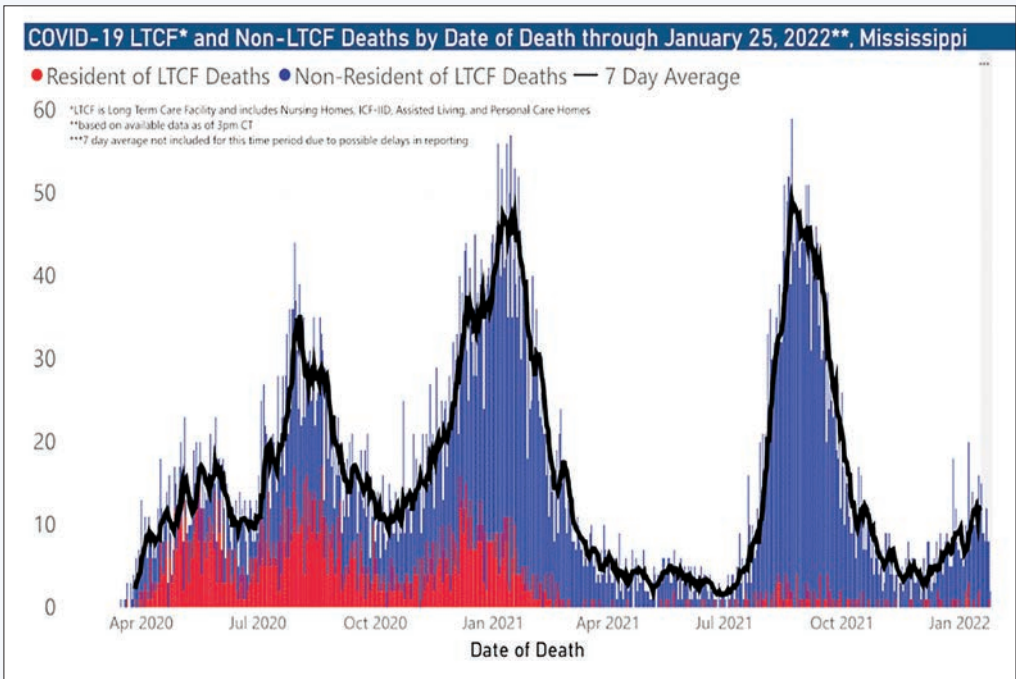


JSU Pres. Thomas Hudson, third from left; Doty family; and Gwendolyn Caples, far right, JSU Alumni Constituency Relations, holding 2022 GOLDEN CHECK.



Dr. Juanita Sims Doty, 50th Golden Soror

MISSISSIPPI COVID-19 UPDATE



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter 2022 Global Days of Service

By Anita Young
Contributing Writer

The ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter and Auxiliaries joined chapters across the nation in participating in the National Global Days of Service January 14-17, 2022. While celebrating its 102nd Founders' Day, the chapter proceeded to conduct hours of community service with the sorority's National Program Zetas Helping Other People Excel (Z-HOPE).

Latisha Skinner, chapter president, led members of Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter, Zeta Amicae Auxiliary of Jackson, Youth Auxiliaries, and Zeta Male Network through a COVID plan of action to benefit the needs of people across the community.

Alpha Delta Zeta's National Global Days of services started January 14, 2022, led by Akeelah Jones, Z-HOPE chair, with "Supporting the Future of our Youth" activity for students at Brinkley Middle School.

Chapter members spoke to the youth about their future and encouraged them to continue their growth. In recognition of their accomplishments snacks and certificates were provided.

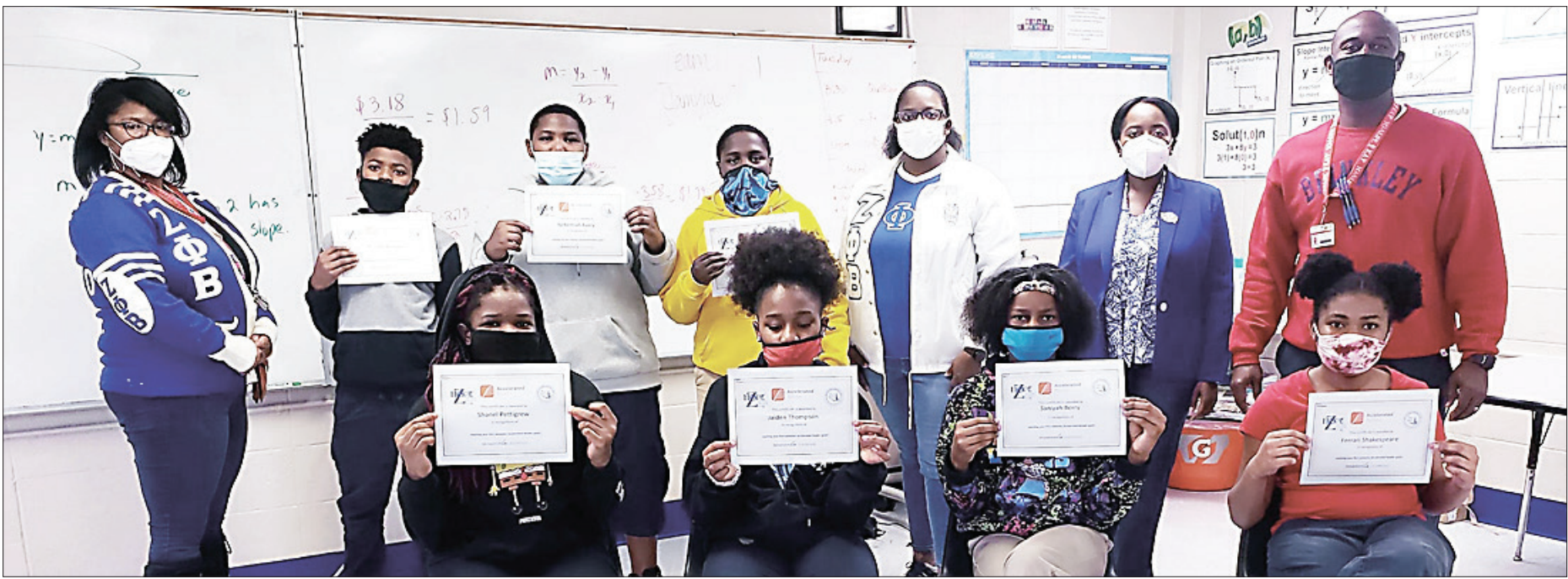
On January 15, chapter members dressed warmly with masks and social distancing while serving "Hot Meals to the Homeless." The event was held at the Stewpot Opportunity Center where many were sheltered due to inclement weather.

On January 16, The ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter, celebrated National Founders' Day with a luncheon. Our national theme was "Timelessly Finer for 102 Years."

On January 17, ADZ members and Auxiliaries celebrated Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Day by participating in community service; with a "Community Food Giveaway." The giveaway took place at Alpha Delta Zeta's Tutorial Complex, 4410 Hanging Moss Road. Jackson, MS from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The chapter distributed 150 bags of nonperishable food items. Community members were able to drive up and have bags placed in their cars.

Following the food giveaway at the tutorial complex, a financial donation was given of \$250 to the Center of Independent Learning/The Friendship Connection and \$250 to Stewpot Community Service Matt's House.

The Zeta Amicae Auxiliary of Jackson and Youth Auxiliaries were led by Dr. Rosella Houston, 2nd vice president. The Zeta Amicae and Youth Auxiliaries donated over 200 toiletry items to Catholic Charities.



Students at Brinkley Middle School hold up their certificates.

PHOTOS BY ANITA YOUNG



Founder's Day bonding



Domestic Violence check presentation



Zeta Male Network



Matts House check presentation

Members of The ADZ Zeta Male Network, led by Dr. LaVerne Gentry, Zeta Male Network Chair, participated in the 2022 Global Days of Service as an inaugural event.

Members distributed boxes of masks and bottles of hand sanitizers to support Zetas while distributing food bags. The Zeta Male Network is the fifth aux-

iliary of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated composed of men who are in the lives of Zeta women. The men include, but are not limited to, spouses/significant others, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated, fathers, sons, clergy, community and civic officials, other Greek lettered organizations, and business professionals. Men interested

in joining Zeta's Male Network should send an email to adz@adz-1938.org

ADZ Chapter members look forward to planning additional projects to foster the principles of Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood, and Finer Womanhood demonstrated by Zetas around the world.

The membership of Zeta Phi

Beta Sorority, Incorporated includes 125,000+ college-educated, dynamic, community service driven, diverse and professional women. The benefits of membership include opportunities for professional development, personal development and sisterhood.

Our members are active in their respective communities

and hold dear the ideals of Service, Scholarship, Sisterhood, and Finer Womanhood. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated,

Valerie Hollingsworth Baker, is Centennial International president, Washington, D.C.

Anita Young serves as historian for Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter.

MSDH News: COVID-19 Update: Latest pediatric death

Mississippi Link Newswire

On Wednesday, January 26, 2022, the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) confirmed its' 10th pediatric death in a child under 18 from COVID-19. None of the 10 pediatric deaths were vaccinated.

Vaccinations are now available for any child five years of age and older at all county health departments. Boosters are recommended for those over 12 to prevent hospitalization and death.

Since COVID-19 was first

diagnosed in Mississippi in March of 2020, the MSDH has reported:

- one death in an infant (under one year of age)
- two deaths in the 1-5-year age range
- one death in the 6-10-year

age range

- six deaths in the 11-17-year age range

State Epidemiologist Dr. Paul Byers encourages parents to discuss childhood vaccination with their healthcare provider.

"Currently there are seven

percent of the 5-11 age group fully vaccinated and 37 percent of the 12-17 age group fully vaccinated. Vaccination is the best protection for our children who are eligible to receive it. For those under 5 years of age, it is critically important that

everyone around the infant or child be vaccinated."

Beyond vaccination and booster shots, protection efforts such as social distancing, wearing masks and avoiding large crowds continue to be recommended.



Democratic Response to the State-of-the-State Address

By Mayor Errick D. Simmons

“Good afternoon. My name is Errick D. Simmons. It is my great honor to represent all of our cities and towns in Mississippi. As Greenville’s Mayor, I am delighted to speak to you and I bring greetings on behalf of the Mississippi Delta.

As we talk tonight, nearly 11,000 Mississippians have died because of COVID-19 and close to 700,000 Mississippians have contracted the virus. Recently, we have experienced our state’s largest single day total of 9,000 COVID cases since the pandemic. From my family to yours, we are in this together. You are not alone.

To our city leaders and first responders, thank you for your dedicated service, leadership and commitment to each and every citizen in your community and every Mississippian. Municipal leaders, like you, continue to be on the frontlines responding to the call to continue municipal services on one end while showing epic leadership in working collectively to move and keep the state intact during a global pandemic on another.

To our doctors, nurses, EMTs, home staff members, respiratory therapists and other healthcare workers, – who continue to make great sacrifices in saving lives, we know that you are overworked and underpaid. It was you who reached out to your state leaders this past summer and fall begging for pandemic relief and help. Democrats stood with you then. And, Democrats



Simmons

stand with you now. We too call on the Governor and Legislature to put those federal funds to work, which were intended for and required to help save our lifesavers, keeping people on the job, and connecting people to better jobs.

As Omicron continues to push case counts to sky-high levels, hundreds of thousands of working Mississippians are left without healthcare coverage. It is no better time than now to afford those Mississippians the access they need. And Democrats don’t care what you call it. Mississippi families desperately need access to affordable, quality healthcare. More healthcare access means that the state’s working poor would be provided no cost healthcare. More healthcare access would stop the bleeding of our nurses leaving the state. More healthcare access would re-open the doors of rural hospitals in the Mississippi Delta and around the state. More healthcare access means the state will receive \$10-\$12 billion dollars in total revenues over the next decade. More healthcare access would create an estimated 9,000

high-paying medical jobs in our cities and towns in Mississippi.

Thanks to the Biden-Harris Administration for the largest long-term investment in our infrastructure and competitiveness in nearly a century. Democrats and Republicans alike should extend a special thank you to Congressman Bennie G. Thompson and Senator Roger Wicker for supporting this once-in-a-generation investment in Mississippi’s infrastructure.

If President Biden, Congressman Thompson and Senator Wicker, can reach across the aisle and deliver an investment of this magnitude, then there is no reason we can’t come together, work together, and tackle any issues we face as a state – from climate change to voting rights; child care, elder care, equal pay for equal work, criminal justice reform, adequate public school funding, college access and job training, healthcare access, and a number of real issues facing every child, parent, teacher, first responder, healthcare worker, business leader, religious leader, and every Mississippian in this state. Democrats stand ready, because we know that the pothole in Gulfport nor bridge in Greenville wears a party label that says Democrat or Republican.

For far too long, policymakers in Jackson have supported infrastructure projects in certain parts of the state without ever agreeing to establish and build a comprehensive infrastructure package that will invest in all of Mississippi, especially those communities that have too often been left

behind.

Thanks to our federal partners, Mississippi can rebuild and repair our roads, bridges, water and sewer systems, expand access to clean drinking water, ensure every Mississippian has access to high-speed internet, tackle the climate crisis, advance environmental justice and make long overdue improvements to our ports, airports and rails.

Democrats will also continue to support one of the largest employers in our cities and towns – our public education system. A pay raise for teachers and other state employees should be a regular occurrence and it is encouraging that Republicans are now joining with Democrats to raise our teacher’s pay to the southeastern average. Democrats firmly believe that teachers and state employees deserve a raise. The future of state is how we reward and retain our workers.

Our future Mississippi economy depends on the strength of our workforce. Democrats don’t believe in this notion that there must be winners and losers when it comes to Mississippi. We can’t be truly Mississippi Strong until every city, town, county and region of Mississippi is strong. The state must place as much emphasis on the workforce development and economic prosperity of Greenville as it does Gulfport, Oxford and Ocean Springs, Byhalia and Brandon, Leland and Laurel, D’Lo to D’Iberville, Metcalfe and Mendenhall, and extends state economic development and workforce development funds equally to improve

the lives of all Mississippians and areas and regions of our state. Because of decades of economic development and job creation neglect in certain areas of the state, special attention must be given to the Mississippi Delta and Southwest Mississippi. Not until then will Mississippi truly become Mississippi Strong!

Mississippi will be strong:

- When high schoolers continue their education in either going to college or going into some type of trade to better themselves, their families and their communities.

- When we address care needs of workers and their families so they can go to work, make fair and livable wages in a safe and equitable workplace with access to training opportunities and career advancement.

- When small, women-owned, and minority businesses have the blueprint to step into the global marketplace to show the world what Mississippi has to offer and Mississippi expands opportunities to them in a fair, inclusive and equitable manner at every level of government.

- When our returning brothers and sisters realize their futures are not based on the ills of one’s past but the skills to do their jobs.

- When we implement policies that make it easier for folks to register and exercise their right to vote and eliminate barriers or restrictions to that sacred fundamental right.

- When we make our communities safer by reducing prison populations and finding creative alternatives to secure deten-

tion while critically funding programs that address mental health, drugs, gangs and other factors of crime.

- When every child regardless of race, sex, income and region will not be left behind but will have a step forward in viable careers, pathways and opportunities here in Mississippi knowing he or she can find a good paying job here, raise a family here, and live the American dream here in an inclusive, better Mississippi.

Our cities and towns have a lot to be proud of and so does Mississippi.

As we work together to improve upon what we already have, let Mississippi become the diamond that the world cannot resist coming out to see.

Let Mississippi become the mystery that draws in the curious from around the world.

Let Mississippi become the buffet of excellence that the world must come to taste.

Lastly, let Mississippi – her cities, towns, counties and all her regions – become the oasis from which others drink.

We, together as Mississippians, will move this state forward, make it an inviting place to live, work, play and worship, and make Mississippi better for future generations.

God Bless You and God Bless, the State of Mississippi.”

Errick Simmons, Mayor of Greenville, MS, represented the Mississippi Democratic party with the Democratic response to Republican Governor Tate Reeves’ 2022 State of the State address.

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JPS scholars win big at Congressional App Challenge



left, Micah Collete; standing, Mikela Nelson; right, Avery Johnson



left, Nicholas Tucker; right, Jamarion Gipson; not pictured, Jalen Rees

The Mississippi Link Newswire

JPS scholars enrolled in the Simulation and Animation Design Program at the Jackson Public Schools Career Development Center created a national award-winning app for the 2021 Congressional App Challenge.

Micah Collette, Avery Johnson and Mikela Nelson won first place in the competition, while Jamarion Gipson, Jalen Rees and Nicholas Rees won second place. Congressman Bennie Thompson, US House of Representatives for Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District, will

recognize these scholars for their achievement.

This is the fifth consecutive year that scholars from this program have received recognition for winning first place in this national challenge.

This year's winning app, called Kandl, is designed to help people who struggle with social anxiety and other related disorders. Kandl's primary focus is to support the mental health of individuals, primarily in their teenage years. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, almost 1 in 3 teenagers, ranging

from ages 13-18, are expected to suffer from social anxiety.

The Congressional App Challenge encourages thousands of students nationwide to learn to code. With the support of their members of Congress, students across the nation have produced apps annually that address local, national and global problems.

Each year, the competition has increased in the number of Congressional hosts and diverse student participants from underrepresented communities. The Congressional

App Challenge winners from across the country will be invited to showcase their apps to their members of Congress and members of the tech community virtually at #HouseOfCode during a reception on Capitol Hill to be held in Spring 2022.

#HouseOfCode is a celebration of the 2021 Congressional App Challenge winners. During this celebration, students will have the opportunity to participate in numerous activities facilitated by representatives from some of the country's leading tech companies.

COMMENTARY

Remote learning effects



Tyson

By Artist Tyson
Contributing Writer

What short term and long-term effects will remote learning have on education due to Coronavirus? A question that has surely crossed my mind, but I had not considered it too deeply until now. I know if you were to ask people ten years ago how they would see education in the year 2022, some people may say, "In the future we would use computers more than paper;" or you will need a "wireless mouse." I don't think anyone ten years ago would've guessed we would be learning from home and seeing our educators on a screen. I know ten years ago I certainly never thought this would be today's reality, but despite my thoughts, the reality is that COVID is here. This has affected not just me personally, but this pandemic has impacted education in a number of ways

A couple of short-term effects we can see from COVID would be the difficulty to build relationships with teachers and peers. I know as a student, building a relationship with teachers and peers face-to-face is important because students are more encouraged to participate in class discussions when we are familiar with our classmates and educators.

In my zoom classes last year, none of the students had seen each other's faces. So, speaking when asked seemingly made them most anxious as it was seldom people would even answer questions asked by the teacher. We did not even communicate with one another in group activities. Pretty tragic. Once my school moved back to in-school learning in nearly all my classes, there was an increase in student participation once we had gotten the opportunity to meet our teachers and get accustomed to one another.

A long-term effect I feel that will come from remote learning would be schools abandoning paper assignments and moving to computer-based course learning. Schools all across my region (Central Texas), have abandoned paper assignments and have made computer-based education their primary platform for students to use when submitting our assignments. I feel even after COVID, school districts will stick with computer-based learning because students have gotten accustomed to the computer schooling systems. I bet it is cheaper for schools. Paper is inconvenient considering they have to replace it so often but with computers, cloud storage is endless.

In conclusion, remote learning, I feel, has some flaws, but it still gives a student a viable educational experience that is efficient and convenient. However, it is impersonal, but given the prevalent threat of Coronavirus, most will take it over sickness and death.

We have all seen the environment improve, like no one mentions forest preservation. People function educationally, but they are lacking social skills and rapport building skills. This roll of the dice is not necessarily preferred either way. We were forced to function; we are evolving in these new social norms. Success looks weird in the middle. We are definitely in the middle.

Artist Tyson is an honor student at Hendrickson High School, Class of 2022. He is an actor and a motivational speaker. He has been inducted into Phi Delta Kappa, Austin Chapter and serves as regional chaplain (Delta Beta Chapter).

JTECHS senior receives nearly \$2 million in scholarship offers



Jahliyah Readus

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jim Hill High senior Jahliyah Readus has been awarded nearly \$2 million in academic scholarships. She has also been accepted to and received scholarships from nearly two dozen schools.

"So far, from 22 schools, I have said \$1.7 million in scholarships," Readus said. Her top schools are all Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). "Xavier, Jackson State, Al-

corn, Tougaloo and Fisk are my top choices, she said."

Readus is currently enrolled in the Jackson Public Schools-Tougaloo Early College High School. Her home school is Jim Hill. However, she attends classes at Tougaloo College. Her Tougaloo experience is one of the reasons she is choosing an HBCU.

"For the past four years, being at an HBCU in high school has shown me this is the type of environment I need

to be in. This is what I feel will help me grow and succeed in life," Readus said.

Her teachers and advisors agree. "Having students attend high school on a college campus does a tremendous job of building their confidence and stamina for completing college assignments," said Chinelo Evans, JPS-Tougaloo Early College High School principal.

"You cannot wait until you become

a senior," said Jim Hill Academic Advisor Frank Branch. You have to start building that foundation as early as elementary school to achieve such success as Ms. Readus."

Readus will graduate high school with her associate's degree. Her hundreds of hours of community service along with being a good scholar were keys to securing her scholarship offers. She expects more acceptance letters and scholarship money to come.



Frank Branch, Jim Hill academic advisor; Jahliyah Readus, Jim Hill award-winning scholar; Dr. Chinelo Evans, Tougaloo Early College High School principal; Bobby Brown, Jim Hill principal

Is your diabetes keeping you up at night?

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

People with diabetes that have sleep problems have a higher blood glucose levels and a more difficult time controlling their disease. A study done by Dr Knutson from the University of Chicago found an association between poor sleep quality and high glucose readings.

Researchers found that those with diabetes who had trouble sleeping had a 23% higher fasting blood glucose level, a 48% higher fasting insulin level and an 82% higher insulin resistance than the normal sleepers with diabetes.

Diabetes is listed as the fifth deadliest disease in the United States. The total annual economic impact of diabetes in 2020 was estimated at \$200 billion. That is one out of every 10 healthcare dollars spent in the United States.

There are about 18.2 million people in the United States, or 6.3% of the population, who have diabetes. An estimated 13 million have been diagnosed with diabetes, but 5.2 million people don't know that they have the disease. Approximately 2.7 million or 11.4% of all African Americans, aged 20 years or older, have diabetes. 25% of African Americans between the ages of 65 and 74 have diabetes. One in four African American women over 55 years of age has diabetes. One-third of all African Americans don't know it.

Some of the most life-threatening consequences of diabetes are heart disease and stroke, which strike people with diabetes more than twice as often



as they do others. Adults with diabetes have heart disease death rates 2 to 4 times higher than those without diabetes. African Americans with diabetes have an increased risk for heart disease, stroke and other macrovascular complications. Complications of diabetes can also include blindness, kidney disease and amputations.

- African Americans with diabetes are 2.6 to 5.6 times more likely to suffer from kidney disease.

- African Americans are 1.5 to 2.5 times more likely to suffer from lower limb amputations.

- African Americans are twice as likely to suffer from diabetes-related blindness.

Sleep problems can be due to the body's natural daily sleep-

wake cycles, inadequate sleep, sleep disorders or certain drugs. Each day there are two periods when the body experiences a natural tendency toward sleepiness: during the late night hours (generally between midnight and 7 a.m.) and again during the midafternoon (generally between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.). If people are awake during these times, they have a higher risk of falling asleep unintentionally, especially if they haven't been getting enough sleep.

What can help?
In general, medications do not help problem sleepiness, and some make it worse. Caffeine can reduce sleepiness and increase alertness, but only temporarily. It can also cause problem sleepiness to become worse by interrupting sleep.

While alcohol may shorten the time it takes to fall asleep, it can disrupt sleep later in the night, and therefore add to the problem sleepiness. Medications may be prescribed for patients in certain situations. For example, the short-term use of sleeping pills has been shown to be helpful in patients diagnosed with acute insomnia. Long-term use of sleep medication is recommended only for the treatment of specific sleep disorders.

To get a better night sleep you may want to:

1. Set a time to go to sleep and waking up.
2. Avoid anything mentally and physically stimulating just before you go to bed.
3. Try sex.
4. Don't drink alcohol.
5. Keep your bedroom for

sleeping and sex.

6. Develop a pattern for going to sleep.
7. Create a good sleeping environment.
8. Keep your mind off of stressful thoughts.
9. Don't stay in bed if your not sleeping.
10. Find out how many sleep hours you need.
11. Don't go to bed to early.
12. Take a bath two hours before bed.
13. Don't obsess about sleep.
14. Stop eating two hours before going to bed
15. Give yourself "permission" to go to bed.
16. Create a restful place to sleep. Sleep in a cool, dark room that is free from noises that may disturb your sleep.
17. Sleep on a comfortable, supportive mattress and foundation. It's difficult to sleep on a bed that's too small, too soft, too hard or too old.
18. Exercise regularly.
19. Cut down on stimulants.

Consuming stimulants, such as caffeine, in the evening can make it more difficult to fall asleep.

20. Don't smoke. Smokers take longer to fall asleep and wake up more often during the night.

If you are a shift worker, the following may help:

- decreasing the amount of night work
- increasing the total amount of sleep by adding naps and lengthening the amount of time allotted for sleep
- increasing the intensity of light at work
- having a predictable sched-

ule of night shifts

- eliminating sound and light in the bedroom during daytime sleep

- using caffeine (only during the first part of the shift) to promote alertness at night

- possibly using prescription sleeping pills to help daytime sleep on an occasional basis (check with your doctor).

According to the Better Sleep Council you should make your bedroom a sleep sanctuary.

These four factors can make a difference:

- **Mattress and Foundation**
Be sure your mattress and foundation meet your needs for both comfort and support. If you sleep with a partner, your mattress should also allow you both enough space to move easily.

- **Light**
Light is one of the body's most powerful time cues. The rising sun can wake up the brain long before the alarm goes off. A dark room is the most conducive for sleep – day or night.

- **Noise**
Sudden, loud noises from inside or outside the home can disrupt sleep. Steady, low sounds, such as the whir of a fan or air conditioner, are soothing because they help block out distracting noises.

- **Temperature**
The ideal bedroom temperature is 60 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit. A room that's too warm or too cool can disrupt comfortable sleep.

Remember rest and sleep are just as important as exercise and good nutrition.

Extra cash for low-income mothers may influence baby brains

By Lindsey Tanner
AP Medical Writer

New research suggests giving extra cash to low-income mothers can change their infants' brain development.

Brain measurements at age 1 showed faster activity in key brain regions in infants whose low-income families received \$300-plus monthly for a year, compared with those who got \$20 each month, U.S. researchers reported Monday.

The same type of brain activity has been linked in older children to learning skills and other development, although it's unclear whether the differences found will persist or influence the infants' future.

The researchers are investigating whether the payments led to better nutrition, less parent stress or other benefits to the infants. There were no restrictions on how the money was spent.

The results suggest reducing poverty can directly affect infant brain development, said senior author, Dr. Kimberly Noble, a neuroscience and education professor at Teachers College, Columbia University.

"The brain changes speak to the remarkable malleability of the brain, especially early in childhood," she said.

While the researchers can't rule out that differences seen in total brain activity in both groups were due to

chance, they did find meaningful differences in the frontal region, linked with learning and thinking skills. Higher-frequency activity was about 20% greater in infants whose families received the larger payments.

The findings build on evidence that cash support can improve outcomes for older children, said co-author Katherine Magnuson, director of the National Institute for Research on Poverty and Economic Mobility, based at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

It's also the first rigorous evidence of how the payments may affect children in the earliest years of life, she said. Results were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The study recruited mothers shortly after childbirth at hospitals in four metropolitan areas: Minneapolis-St. Paul, New Orleans, New York City and Omaha. The women reported an average household income of about \$20,000 and were randomly assigned to receive \$333 or \$20 each month on debit cards. The money was provided by private funders and the recipients could spend it as they wished.

The larger cash payments in the study were similar to those distributed to low-income families during the pandemic in President Joe Biden's child tax credit program, which ended last month.

The study "couldn't be more rele-

vant to the current moment," said Dr. Joan Luby, a professor of child psychiatry at Washington University's medical school.

While renewal of the tax credit is uncertain, "this study should really inform Congress about how tremendously important" it is, said Luby. She reviewed the study for the scientific journal but was not involved in the research.

Mothers enrolled in the study were mostly black and Hispanic without a college education. As the infants neared their first birthday, researchers made home visits to test the children in person. Infants were fitted with special caps covered with electrodes that detect electrical signals brain cells use to communicate with each other.

Home visits stopped because of the pandemic, so researchers don't have full data on all 1,000 mothers who enrolled since 2018. They reported on the results for 435 but hope to resume home visits this year.

The study is ongoing and payments to families will continue until at least their children's fourth birthdays.

Natasha Pilkauskas, an associate professor of public policy at the University of Michigan, called it "a very important study," but said more research is needed to confirm the results and to see if they hold true for children older than infants.



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P R E S E R V E D

Spiritual detox

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



For some of us, the beginning of the new year includes a fast (often the Daniel fast) with the intent of starting the new year with a spiritual and physical cleanse. As this week marks the end of the fast for many, I wonder how many of us have already gone back to doing, eating and saying those things we proudly gave up for 7, 14 and 21 days?

For some of us (and I'm telling on myself now), it wasn't even 24 hours after ending the fast that we went back to those same bad habits that we'd been able to resist doing.

So, what was the whole point of the fast? It wasn't just to make you suffer like Jesus but to also reflect on how

making those sacrifices can transform your life.

I remember about 27 years ago doing the Daniel fast for the very first-time during Lent. It was so hard. However, I was diligent and gave up eating all meat, sweets, junk food...in other words, everything I loved to eat.

Because I saw the health benefits of changing my diet for those 40 days, I found myself paying more attention to what I ate after the fast ended. But I also found myself wanting to do another kind of cleansing where the effects were longer lasting. I decided to do a detox where I only ate certain foods that were supposed to cleanse my body of toxins.

For the most part, I did alright on the detox but wasn't prepared for the headaches it caused. In fact, I'd read that the headache was the body's

reaction to having those hidden toxins come to the surface. Rather than get alarmed when the headaches came, I rejoiced because I knew that my body was being cleansed.

Interesting thing about detoxing: it is different for everyone. For example, I might have headaches and someone else may have overall feelings of weakness even if we follow the same regimen.

A spiritual detox will have those same kinds of effects. Instead of giving up food, you search your heart to see what might be hidden that causes you to have a less than satisfying spiritual life. Spiritual toxins include unforgiveness, pride, bitterness spitefulness and anger. I John 1:8-9 says, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Just like I have to be honest about the things I eat that aren't healthy, I also have to admit when how I live my life as a Christian doesn't line up with the word of God.

Just like a natural detox differs from a diet in its overall focus and purpose, a spiritual detox differs also from the momentary 21 or 40 day fast. Rather than give you a temporary break, it provides a more thorough and beneficial cleansing. It's more of a long-term transformation than a short-term solution

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

God will bring every work into Judgment

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



A day is coming when we each are going to stand before God and see Him on His great, white throne. Most of us know or have heard it said that we all are going to stand before God and give an account of the deeds that we have done in the body.

Are you really taking it seriously? Some people are not being serious enough about the things of God.

We must be reminded that we are living in the Laodicean (Luke-warm) age. This is the last age before Christ comes. One of these days, Jesus is going to move from His throne of mercy and take His place on the judgment seat. My question is, "Are you going to be ready?"

The Scripture lets us know that the Second Coming of Christ will come in the twinkling of an eye. We are in a period of preliminary judgment right now. God is allowing trials and other things to come upon us, not to hurt us, but to prove us.

We cannot go to Heaven unless we have earned it. We may say, "Well, I will ask God to forgive me and then take me on." God is going to have a tested and tried people. The Scripture says to "give diligence to make your calling and election sure" (2 Peter 1:10).

This is no time to play church. God's mercy has been extended to some people many, many times, yet they have spurned His love.

They have made promises to God and then either refused or neglected to keep them.

My friend, it is time to do something about our souls. The Judgment is coming. When we stand before God, He will tell us to get on His left hand or His right hand. The right hand is reserved for the blessed few who have heeded and obeyed the Word of God.

What a great and terrible day the Judgment will be to mankind when all who have ever lived will stand before God – the small and the great, the rich and the poor, the saved and the unsaved. Everyone will be required to give an account for the life he/she has lived when Christ leaves His mercy seat and goes to the seat of judgment.

Every act done in life has been recorded, whether it has been good or bad. When the books are opened, each person will hear their eternal destiny. Some people will say: "Lord, Lord, did we not do many wonderful things? We went to church, visited the sick, and did lots of good things in life," but they failed to have the love of God shed abroad in their hearts.

It's easy to go to church and to visit the sick, but do we have a real burden for others? Do we labor for God with the motive in mind: "Lord, I am going in your stead. I am going to do what you want me to do."

What a blessing it will be to those who are saved to hear: "Well done, Come to My right hand." That will be the greatest day!

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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Voting rights can't be taken from us now or ever

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



We live in the United States of America and as citizens, we have rights and privileges. That is how our democracy works.

If you are black like me, these tenets of our Constitution have not always been easy to actualize. At defining moments in our history, we have had to march, even die for our place in everyday America.

Some would ask, what exactly is everyday America? It is leaving your house and returning to your house without incident. It is having a fair opportunity at a job based upon your credentials and experiences. It is having your opinions valued and acted upon when decisions must be made.

Some take the above for granted, but not us. No matter our economic status, our place in this country is oftentimes marginalized.

Yes, we have made some significant strides and advancements. People who look like me are being difference-makers in America. You name the field, and you will likely find us somewhere in it.

In the coming years, black and brown people will achieve more and do more in this nation.

We just celebrated the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. We honored him for his commitment to civil rights and to human rights. The movement led by him, and others, was in my opinion, the greatest in the history of the world.

Yet for all the good that has happened in our America, the bad is still lurking and is ever present. We cannot rest easy until we eradicate bad rules and bad laws.

Congress has been inching closer to the implementation of two voting rights bills. They are The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.

The John Lewis Voting Rights Act would stop legislation from happening that would discriminate based upon race, language and ethnicity. It would also allow us to challenge anti-voting legislation.

The Freedom to Vote Act would strengthen voter protection rights. This would include making Election Day a national holiday.

Can you imagine being able to vote without having to worry about going to work? Would more people vote? I believe they would.

Polls and reports say that Americans support The Freedom to Vote Act. A specific poll called Data for Progress said that a majority of both Democrats and Republicans support this bill.

If that is the case, then what is the problem? The filibuster in the Senate is the problem.

The current rule is that you need a 60-vote supermajority to over-

come the filibuster. It seems that the filibuster may be here to stay. We'll see.

Tim Scott, Republican Senator from South Carolina, is a part of the filibuster blockage. I believe Scott is on the wrong side of this issue. It is my hope that the citizens of The Palmetto State will show him the light.

He does not see voter suppression. However, Cory Booker, Democratic Senator from New Jersey begs to differ.

He said, "You want to talk about voter suppression? You're working a job, you're taking care of young kids, and you're going to give up a day's salary to vote?" He added, "You want to talk about a modern-day poll tax? And my friends on the other side are saying that race is not an issue here?"

It is important to note that in 2021, 52 restrictive voter laws were passed in this country. There are those who do not want us to vote because they will lose power and control. Losing power is their worst nightmare.

I believe in the days ahead they will be living out this nightmare. The American people want these bills to pass. Guess what? They will.

Publisher's Note:

At its January board meeting, the Board of Trustees of Morris Brown College in Atlanta, GA seated Dr. James B. Ewers Jr. as a new member of the board.

Ewers, a regular columnist for *The Mississippi Link*, is a native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He is an educator with over forty years of experience working at the college and secondary level. During that time, he developed programs and activities for traditional and non-traditional students. He has also created partnerships with businesses that have resulted in the creation of jobs for many students. He received his B.A. degree in political science from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he attended on a tennis scholarship. He was All-Conference for four years and his record of having won 34 consecutive tennis singles matches still stands. Included in this streak are wins over Purdue and Northwestern Universities. He is a member of the university's Hall of Fame. Ewers received a master's degree in Education from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. and an Ed.D. degree in education from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA. He has also completed post-doctoral studies at Harvard University where he was a 1996 graduate of the Management Development Program. He is also a life member of the NAACP, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated and a volunteer in his community. *The Mississippi Link* staff congratulates Dr. Ewers on his appointment.

OPINION

The president and voter suppression

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



With the failure to overturn the Filibuster Rule in the United States Senate, it would appear that the John Lewis Voting Act and the Voting Rights Act are dead because of two "Dixiecrat Senators" and a Republican blockade in the Senate that has long forgotten the oath of office that each of them took when taking their positions of office.

However, there is hope that the president will start using the power of his office on behalf of

Without the Black Vote, there would be

no Joe Biden presidency. This fact has to become more important than preserving the traditions of the U.S. Senate.

The president must now formulate a complete plan of executive orders that will prepare to send federal monitors to each state that has enacted voter suppression laws such as the reduction of polling sites, the purging of election rolls so as to reduce the number of persons who can vote and inserting a federal presence at every point of the electoral process permitted by Federal law.

The president must show, through action and not just speeches, as if on the campaign trail, that he is serious about using all the powers of his office to protect the electoral process.

This also means that the United States Department of Justice must move forcefully and quickly in responding to the call for investigations which will follow a more aggressive course of action by the President. Senator Schumer must decide whether he is in control of the U.S. Senate or Mitch McConnell, who appears to still be in charge in spite of the would-be Democratic majority in the Senate.

The two Senate Democrats-in-name-only who are now openly voting with the Republicans against their own party's president, should just change their party registration and complete the transition to the other side.

It's time for a visible plan, Mr. President. The American people are waiting.

Trump, the MLK Holiday, and the Big Lie

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



Did you see how former President Donald Trump spent Martin Luther King Jr. weekend? He made one of the ugliest appeals to racial resentment and white grievance that I have seen in decades.

Trump was speaking at a rally for Arizona Republican officials and candidates who embrace the Big Lie that he won the 2020 presidential election. That lie has its own racial dimension, because one of its central claims is that the election was stolen from Trump by illegal votes cast by black and brown voters in battleground states.

His new lie was even more brazenly designed to stoke anger among white right-wing supporters who are already seething about the fact that Joe Biden, and not their hero, is sitting in the oval office.

"The left is now rationing lifesaving therapeutics based on race, discriminating against and denigrating, just denigrating, white people to determine who lives and who dies," Trump claimed. "If you're white, you don't get the vaccine, or if you're white, you don't get therapeutics."

Trump was lying.

We all know that COVID-19 has hit some American communities harder than others. Black, Hispanic and Native Americans are about twice as likely to die from COVID-19 than white Americans are, according to the *New York Times*.

Recognizing that reality, the New York Department of Health published guidelines for healthcare institutions that simply said that race was one factor, along with age and health conditions like diabetes, that should be considered in deciding how to prioritize treatment.

Given the state of our political climate, it was not surprising that some right-wing media made the false claim that New York health officials had declared that "white people need not apply." And it was not surprising that Trump was willing to push that lie even further, claiming that white people were being "denigrated" and denied access to health care.

We live at a time when the percentage of the U.S. population that is white is shrinking. Some white people find our increasing diversity scary and threatening. And they are constantly getting a push in that direction from right-wing media figures like Fox News's Tucker Carlson. According to recent polling, Republicans who trust Fox News and far-right news outlets are most likely to believe that America is in danger of losing its "culture" and "identity."

Trump is the leader of a movement and political party that are trying to build power by stoking fear and anger among right-wing white voters that "their" country is being taken away from them. The Big Lie about the election being stolen plays on those fears. So does Trump's claim that white people are being discriminated against and denied health care that is going to "other" people.

That's also why we see so many conservative politicians trying to ban teaching about the ways that racism shaped our history and continues to affect people's lives. Virginia's new Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued an executive order on his first day in office banning the teaching of "inherently divisive concepts" like talking about the role of race in American history. Florida Republicans, led by Gov. Ron DeSantis, are now trying to pass a law that would ban teaching students or training employees about racism if it makes white students feel "discomfort."

This is about whitewashing our history to avoid dealing honestly with both our past and present. Many parts of our history are "inherently divisive." All Americans should feel some "discomfort" with the realities of Jim Crow violence, states' rights arguments to defend discrimination, and violent resistance to legal equality.

These politicians are drawing on a long history in this country of building power by creating and inflaming racial divisions to prevent solidarity from developing among poor and working-class people of all colors and ethnicities. We should focus on making sure that all Americans have access to the health care they need, not making some white people resentful when the urgent needs of other communities are addressed.

Fear is powerful. Anger and hatred are powerful. They will win some political battles. But I believe in the long run they will lose. America is on the verge of becoming a country in which no one demographic group is dominant. That could be a recipe for the kind of conflict and hostility that people like Trump are stirring up. But it doesn't have to.

I choose to be more hopeful. I believe our growing diversity and pluralism give us the opportunity to fulfill the vision of the great abolitionist Frederick Douglass that our country's destiny is to become "the perfect national illustration of the unity and dignity of the human family." But to get there, we will have to defeat Trump and Trumpism. That is our immediate task.

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.

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9				10		11		
12						13		
14				15	16		17	
			18			19		
	20	21						
22				23		24	25	26
27			28		29	30		
31					32			
33						34		

ACROSS

1. Narration
5. Quiet down
9. Run over
11. Within
12. Hallway
13. Made a web
14. Rodent
15. Promotional material
17. Pen stuff
18. Errant
20. Nut
22. Fortify
23. Tin (abbr.)
24. Wing
27. Hammer's partner
29. Praise
31. Volcano
32. Bang up
33. Hit
34. Victim

DOWN

1. Russian ruler
2. Capital of Western Samoa
3. Shoppers need
4. Building addition
5. Hellos
6. Unfasten the pins of
7. Smarted
8. Goose cry
10. Becomes aware of
16. Alcoholics
18. Railroad track
19. Neuter pronoun
20. Anger
21. Type of acid
22. Afresh
24. 6th month (Jewish calendar)
25. Not win
26. Colorless
28. Lick
30. Arbitr

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LEGAL

REQUEST FOR BIDS
TO PROVIDE S PECIFIC EXCESS RISK" INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ACTIVE
AND RETIRED CITY EMPLOYEES COVERED UNDER THE CITY OF JACKSON'S
MEDICAL BENEFITS PLAN

Written sealed bids from responsible firms to provide "Specific Excess Risk" Insurance Coverage for Active and Retired City Employees covered under the City of Jackson's Medical Benefits Plan will be received in the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, MS on the 1st floor of the City Hall Building, 219 S. President Street, Jackson, MS, until 3:30 p.m. (local time), February 15, 2022 at this time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud and the contract awarded as soon as practical. One original and five (5) copies of each bid must be submitted.

Each bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope, addressed to the Office of the City Clerk, City of Jackson, 1st floor of the City Hall Building, 219 S. President Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Each sealed envelope containing a bid must be plainly marked on the outside as "Bid to Provide Specific Excess Risk Insurance Coverage for Active and Retired City Employees covered under the City of Jackson's Medical Benefits Plan will be received in the Office of the City Clerk to be opened on February 15, 2022". No bid will be received or accepted after the above-specified time.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre- condition to selection, every contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application with the bid submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. An Equal Business Opportunity Plan Application is attached to this Request for Proposals (see attachment S-3). For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact Tangiyika Hoover in the Office of Economic Development, (601) 960-1611. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan, applications and a copy of the program are available at 200 South President Street, 2nd Floor, and Jackson, Mississippi.

Request for bid specifications may be obtained at no extra charge from the Department of Human Resources, 1000 Metrocenter, Suite 102 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday after January 27, 2022. The contact person is as follows:

Toya Martin, Director
Human Resources
1000 Metrocenter, Suite 102
(601) 960-1746

1/27/2022, 2/3/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

07156-021522 – Six (6) Motorcycles

The above must comply with the City's specifications. Copies of proposal forms can be obtained from the Purchasing Division, 200 South President Street, Room 604, Hood Building, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Copies of bid specifications are filed with the City Clerk for public record in accordance with House Bill No 999, 1986 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature.

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

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

Monica Oliver Acting Purchasing Manger,
Purchasing Division
(601) 960-1025

1/27/2022, 2/3/2022

LEGAL

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF STANLY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
22-JT-

IN RE:
CURRIE:
A minor child

NOTICE OF SERVICE
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

TO: Wilfredo Jaramill (AKA "Will"), the biological father of William Henry Currie, a male child born November 11, 2021 in Jackson Mississippi.

TAKE NOTICE that you are notified to answer the petition which has been filed for the purpose of terminating your parental rights to the above named minor child. You must prepare and file with the Clerk of Superior Court of the county named above a written answer to the petitions not later than March 22, 2022. You must also serve a copy of the answer on the petitioner or her attorney. If you fail to file answer, your parental rights may be terminated. The petitioner will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the petition.

You are also entitled to attend any hearing affecting your parental rights. Parents are entitled to have counsel appointed by the court if they cannot afford one, provided that they request such counsel at or before the time of the hearing on this matter. Parents may contact the Clerk of Superior Court immediately to request counsel. This is a new case and any attorney appointed previously will not represent the parent in this proceeding unless ordered by the court.

You are hereby notified that a hearing will be held in Stanly County District Court on May 5, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.. At that time, the Court will conduct a pre-adjudication conference to hear motions, accept stipulations if any, to exchange lists of witnesses and exhibits, ant to define issues. The court will also decide at this hearing whether to conduct a trial or schedule one for a future date.

NOTE TO PARENTS: You are advised that if counsel is appointed for you, you may become liable for repayment of the attorney fees, and a judgment for the amount of such fees may be entered against you.

BY:
Patrick W. Currie
Attorney for Petitioner
214 East North Street
Albemarle, NC 28001
704-983-6116

1/27/2022, 2/3/2022, 2/10/2022

LEGAL

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF BUILDING, GROUNDS AND
REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received electronically via MAGIC or physically delivered to the office of the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 03/01/2022 , for:

RE: GS# 331-183 Dist. 9 Substation (Brookhaven)-Reroof (Re-Bid)
Department of Public Safety
RFx #: 3160004832

at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Contract documents may be obtained from:

Professional: Mark S. Vaughan Architect PLLC
Address: 2906 North State Street, Suite 301A
Jackson, Mississippi 39216
Phone: 601-573-2030
Email: msvarch7@gmail.com

A deposit of \$100.00 is required. Bid preparation will be in accordance with Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. NOTE: Telephones and desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management

1/27/2022, 2/3/2022

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.

1/20/2022, 1/27/2022

Sudoku

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

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

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Crossword Solution

T	A	L	E			H	U	S	H
S	P	I	L	L		I	N	T	O
A	I	S	L	E		S	P	U	N
R	A	T			A	D	I	N	K
			E	R	R	I	N	G	
	W	A	L	N	U	T			
A	R	M		S	N		A	L	A
N	A	I	L		K	U	D	O	S
E	T	N	A		S	M	A	S	H
W	H	O	P			P	R	E	Y

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Cryptogram Solution

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
NAWTHDKUPSLZQYFVX MJIEGRCOB

HAPPINESS IS A WARM PUPPY
UNVVPHYJJ PJ N RNMQ VEVVO

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Sudoku Solution

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

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2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
4331 Highway 80W
DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
2855 McDowell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
104 Terry Rd
J & A FUEL STORES
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Northside Drive
MCDADÉ'S MARKET #2
653 Duling Avenue
PICADILLY CAFETERIA
Jackson Medical Mall
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue
SHELL FOOD MART
5492 Watkins Drive

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

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B & B
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3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS
BULLY'S STORE
Church Street - Canton, MS
COMMUNITY MART
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HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS
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507 Church Street - Canton, MS
K & K ONE STOP
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
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SOUL SET BARBER SHOP
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
TRAILER PARK GROCERY
22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

BYRAM

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HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE
5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE
5777 Terry Road
CITY HALL
Terry Road

CLINTON

DOLLAR GENERAL
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY

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CITY HALL
West Cunningham Avenue

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120 E. Main Street, Raymond, MS
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RAYMOND CITY HALL
110 Courtyard Square, Raymond
RAYMOND COURTHOUSE

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Week of January 23, 2022

CDC releases updated maps of America’s high levels of inactivity showing 25% of U.S. adults are not active enough to protect their health

NNPA Newswire

More than 1 in 5 adults is inactive in all but four states, according to new state maps of adult physical inactivity prevalence released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

For these maps, physical inactivity for adults is defined as not participating in any physical activities outside of work over the last month – activities such as running, walking for exercise or gardening.

In seven states and one territory (Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, West Virginia and Puerto Rico), 30% or more of adults were physically inactive. By region, the South had the highest prevalence of physical inactivity (27.5%), followed by the Midwest (25.2%), Northeast (24.7%), and the West (21.0%).

“Getting enough physical activity could prevent 1 in 10 premature deaths,” said Ruth Petersen, MD, director of CDC’s Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity.

“Too many people are missing out on the health benefits of physical activity such as improved sleep, reduced blood pressure and anxiety, lowered risk for heart disease, several cancers and dementia (including Alzheimer’s disease).

The new maps are based on combined 2017-2020 data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), an on-going state-based telephone interview survey conducted by CDC and state health depart-



ments.

This is the first time that CDC has created state maps of physical inactivity for non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaskan Native and non-Hispanic Asian adults.

The demographics of physical inactivity

The maps point to notable differences in physical inactivity levels by race and ethnicity.

Overall, Hispanic adults (32.1%) had the highest prevalence of physical inactivity outside of work, followed by non-Hispanic black (30.0%), non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaskan Native (29.1%), non-Hispanic white (23.0%), and non-Hispanic Asian adults (20.1%).

The maps also show that:

- Two states (Alaska and Montana) and Guam had a physical inactivity prevalence

of 30% or higher among non-Hispanic Asian adults.

- Five states (Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and West Virginia) had a physical inactivity prevalence of 30% or higher among non-Hispanic White adults.

- 27 states had a physical inactivity prevalence of 30% or higher among non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native adults.

- 23 states and the District of Columbia had a physical inactivity prevalence of 30% or higher among non-Hispanic black adults.

- 25 states and Puerto Rico had a physical inactivity prevalence of 30% or higher among Hispanic adults.

- 49 of 52 jurisdictions had sufficient data to be included in these results.

Physical activity can benefit

everyone. Lack of access to safe and convenient places to be physically active may contribute to the observed racial and ethnic disparities. What more can be done?

CDC is working with communities and partners across the country as part of the Active People, Healthy NationSM initiative, to make it easier, safer and more convenient for people to be active where they live, learn, work and play.

The overall goal of the initiative is to help 27 million Americans become more physically active by 2027 to improve overall health and quality of life and to reduce healthcare costs

The initiative helps community leaders take advantage of proven strategies to make physical activity safe and enjoyable for people of all ages

and abilities. Building active and walkable communities may also help support local economies and create more cohesive communities.

The Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, 2nd edition, recommends that adults get at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity each week.

This can be broken into smaller amounts such as 22 minutes every day or 30 minutes/five times a week.

Individuals and families are encouraged to build physical activity into their day by going for a brisk walk or a hike, walking the dog, choosing the stairs instead of the elevator or escalator, parking further away in the parking lot and walking the rest of the way, walking, or cycling to run errands, and getting off the bus one stop early

and walking the rest of the way. The key is to move more and sit less.

Community leaders can also encourage school and youth physical activity programs, educate and support families and individuals to be more active.

They can create activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations such as home, work, school and grocery stores. Together, leaders and community members can work with various populations to design and implement culturally relevant solutions to reduce disparities in physical inactivity.

To learn more about physical activity, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/index.html>. Maps and data tables are available at www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/data/inactivity-prevalence-maps/index.html.

President Biden’s bipartisan Infrastructure Law directs \$100 million to lower heating and cooling bills

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

As President Biden and his Administration work to lower costs for working families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra announced the release of \$100 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help families pay their outstanding heating and cooling bills. This funding comes on top of investment in the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) through the American Rescue Plan and the Continuing Resolution most recently passed by Congress.

The \$100 million is the first installment of the five-year, \$500 million investment in the program provided from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. With historic investments from the American Rescue Plan, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and Continuing Resolution, the Biden-Harris Administration has spearheaded the largest distribution of funds over a 12-month period since LIHEAP was established in 1981.

“Millions of working fami-

HHS LIHEAP Funding Awards for that May be Used in FY 2022:

STATE/TERRITORY Mississippi	ARPA Award (May 4, 2021) ¹	FY 2022 CR Award (November 1, 2021)	FY 2022 Infrastructure Act Award (December 22, 2021)	Total Awards from ARPA and FY 2022 Appropriations
	\$33,752,229	\$33,175,153	\$932,139	\$67,859,475

lies are experiencing unusually high heating and cooling costs, and it is important that we provide them with the support they need,” said Secretary Becerra. “I will continue to work with President Biden to protect the health and well-being of all families in need and help lower their energy bills.”

ACF’s Acting Assistant Secretary JooYeun Chang noted, “The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a landmark piece of legislation that provides support at a time when LIHEAP will be an important part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s efforts to lower costs for working families.”

The \$500 million included

in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, is the administration’s third appropriation of LIHEAP funding in the past year. In March 2021, Congress more than doubled the annual amount of LIHEAP funding – appropriating \$4.5 billion in supplemental funding through the American Rescue Plan Act, in order to account for higher needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

September 2021, Congress appropriated \$3.7 billion in annual LIHEAP funding through the Continuing Resolution.

In total, the three appropriations mark a historic invest-

ment of nearly \$8 billion over a 12-month period. A state-by-state breakdown of how this historic funding is being allocated can be found above.

LIHEAP is critical to helping vulnerable households meet their home energy needs this winter, particularly as heating costs are estimated to rise significantly. Low-income households expend three times more of their income on energy costs than more affluent households. This funding moves the needle on energy justice – improving the equitable distribution of assistance.

“Our job is to help low-income households maintain continuous, affordable and safe

home heating and cooling services, as well as address each energy crisis as quickly as possible,” stated Dr. Lanikque Howard, director of the Office of Community Services at ACF. “The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will help deliver progress towards these efforts.”

Individuals interested in applying for energy assistance can search for their local LIHEAP intake agency or office using HHS’ map of LIHEAP Local Agency Locations. Alternatively, they can contact their state, territory or tribal office, or contact ACF’s Office of Community Services for assistance at 1-866-674-6327.

Please visit the LIHEAP website or read the LIHEAP brochure in English or Spanish to get more information.

About the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Since 1981, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been providing critical home energy assistance to those most in need. Eligible households receive benefits for heating, cooling, and crisis assistance, weatherization, budget counseling, and/or other vital services to help achieve safe and healthy indoor air quality and temperature. More than 30 million American households experience high energy burden with more than five million households receiving assistance through LIHEAP each year. These services have been a lifeline to many individuals and families who would have faced shutoffs or would have had unmanageable arrears, not to mention the health implications of unsafe indoor temperatures, particularly for households with members who are elderly, disabled and/or a young child.

FCAHS student Nyla Covington, who gave up her homecoming crown for a friend who just lost her mother, honored by Mississippi Senate



Nyla Covington accepts commendation from Senator Chris Johnson.

JSP Newswire

Forrest County Agricultural High School student Nyla Covington, who earlier this year gave up her homecoming crown in an act of kindness toward a friend who had just lost her mother, was honored by the Mississippi Senate Tuesday,

January 25, 2022, with a Senate Commendation recognizing her selfless act of kindness.

Covington gave the crown to her friend Brittany Walters, who was the senior homecoming maid, just moments after Covington herself was crowned.

Earlier the same day, Walters'

mother A.J. Walters died after a battle with cancer. Before her death, A.J. Walters asked her daughter and husband Sean Walters to make sure Brittany didn't miss the once-in-a-lifetime homecoming experience.

Covington approached school administrators and was given

permission to bestow her crown upon Brittany to signify that she was her mom's queen and that she was loved by many.

Covington, who recently turned 18, was honored with the Forrest County Sheriff's Department's Inaugural Citizenship Award for her generosity

and selflessness. Covington was given a standing ovation from the packed room after she was presented with the award.

Covington plans to attend Pearl River Community College and earn a degree in nursing before pursuing a degree in business.

Covington accepted the commendation from Senator Chris Johnson. She was accompanied by her father, Derwin, mother, Nina, sister Nakhia, Forrest County AHS principal Will Wheat and Senators Juan Barnett and Robert L. Jackson, who co-authored the commendation.



(L-R) Sen. Juan Barnett; Nyla's parents and sister, Derwin, Nina and Nakhia Covington, Honoree Nyla Covington; Sen. Chris Johnson, Principal Will Smith and Sen. Robert L. Jackson

AARP Mississippi accepting 2022 Community Challenge Grant applications

The annual program aims to make local communities in Mississippi more livable

Special to The Mississippi Link

AARP Mississippi invites local organizations and governments across the state to apply for the 2022 AARP Community Challenge grant program, now through March 22, 2022.

Grants fund quick-action projects that help communities become more livable in the long-term by improving public spaces, transportation, housing, civic engagement, coronavirus recovery, diversity and inclusion, and more. Now in its sixth year, the grant program is part of AARP's nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live.

"AARP Mississippi is excited to kick-off the Community Challenge again in 2022 to continue helping communities across Mississippi become great places for people of all backgrounds, abilities and ages, especially people 50-plus," said AARP Mississippi State Director Kimberly L. Campbell, Esq. "The program has proven that quick-action projects can lead to long-lasting improvements right where Mississippians live."

AARP will prioritize proposals that are inclusive, address disparities, directly engage volunteers, support residents age 50 and older and aim to achieve one or more of the following outcomes:

- Support communities' efforts to build engagement and leverage funding available



under new federal programs through laws like the American Rescue Plan Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and more.

- Create vibrant public places that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities.

- Deliver a range of transportation and mobility options that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, wayfinding, access to transportation options and roadway improvements.

- Support a range of housing options that increases the availability of accessible and affordable choices.

- Ensure a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion while improving the built and social environment of a community.

- Increase civic engagement with innovative and tangible projects that bring residents and local leaders together to address challenges and facilitate a greater sense of inclusion.

- Other community improvements, including health services, community development, and coronavirus pandemic recovery.

Since 2017, AARP has awarded over 800 grants – 11 in Mississippi – through the Community Challenge to nonprofit organizations and government entities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico

and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The program provides direct support to all community types, including rural, suburban and urban communities. Previous projects have enabled long-term progress by garnering additional support from public and private funders, encouraging similar improvements throughout the community, advancing local policy, and generating engagement among residents and local leaders to advocate for change.

The Community Challenge is open to 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(6) nonprofits and government entities. Other types of organizations are considered on a case-by-case basis. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to tens of thousands for larger projects.

The application deadline is 4:00 p.m. CT, March 22, 2022. All projects must be completed by November 30, 2022. To submit an application and view past grantees, visit www.AARP.org/CommunityChallenge.

AARP Mississippi works in collaboration with communities across the state, bringing people together, and providing resources and expertise to help make Mississippi's counties, towns and cities great places to live for people of all ages.

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

~2022 Eleventh Annual~
"Back In The Day", A **VIRTUAL** Black History Celebration
No Vote-No Voice: Your Choice

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022 | 6:45 PM
Mississippi Civil Rights Legends Honorees
Musical Guest

James H. MEREDITH

Fannie Lou HAMER (posthumously)

Ashford SANDERS (Finalist)

Featuring:
New Hope Mass Choir, New Hope Christian School students and other youth!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 | 6:45 PM
"A Generational Conversation on Voting"
Musical Guest

LaTosha BROWN

Flonzie B. WRIGHT

Daphne CHAMBERLAIN

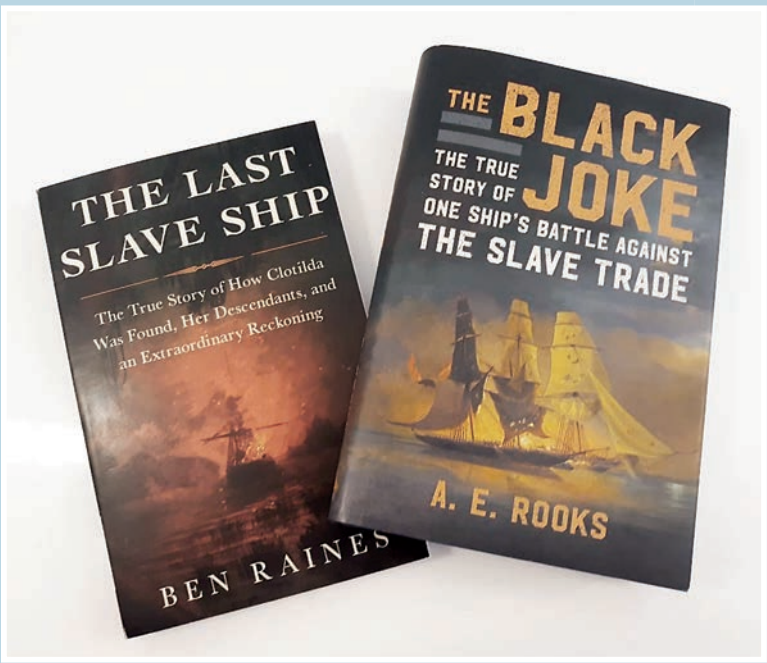
Jerry Smith and the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL

Presentation of the **Dr. Obadiah Myles Humanitarian Award**

Sponsored by the **BLACK HISTORY MINISTRY!** For information, contact: Dr. Flonzie Brown-Wright, Project Director, 601-981-8696 or 601-366-7002

MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES 50 This program is financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Featured on the website, Facebook and YouTube channel
LIVE www.newhope-baptist.org



BOOKS ABOUT SLAVE SHIPS:

THE LAST
SLAVE SHIP

BY BEN RAINES

C.2022, SIMON &
SCHUSTER

\$27.99 • 307 PAGES

THE BLACK
JOKE

BY A.E. ROOKS

C.2022, SCRIBNER

\$29.00 • 400 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

You can only imagine. There was fear, of course, but also pain and a feeling of suffocation. Surely, there was a sense of embarrassment when clothes were lost and bodily smells were unavoidable. Outrage, too, that was surely present, but you can only imagine. If you're compelled to know, read these two great new books about the ships of the Middle Passage.

Not long ago, the news was buzzing with a very unexpected

discovery: the remains of the Clotilda, an 160-year-old ship, were discovered in Alabama waters, half-burned but in good enough shape for its discoverers to know what it was and the importance it held...

"The Last Slave Ship" by Ben Raines (Simon & Schuster, \$26.00) begins the tale of those ruins in 1860, when more than five decades had passed since the importation of slaves from Africa had become law. Still, Timothy Meaher was a betting man. Meaher wagered that he could some-

how send the Clotilda across the ocean, and back with human cargo, without getting caught. History, of course, didn't allow that.

But this isn't just a tale of a white man and a ship. It's also a story of warfare, the capture of 110 people, and their sale in Africa by a king who showed no mercy and who almost re-captured the slaves-to-be to resell them. It's a story of peril and politics, and it extends to the descendants of the captain and his cargo today.

"The Last Slave Ship" is an action-packed, whip-smart true

account that's filled with science, history, and compassion. Readers will devour it.

A nice companion to the Raines book is "The Black Joke" by A.E. Rooks.

In the time between Napoleon's fall in France and the very height of Queen Victoria's reign in England, the Black Joke sailed the Atlantic on behalf of England to end the slave trade – not just in Great Britain, but on both sides of the ocean.

Until its capture by the Royal Navy in 1827, the Black Joke was a notoriously fast slave ship that shuttled humans from Africa to parts elsewhere. The Brits knew exactly what to do with it, once they had possession of the ship: they recycled it, making the Black Joke into an important part of their anti-slavery fleet and a speedy way to capture slaving vessels and free the people aboard them.

Like "The Last Slave Ship," "The Black Joke" is full of action and heroism, but in a different way: the former includes the recovery of an important bit of U.S. history, while the latter is a wider story, both in scope and geography. Readers will be happy (and very well-informed) to read one, then the other, in quick succession.

Once you've done that, you may want more information so check with your favorite bookseller or librarian. They have many more stories of slave ships at their fingertips, including first-hand accounts from many points of view. All you have to do is ask and you'll find more similar books than you can imagine.

ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. BOX 327
Jackson, MS 39205
Phone: (601) 968-6628
Fax: (601) 973-5547

Jury Duty Recording:
First Judicial District
(601) 969-0052

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. Box 999
Raymond, MS 39154
Phone: (601) 857-8038
Fax: (601) 857-0535

Jury Duty Recording:
Second Judicial District
(601) 857-8840

Office Hour
8:00 a.m. - 5:00
Monday - Friday
(Except on legal holiday)

Services of the Clerk:

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

VOTER INFORMATION
Verify/Update your Registration Today

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

MARRIAGE INFORMATION

- Marriage License: \$36.00
 - Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to

must be provided in

river's License, Birth

Certificate or other legal document

which contains name and date of birth.

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

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WRTM-FM 100.5 FM, JACKSON'S SOUL, RHYTHM AND BLUES AND SOUTHERN SOUL STATION PLAYING MORE VARIETY, LESS TALK AND THE MUSIC ADULTS WANT TO HEAR!

The Jackson Heart Study Helps to Build Trust in the African American Community in the Battle Against COVID-19, the Delta Variant, and Omicron

Accustomed to being last, Mississippi is rewriting its health narrative and has emerged as a national leader in health equity. Recently, Mississippi was recognized as 1 of only 10 states where Black residents have a higher vaccination rate than white residents. Black Mississippians represent 38% of the state’s population, yet comprise 39% of Mississippi’s fully vaccinated population. In a recent Mississippi State Department of Health /[Community Engagement Alliance Against COVID-19 Disparities COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence Research Study](#), 35% of the study’s nearly 12,000 respondents were Black. Nearly 4% of the total survey respondents identified as Latino (3.4% of the state is Latino). Mississippians of all colors are being heard and served.

This work is largely being driven by strong community-based partnerships with Mississippi’s State Department of Health Office of Preventive Health and Health Equity (OPHHE), which includes the NHLBI-funded community engagement center for the Jackson Heart Study (JHS) (the world’s largest single-site, African-American, prospective cardiovascular cohort study), the NHLBI-funded CEAL (Community Engagement Alliance Against COVID-19 Disparities), as well as the CDC-funded Delta Health Collaborative. Victor Sutton, Ph.D. MPPA serves as OPHHE Director as well as Principal Investigator to all aforementioned grants. He has made his team’s mission clear: to eliminate heart health inequities (among other chronic diseases) and to lead the state’s Black, Hispanic, and racial-ethnic minority communities through the COVID-19 Pandemic, as well as the state’s cardiovascular epidemic.



Victor Sutton, Ph.D. MPPA
OPHHE Director and Principal Investigator

In Mississippi, more people die of cardiovascular illnesses than cancer or other chronic conditions. In fact, 20% more Black Americans than any other race die from heart disease each year. The JHS has made significant progress in changing these statistics. By working with barbershops, churches, historically black colleges and universities, and other champions of the Black community, JHS is ensuring the state leverages the strengths of all its “village” members. For the last 20 years, the focus of the landmark JHS study has been heart health. Since the pandemic’s onset, the JHS team has devoted tremendous effort, resources, and countless hours to protect vulnerable Mississippians against the deadly Coronavirus. Dr. Sutton remarks, “the greatest tragedy of this pandemic is that people are needlessly dying, when there is a vaccine that can make the difference between life and death.”

JHS, the Delta Health Collaborative, and CEAL have provided life-saving services by joining hand-in-hand with the local community, including non-profits, faith-based organizations, private businesses, colleges, and universities. In the early stages of the pandemic, the MSDH Health Equity team took the initiative to establish mask and personal protective equipment giveaways with groups across Mississippi. By partnering with HBCUs, such as Jackson State University, Alcorn State University, Tougaloo College, and Mississippi Valley State University, vaccinations and COVID-19 testing sites were made accessible to Black and Hispanic communities across the state. Through programs like “Shots in Shops,” the MSDH Health Equity team has worked to reach underserved segments of the population by building trust, providing education, and bringing vaccinations and protective equipment to where the people are-- a paradigm shift from asking the public to come to the shots.

We have partnered with local minority firms, Par’ Excelon Marketing Group and Red Squared Productions, to implement statewide Black-relevant grassroots marketing and production strategies to reach the Black community. These efforts empowered the state’s communities of color, reaching more individuals across the state and ensuring Mississippi residents have the tools they need to make informed decisions.

The fruits of these initiatives are blossoming, as Mississippi now leads the nation in proportion of African Americans who are vaccinated against the COVID-19. Nearly 1.3 million vaccinations have been administered in Mississippi’s African American community. [More than 600 thousand have received at least one dose.](#)

The MSDH Health Equity team is dedicated to keeping Mississippians alive and healthy. We are listening to your heart and your mind. If your organization would like to host a COVID-19 vaccination event or needs additional protective equipment, please do not hesitate to contact us at 601-206-1720 or through our online resource request [form](#) or community vaccine request [form](#). Visit our website at [jacksonheartstudy.org](#).



Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

The Hinds County School District hosted a job fair Thursday, January 20, 2022, from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. at the new Raymond High School Performing Arts Center. This was an opportunity for our schools to meet prospective candidates, speak with them and set up interviews for the upcoming school year. Administrative teams from Bolton-Edwards Elementary/Middle School, Byram Middle School, Carver Middle School, Gary Road Elementary School, Gary Road Intermediate School, Raymond Elementary School, Raymond High School, Terry High School and Utica Elementary/Middle School enthusiastically greeted their candidates in a bid to find the best and brightest teachers for their schools.



Applicant registers for the Job Fair



Applicants interview with Lashurn Williams, BEEMS, Bobby Taylor and Roshonda Clark, RES.



THS Principal Matthew Scot speaks with job fair participant.



GRI Principals Ashley Green and Ashley White speak with a future teacher.



HCSD Child Nutrition awaits applicants.



Daffonie Moore, CMS, interviews an applicant.



An applicant sits with Michelle Ray and Latasha Ball of BMS.



Dr. Will Smith of UEMS awaits applicants.



Lorenzo Grimes and Charles Willis of RHS speak with a job fair participant.



HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

WE ARE HIRING!

CERTIFIED and CLASSIFIED positions

For Information Contact: Beverly Hay, Human Resources
bhay@hinds.k12.ms.us 601-857-5222

If you are interested in joining the Hinds County School District, please contact Beverly Hay at 601-857-5222.



Kelly Services, Child Nutrition and Durham Transportation were on hand to recruit potential substitute teachers, bus drivers or cafeteria workers.

